

## Chapter 10 Notes: The Jazz Age

### Section 1: Time of Turmoil

#### Fear of Radicalism

Events after World War I made some Americans intolerant of immigrants and foreign ideas.

- As the 1920s began, Americans wanted to return to a **normal** way of life.
- Many Americans felt threatened by the Russian Bolsheviks, who urged workers around the world to overthrow **capitalism**.
- **Anarchists**—people who believe there should be no government—also frightened Americans with bombings in several cities.
- These fears led to the **Red Scare**, a period when government officers arrested Communists and others with radical views.
- The government **deported** a few hundred of the aliens it arrested but quickly released many others for lack of evidence.

#### Labor and Racial Strife

The 1920s brought increased labor unrest and racial tensions, often marked by violence.

- Steelworkers demanding better wages and eight-hour workdays were accused of being “red agitators,” forcing an end to their strike.
- Massachusetts governor **Calvin Coolidge** called out the National Guard when Boston police officers went on strike for the right to form a union.
- Distrust of unions led to a sharp drop in union membership in the 1920s.
- Despite the decline of unions, **dynamic** African American A. Philip Randolph started the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Union.
- African American leader **Marcus Garvey** opposed integration and supported a “back-to-Africa” movement.

### Section 2: Desire for Normalcy

#### Harding and Coolidge

The Harding and Coolidge administrations favored business and wanted a smaller government.

- **Warren G. Harding** won the 1920 presidential election with his promise of a return to “normalcy.”

- Harding gave government jobs to many of his political supporters, many of whom were unqualified or corrupt.
  - ✓ Albert Fall, the secretary of the interior, secretly **leased** government oil reserves in Teapot Dome, Wyoming, to oil company owners.
  - ✓ **Teapot Dome** became a symbol of the corruption in the Harding administration.
- In the summer of 1923, President Harding died and Vice President Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as President.
- Coolidge took a hands-off approach to government.
- He once said, “If the federal government should go out of existence, the common run of the people would not **detect** the difference for a considerable length of time.”
- Under Coolidge, the government cut spending, lowered income tax rates on wealthy Americans and corporations, and overturned laws regulating child labor and women’s wages.
- Coolidge swept the 1924 presidential race with 54 percent of the popular vote.

### Foreign Policy

Harding and Coolidge aimed to limit the role of the United States in foreign affairs.

- Many Americans supported the policy of **isolationism** that Harding and Coolidge favored for the nation in world affairs.
- The Harding and Coolidge administrations actively promoted peace.
  - ✓ In 1922, the United States, Japan, Britain, France, and Italy agreed to limit the size of their navies.
  - ✓ In 1928, the United States joined 14 other nations in signing a pact that called for outlawing war.
- Instead of **intervening** with troops in Mexico, Coolidge negotiated a peaceful settlement.

### Section 3: A booming Economy

#### Growth in the 1920s

The United States experienced amazing economic growth during the 1920s.

- After World War I, the American economy initially was in a **recession** but then began a steady growth that lasted most of the decade.
  - ✓ In 1922 the **gross national product** of the United States was \$70 billion.

- ✓ By 1929, the gross national product rose to \$100 billion.
- Employers hired **experts** to make work more efficient and increase **productivity**.
- Mass-production **techniques** also increased productivity and cut production costs.
- Employers took steps—known as welfare capitalism—to build better relationships with workers.
- More than 60% of American households had electricity, and many consumers purchased electric appliances through **installment buying**.

### **The Automobile Age**

The automobile industry stimulated the economy and transformed the ways Americans traveled and lived.

- During the 1920s, the car became an important part of American life.
- **Henry Ford** was a pioneer in making affordable, dependable automobiles.
- The automobile had an effect on other industries.
  - ✓ Roads and highways needed to be built.
  - ✓ Gas stations, eateries, and shops were built along roads and highways.
  - ✓ The steel, rubber, and glass industries grew.
- Some industries did not benefit from the economic boom.
  - ✓ After the war, farmers had to compete with European agriculture again.
  - ✓ Railroad workers suffered as trucks took business from railroads.
  - ✓ Coal miners had a difficult time as electricity replaced coal as a power source.
  - ✓ As more clothes were made out of synthetic fabrics, cotton producers suffered.

