



The USA, a nation of contrasts, 1910 - 1929



The main political and social challenges facing America, 1910 - 1929

In this topic we will focus upon three key questions:

- i) Why did immigration become such a major issue in American Society?
- ii) Was America a country of racial and religious intolerance during this period?
- iii) Was the 1920s a decade of organised crime and corruption?

Section 1: Why did immigration become such a major issue in American Society?

A nation of immigrants - The 'Open Door'



The United States of America covers a massive area of land in North America, with a population today of 300 million.

It is a multicultural and multiracial population that has come about because during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the governments of the US followed an '**open door**' policy towards **immigration**.

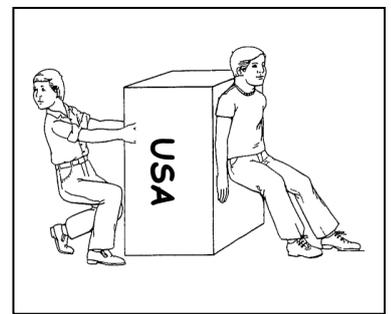
The open door allowed and encouraged people to move to the US, so the huge country could be populated (filled with people).

The policy was designed to make entry into the country as easy as possible and by 1919 over 40 million immigrants had arrived in the US. Most of them came over from Europe.



Look out for **Capone's did you know?** throughout the booklet?

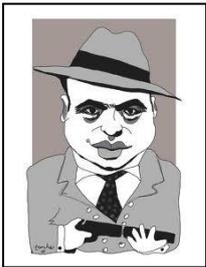
So why did people want to move to America?
Well there were a number of reasons.



Some people wanted to move away from their homeland and some liked what the USA offered and wanted to move there.

These can be broken down into **push and pull factors**.

- Many lived in poverty in their own country and were desperate to get away.
- Many people wanted to escape the political and economic persecution that they suffered in their homeland.
- The promise of religious toleration and the chance to practice their faith safely.
- ⊖ The prospect of owning their own land and property.
- ⊖ A better life for themselves and families.
- ⊖ Many had heard of the 'American Dream' and wanted to make it in the 'land of opportunity'.



Ellis Island

Most of the immigrants came from Europe and had to be shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the shores of America. For more than 70 percent of those who came by sea to the US, the ships carrying them arrived at **Ellis Island**, near New York. Ellis Island is where immigration control would check documents and perform medical examinations on the people trying to get into America.

During its peak periods some 5000 people a day would arrive at Ellis Island, all wanting to enter the USA. Processing the majority of people and families that arrived took between 3 and 5 hours. For some it took even longer as more tests were carried out and for the unlucky ones who were refused entry, the long journey home on the boat.

Ellis Island





Too many immigrants - The 'Closed Door'

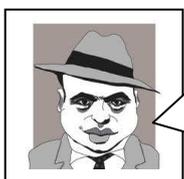
As the number of immigrants continued to rise, more and more Americans began to resent the government's immigration policy. Many believed it was time to close the open door. Traditionally, the immigrants that had come to America had been from northern and western Europe - from Britain, Ireland and Germany. Most could speak English and had some money to set them up in America.

However, between 1900 and 1914, roughly 13 million more people arrived, mainly coming from Southern and Eastern Europe - Italy, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Poland and Greece. Very quickly people began to dislike the fact that so many 'new' immigrants were coming over to America.

Some of the reasons for this resentment were:

- The new immigrants were usually poor.
- Many were illiterate and could not speak English.
- Many were Catholics or Jews and their cultural and religious background was different.
- There was a growing fear of communism after the Russian Revolution had taken place in 1917 (Eastern Europe).
- Also the fresh memories of the First World War still frightened many Americans.

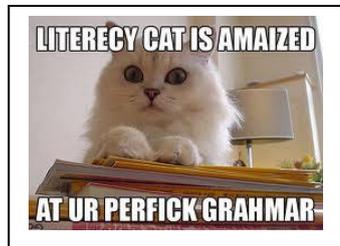
With pressure increasing to stop new people entering the country, the US Congress passed three Acts to limit the number of immigrants. Each Act was stricter than the previous one in dealing with immigration control.



Capone's did you know?

Did you know the Statue of Liberty was given to America by the French on July 4th 1884?





