

SOCIAL CHANGES AND CONFLICTS OF THE 1920S

6.2: Explain the causes and effects of the social change and conflict between traditional and modern culture that took place in the 1920s, including the role of women, the “Red Scare,” the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, immigration quotas, Prohibition, and the Scopes trial.

CAUSES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Misconception: 1920s=carefree boom time
- Reality: America divided by change and many did not find prosperity
- Social Change: caused by industrialization, urbanization, and immigration
 - 1920: more than half of population lived in cities
 - More emphasis on science
- Social Change led to conflict between traditional American conservatism and modern scientific liberalism

ROLE OF WOMEN

- During the war, women took on new jobs to fill in for soldiers
 - Many gave them up when soldiers returned
- Women's suffrage was passed shortly after WWI
 - Women did not make politics more moral as they promised, instead using voting as their husbands did
- Women did not gain more opportunities in the workplace
- Most women continued to work in 'traditional' female jobs



TRADITIONAL FEMALE JOBS

Respectable

- Teachers
- Nurses
- Telephone operators
- Secretaries
- Store clerks

Less Respectable

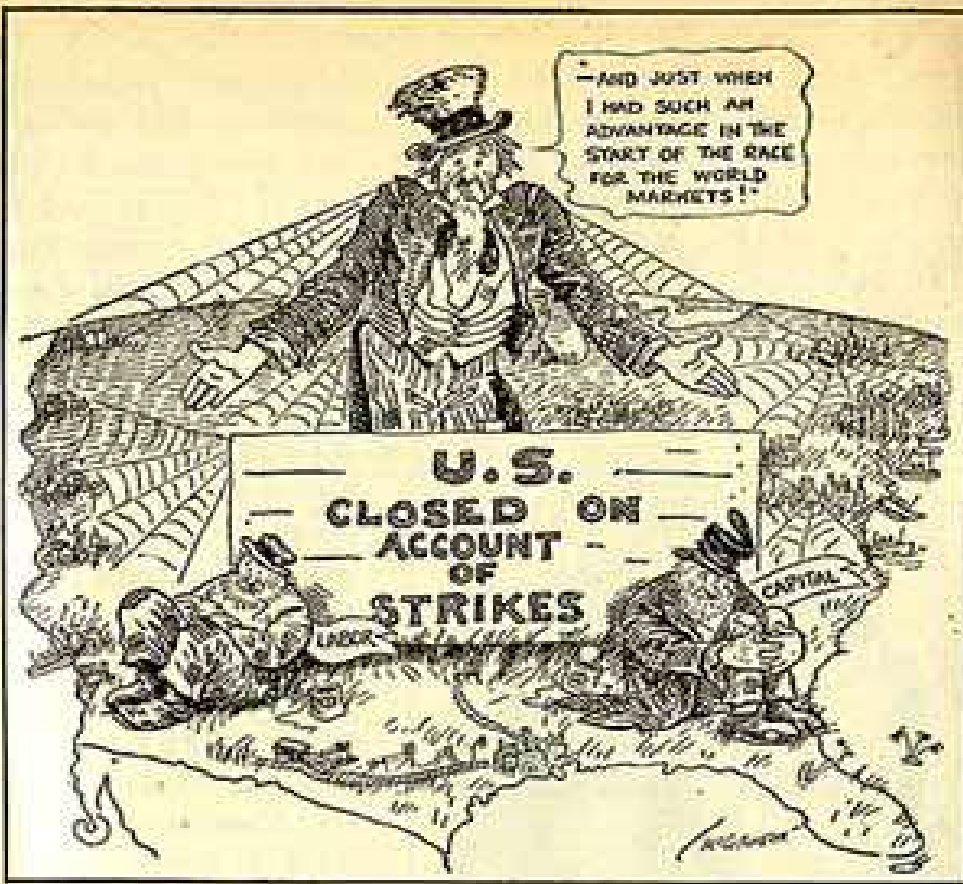
- Domestic servants
- Factory workers
- Sweatshop laborers
- Prostitutes
- Women made significantly less than males

DECLINE OF MORALITY

- Movement to cities nurtured new sexual attitudes and aroused public anxiety about the decline of moral values
- Iconic image of the “Flapper” represented this change
 - Flappers adopted new fashions, attitudes, and habits
- New image of women posed little threat to the traditional roles of wife and mother



LABOR UNREST



- High inflation, competition from returning veterans, and end of wartime concessions led to labor strikes
- Strikes and the rise of Communism and Socialism (Russian Revolution) frightened middle and upper class Americans
- Anarchists exploded bombs in 8 major cities

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IF CAPITAL AND LABOR DON'T PULL TOGETHER.

—McCutcheon in the *Chicago Tribune*.

