



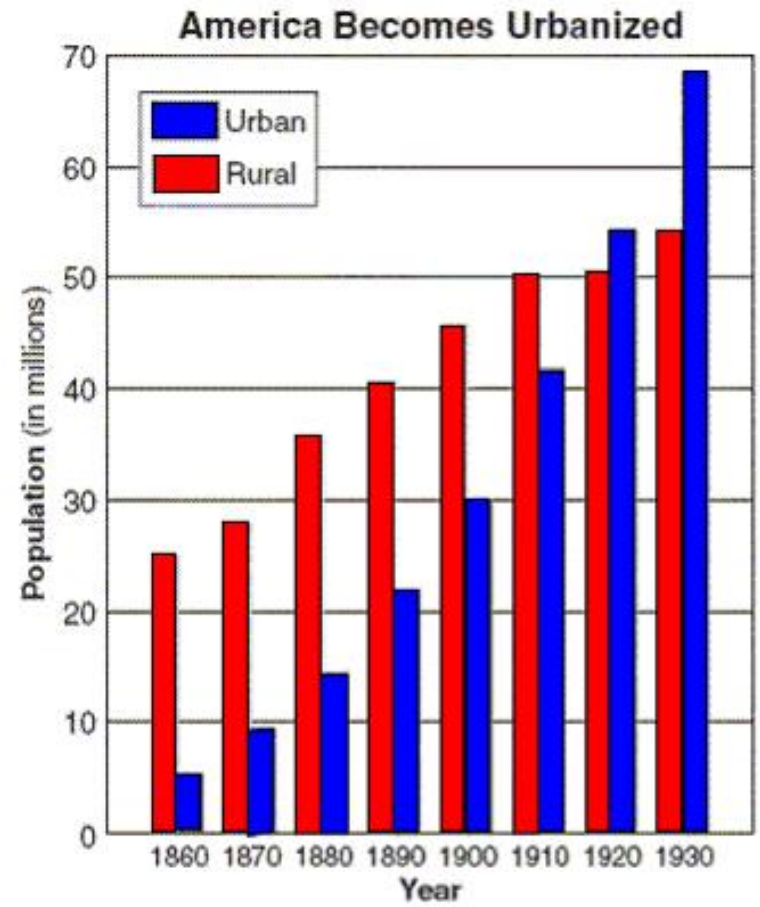
# THE ROARING TWENTIES



# The 1920s was a decade of change

Americans experienced increased wealth, consumerism, leisure time, and new forms of entertainment led to a "Jazz Age"

By 1920, more Americans lived in cities than in rural areas

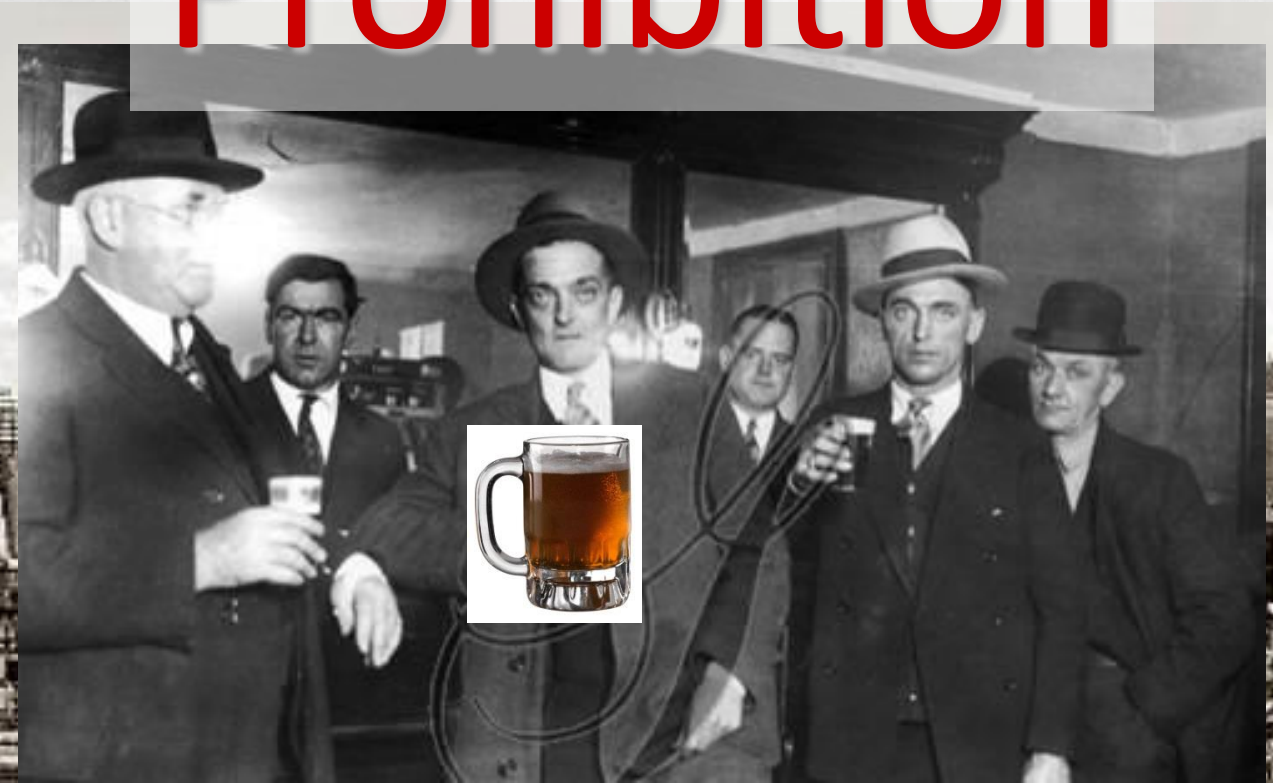


Rural Americans reacted to these changes by attacking behaviors they viewed as “un-American”





