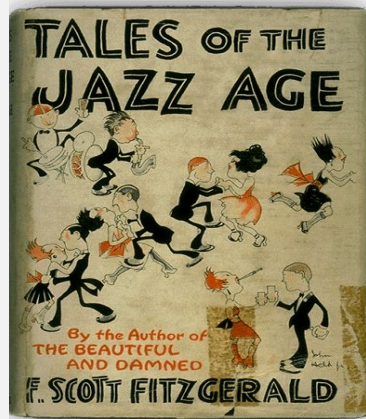


The Jazz Age



Traditionalism and Modernism Clash

- For the first time, census data reflected that more people lived in the cities than in rural areas.
- A tension developed between modernists and traditionalists
 - Modernists = usually urban, those open to scientific theories and social change
 - Traditionalists = usually rural, those who wanted to preserve the beliefs and customs of the past

Fundamentalists = usually rural, reactionary group to modernists, believed/ taught that every word of the Bible was literal truth

- Often nicknamed, "The Scopes Monkey Trial," the Scopes Trial was a culmination of this tension. A Tennessee teacher was accused of violating a law banning teaching evolution in class. The ACLU defended him, while William Jennings Bryan led the prosecution.



What examples of intolerance or traditionalism can we recall from our World War I WebQuest?

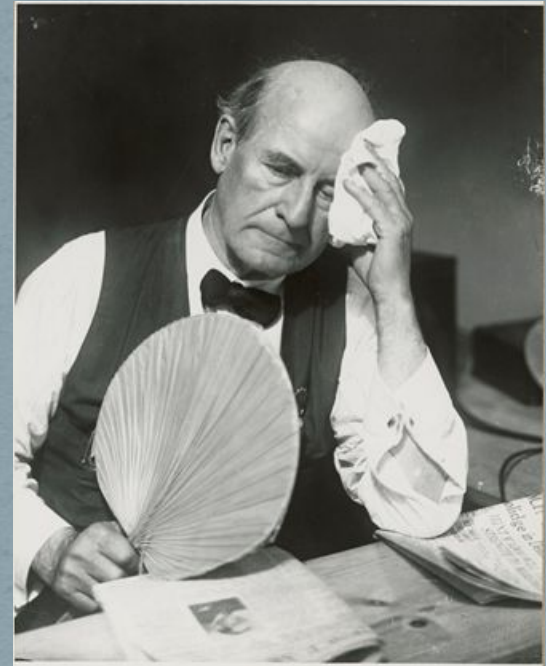
Scopes Trial



- Competing ideological viewpoints: religious fundamentalism and scientific ideas
- Contrived by the American Civil Liberties Union to address the tension surrounding Tennessee's ban upon teaching evolution in its schools
- ACLU advertised that it would assume the costs and provide the legal defense for teachers willing to break the law, leaders in Dayton encouraged Scopes to help Dayton become the center of the trial and the news coverage it would bring
- High-stakes confrontation to determine if the future of American society would be dominated by religious or secular influence.
- Intense rivalry unfolded between William Jennings Bryan (represented Prosecution), who represented the voice of Protestant religious heritage, and Clarence Darrow (represented Defense), who was secular

- Last key event in William Jennings Bryan's political career and life, as he died shortly after the conclusion of the trial.
- Bryan led the prosecution in this controversial trial, in an act that has been understood to resist the modern temper of the 1920s.
- Bryan was a populist, pacifist, agitator, and three time presidential candidate who had been a leading figure of the Democratic party for decades, and he was also a relic of America's fundamentalist Protestant heritage that seemed to be threatened in the wake of 20th century modernism.
- He took the stand as a witness a week before his death. This, like much of the trial, was unusual. This allowed the defense to attempt to undermine his beliefs in order to characterize his convictions as evidence of intolerance.
- Bryan died only days after Judge Raulston ruled in favor of the prosecution.
- He was not allowed to deliver his closing remarks that he probably spent weeks carefully preparing because Darrow asked the judge for a guilty verdict in order appeal the case.

