



Politics of the 1920s

Three Republican Presidents



Warren G. Harding

President 1920-23



Calvin Coolidge

President 1923-1928



Herbert Hoover

President 1928-1932

all promoted "a return to normalcy"
after WWI

Washington Conference

1922

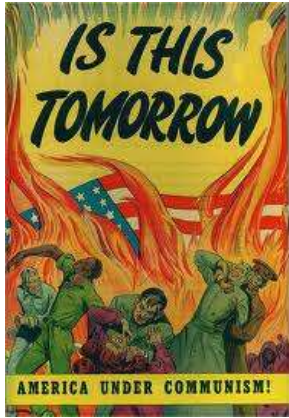
post-WWI, America is very isolationist
(don't get involved in what's going on in other countries)

attends the conference in Washington, DC with eight other nations

US and other nations agree to limit their militaries (men, arms, ships)

Japan had taken land from China, so we told them they could only have 3 ships for every 5 of ours (?)





Red Scare

a fear of foreigners and communism emerged from 1919–1921
natives were worried that immigrants would take their jobs
natives didn't like immigrants' differences: religion, dress, food, etc.

Attorney General

A. Mitchell Palmer arrested about 6,000 people; some were deported
(sent out of the country)

(he slowed down a bit after a bomb blew up his house)



The Prohibition “Experiment”

came about from anti-foreign sentiment and religious crusading against “demon rum”
in 1919, the 18th Amendment was passed prohibiting (outlawing) alcohol
many violated or ignored the prohibition laws
there were positive results: bank savings increased and absences at work decreased



The “Golden Age” of Gangsterism

prohibition created an entire industry for organized crime: liquor distribution
gangs were born and staked out their territories for selling alcohol in their "speakeasy" bars



guests of a speakeasy
had to know a
password
to enter



Chicago had the greatest number and strongest gangs
"Scarface" Al Capone was the biggest and the
baddest of the crime bosses

the “G-men” (Government men = federal police) named
him "Public Enemy Number One"

although never convicted of mob-related activities, he was
put in jail for tax evasion

Restricting Immigration



Emergency Quota Act (1921)
cut the number of people admitted to the US to 3% of
the total number of people in any group already living
in the US in 1910

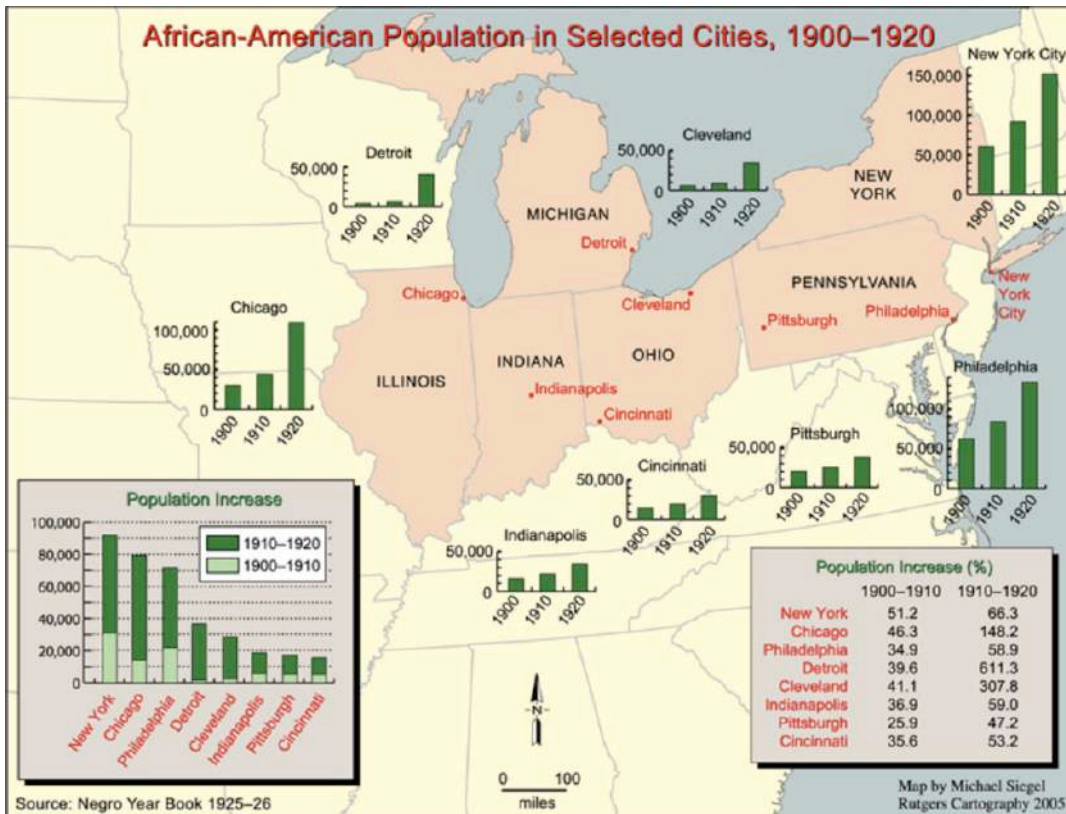
Immigration Act of 1924 (1924)
cut down to 2% of a group's U.S. population in 1890:
New Immigrants v. Old Immigrants
NO Japanese immigrants