# Prohibition



In 1920, the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified and the Prohibition era began

Rural Americans supported this “noble experiment” because they believed drinking led to crime and other social problems

The Volstead Act outlawed the sale and manufacture of alcohol

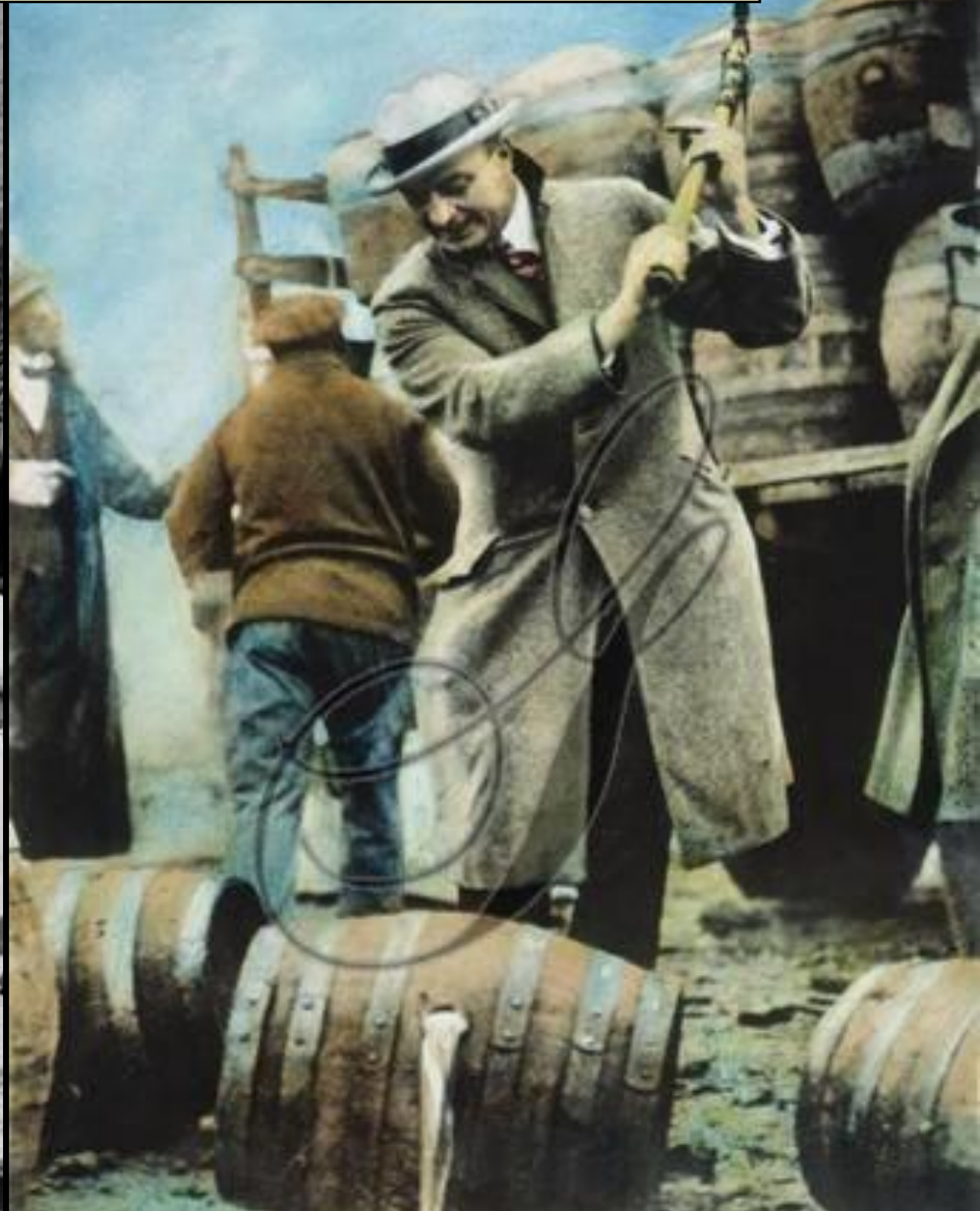
## Prohibition, 1920–1933

### Causes

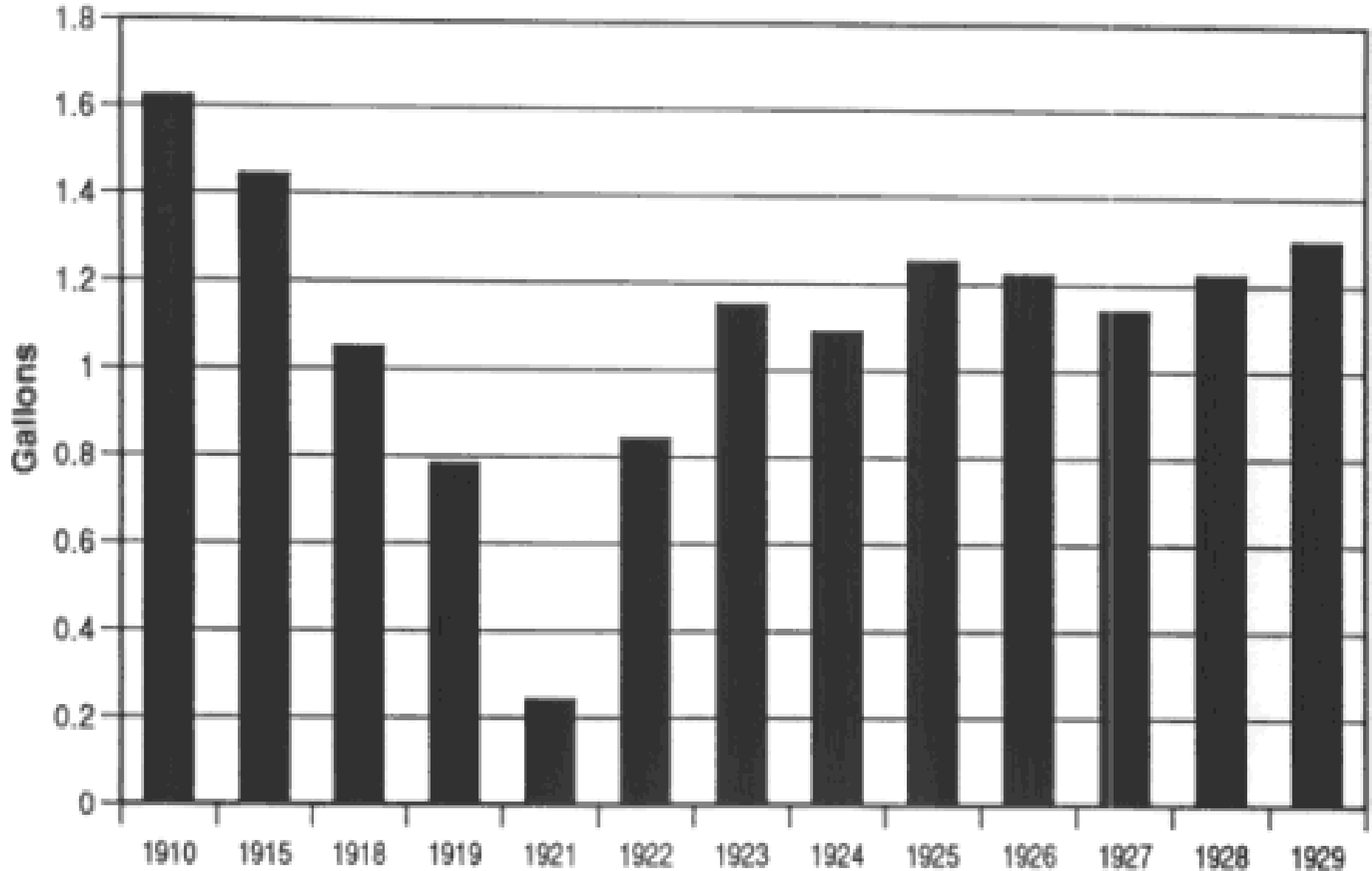
- Various religious groups thought drinking alcohol was sinful.
- Reformers believed that the government should protect the public's health.
- Reformers believed that alcohol led to crime, wife and child abuse, and accidents on the job.
- During World War I, native-born Americans developed a hostility to German-American brewers and toward other immigrant groups that used alcohol.



The U.S. Treasury Department was in charge of enforcing the Volstead Act



