**World War I (1914-1919) & The Roaring 20’s and American Prosperity (1920-1929)**

During the turn of the 20th century, America became stronger from its imperialist and expansionist policies. Many people in the U.S. supported these actions because it made the US strong since the country now had more places to sell goods. However, as America became stronger, it also got more involved in European affairs (just as Washington warned about in his **Farewell Address**!) In 1914, the Alliances of Great Britain, France and Russia (Triple Entente) went to war against Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire (Triple Alliance). During 1914-1917, despite the efforts of President Woodrow Wilson, the U.S. was slowly pulled into **World War I** with the **Zimmerman Telegram, Sinking of the Lusitania and Russian Revolution**. The U.S. began selling weapons to the more democratic countries of Britain and France as they fought against the more autocratic (rule of one person) governments of the Triple Alliance. Eventually U.S. civilians became victims, as German **unrestricted submarine warfare** sank the cruise ship the **Lusitania**. Germany claimed that the **Lusitania** was secretly transporting weapons and ammunition from the U.S. to Britain. In 1917, after Wilson’s reelection and the Russian Revolution put Russia out of the war, America joined the war on Britain and France’s side in 1917. They wanted to maintain freedom of the seas. With fresh soldiers, the Triple Entente won and in 1919, Germany surrendered.

Wilson was determined to create a lasting peace, with America at the lead. He believed that the United States had a democracy to protect and spread democracies and the freedoms of peoples around the world. Wilson’s **14-Points** tried to create a post-WWI world with no alliances, no military build-up, no colonialism and **self-determination** by all nations (nations should be independent) as well as an international peace keeping organization known as **The League of Nations.** The Europeans however, wanted to punish Germany and only kept **The League of Nations** in the final peace treaty, **The Treaty of Versailles**. However, after the war the Senate (which **ratifies** (approves) all treaties) did not want to sign the Treaty of Versailles because of the League of Nations and wanted to follow a policy of **isolationism – not getting involved in foreign affairs.** The U.S. isolated itself from European U.S. **isolationism** would last until the U.S. entered World War II in 1941.

The war’s greatest significance might have actually been felt on **the home front,** though**.** At home, the war changed America; the important Supreme Court case ***Schenk v. U.S.*** limited freedom of speech during times of war. The Supreme Court ruled that speech or actions that **creates a clear and present danger** (such as **“shouting fire in a crowded theatre”)** are not protected by the Constitution—Constitutional protection of liberties are not absolute. However, rights were also gained. While the men were away fighting, women worked in factories – their work at home helped America send millions of men overseas and win the war. The government rewarded the sacrifice of women and finally gave them the right to vote with the ratification of the new **19th Amendment.**

**The Roaring Twenties** was a very exciting time in U.S. History for many levels of society. Women, who now had the right to vote, went to college in greater numbers and experienced social freedom. They were much more independent, wearing skirts, smoking, drinking, dancing and became known as **flappers.** New inventions such as the toaster, washing machine, and vacuum made life at home easier on housewives. Mass production of the automobile allowed more Americans the opportunity to travel within the country. There was also the birth of radio, television and movies.

Presidents Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge were presidents for most of the '20's. They believed in capitalism – the use of capital (resources) to make profit, laissez-faire policy (the government should stay out of the economy), supply-side economics (the government should make taxes that support the growth of businesses. However, there was also one major scandal known as **The Teapot Dome Scandal** where the Harding Administration was caught selling oil rights to companies which violated American business practices. Due to their policies, the United States experienced great economic growth. Henry Ford developed the **assembly line** to mass produce cars. Cars as well as other luxury goods became more affordable.

The 1920’s was also a great time for African Americans. During the **Great Migration** African Americans moved from the South and Mid-West to Northern cities looking for job opportunities. Cities such as Chicago and New York City became centers for the growth of African American culture. This led to the **Harlem Renaissance** - when African Americans expressed themselves and pride in culture through art, literature, music, acting. They created jazz music and created the Apollo theatre where black artists and musicians performed.

However, the 1920’s was also controversial. There was much intolerance, especially towards immigrants. With the growth of Communism in Russia, Americans were scared of immigrants especially from Russia and Eastern Europe and America went through the **“Red Scare.”** Attorney General Palmer launched the **“Palmer Raids”** where the state department arrested and deported thousands of immigrants under suspicion of being communist. In the **Sacco and Vanzetti Case**, Italian immigrants Sacco and Vanzetti were sentenced to death because of an anti-immigrant jury. **The Ku Klux Klan** also had a rebirth, with hundreds of thousands joining in an effort to keep White American supremacy. People were also intolerant against the new evolution theory, and in a famous case, **“The Scopes Monkey Trial,”** the controversy was made public. Lastly, people became intolerant towards alcohol and pushed the government to pass the **18th** **Amendment – Prohibition** – which banned the sale of alcohol. People violated these unpopular prohibition laws and it became common for people to drink alcohol illegally in places called speakeasies. With alcohol illegal, mafia crime lords such as Al Capone became rich by operating black market liquor sales. Prohibition was eventually appealed with the 21st Amendment.