1. The Literacy Test (1917)

Any immigrant wanting to enter America had to pass a series of tests to prove that they could read and write. For the poorer immigrants, especially those from poverty stricken Eastern Europe, this proved to be an impossible obstacle for them to overcome. Many had not received any formal education and did not stand any chance of passing the tests. Subsequently, they were refused entry and sent home.

2. The Emergency Quota Act (1921)

This act had two different sections. Firstly, the Act set a limit of allowing only 357,000 immigrants a year to enter the country. Secondly, only 3 per cent of the total population of a foreign group already in the USA in 1910 would be allowed in after 1921. This meant that as so many southern and eastern European immigrants had come over during 1900 and 1919 - they would be the areas that less and less new immigrants would be allowed to enter the US from.



3. The National Origins Act (1924)

This Act went even further in reducing the number of immigrants, and more specifically, the number of immigrants coming from the south and east of Europe. A limit of 150,000 people allowed entering and the quota cut to 2 per cent of the population of the USA in 1890 - the period before any mass southern and eastern European migration. The Act also banned Asian immigration.



The once 'Open Door' for all immigrants had become 'closed' for many. Those already living in America saw the 'new' immigrants as a threat. The countries they came from were extremely poor; they held different religious views and were close to revolutionary communist Russia. This frightened the existing population of America and combined with the major overcrowding in some cities, ultimately, led to the quota system being introduced. **Nevertheless, the seeds of fear had already been sown and led to increasing racial tension and persecution.**

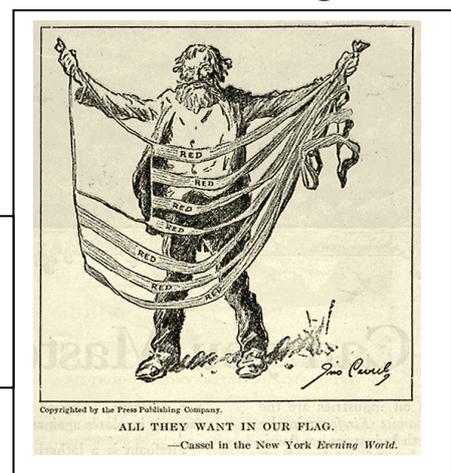
The growing fear of Political Extremism

The revolution in Russia and the establishment of a **communist** regime supposedly committed to getting rid of capitalism had led to a widespread fear of communism in America. With the flood of immigrants from Eastern Europe, many Americans believed that there was a genuine threat of a communist-led revolution.

This fear of communism became known as the **Red Scare**. It was called a Red Scare because red was the colour used by Communist parties.

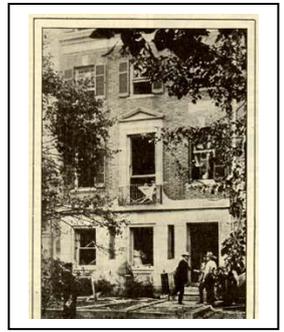
There were 3600 industrial **strikes** during 1919-20 protesting for better wages and working conditions. The accompanying violence had increased the tension many felt about the Red Scare. Then in September 1920 a bomb exploded on Wall Street, New York killing 38 people and shortly after another bomb destroyed the front of the Attorney-General's house. The industrial action and bombings only added to the fears held by Americans that communists and **anarchists** were determined to destroy the USA.

A cartoon expressing how many Americans felt during the Red Scare. (1921)



The Palmer Raids

As already mentioned a bomb had ripped out the front of the Attorney-General's house in 1919. The explosion had seriously injured one man, tearing his limbs from his body. The Attorney-General, A. Mitchell-Palmer was not hurt but he was angry.

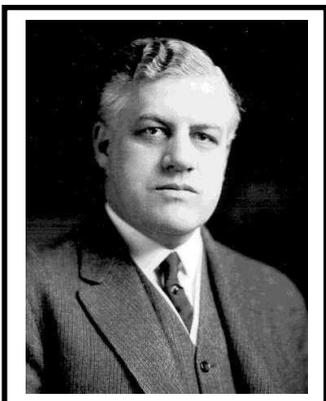


He blamed the communists and decided he was going to get rid of them.

On New Year's Day 1920 he organised a series of raids against left-wing groups. The result was that over 6000 people were arrested and put in prison. The majority of people imprisoned were immigrants. Most were innocent but around 600 'aliens' were deported (sent back to from whence they came).

The Palmer raids were an over-reaction to a largely imaginary threat. Most immigrants were peaceful people and this had been proven through the fact that during the raids only three pistols had been found and there was no sign of any explosive device.