# During prohibition, alcohol consumption declined



# Many urban Americans resisted prohibition

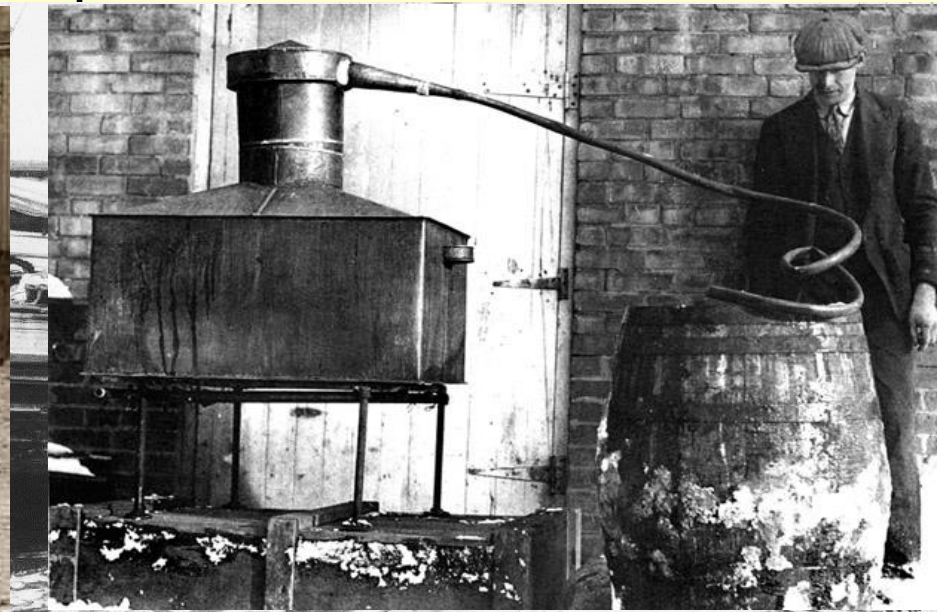
Drinking was a cultural norm for many immigrants

Many urban Americans wanted to enjoy themselves in illegal bars called speakeasies





Demand for illegal alcohol led to a rise in smuggling ("bootlegging"), moonshining, crime, death, blindness, paralysis, lack of respect for law.....





Organized crime emerged in America as the mafia took control of the illegal alcohol trade

The most notorious mobster was Al Capone who controlled the alcohol trade in Chicago



...lawlessness, such  
and bootlegging, was  
and a new source of

To control the liquor trade, mobsters resorted to gang killings like the St. Valentines Day Massacre in 1929

By the end of the 1920s,  
only 19% of Americans supported prohibition

The strongest  
defenders of  
prohibition were  
rural Americans...