Scopes Trial



Ford and the Automobile



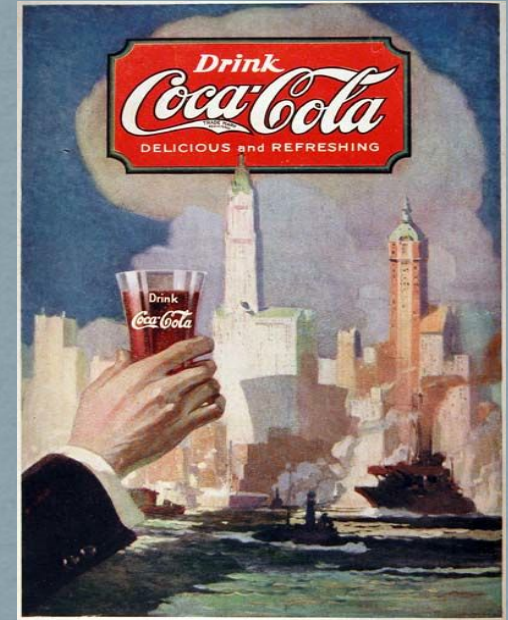
- Henry Ford's first car was the Model T, nicknamed the Tin Lizzie
- The Model T made automobiles more affordable for ordinary Americans and sparked cultural change as the country became more united by highways
- He made the assembly line more efficient (with mass production).
 - By having the product move and not the worker, he could produce products much more quickly.

Consumer Culture

- New opportunities to buy appliances, automobiles, and even stylish clothes caused a cultural shift away from the thrifty ideals of the previous generation

Labor saving devices made housework easier and contributed to leisure time for women.

- Buying with installment plans grew in popularity throughout the 1920s
 - 60% of all furniture and 75% of all radios were bought on installment plans
- Spending and borrowing became the norm
- New advertising techniques using psychology to appeal to people's passions, emotions, and insecurities to convince them to buy products



Movies



- Between 1910 and 1930 the number of theatres rose from 5,000 to 22,500.
- Before 1927, all movie were silent.
(Charlie Chaplin clip)
- *The Jazz Singer*, the first movie with sound was released in 1927.
(The Jazz Singer clip)
- Movies with sound were known as “talkies.”
- People went to the movies to try and forget about their problems.
- Silent films could be enjoyed by all classes, including recent immigrants who did not yet have a firm grasp of English

Radio

- Before 1920, radio barely existed.
- In 1922, NBC was created to reach more people with national programming.
- Because of NBC and other networks, radio became a medium for the masses.



The Jazz Age

- Jazz features improvisation, where the musician makes up the music as they are playing.
- Jazz developed in New Orleans, Louisiana
- The Great Migration of World War I brought Jazz to Northern cities
- It grew out of the Blues and Ragtime.
- Louis Armstrong, nicknamed Satchmo, was the most famous performer of the time



The Red Scare

- After the Bolshevik Revolution during WWI, a fear of Communism and Socialism developed in the US.
- The communists in Russia were called the "Reds"
- After they took over Russia, people in America feared that the communists were going to try and take over the USA too.

***See Palmer Raids World War I
in World War I WebQuest***



After WWI, nativism grew stronger for many reasons:

- Many Americans believed that people from foreign countries could never be fully loyal to the US.
- Americans often blamed the problems of cities on the immigrants.
- Workers feared immigrants might take their jobs away from them.
- The intolerance toward immigrants empowered the KKK to grow to its peak of influence in the 1920s.

Limit Immigration



- Quota –a numeral limit on immigrants from each foreign nation.
- Emergency Quota Act of 1921
- Immigration Act of 1924
- Asian immigration was banned all together.

**Remember, the Chinese Exclusion Act had already banned all Chinese immigration in 1882.*

Sacco & Vanzetti

- Sacco and Vanzetti were known radicals and Italian immigrants who were accused of theft and murder
- They were convicted although many believed there was too little evidence and the case was sensationalized because they were radicals and immigrants.



The Harlem Renaissance

- For African Americans, the cultural center of the US was New York City's Harlem.
- In the 1920s, it was the home of an African American artistic and literary awakening.
- The famous writers are Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and Alain Locke.
- The Harlem Renaissance celebrated Black Consciousness and the experience of Black Americans in Jim Crow America
- Poets like Langston Hughes brought attention to inequality and injustice while celebrating Black culture



Langston Hughes's Poetry

"I am fed up
With Jim Crow laws,
People who are cruel
And afraid,
Who lynch and run,
Who are scared of me
And me of them.
I pick up my life
And take it away
On a one-way ticket
Gone Up North
Gone Out West
Gone!"

