

Unit 5: Post WWI America and the 1920s

*In this unit, we will explore some large concepts through examining specific events that occurred in the United States after WWI. For each event in **bold**, we will examine the causes and effects more in depth.*

Essential Questions for the Unit:

1. Why was there an increase in racism and nativism in the United States after WWI?
2. Did the Red Scare lead to the restriction of civil liberties?
3. How did Fundamentalists react to the changing culture of the United States after WWI?
4. What was life like for immigrants in the United States after WWI?

Post-WWI United States (1919-1928) was a place of clashing values and tensions but also many cultural innovations. In this unit, we will explore 1) racial tensions, 2) the Red Scare, 3) Fundamentalism, and 4) Immigration issues.

Post WWI America Outline

- I. Economic Turmoil
 - A. Race to buy previously rationed goods after war leads to rapid _____ of prices.
 - B. Workers want higher wages BUT companies don't because of operating costs...leads to many _____.
 - C. By end of 1919, over 3,600 strikes.
- II. Racial Unrest
 - A. After war, competition between returning soldiers and African Americans for _____ and housing.
 - B. **Chicago Race Riots 1919**
 - C. Fear and prejudice lead to rise in racism and nativism
 1. Nativism is the desire to protect the interests of _____ Americans against those of _____.
 - D. Sacco-Vanzetti Case
 1. Italian immigrants and anarchists convicted of murder and put to death.
 2. Fair trial or victims of anti-foreign fever?
 - E. Eugenics: Pseudo-science that deals with improving heredity traits
 1. Claimed that human inequalities were inherited and the "unfit" should not breed
 2. Led to massive forced _____, euthanasia, and desire for immigration control.
 - F. Return of KKK
 1. By 1924, 4 million members preaching against groups that they believed were "un-American".
 2. When immigration laws reduced number of immigrants, KKK saw reduction in membership because it was deprived of major issue.

III. Immigration Issues: "Keep America American"

A. National Origins Act 1924

1. Fear of immigrants as radicals and job competition led to new immigration laws
2. National Origins Act set _____ to limit number of European and Asian immigrants.

B. Hispanic Immigration

1. Immigration laws exempted people from Western Hemisphere so more than 600,000 Mexicans arrived in US between 1914 and end of 1920s to:
 - a) Flee Mexico after Mexican Revolution in 1910
 - b) Fill jobs left empty by reduction in European immigrants (Mostly _____ labor.)

IV. Red Scare

A. Fear of communism caused nation-wide panic = RED SCARE

B. Russian Revolution

1. Lenin and Bolsheviks seized power in Russia. When Russia withdrew from war, they're seen as helping Germany.
2. Americans start to associate communism with being _____ and disloyal.
3. Accusation of immigrants importing radical socialist and Communist ideas = blamed for labor unrest and violence.
4. Communist International: Soviet Union organization for coordinating activities of Communist parties in_____.
5. Series of bombings blamed on Communists/spies

C. Palmer Raids

V. Cultural Innovations

A. Flappers, Women's rights

1. Change in women's behavior and contributions: social freedoms, workforce, art, science

B. Hollywood, mass media (radios, movies, magazines, newspapers)

C. Harlem Renaissance

1. Great Migration: movement of African Americans from rural South to industrial North
2. Harlem, New York City: environment of artistic development, racial pride, political organization
 - a) Writers: Langston Hughes
 - b) Jazz: Louis Armstrong, Cotton Club
 - c) Political activism, anti-lynching legislation, NAACP

VI. Fundamentalism: Religious movement to counter loss of "traditional values"

A. Scopes Trial

1. Evolutionists v. Creationists

B. Prohibition