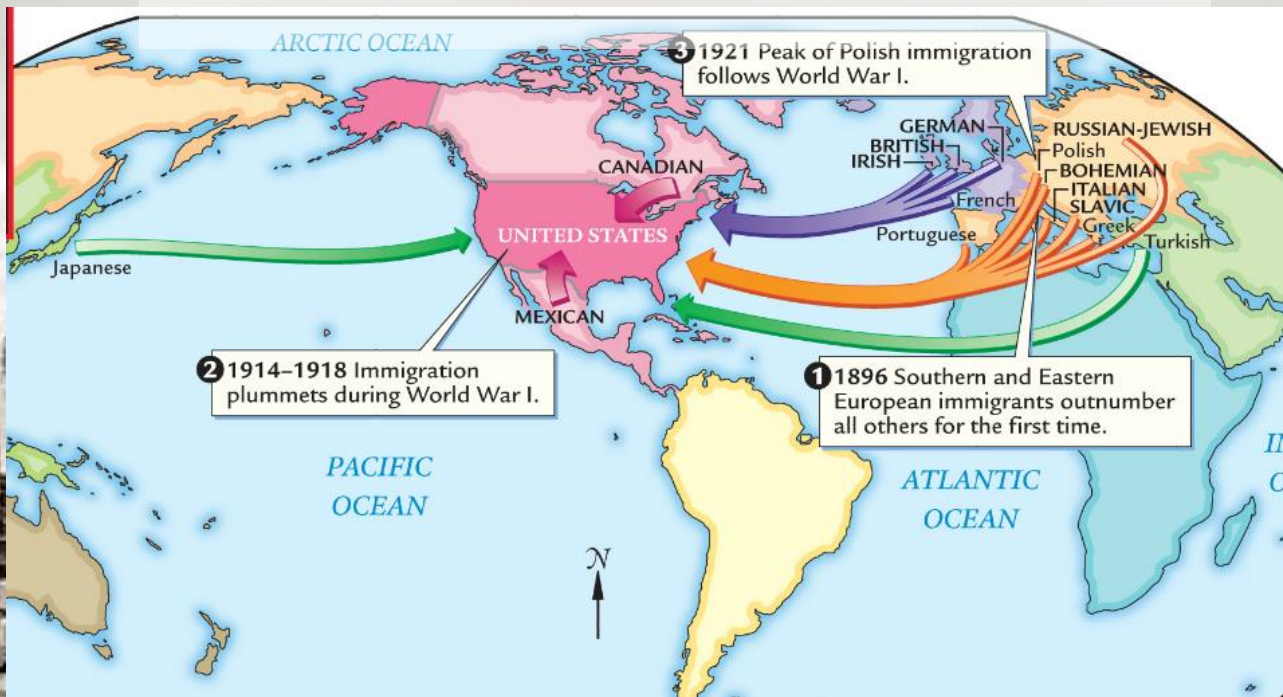
...But, most Americans  
believed that  
prohibition caused  
more problems  
than it solved

The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment  
was ratified in 1933  
to repeal prohibition





# Intolerance



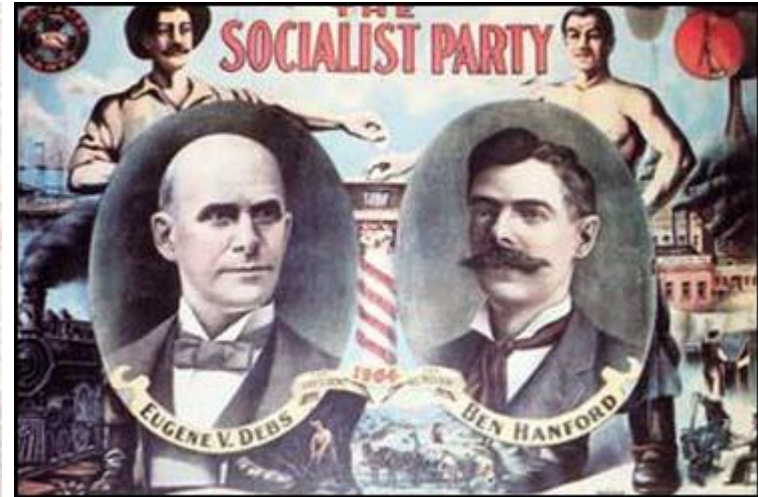
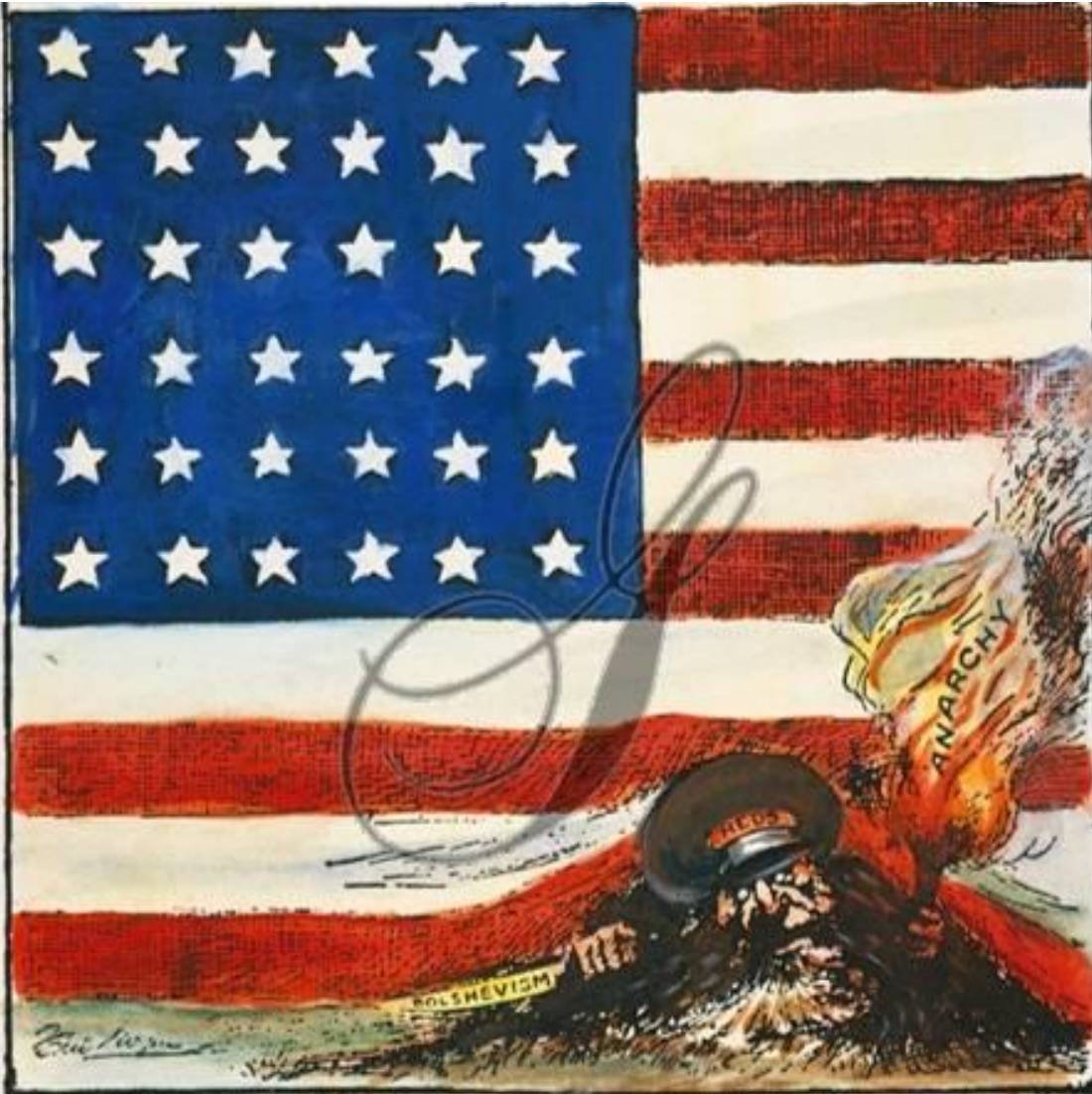
America experienced a new wave of nativism