Eventually, the Red Scare began to die down and those imprisoned were released. Nevertheless, the **xenophobia** surrounding the time had led to America's top law officer wrongly arresting 6000 people.



Attorney-General
A. Mitchell-Palmer

Source A: Palmer went on a witch hunt. The witches were communists and anarchists. He took the law into his own hands and, in two days of raids in major cities in 1920, agents invaded homes, clubs, union halls, pool halls and coffee shops, rounding up nearly 6000 people, who were held in jail, not allowed to call anyone, and treated terribly. Most weren't guilty of anything.

From an American school text book published in 1999.



Sacco & Vanzetti

Perhaps the most controversial example of the Red Scare hysteria was in treatment of two Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

On 5th May 1920 these two men, **Sacco and Vanzetti**, were arrested and charged with carrying out a robbery of a shoe store in which two people were killed. Although they protested their innocence, it was clear from the start that their immigrant background and political beliefs meant public opinion was against them (they were suspected anarchists).



The trial opened in May 1921 and although there was little evidence to convict them, while passing sentence the judge called the two men 'those anarchist bastards' and sentenced them both to death. Later on, a convicted murderer Celestino Madeiros admitted to the crime, Sacco and Vanzetti still lost their appeals' and both executed by electric chair in 1927.

Effects of the trial

The trial was reported all over the world and showed how prejudiced the US was. Sacco and Vanzetti were victims of racial discrimination. They had been convicted on weak evidence and the fact that they were immigrants. In 1970 they were given a posthumous pardon by the Governor of Massachusetts, stating a mistrial had taken place.

Capone's did you know?

Did you know the electric chair was invented by a Dentist?
Say Ahhhh!



SECTION 1: QUESTIONS & TASKS:

1) Describe the Open Door policy? (5)

2) **Copy the box below into your books.** Why did people want to move to the USA, think of the push and pull factors?

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| On the one hand PUSH FACTORS |  | On the other hand PULL FACTORS |  |
| | | | |

Source A

I have a very great wish to go to America. I want to leave my native country because we are six children and we have very little land. My parents are still young, so it is difficult for us to live. Here in Poland, one must work plenty and wages are very small, just enough to live, so I would like to go and perhaps I would earn more there.

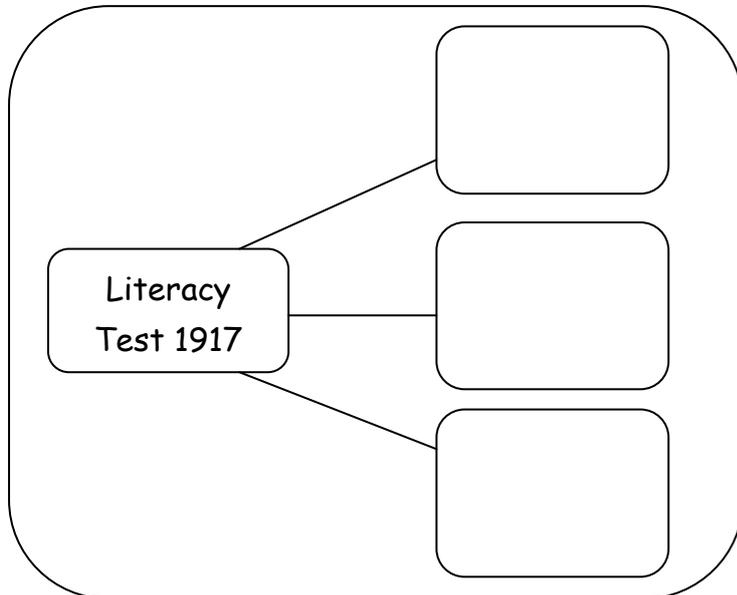
[From an interview with a Polish farm labourer in 1912, explaining why he wanted to go to the USA]

3) How useful is Source A to a historian studying why so many people left Europe for the USA? (*Explain your answer using the source and your own knowledge*) [6]

How to answer:

- Don't forget **URCAP**, Usefulness, Reliability, Content, Author, Purpose
- 2 - 3 sentences should be on the Content of the source.
- Support with your own knowledge about the source's topic.
- Then comment on the author of the source and when it was written.
- Then you must consider why the source was written - is it biased - think about when it was written and who wrote it.
- **SOURCES** are **ALWAYS** useful
- **Maximum marks** - must write about URCAP

4) Copy the Diagram below into your books for the Literacy Test (1917), Emergency Quota (1921) and the National origins Act (1924) and complete notes on each piece of legislation?