The Great Migration, 1916–1930



African-American Population in Selected Cities, 1900–1920



Harlem Renaissance

An African - American arts movement (writing, music, and art) in the 1920s that centered on Harlem.



Notable Harlem Renaissance Artists:

Langston Hughes, Author

Louis Armstrong, Jazz Musician

Duke Ellington, Jazz Musician

Marian Anderson, Singer

Billie Holiday, Singer



Langston Hughes



In his many poems and novels of the 1920s, Langston Hughes creatively suggested the idea that black culture should be celebrated.



The Weary Blues (1925)

Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,
Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon,
I heard a Negro play.
Down on Lenox Avenue the other night
By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light
He did a lazy sway . . .
He did a lazy sway . . .
To the tune o' those Weary Blues.
With his ebony hands on each ivory key
He made that poor piano moan with melody.
O Blues!
Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool
He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool.
Sweet Blues!
Coming from a black man's soul.
O Blues!
In a deep song voice with a melancholy tone
I heard that Negro sing, that old piano moan—
"Ain't got nobody in all this world,
Ain't got nobody but ma self.
I's gwine to quit ma frownin'
And put ma troubles on the shelf."
Thump, thump, thump, went his foot on the floor.
He played a few chords then he sang some more—
"I got the Weary Blues
And I can't be satisfied.
Got the Weary Blues
And can't be satisfied—
I ain't happy no mo'
And I wish that I had died."
And far into the night he crooned that tune.
The stars went out and so did the moon.
The singer stopped playing and went to bed
While the Weary Blues echoed through his head.
He slept like a rock or a man that's dead.



New Orleans native Louis Armstrong moved to New York City in 1924, where he played the clubs and on Broadway, helping to spread the sound of jazz to a larger audience.

By forming a band, moving to New York City in the early 1920s and playing at exclusively white clubs like the Cotton Club, Duke Ellington impacted the way that Jazz developed as an artform during the Harlem Renaissance.