—Langston Hughes, *One-Way Ticket*, 1949

- 1. In the poem, the term "Jim Crow" laws refer to Southern laws**
 - a. passed during Reconstruction to protect African Americans.**
 - b. that placed poll taxes on voting for African Americans.**
 - c. that prevented African American males from holding public office.**
 - d. that mandated racial segregation in public places.**

Check your answer by Lost Generation.

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2. The poem above refers to which event in US history?
- a. The Civil War
 - b. Reconstruction
 - c. The Great Migration
 - d. World War I

Check your answer by Lost Generation.

Langston Hughes's Poetry

The President's Four Freedoms
Appeal to me.
I would like to see those Freedoms
Come to be.

If you believe
In the Four Freedoms, too,
Then share 'em with me --
Don't keep 'em all for you....

Looks like be now
Folks ough to know
It's hard to beat Hitler
Protecting Jim Crow.

Freedom's not just
To be won Over There.
It means Freedom at home, too--
Now, --right here!

--Langston Hughes, 1942

Langston Hughes's Poetry

3. In this poem, what is Langston Hughes's criticism about United States foreign policy during World War II?

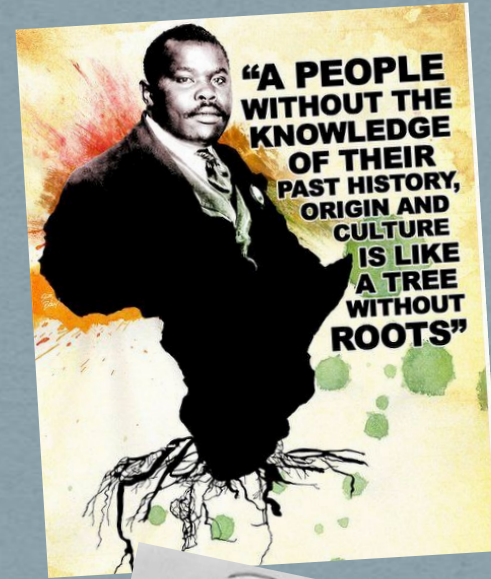
- a. The Four Freedoms cannot help African Americans.
- b. Claims of fighting for democracy abroad are inconsistent with segregation at home.
- c. Involvement in World War II is not in the best interest of the United States.
- d. The democratic principles of the United States are best kept at home.

Check your answer by Marcus Garvey.

3. B

Marcus Garvey

- Organized the Universal Negro Improvement Association that was comprised of as many as 1 million or more members between the US, Caribbean, and Africa during the 1920s
- Immigrated to New York from Jamaica in 1916
- Advocated for the end of imperialism and creating modern, urban, economically robust black communities in Africa
- Black Star Line, international shipping company, created to promote black business growth in Africa and America
- Jailed and eventually deported in 1927 after extended investigation by FBI (J. Edgar Hoover) charged him with fraud
- Lived in London until his death in 1940, never able to reunite the UNIA



Irving Berlin and Tin Pan Alley



- Berlin was one of the most successful songwriters in American history and a "Second Wave Immigrant," immigrating from Russia in 1893.
- He wrote *God Bless America*, *White Christmas*, *Anything You Can Do*, and *There's No Business Like Show Business*.
**Ask Mrs. Thompson to sing these to you, and you know she will.*
- Tin Pan Alley was an area of New York City where many of the popular songwriters of the time lived during the 1910s and 1920s.

The sound of out of tune pianos banging at the same time was compared to tin pans.
- Sheet music produced from Tin Pan Alley became popular hit music in the 1920s

Lost Generation

- Some talented American writers were disillusioned by the changes in modern America
- Intellectuals questioned the materialism and extravagance of the 1920s, and were regarded to be “lost” in the superficial nature of modern times.
- Modern warfare had horrified them, and the “return to normalcy” advocated for by President Harding after the war seemed centered upon middle-class conformity.
- Some expatriated to Europe, or relocated to live and work somewhere else to seek new ideological influences.



Above are Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Can you recognize any influential texts by either of these men?