5) Using the **Glossary** at the back of this book complete a definition for the following words: **Anarchists, Communists, Xenophobia & Political Extremism.**

Source B

‘Palmer went on a witch hunt. The witches were communists and anarchists. He took the law in his hands and in 2 days of raids in major cities in 1920... agents rounded up nearly 6000 people who were held in jail. Most weren’t guilty of anything.’

(From an American school textbook, 1999)

6) Use Source B and your own knowledge to explain the effects of the Palmer Raids?

How to answer:

- Read through source, highlight key points.
- When answering rephrase the main points into your own words.
- Support the main points of the source with your own knowledge.
- Any other relevant information about the source.
- **Maximum marks** - refer to source and support with own knowledge.

7) Describe how the Sacco and Vanzetti case showed the prejudice and intolerance that was present in America during the trial? (5)

8) Using the pictures and keywords pages attached to the booklet; start to make a mind map on the topic so far. You can add drawings and extra information to develop your mind map further. Use different colours for different categories.



Section 2: Was America a country of racial and religious intolerance during this period?

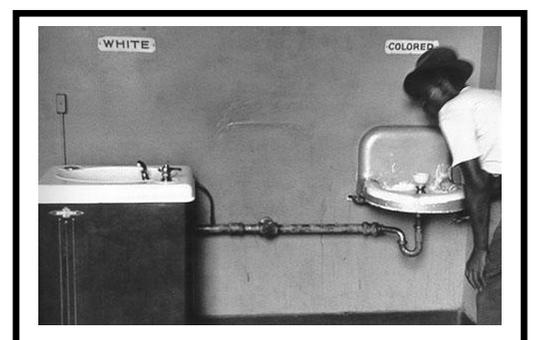
Jim Crow Laws

In 1920 about ten per cent of Americans were black and the overwhelming majority of them lived in the southern states. The southern states had formed the slave-owning Confederacy during the Civil war and some 60 years later, black people still suffered **racial discrimination** and **economic inequality**.

In the south blacks and whites were completely segregated (kept apart). This **segregation** ensured that black people received the poorest education, lowest paid jobs, could not eat in the same restaurants or go to the same hospitals as white people. Black and white people lived in different neighbourhoods and marriage between black and white people was outlawed.

Capone's did you know?

Did you know that Segregation was legal providing facilities that were separate were also equal; does this drinking fountain look equal to you?



The laws that enforced this segregation throughout the South were known as the '**Jim Crow Laws**'. The name was taken from a 19th century comedy act which ridiculed black people.



Economic inequality and poverty

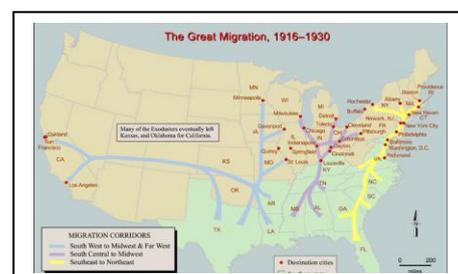
Although the 1920s was a time of great economic boom, the majority of black Americans did not share in the prosperity. Again the blacks of the southern states were the worst off. The south's economy was mainly based on agriculture (farming). Agriculture was not an area that benefited from the boom time. To make matters worse, black people held the lowest paid positions. As they received limited education they could do very little to change their situation.

Great Migration to the North and West

Industrial expansion after the First World War created an opportunity for black Americans to leave the south and migrate north in search of jobs. As we have seen, life was hard for black people in the south and hundreds of thousands of black people left the area and headed to the growing cities of Northern America. Cities such as New York, Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago saw a massive arrival of black people looking for work. Between 1920 and 1930, 824,000 black people had migrated north.

| Illiteracy as a percentage of the American population | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| | White | Black |
| 1910 | 3% | 30.4% |
| 1920 | 2% | 22.9% |
| 1930 | 1.8% | 16.3% |

The North appeared to be a place free from segregation, racial and economic inequality. However, racism was still common and black people were usually the last to receive any work and the first to be fired. Furthermore, the **Great Migration** resulted in race relations deteriorating and black people again formed neighbourhoods, known as **ghettos**, in areas such as Harlem in New York.



