



# The 1920's

Outcome: Transition America



# Transition America

1. After World War I, America saw many new changes or transitions
  - a. Transition from war to peace
    - i. Isolationist spirit was strong after WWI
      1. U.S. rejected Treaty of Versailles fearing involvement in the League of Nations would be another entangling alliance
      2. U.S. led disarmament talks w/1921 Wash. Naval conference which resulted in treaties that reduced the navies of several countries
      3. Efforts were made to outlaw war itself (1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact)
      4. U.S. attitude: “Leave Europe alone!”
      5. Inward focus caused new forms of entertainment to occur such as sports, movies, radio, & travel

# Transition America

- i. Nationalism swept over the country following WWI
  - 1. Xenophobia: a fear of immigrants and nativism intensified
  - 2. New ideas were viewed as a threat to national security (paranoia?)
  - 3. Fear of “Reds” or communists and anarchists (those against government) created a national hysteria
  - 4. Goal: to create a country of pure Americans
  - 5. Solutions
    - a. Immigration quotas (favored N & W Europe)
    - b. Deportation of suspected Reds
    - c. Terror and threats (The new Ku Klux Klan emerged)



# Transition America

- a. Transition from rural to urban (51% lived in cities)
  - i. The 1920 Census showed a population shift
    1. Farms changed: larger and fewer and more mechanized
    2. Black migration North: filled factory jobs during WWI
    3. Land shortage: frontier closed in 1890
    4. Urban attractions: faster pace; entertainment; better jobs
    5. Automobile's impact: expanded living & working opportunities, liberated rural families, created jobs in related industries

# Model T



# Rural vs. Urban





# Transition America

## ii. Values Clashed (Liberals and Conservatives)

1. Conservatives: those who did like change; those who preferred the older or traditional ways
2. Conservatives tended to be more rural
3. Liberals: those who preferred newer, modern ways of life
4. Liberals tended to be more urban





# Transition America

## iii. Rural Conservatives vs. Urban Liberals

1. Role of women “Traditional” vs. “Flappers”
2. Prohibition (18<sup>th</sup> amend) “Drys” vs. “Wets”
3. The Economy: “Cash” vs. “Credit”
4. Individual rights: “All are not equal” vs. “Equality” for all humans
5. Man’s origin: “Fundamentalism” vs. “Evolutionary Theory”
6. The car and radio sped up this clash

# Transition America

- c. Transition from a cash economy to a credit economy
  - i. Attitude: “Be young, play, buy now, pay later”
    1. Excessive advertising became big business
    2. Installment Buying became all the rage

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- ii. Industries prospered; Farmers suffered
  1. Farmers had borrowed \$ for machinery & land during the war
  2. Farmers lost European markets when the war ended, resulting in over production ----> surplus ----> falling crop prices

# Transition America

## iii. Stock Market

1. Brokers and investors  
10% down
2. Results:
  - a. A get r
  - b. The Sto



gin" w/as little as  
roker (Margin loan)

to rise  
redit

# Flappers



# Transition America

- d. **Transition for women – 1920's – 1<sup>st</sup> great “liberation” movement**
  - i. A small minority expressed their independence by becoming flappers
  - ii. Many sought new employment opportunities
  - iii. Some began demanding greater equality in the marriage partnership