### **Section 4: The Roaring Twenties**

#### **Social and Cultural Change**

During the 1920s, social changes affected the role of women and led to new forms of entertainment and culture.

- The 1920s brought many changes for women.
  - ✓ The Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed women in all states the right to vote.
  - ✓ Women also ran for election to political offices.

- ✓ More women took jobs outside the home.
- The symbol of a liberated woman was the **flapper**—a carefree young woman with short “bobbed” hair, heavy makeup, and a short skirt.
- **Mass media** such as newspapers and radio spread cultural changes quickly to millions.
- Americans had more leisure time as a result of laborsaving **devices** or equipment.
- The motion picture industry offered great entertainment from silent movies to “talkies.”
- The radio brought news, concerts, sporting events, and comedies into homes and offered businesses an **enormous** audience for advertising their products.
- Jazz music captured the spirit of the era so well that the 1920s are often referred to as the Jazz Age.
- The rhythm and themes of jazz inspired the **Harlem Renaissance** in New York City.
  - ✓ The African American experience was presented in novels, poems, and short stories.
- Other writers questioned American ideals and became **expatriates**.

### A Clash of Cultures

During the 1920s, American society was divided by a clash between traditional and modern values.

- The temperance movement was rooted in religious objections to drinking alcohol and the belief that society would benefit if alcohol were unavailable.
  - ✓ The movement reached its goal in 1919 with the ratification of the **Eighteenth Amendment** to the Constitution, which established **Prohibition**.
  - ✓ A continuing demand for alcohol led to widespread lawbreaking, and prohibition was repealed in 1933 with the **Twenty-First Amendment**.
- The concerns of native-born Americans led to the upsurge of **nativism**—the belief that native-born Americans are superior to foreigners.
  - ✓ Congress passed laws responding to Nativist fears that foreigners would take their jobs by establishing a **quota system**.
- Another cultural clash in the 1920s involved the role of religion in society.
  - ✓ In 1925, Tennessee passed a law making it illegal to teach **evolution**—the scientific theory that humans evolved over vast periods of time.

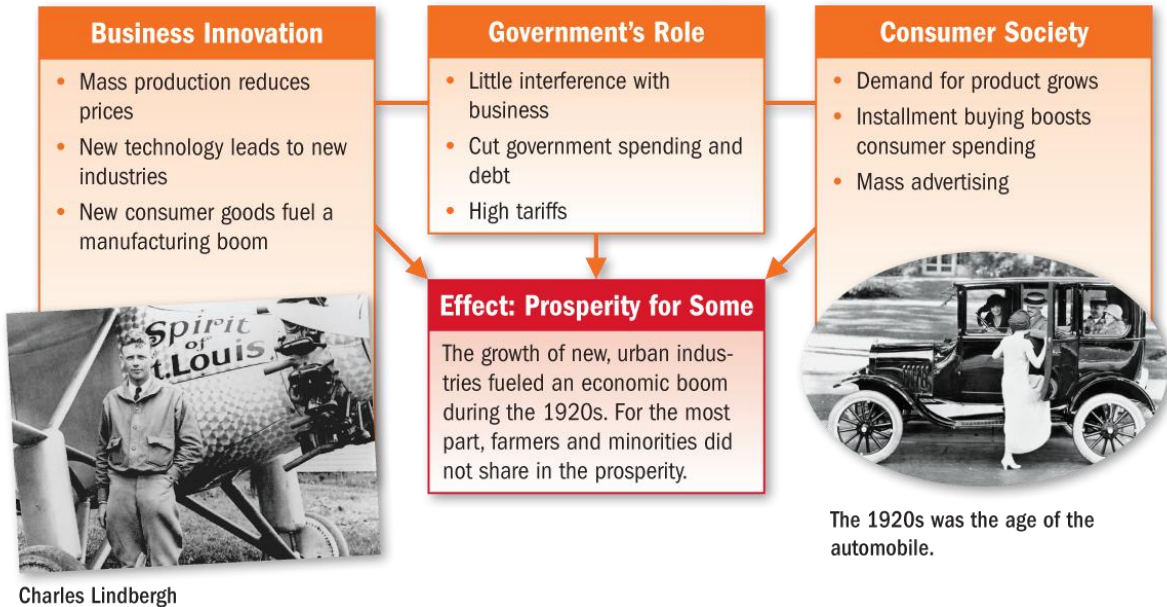
- ✓ A young high school teacher named John Scopes was convicted of breaking the law, but the Tennessee Supreme Court overturned Scopes's conviction.