The U.S., while we enjoyed exporting all of our new products, reverted (went back to) a policy of isolationism, rejecting President Wilson’s plan for the League of Nations; causing further division between Democrats and Republicans.

**Vocabulary Words:**

**1) President Woodrow Wilson** -tried to keep the U.S. out of W.W.I, but was forced to after the Sinking of the **Lusitania**, **Zimmerman Telegram** and **Russian Revolution** put Russia out of the war. He was also the creator of the **14 Point Plan** for peace and the **League of Nations.**

**2) Lusitania –** American cruise ship that was sunk by German **U-Boats (submarines**) for suspicion of carrying supplies to England. Many wanted war with Germany because of this.

**3) Unrestricted submarine warfare** - Germany's plan to attack all non German ships. The need to protect its military and commercial ships pushed the US government to enter WWl.

**4) Zimmerman Telegram** – Letter from Germany to Mexico that supposedly said that Germany wanted Mexico to attack America. Many wanted war with Germany because of this.

**5) Russian Revolution –** When the people of Russia overthrew the Tsar and Russia exited the war. America had to join England and France or they would lose.

**6) 14 Point Plan**- Wilson’s plan for after the war that would create world peace. It called for self-determination of colonized nations, no alliances and decrease size of militaries and the creation of a **League of Nations.**

**7) League Of Nations** - an organization that promoted world cooperation and peace. However, since the U.S. did not join, and the League did not have the power to prevent World War II. The League of Nations is the first try/original version of the current United Nations.

**8) Treaty of Versailles** (1919) - blamed and punished Germany for starting World War I and created a League of Nations.

**9) Isolationism –** a **foreign policy** of not getting involved in foreign affairs

**10) Foreign Policy –** Relations/actions towards other countries.

**11) Farewell Address –** Washington’s Farewell letter to the nation (1796) that recommend a foreign policy of **isolationism**

**12) Schenk v. U.S**. (1919) - The U.S. Supreme Court decided that the government can limit freedom of speech during wartime if the speech/actions represent a **clear and present danger** such as **“shouting fire in a crowded theater.”**

**13) 19th Amendment –** This gave women the right to vote. It was created after they worked in factories for men on the home front during World War I.

**14) Ratify –** to approve

**15) Home front --** how the war affects life at home.

**16) Prohibition**- The **18th Amendment** that banned the sale of alcohol. Unpopular and removed by the **21st Amendment**.

**17) Flappers**- name given to a new type of woman who smoked, drank, wore less restrictive clothing

**18) Scopes "Monkey" Trial** - the trial of a science teacher was fired for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution

**19) Harlem Renaissance –** Growth of African American culture.

**20) Great Migration –** When African Americans moved up from the South to the North.

2**1) Laissez-Faire –** Policy of no government interference in the economy

**22) Supply-side Economics –** Government policies that help businesses grow

**23) Capitalism –** When Entrepreneurs use privately owned capital (resources) to create profit.

**24) Roaring 20’s –** A time of great prosperity in America

**25) Red Scare –** When Americans were scared of immigrants and communist influence.

**26) Sacco and Vanzetti Case –** Two Italians were sentenced to death because of a prejudice jury.

**27) Scopes Monkey Trial –** Court case which exposes the conflict over teaching evolution in classrooms

**28) Assembly Line –** Created by Henry Ford to mass produce cars and make goods more available and cheaper.

**29) Henry Ford –** Innovator of the **“assembly line;** a businessman who helped revolutionize producing and selling goods to people (especially cars – **Ford Model-T**)

**30) Palmer Raids** – Attorney General Palmer’s “raids” to arrest and deport Russian immigrants due to fear from Communism spreading.

**31) Ku Klux Klan –** organization whose agenda was to create a White Supremacist Society.

**32) Intolerance** – not accepting of other people.

**33)** **Teapot Dome Scandal** – When the Harding Administration was accused of selling oil rights to one company without a bidding by other companies.