800,000 Southern and Eastern European immigrants arrived each year in the early 1920s

Rural Americans thought of immigrants as “un-American,” non-Protestant, anarchists, socialists



The Red Scare, union strikes, and growth of Eugene Debs' Socialist Party spread fears of a Russian-style socialist revolution



# During the Red Scare, immigrants were under attack

In 1920, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested and charged with robbery and murder

Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian immigrants and anarchists

With only circumstantial evidence, they were found guilty and executed



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

## The New York Times.

THE WEATHER  
Clearly with probable clearing to-  
day; tomorrow partly clearing;  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday, fair to fine.

VOL. LXXXV...No. 5443

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1927.

THIS CENTURY BEING EMPLOYED JOSEPH W.

### SACCO AND VANZETTI PUT TO DEATH EARLY THIS MORNING; GOVERNOR FULLER REJECTS LAST-MINUTE PLEAS FOR DELAY AFTER A DAY OF LEGAL MOVES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

#### COOLIDGE PERCHES GOVERNMENT'S SEAT ON PEAK IN ROCKIES

#### He Reaches Yellowstone Park and Begins at Once His Sight-Seeing Trips.

#### YORK CAMP ROOSEVELT

#### President Passes First Night in a Cottage Surrounded by Bare-Glad Mountains.

#### Case That "Organized" For Shooting of Alcock

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—The case which has been "organized" for the shooting of Alcock, the British aviator, is being handled by the United States marshal at New York.

#### RECEIVES STATE WELCOME

#### WALKER JOES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

#### WALKER JOES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

#### THINKS HE COULD FIND THE FOODSHEPHERD'S SHEEP IN NEW YORK.

#### RECEIVES STATE WELCOME

#### WALKER JOES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

#### Seeing Cars Old Being Banned For Cause of Public Work

The city board of trustees today announced that it would ban old cars from the streets of New York for the purpose of the National Bureau of Public Works.

#### RECEIVES STATE WELCOME

#### WALKER JOES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

#### FULLER HEARS PETITIONERS

#### Governor is Under Steady Pressure Until the Final Hour.

#### WOMEN LAST TO APPEAL

#### MR. GARDNER AND MISS HANCOCK Leave Him and at 11:00 P. M. He Goes to Bed.

#### Four Final Legal Pleas Made to the Governor That Failed to Delay Execution of Death Sentences

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Four final appeals to Governor Fuller for delay in the execution of the death sentences on Sacco and Vanzetti were heard on the following grounds:

#### RECEIVES STATE WELCOME

#### WALKER JOES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

#### WALK TO DEATH CALM

#### Sacco Cries "Long Live Anarchy"; Vanzetti Insists on His Innocence.

#### RECEIVES STATE WELCOME

#### WALKER JOES WITH BEEFEATER GUIDE IN TOWER OF LONDON

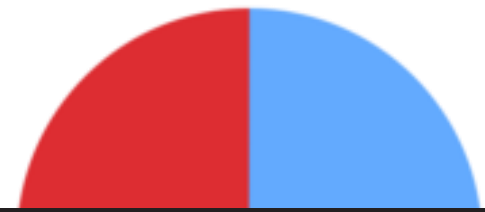
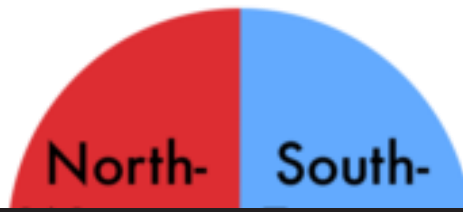
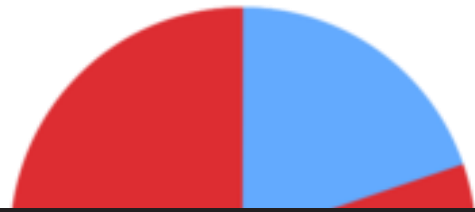