### **The Election of 1928**

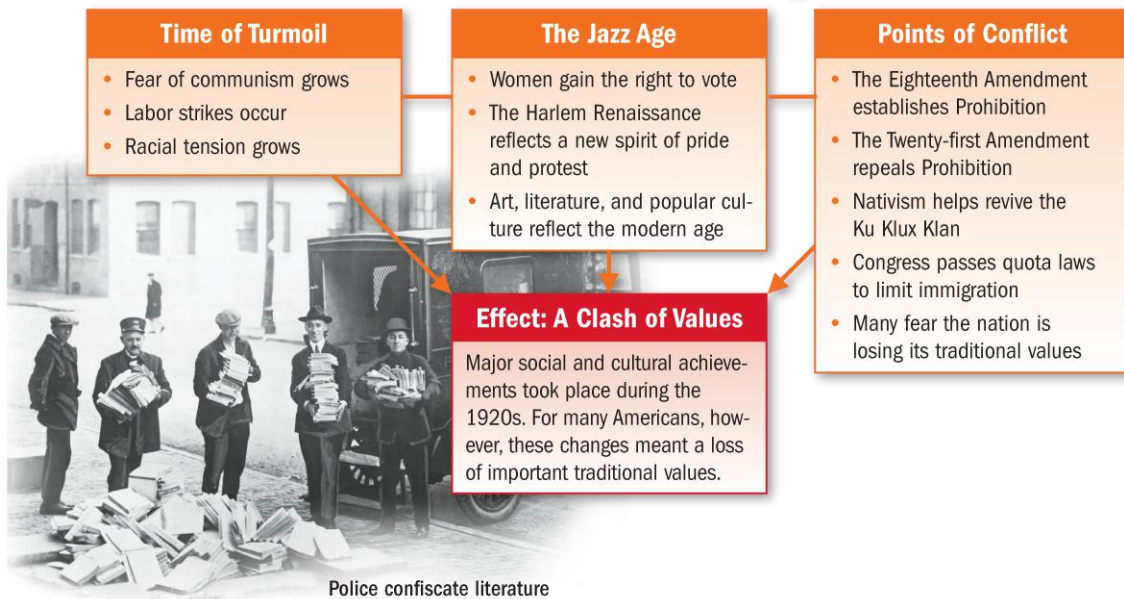
Prosperity, prohibition, and religion were the major themes of the 1928 election.

- Republican Herbert Hoover faced Democratic candidate Alfred E. Smith—the first Roman Catholic nominee for president—in the 1928 election.
- Hoover won the election due to the prosperity of the 1920s, for which the Republicans took credit, and the religious prejudice against Smith.

## Economic Change



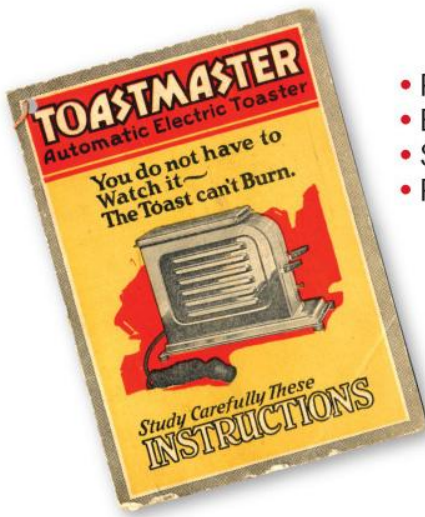
## Cultural and Social Change



## By the Numbers The 1920s Economy

| Industry<br>(Percentage Increase,<br>1922-28) |     | Workers<br>(Percentage Increase,<br>1922-28) |     |
|---|-----|--|-----|
| Industrial production                         | 70% | Workers' incomes                             | 11% |
| Gross national product                        | 40% | Average workweek                             | -4% |
| Corporate profits                             | 62% |  |     |

