

Chapter 15

The Jazz Age 1921-1929

Day 1

Section 1—A Clash of Values

- The 20s saw an increase in racial tensions, economic recession and intolerance. The fear and prejudice we felt towards Germans and Communists expanded to include all immigrants. Immigrant competition for jobs added to tension.
- Sacco and Vanzetti Case—shoe factory robbed, 2 employees killed. Police arrested 2 Italian immigrants who were anarchists
- Found guilty because of prejudice, executed 1927
- Eugenics—a false science that emphasized that human inequalities are inherited and warned about breeding with “unfit” or “inferiors”
- This led to nativist push for “original” Americans
- KKK made a comeback
- William Simmons new leader of KKK
- Targets were not just African Americans, but also Catholics, Jews, immigrants, and anyone they believed represented “un-American” values
- Hired a public relations firm, membership exploded to 4 million
- 1921 President Harding signed Emergency Quota Act limiting immigration
- **The New Morality**—culture of the 20s was changing, challenging traditional values
- cars gave young people independence
- single women worked and got away from parents
- women’s colleges encouraged women to pursue careers and challenge traditional ideas about women
- fashion changed—“bobbed” their hair, hemlines shortened, smoked, drank in public, these women were called “flappers”
- Margaret Sanger founded American Birth Control League in 1921 (Planned Parenthood)
- Fundamentalism—new movement to counter the new morality. They believed that the Bible was literally true without error. They rejected evolution and supported creationism
- Two popular evangelical preachers were Billy Sunday and Aimee Semple McPherson
- **Scopes Monkey Trial**—1925 Tennessee outlawed teaching evolution. ACLU wanted to test law
- John Scopes high school biology teacher was arrested
- William Jennings Bryan prosecuted—Clarence Darrow defended
- Trial more about fundamentalism than breaking law
- Scopes found guilty fined \$100, later overturned