In response to nativism, Congress passed new immigration restrictions in 1921 and 1924

These laws created quotas that placed a maximum number of how many immigrants could enter the U.S. each year



These laws targeted those immigrants who came from Southern and Eastern Europe or Asia



## Immigration and the Quota Laws

Immigrants from northern and western Europe

Immigrants from other countries, principally southern and eastern Europe

Average annual flow, 1907–1914

176,983

685,531

Quotas under Act of 1921

198,082

158,367

Quotas under Act of 1924

140,999

21,847

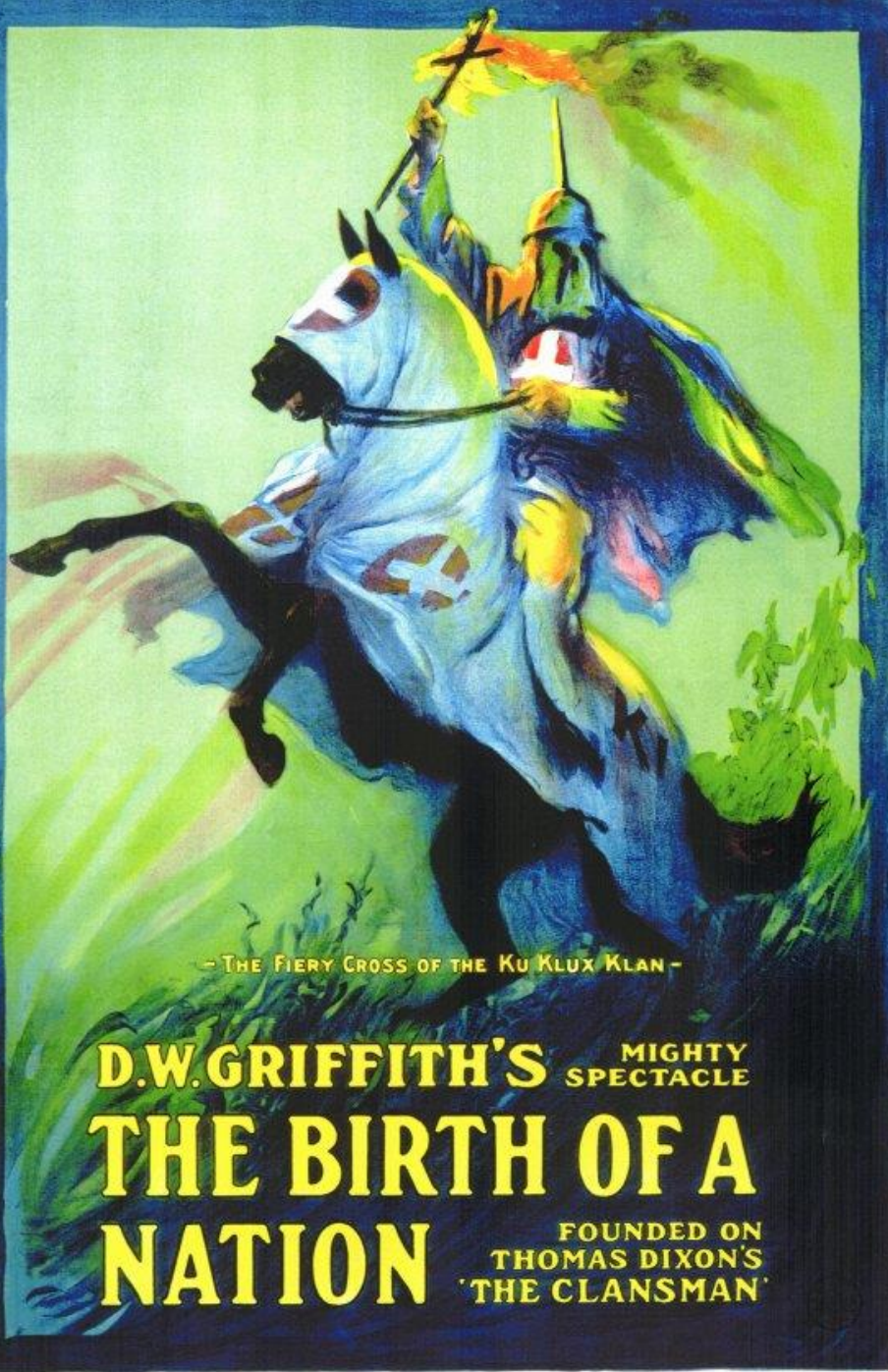
1911-1920

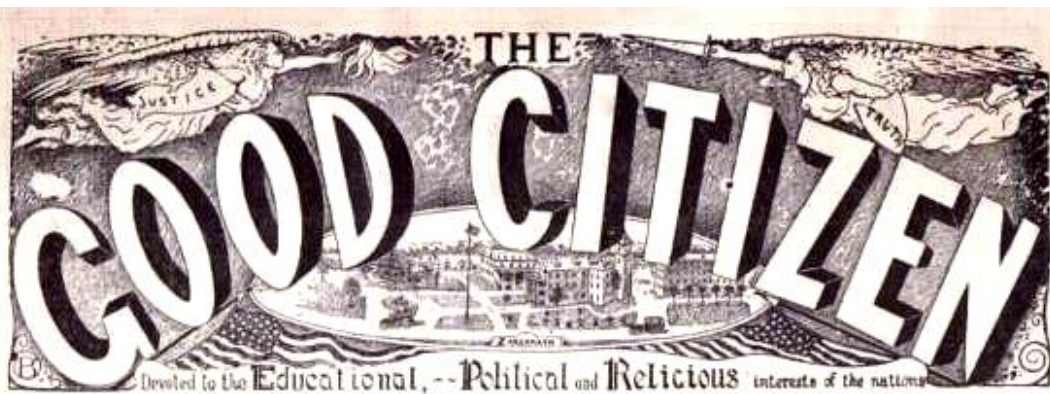
1921-1930

1931-1940

# KKK Reborn 1915

- Inspired by The Birth of a Nation, movie based on novel The Clansman, that portrayed KKK as hooded avengers and protectors of virtue