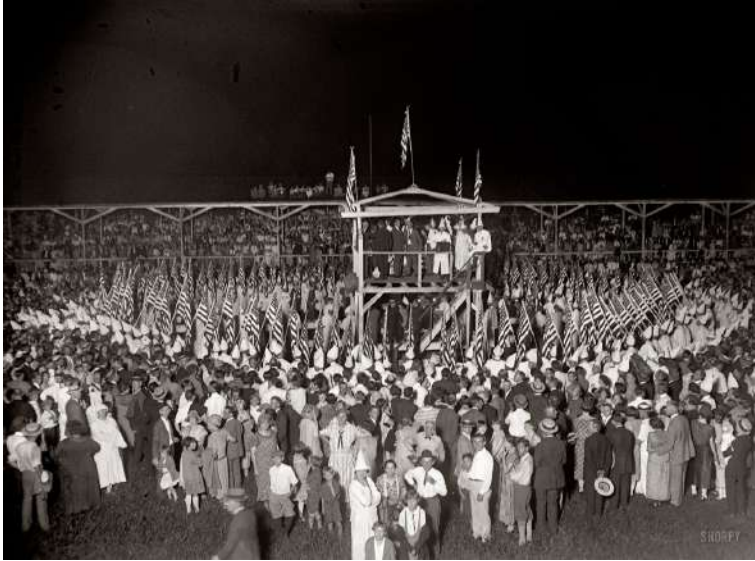


Songstress Marian Anderson made her contralto voice heard as an opera singer who performed at Carnegie Hall in 1928 and at the New York Metropolitan Opera House in the 1930s, the first black performer to ever do so.

Billie Holiday moved her career forward into becoming one of the most influential jazz singers in history after performing in the Apollo Theater in Harlem.



Hooded Hoodlums of the KKK



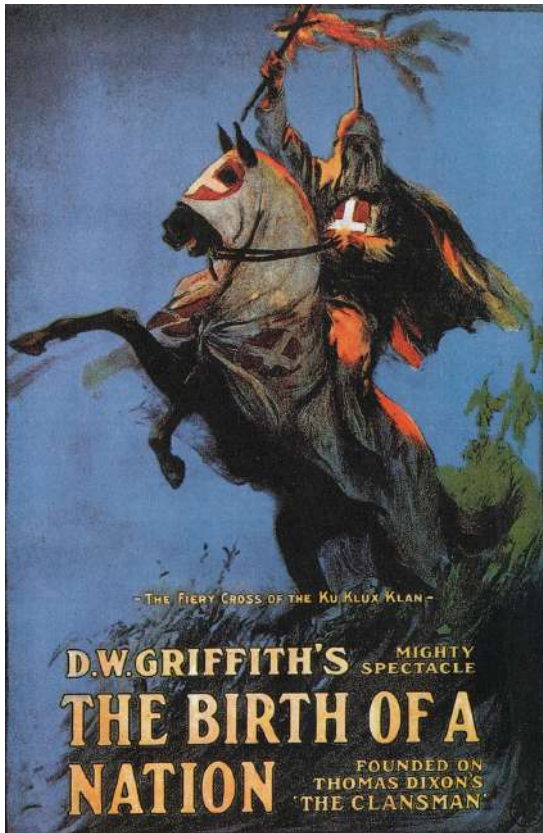
membership in the Ku Klux Klan **increased** dramatically during the 1920s

although started as an anti-black group, in the 20's it was also opposed to Catholics, Jewish, pacifists, communists, internationalists, revolutionists, bootleggers, gambling, adultery, and birth control

(basically, the KKK was pro-white Anglo-Saxon Protestant - "WASP" - and anti-everything else)

KKK membership reached its peak during the 20's to about **5 million** members

they used fear, **lynchings**, and intimidation to gain and keep their power



The **Birth** of a **Nation**, 1915
silent film

directed by D. W. Griffith
based on the novel and play
The Clansman, by Thomas Dixon, Jr.

many Americans believed it was true, including
President **Wilson**!

Birth of A Nation excerpt



The first daylight Ku Klux Klan parade in the US and the first Klan parade in New England took place in Milo, ME on September 3, 1923.

In the 1920s the Klan had as many as 20,000 members throughout Maine.



Ku Klux Klan procession, Portland, ca. 1923

The Ku Klux Klan impacted Maine politics in 1923 when over 7,000 of their number rallied to change the Portland city government structure from having an elected mayor to hiring a city manager.