The Dark Side of the Boom - The KKK



The dark and sinister side of life in the US was demonstrated by the **Ku Klux Klan**. It had been founded at the end of the American Civil War in 1865. It was a terrorist group created by **White Supremacists** in southern USA. The Klan wanted Black people to stay as slaves and was determined to stop the newly freed slaves obtaining equal rights.

In 1915 William J. Simmons revived the movement and by 1921 the newly formed **KKK** had over 100,000 members, amazingly by 1925 the number had risen to 5 million members (that's more than the population of Wales).

Only a '**WASP**', **white Anglo-Saxon Protestant**, could join the KKK as they not only discriminated against black people but Catholics, Jews, Mexicans and Chinese, basically, anyone other than WASPs.

Many KKK members were police officers, judges and politicians and were powerful and influential members of society.

Lynchings

Klan members carried out horrific attacks on black people. They often accused members of the black community of crimes they did not commit and then punished them without trial.

The KKK used severe punishments like **whipping, branding and castration** (removal of the testicles). They also stripped their victims' bodies and covered with hot tar and feathers - a painful and humiliating punishment. However, the most brutal treatment of black Americans during the time was the frequent **lynchings** (killing by hanging) that took place. Lynching's were supposed to remind black people who was in charge - WASPs.



Those responsible were rarely caught and in many cases police officers and judges were actually involved in the crimes or knew those responsible and would not arrest and convict them.

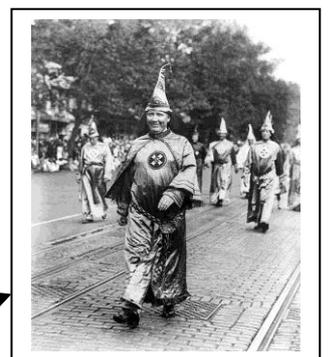
KKK Symbols



A Cross with a droplet of blood - religious symbol that links the KKK to Jesus Christ and his death for, as the KKK see it, WASPs.

Another religious symbol the KKK used to associate their movement with Jesus Christ. It also acted as a torch to shine light on their late night meetings.

White masks and white cloaks not only concealed the identity of the KKK but the white was symbolic of White Supremacy that the KKK believed in.

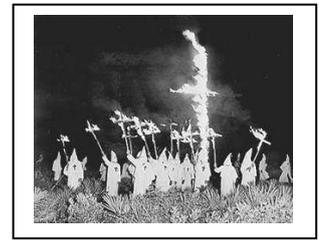


From 1922 their leader was Hiram Wesley Evans; he adopted the title 'Imperial Wizard'. The Klan thought that the US was becoming a **garbage can** of different races and religions - action was needed to purify it.

August 1925, the KKK organise a mass rally in Washington to show strength and support for their belief in white supremacy.



Government reaction (or lack of) and KKK decline



As already mentioned many members of the Klan were judges, police officers and other respected members of society. Therefore, the government could not get any information to really change the situation. Furthermore, they did not try that hard as they felt they were fighting a losing battle - they could not change the long-held views of the white supremacists.

However, by 1928 Klan membership had declined rapidly to only a few hundred thousand members. The violent reputation the movement acquired over the years put many people off the KKK. Also when the Grand Dragon of the Indiana Klan was found guilty of the rape and mutilation of a young girl - the mainly religious following of the KKK decided to leave the organisation (murder - yes, rape - no?).

NAACP & UNIA - The Black population fights back

During the period there were two main organisations, led by two influential men, which attempted to highlight the unfair way in which black people were being treated by white Americans.

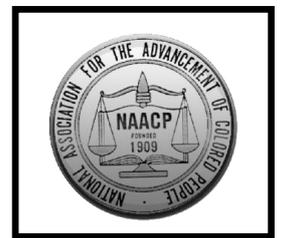
They were the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People [NAACP], led by **William Du Bois** and the Universal Negro Improvement Association [UNIA], which was led by **Marcus Garvey**.

The NAACP claimed a membership of 90,000 in 1919 and concentrated on opposing racism and segregation through legal action and non-violent activities, such as marches and demonstrations. Du Bois campaigned for equality of opportunity for all and wanted an America in which black and white people would not discriminate against each other but integrate (join together).