- Re-born on top Stone Mountain GA, quickly became national, with headquarters in Indiana

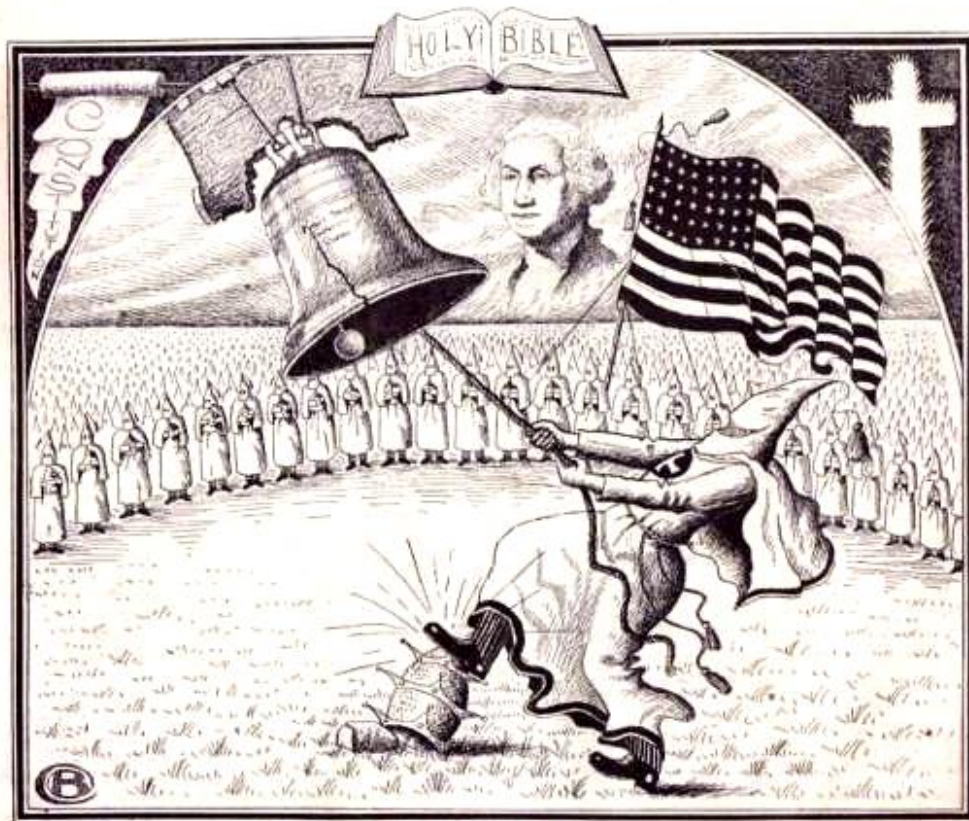




Vol. 14, No. 7. (Total No. 163).

Zarephath, N. J., July, 1926.

Price, 5c a Copy.



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Ringing the Liberty Bell

The 1920s saw an increase in membership in the Ku Klux Klan

The KKK promoted traditional "American" values and used violence and fear to attack immigrants, African Americans, Catholics, Jews, socialists

**IMPERIAL PALACE,**  
Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,  
ATLANTA, GA.

Stone Mountain, Largest Solid Stone in the World, one mile from  
Base to Summit. On its highest pinnacle the Knights of the  
Ku Klux Klan Organized at Midnight, Nov. 25th, 1915.



Col. W. J. SIMMONS,  
FOUNDER AND  
IMPERIAL WIZARD.