The Klan had a huge headquarters complex on Forest Avenue. The Klan's Maine director, F. Eugene "Doc" Farnsworth, spoke against Catholics, Jews and immigrants.



A Ku Klux Klansman and horse in full regalia lead a motorcade of members to the Brownville Centennial Pageant Grounds in 1924.

Civic leaders had put up \$500 to celebrate 100 years as a town. The Piscataquis County community of 1,743 people was experiencing divisive labor problems and some residents struck out at arriving Catholic Franco-Americans.

Humans Develop Wings



Wilbur and Orville Wright
flew for the first time on
December 17, 1903 for 12
seconds at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Planes were used a little in WWI - for spying, dog fighting each other, and bombing

After WWI planes were used for air mail -
transcontinental airmail started from
New York to San Francisco in 1920

in 1927 Charles Lindbergh was
the first to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in
33 1/2 hours



The Automobile Revolution

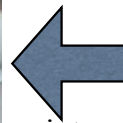
Henry Ford's
assembly line
produced a new car every
10 seconds

by 1929, there were
26 **million**
registered cars - 1
car for every 4.9
people America
(now it's 1 for every 3 people)

cars created 6 million new jobs
(making cars and gas stations,
roads, etc.)



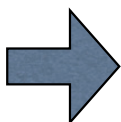
Replica of the Benz Patent Motorwagen (1886)

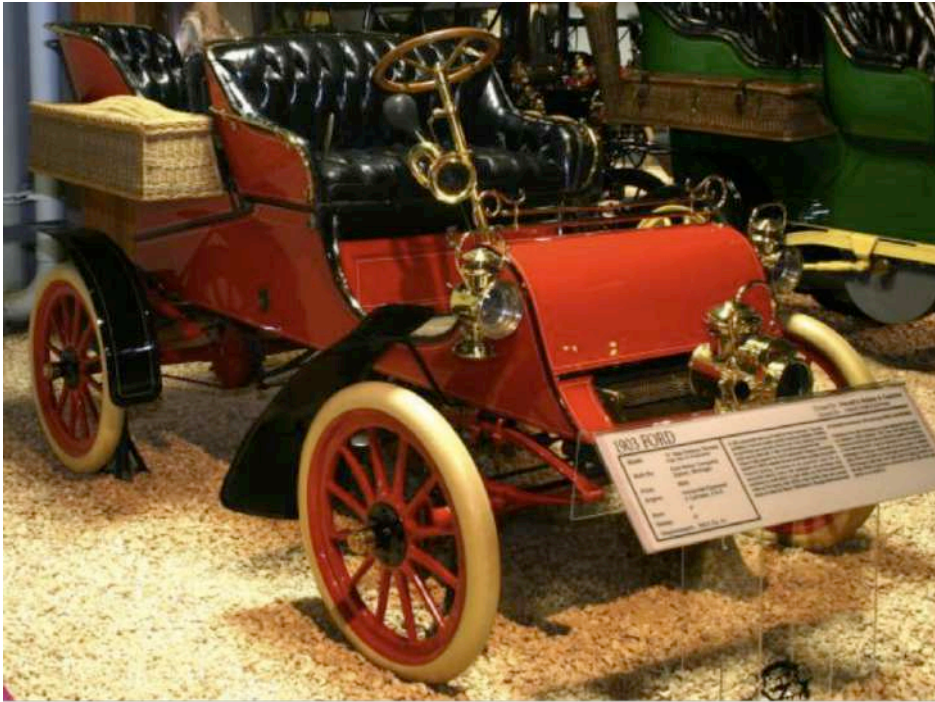


France, Germany, Austria (1890s)