Source: Jules Tygiel, "The 1920s Economy: A Statistical Portrait"



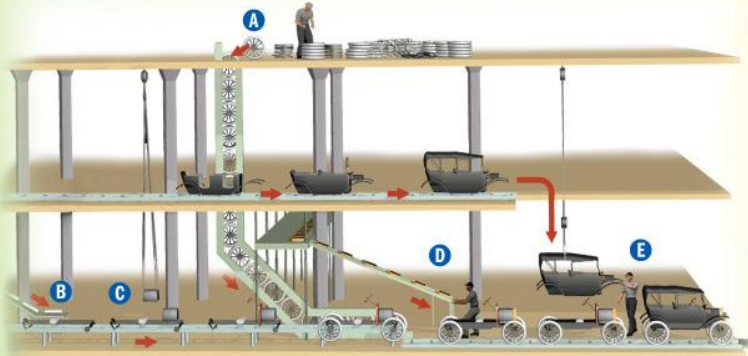
### Invented in the 1920s

- Push-button elevators
- Electric razors
- Spiral-bound notebooks
- Pop-up toasters
- Car radios
- Adhesive tape
- Self-winding wristwatch
- Band-Aid™

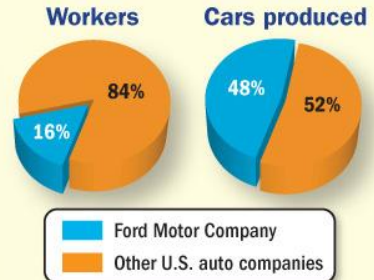


# Economics & History

The Ford assembly line sped production and led to lower prices. Tires **A** are put on the wheels; gas tanks **B** slide onto the conveyor belt; and the engine **C**, the radiator **D**, and the auto body **E** are lowered onto the moving chassis.



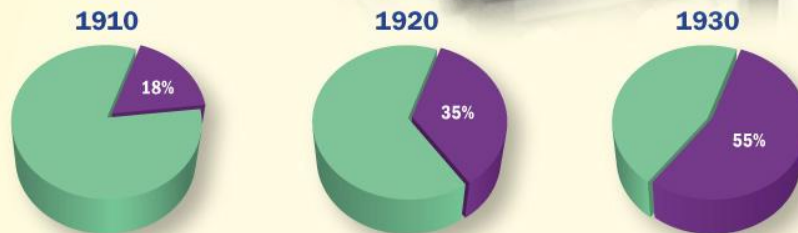
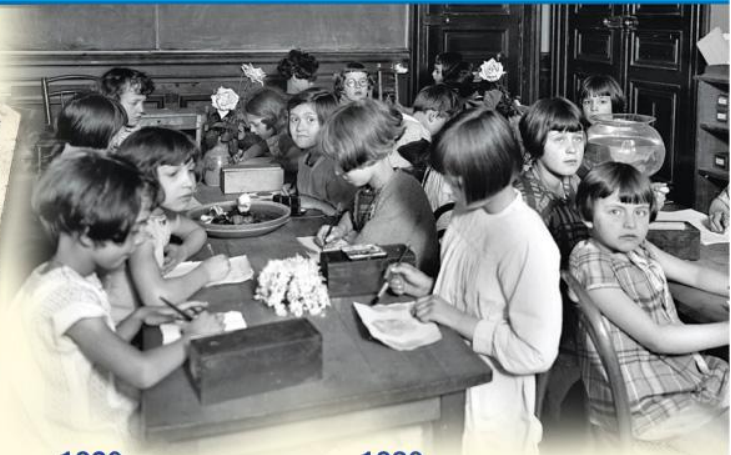
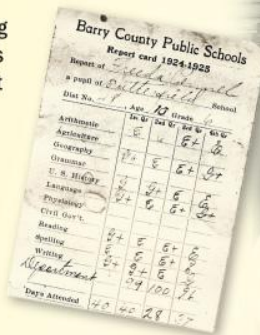
## U.S. Auto Industry in 1914



Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica.

# Education in the 1920s

**Going to School**  
Society was changing rapidly. Nowhere was change more evident than in education. Larger numbers of young people were in school than ever before. By 1930 a majority of children of high school age were in school.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States