Marcus Garvey &
William Du Bois





Members of the UNIA were more militant (forceful). Under the leadership of the charismatic Garvey the UNIA encouraged black people to set up their own business and only employ black workers. Garvey also encouraged black people to return to Africa. He coined the slogan 'Black is Beautiful'.



Garvey became increasingly radical and the authorities were determined to remove the UNIA. In 1923 Garvey was arrested for fraud, jailed for five years then deported toward the end of his sentence in 1927. He died in London in 1940, but was a strong influence on Rastafarianism.



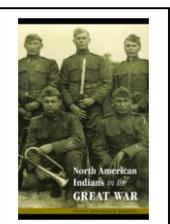
Native Americans

During the 19th century the US government tried to force **Native Americans** to live like white people. They were forced off the land they had lived and hunted upon for centuries and confined to **reservations** - small areas of land often of poor quality without enough game for them to hunt.

Rations and poor housing were provided and many Native Americans lived a hard life. To suppress Native American customs, men were forced to cut their hair and women were forbidden to paint their face. By 1900 their population had fallen from over a million to 237,000, it seemed as though they may disappear altogether.

However, in 1924 Native Americans were granted US citizenship. They could now vote and be protected by the US legal system. Many saw this as a reward for Native Americans as many of them had fought in the US army during World War One.

Nevertheless, gaining citizenship did not change the fact that many Native Americans still had to live in poverty on reservations and like the black community, experienced racial intolerance.



Religious Fundamentalism and the 'Monkey Trial'

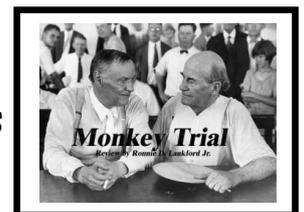


Between 1910 and 1929 there was an increasing divide between the more conservative-minded rural areas and the modern city culture of urban America. In the rural areas church attendance remained strong, particularly in the south and Midwest- an area which became known as the '**Bible Belt**'. In these areas laws were passed to keep out the evils of city life, such as the banning of indecent bathing costumes and gambling on a Sunday.

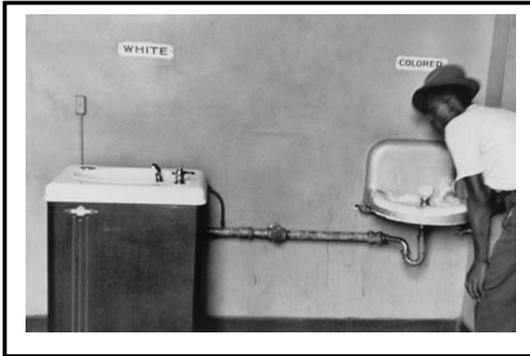
The majority of people living in these areas were **Christian fundamentalists**, they were people who believed in the Bible word for word and they were critical of city life. They were against parties and the decadent lifestyle many were leading, especially the jazz culture and the ways in which some women behaved.

In 1925 six states, including Tennessee, banned the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution. It was made illegal because it contradicted the Bible's literal explanation of the Creation. Nevertheless, Biology teacher **Johnny Scopes** deliberately ignored the new law and continued to teach Darwin's theory in his classroom. As a result of his actions, Scopes was arrested and put on trial.

The case that took place in July 1925 became known as the '**Monkey Trial**'. It received national media attention and was broadcast over the radio. Scopes was defended by the famous criminal lawyer **Clarence Darrow**; the anti-evolution case was put forward by fundamentalist lawyer **William Jennings Bryan**. The trial took place and concentrated upon the arguments for and against the theory of evolution, and while Darrow successfully damaged the fundamentalist case, Scopes was found guilty of breaking the anti-evolution law and fined \$100. The trial made a mockery of the fundamentalism.



SECTION 2: QUESTIONS & TASKS



Source A

A segregated drinking fountain (1927)

1) What does Source A tell you about the treatment of some black Americans during the 1920s? [2]

How to answer:

- Look at picture pick out main points.
- You must also look at the written information.
- You must only comment on the picture and statement.
- **Maximum marks** - two relevant points that have been developed and supported. *I can see... this shows...*

2) Describe the Jim Crow Laws? (5)

3) Explain why many Black Americans moved north during the Great Migration? (4)

4) Copy the diagram below into your books: Detail the rise and fall of the Ku Klux Klan, also mention their rituals, clothing and methods of persecution.