© 2008 THE BREMAN MUSEUM,  
ATLANTA

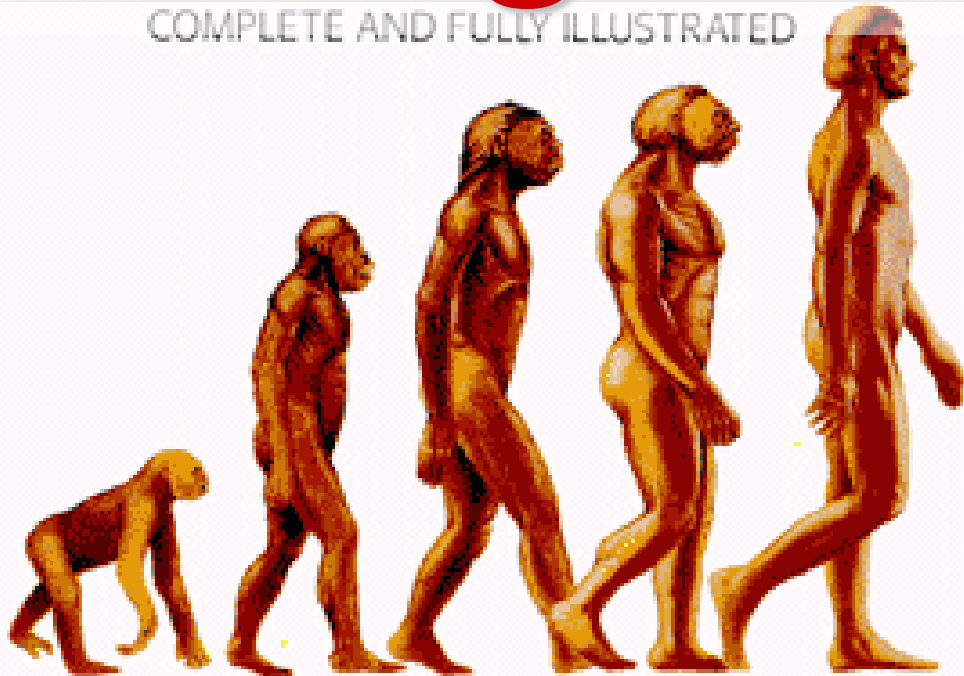
By 1924, the KKK had 4.5 million members and elected politicians to power in several states



THE  
**HOLY BIBLE**  
CONTAINING THE  
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS  
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL  
AND WITH THE FORMER  
DILIGENTLY COMPARED  
BY HIS MAJESTY

# Religion

COMPLETE AND FULLY ILLUSTRATED



Rural Americans found comfort in religious fundamentalism (a literal interpretation of the Bible)

Rural folks rejected the urban values, especially immigrants and flappers

Evangelists used the radio to broadcast Christian messages

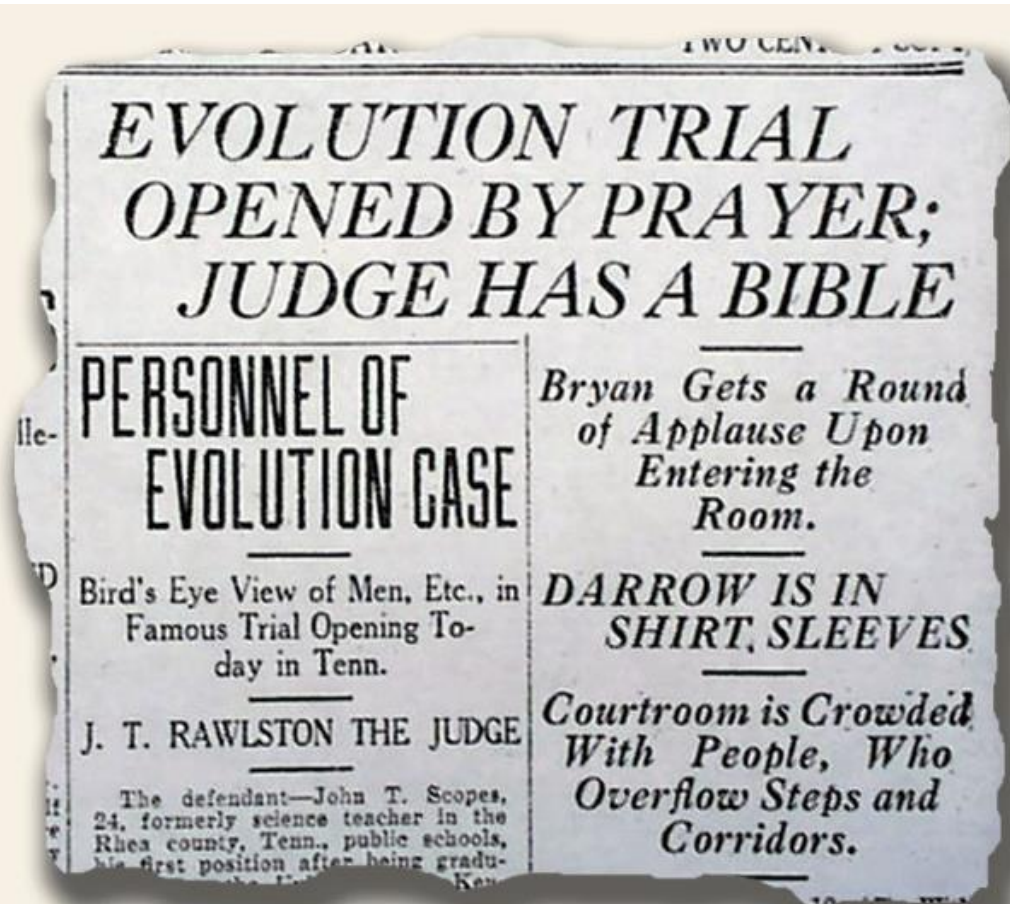


1920s evangelist Billy Sunday



Many rural Christians rejected ideas that contradicted the Bible and outlawed the teaching of evolution in schools

Teacher John Scopes was arrested in Dayton, Tennessee for teaching evolution in his biology class



The Scopes "Monkey Trial" was a national sensation



ACLU attorney Clarence Darrow defended Scopes; Represented urban America, science and modernity

William Jennings Bryan served as prosecutor; Represented Christianity and rural values

Scopes was found guilty, but evolutionists believed they won because Darrow got Bryan to admit that the world might not have been made in six 24 hour days



# America in the 1920s experienced a decade of change

There was an increase in consumerism...

- buying on credit
- increased standard of living and consumer spending

Government policies favored business and isolationism

## SOCIETAL/SOCIAL

- a perceived threat of communism
- fear and distrust of immigrants
- fear of the labor movement and loss of faith in business
- strikes and worker unrest

Women and African Americans experienced new freedoms while immigrants came under attack

...cars, radios, entertainment



# THE ROARING TWENTIES

