

# Lecture: “Peace and Prosperity”

Learning Target: I can describe the major political and social issues of the 1920's

# I-Let's Party

A-1920's were a time of general national prosperity

1-Considered a party time with nicknames such as:

A) Jazz Age

B) Roaring '20's

C) Flapper Era



# I-Let's Party

B-Women returned home after helping out in the workplace while men were at war

# I-Let's Party

## C-Prohibition (18<sup>th</sup> Amendment)

1-made all alcoholic beverages illegal

A) included purchase, making, consumption and transportation

2-Caused people to make it illegally

A) Speakeasies: Illegal bars

B) Bathtub gin: made in homes

C) Bootleggers: sellers of homemade illegal alcohol

D) Rumrunners: People who brought alcohol in from Cuba

3-doing any of the above was considered a Federal felony

# II-Politics

## A-Election of 1920

- 1-first election women could vote in because of passage of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- 2-Warren G. Harding elected but dies in 1923
- 3-Calvin Coolidge succeeds him & wins in the election of 1924
- 4-politics became involved in this era of good times
  - A) Attitude: everything's going fine so why change
- 5-both administrations run like businesses (very professional)

# II-Politics

## B-Fordney-McCumber Tariff (1921)

A-Tariffs increased on farm produce to equalize American and foreign production

B-Gave president power to increase or lower tariff based on recommendation of Tariff Commission

## C-Five Power Treaty (1922)

A-Committed US, Britain, Japan, France & Italy to restrict building new battleship class ships

B-Gave Japan naval supremacy in Pacific

# II-Politics

## D-Dawes Plan (1924)

- 1-Restructuring plan for Germany after WWI
- 2-US made loans to Germany to pay reparations
- 3-Allies then took reparations and paid back US for money US lent them

## E-Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)

- 1-15 nation pact saying all conflicts should be settled by peaceful means, war to be renounced
- 2-Congress demanded right of self-defense
- 3-Congress did not want to act against countries that broke pact
- 4-no way to enforce pact

# III-Technology improves the life of the average American

A-Improvements in many things, as well as new inventions, made living more comfortable and easier

## 1-Medical advances

- A) Smallpox, tuberculosis and diphtheria were controlled
- B) invention of the Iron Lung
- C) Discovery of Phenobarbathol and Penicillin
- D) Average life expectancy in U.S. increased from 49 years to 59 years



# III-Technology improves the life of the average American

2-Henry Ford invents assembly line, which allows mass production of cars

A) Ford DID NOT invent the car!

3-Sound added to movie

4-Invention of Radio

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

A-Unions, which promised not to strike during WWI began striking to make up for benefits and wages lost during the war

1-Most violent strikes came during the 1930's  
however

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## B-Red Scare

1-1917: Communists take over Russia

2-People became afraid of those who were trying to turn the U.S. communist

3-Many people saw all forms of protest as being anti-American and pro-Communist

A) This included labor strikes

4-more than 6,000 arrested as communists and 500 deported

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## B-Red Scare

### 5-Palmer Raids

A) Attny Gen. Palmer was target of bomb sent through mail

1) Others also targeted

B) claimed 4000 people were involved in plots, including a planned riot on May Day, 1920

1) only 556 arresteed

2) no riot

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## C-Limits on immigration

1-Caused because of two reasons

A) Red Scare

B) Sacco & Vanzetti

1) Italian immigrants who were arrested and convicted of treason

2) They were executed

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

2-Set up a quota system for new immigrants:

Emergency Quota Act of 1921

A) only 152,000 immigrants allowed per year by 1929

B) of that, 132,000 were from western Europe (France, Great Britain)

C) only 20,000 from rest of the world

D) Japanese were barred from immigrating to the U.S.

E) Africans were included in European totals since they were colonies of those countries

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## D-Civil Rights of 1920's

1-African Americans who fought in WWI thought they should be treated better

A) based on experience in France

2-Movement to go back to Africa

A) Led by Marcus Garvey

B) promoted racial pride and separation

C) against integration

D) Developed steamline for African Americans who wanted to migrate to Africa

3-Line went bankrupt, he was convicted of fraud

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## D-Civil Rights of 1920's

### 3-KKK re-emerges

A) attacked all they thought were “wrong type of Americans”

1) African Americans

2) Jews

3) Catholics

4) Immigrants

B) Goal of the KKK: To preserve the U.S. for white, native-born American Protestants



# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## 3-Native Americans

A) by 1929, Native Americans lost 60% of the land they controlled as of 1887

B) Extremely poor

C) 1924: Granted American Citizenship

1) Why: Many Native American men fought for U.S. in WWI

D) They also retained citizenship in their tribe

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## E-Farm Crisis

1-During WWI, the American farmers supplied food for Europe as well as American

A) Why: War tore up farms & crops in Europe

B) Caused increase in farm prices

2-War ends, European farmers begin supplying their own people with food

3-Value of food in U.S. goes down causing farmers to lose money

A) Price of food decreased because of surplus of food (Economic law of supply and demand)

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## F-European Depression

1-Depression began in Europe before America because they had problems rebuilding after the war

A) much caused by reparations

2-Eventually causes problems in America

# IV-Problems of the 1920's

## G-Teapot Dome Scandal

1-bribery scandal involving Sec. of Interior Albert Fall

2-Fall leased naval oil reserves at Teapot Dome, WY to two major businesses in exchange for cash

3-businessmen arrested and acquitted

4-Fall arrested and convicted of bribery

A) First cabinet official to go to prison

# IV-Problems of the 1920's



## H-Creationism

- 1-religious people were against teaching evolution in schools
- 2- Tennessee passed law promoting creationism and banning teaching evolution
- 3-Biology teacher John Scopes broke law and taught Darwinism
- 4-Clarrence Darrow represented Scopes, William Jennings Bryan rep. Tenn.
- 5-Judge refused expert testimony
- 6-Scopes found guilty, fined \$100