Origins of the
Ku Klux Klan

KKK Revival &
membership

Rituals and
Clothing

Methods of
persecution

Decline of the
movement

Blank space for notes under 'Origins of the Ku Klux Klan'

Blank space for notes under 'KKK Revival & membership'

Blank space for notes under 'Rituals and Clothing'

Blank space for notes under 'Methods of persecution'

Blank space for notes under 'Decline of the movement'



Source B:

An organised group of KKK members. (1926)

5) How useful in this source in learning about the KKK and their methods? (*Explain your answer using the source and your own knowledge*) (6)

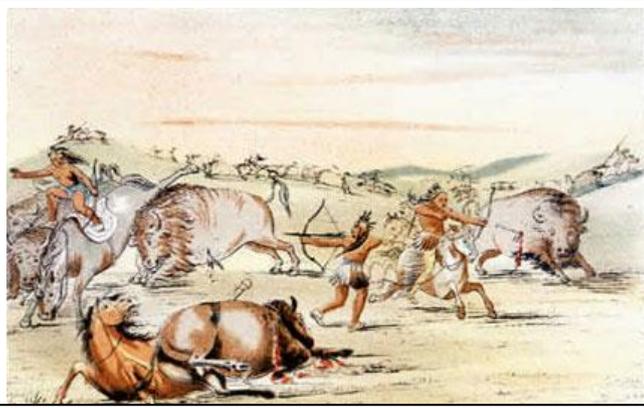
How to answer:

- Don't forget **URCAP**, Usefulness, Reliability, Content, Author, Purpose
- 2 - 3 sentences should be on the Content of the source.
- Support with your own knowledge about the source's topic.
- Then comment on the author of the source and when it was written.
- Then you must consider why the source was written - is it biased - think about when it was written and who wrote it.
- SOURCES are ALWAYS useful
- **Maximum marks** - must write about URCAP

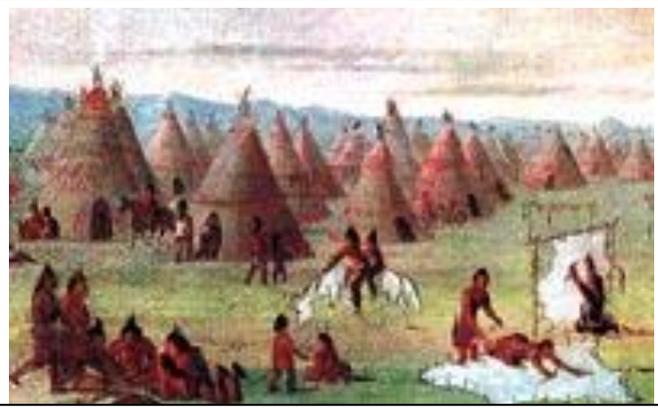
6) Explain why the government found it difficult to act against the KKK? (4)

8) **Copy and complete the table below** on the leaders and policies of the organisations focused upon black rights - NAACP & UNIA

| NAACP | UNIA |
|--------------|-------------|
| | |



A Native American hunting party
(c. 19th)



A vibrant Native American camp
(c. 19th)

9) Look at these two pictures of Native American life before they had been forced to live on Reservations. How had the lives of these people changed by the 1920s?

10) Using the **Glossary** complete a definition for the following words: **Bible Belt, Christian Fundamentalist and Intolerance.**

11) Explain why did the Scopes Trial of 1926 become known as the Monkey Trial?

12) Continue with your Mind Map adding the pictures, key words and additional important information you feel are associated with this section? Remember - different colours for different categories.



Section 3: Was the 1920s a decade of organised crime and corruption?

Prohibition, 'the noble experiment'

On 16th January 1920 the Eighteenth Amendment to the constitution came in to force and together with the **Volstead Act** made it illegal to manufacture, sell, transport or consume alcoholic drinks anywhere in the USA.

For many years organisations such as the **Anti-Saloon League**, the Women's Christian Temperance Union and some Christian Fundamentalist groups had campaigned for a total ban on alcohol. They claimed alcohol was evil and against Christian teaching.

However, policing the new law proved to be very difficult and illegal production and consumption continued. Furthermore, with no licensed or legal places for alcohol to be sold or consumed, **gangsters** took the opportunity to take control and there was a large increase in organised crime. People who sold alcohol were called **bootleggers**, while people who smuggled alcohol in from Canada and Mexico were called **rumrunners**. Others who distilled alcohol in their own homes were called **moonshiners**. Furthermore, illegal drinking bars known as **speakeasies** sprang up and by 1925 there were over 100,000 in New York alone.