**34) Bootlegger**: Someone who made and/or smuggled alcohol during Prohibition.

**35) Speakeasy**: Place where people went to illegally drink during Prohibition.

**36) Al Capone:**  Mafia boss who ran illegal alcohol rings (networks) during Prohibition.

**37) Presidents Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge:** Presidents from 1921-1929 who followed capitalist and free market ideas and policies of isolationism

**Questions:**

**1. The "clear and present danger" ruling of the Supreme Court in *Schenck v. United States* illustrates the continuing conflict between**

1. free speech and governmental authority
2. the use of search warrants and the rights of the accused
3. state powers and Federal powers
4. religious freedom and separation of church and state

**2. President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points were intended to**

1. make the United States, Great Britain, and France into leading world powers
2. redistribute Germany’s colonies among the Allied nations
3. prevent international tensions from leading to war
4. punish Germany for causing World War I

**3. A major reason for the isolationist trend in the United States following World War I was**

1. a desire to continue the reforms of the Progressives
2. the public’s desire to end most trade with other nations
3. the failure of the United States to gain new territory
4. a disillusionment over the outcomes of the war

**4. What was a major reason for United States entry into World War I?**

1. to overthrow the czarist government of Russia
2. to keep Latin America from being attacked by Germany
3. to maintain freedom of the seas
4. to break up the colonial empires of the Allies

**5. Which situation was the immediate cause of the United States entry into World War I in 1917?**

1. The League of Nations requested help.
2. The Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor.
3. Nazi tyranny threatened Western democracy.
4. German submarines sank United States merchant ships.

**6. During World War I, many American women helped gain support for the suffrage movement by**

1. protesting against the war
2. joining the military service
3. lobbying for child-care facilities
4. working in wartime industries

**7. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920’s was a period when African Americans**

1. left the United States in large numbers to settle in Nigeria
2. created noteworthy works of art and literature
3. migrated to the West in search of land and jobs
4. used civil disobedience to fight segregation in the Armed Forces

**8. The 1920’s are sometimes called the "Roaring Twenties" because**

1. foreign trade prospered after World War I
2. the United States assumed a leadership role in world affairs
3. political reforms made government more democratic
4. widespread social and economic change occurred

**9. In the United States, the decade of the 1920’s was characterized by**

1. a willingness to encourage immigration to the United States
2. increased consumer borrowing and spending
3. the active involvement of the United States in European affairs
4. major reforms in national labor legislation

**10. The 1925 trial of John Scopes reflects the conflict between**

1. science and religion
2. isolation and international involvement
3. traditional roles and new roles for women
4. Prohibition and organized crime

**11. Which factors were the major causes of the Red Scare and the Palmer Raids, which followed World War I?**

1. success of the Communist Party in congressional and Presidential elections
2. race riots in Los Angeles and the revival of the Ku Klux Klan
3. failure of the United States to join the League of Nations and the unpaid German war debts
4. the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia and workers’ strikes in the United States

**12. “The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic."-Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes**

**Which interpretation of the Bill of Rights does this statement illustrate?**

1. The needs of the government are more important than civil liberties.
2. Constitutional protections of liberty are not absolute.
3. The Supreme Court can eliminate freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights.
4. The Bill of Rights does not safeguard individual liberties.

**13. After World War I, the opposition of some Members of Congress to the Versailles Treaty was based largely on the idea that the Treaty**

1. did not punish the Central Powers harshly enough
2. did not give the United States an important role in world affairs
3. would require the United States to join the League of Nations and might result in a loss of United States sovereignty
4. would require the United States to assume the cost of rebuilding the war-torn European economies

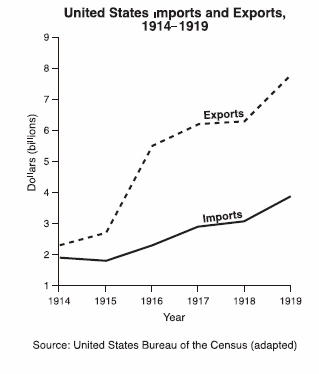
**14. Which pair of events illustrates an accurate cause-and-effect relationship?**

1. Sacco and Vanzetti trial ---> ratification of the woman suffrage amendment
2. rebirth of the KKK ---> formation of the Populist Party
3. Red Scare ---> demand for limits on immigration
4. high food prices ---> start of the Great Depression

|  |
| --- |
| **“Public Ignores Prohibition Restrictions” “Evolution and Creation Debated in Scopes Trial” “Women Bring Change to the Industrial Workforce”** |

**15. What do headlines such as these from the 1920s illustrate?**

1. conflict between traditional and modern values
2. trend toward mass consumption of consumer goods
3. hostility of certain groups toward ethnic minorities
4. debate over the role of government in the economy

****

**16. Data from this graph support the conclusion that World War I**

1. caused the United States trade deficit to increase
2. cost the United States many billions of dollars
3. was a significant benefit to the American economy
4. created an unfavorable balance of trade

|  |
| --- |
| **“I, Too, Sing America”** I, too, sing America. I am the darker brother. They send me to eat in the kitchen When company comes, But I laugh, And eat well, And grow strong. Tomorrow, I’ll sit at the table When company comes. Nobody’ll dare Say to me, “Eat in the kitchen,” Then. Besides, They’ll see how beautiful I am And be ashamed— I, too, am America.  — Langston Hughes, 1926 |

**17.This poem was a literary contribution from the**

1. abolitionist movement
2. Progressive Era
3. Prohibition movement
4. Harlem Renaissance