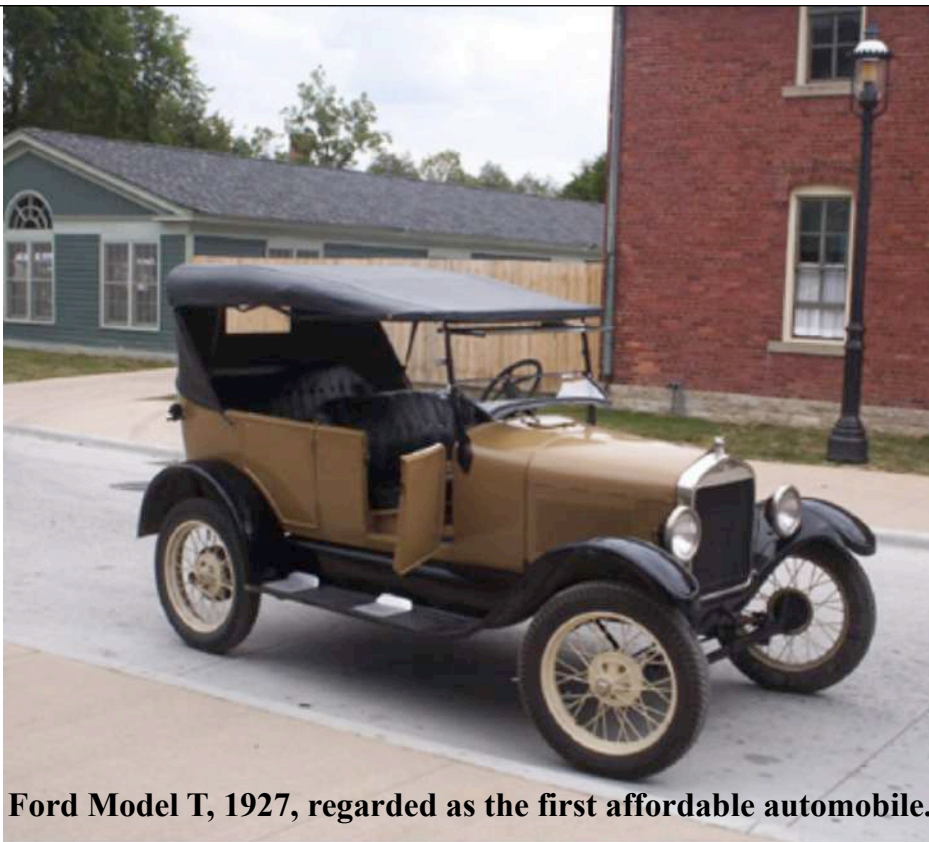
internal combustion engine: expanding power of
burning gas to drive pistons

Karl Benz's "Velo" model (1894)
entered the first automobile race





The original Ford Model A, also called the Fordmobile, was the first car produced by Ford Motor Company, beginning production in 1903.



Ford Model T, 1927, regarded as the first affordable automobile.



Ford's Model T and Model A cars were affordable for almost any working person

cars brought independence to young people who "dated" in them

America began to reshape itself by spreading out into suburbs



"Flappers"



young modern women in the 20's
visited speakeasies, drank alcohol, dressed in short dresses, "bobbed" their hair
danced to the Charleston



Some of the Many Other American Events and People of the Roaring 20s

1920 First Commercial Radio Broadcast Aired League of Nations Established Women Granted the Right to Vote in US 1921 Lie Detector Invented 1922 Insulin Discovered The Reader's Digest Published 1923 Talking Movies Invented Time Magazine Founded 1924 First Olympic Winter Games J. Edgar Hoover Appointed FBI Director 1925 Flapper Dresses in Style The Scopes (Monkey) Trial	1926 A.A. Milne Publishes Winnie-the-Pooh Houdini Dies After Being Punched 1927 Babe Ruth Makes Home-Run Record The First Talking Movie, <i>The Jazz Singer</i> Lindbergh Flies Solo Across the Atlantic Sacco and Venzetti Executed 1928 Bubble Gum Invented First Mickey Mouse Cartoon First Oxford English Dictionary Published Kellogg-Briand Treaty Outlaws War Penicillin Discovered Sliced Bread Invented 1929 Car Radio Invented First Academy Awards The Great Depression Begins Stock Market Crashes
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