“RED SCARE”

- Fears of strikes, communism and bombs led to the “Red Scare”
- Palmer Raids: government arrested over 4000 alleged communists
 - Hundreds were deported
 - Attorney General predicted several more attacks that never occurred
- Aroused even more fear against dangerous foreigners



“100% AMERICANISM”

- Propaganda increased nativism (hostility towards immigrants) and turned it into xenophobia (fear of foreigners)
- Congress passed legislation that authorized quotas to limit immigration
 - Argument based on Social Darwinism and Anglo-Saxon superiority
 - Immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe was drastically limited and the ban on Asian immigration was continued (Chinese Exclusion Act)

KU KLUX KLAN RESURGENCE

Ku Klux Klan
STATE DEMONSTRATION
COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND
NORTH YORK
Sunday and Monday, Sept. 4th and 5th
Addresses by
PROMINENT SPEAKERS
of the K. K. K.
Religious Services, Band Concerts, Singing by
Male Quartettes, Choruses and Glee Clubs
Street Parade Monday Afternoon
Huge K. K. K. Fireworks Display Monday Evening
Admission and Parking Free
GENERAL PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED

- Anti-immigrant sentiment led to the rise of the KKK
- 1915 film, *Birth of a Nation*, intensified racism towards African Americans and glorified the KKK as a heroic organization
 - Increased the popularity of the group
- Red Scare added radicals, immigrants and Catholics to the list of targets of the KKK
- Used advertisements to promote membership and became a national organization with a strong following in the Midwest and South
- Viewed themselves as “moral regulators”
 - Also targeted bootleggers, gamblers
- Used tactics such as cross burnings, public beatings, and lynchings
- Sex scandals and corruption undermined the Klan’s claims and the organization began to fade



KKK COMPARISONS

Klan of Reconstruction

- Major Aim:
- Major Targets:
- Major Tactics:
- Geography:

Klan of 1920s

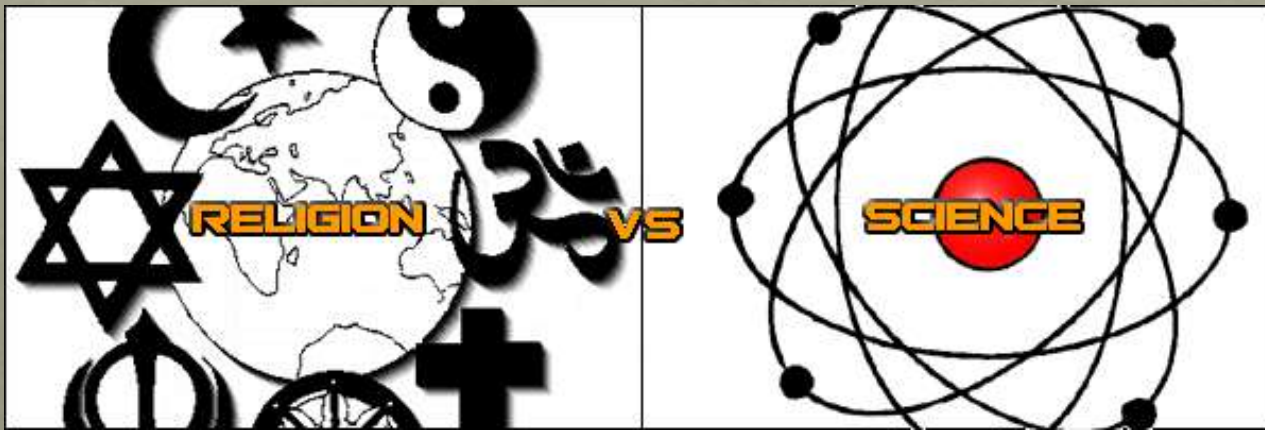
- Major Aim:
- Major Targets:
- Major Tactics:
- Geography:

PROHIBITION

- Temperance Movement advocated prohibition to preserve American culture in the face of immigration
- 18th Amendment prohibited the production, distribution, and sale of alcohol (not the consumption)
- Compliance was often a matter of class, ethnic background, and religious affiliation
- Illegal sources (mafia) were filling the demand for alcohol and speakeasies were popping up in cities
- Government did not have the manpower to enforce prohibition and organized crime grew as a result of bootlegging
- Prohibition was repealed in 1933 with the 21st Amendment

RELIGION VS. SCIENCE

- Conflict between traditional religious beliefs and science also created anxiety
- Religious revivalism led to the development of religious fundamentalism that believed in the literal truth of the Bible
- Darwin's theory of evolution challenged this belief



SCOPES “MONKEY” TRIAL

- Exposed the conflict between religious fundamentalism and modern science
- Biology teacher purposefully defied a Tennessee law that forbade the teaching of evolution
 - Teacher was defended by the American Civil Liberties Union
- Case brought the conflict to the national scene but did not resolve the issue
 - Both sides claimed victory in the argument that remains active today



CONSERVATISM VS. LIBERALISM

- Conflict between conservatives who advocate conformity to a traditional moral code and liberals who advocate individual rights changed American society and culture in the 1920s
 - Conflict still continues today



CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS COMPARISONS

Conservatives

- Beliefs:
- Stance on Women:
- Stance on Labor:
- Stance on Red Scare:
- Stance on Immigration:
- Stance on Alcohol:
- Stance on Religion/Science:

Liberals

- Beliefs:
- Stance on Women:
- Stance on Labor:
- Stance on Red Scare:
- Stance on Immigration:
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