Things only got worse as gangsters bribed police officers, judges and politicians to ignore their duties and allow the illegal activities to continue. **Organised crime** bosses like **Al Capone** and John Torrio were able to bribe some high ranking officials and it soon became clear that the legal system was unable to cope. Although the government did not give in lightly, in 1921 they appointed a prohibition commissioner, John F Kramer and he established a force of 3000 agents (Prohibition Officers). In 1924 J. Edgar Hoover set



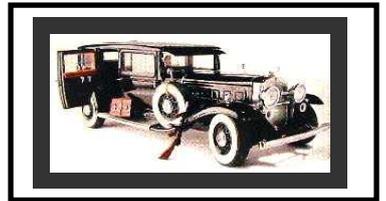
Prohibition Officers empty liquor casks onto the ground.



up the Bureau of Investigation (later the FBI) and began using tougher tactics to try and catch the Mafia bosses.

Nevertheless, the enforcement of the **prohibition** law was a complete failure and repealed (cancelled) in December 1933. There were too few prohibition officers that were poorly paid and they became open to the bribes of organised crime units looking to exploit the situation. Ultimately, however, it was impossible to stop people from changing the habit of a lifetime - getting drunk!

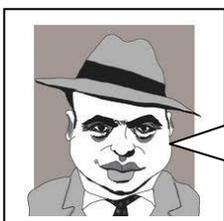
Organised Crime, Mafia and Gangsters



Organised criminals and gangsters were in every city during the 1920s and rival gangs fought to take control of certain districts so they could continue their criminal activities. New York was controlled by Dutch Schultz; Detroit was controlled by Chester La Mare. In Chicago, Bugs Moran controlled the south of the city and John Torrio controlled the North. The choice weapon was the **Thompson sub-machine gun**.

Although prohibition alone didn't cause organised crime, it did give the criminals a wonderful opportunity to expand their business and make lots of money. The stakes were high and incidents of violence, intimidation and murder were common. The most famous of these was perhaps the **St. Valentine's Day Massacre** of 1929.

It was the climax of the gangster wars and was organised by the most notorious of all the gangsters, Al Capone. Chicago boss, Bugs Moran, killed one of Capone's friends and in retaliation Capone arranged an attack on Moran's men. Disguised as police officers Capone's men machine-gunned down seven of Moran's men as they faced a wall waiting to be searched by the murderers they fatally mistook for police officers.



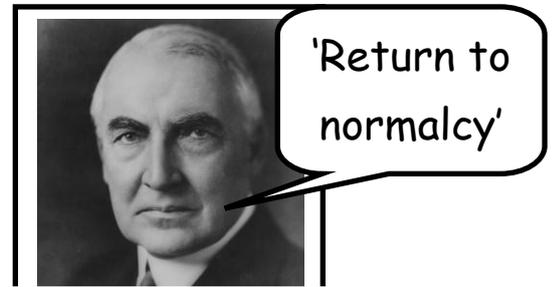
Capone's did you know?

Did you know that I got the nickname Scarface after a brawl in a pub left me with three scars on my left cheek?



Government Corruption & Scandal

Harding & the 'Ohio Gang'



Just like there was **corruption** in the towns and cities in the USA during the Prohibition era, there were also examples of corruption in the government in Washington DC.

In 1919 the new president, **Warren Harding**, promised a return to '**normalcy**' after the horrors of World War One. As soon as Harding moved into the White House he gave jobs in his cabinet to his friends from Ohio. - Harding and his buddies were quickly given the name the '**Ohio Gang**'.

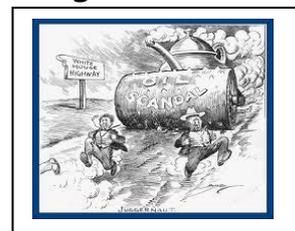
However, some of Harding's friends were corrupt. They began to use their powerful position to make a personal profit by fraudulently selling off oil fields that were on government land. Albert Fall was sent to jail for his role in the **Teapot Dome Scandal**, while some others resigned in disgrace, even committing suicide.

The Teapot Dome Scandal

As already mentioned, Harding and his government were involved in the infamous **Teapot Dome Scandal**. The Secretary for Interior, **Albert Fall**, rented out government oil fields to his wealthy friends who made \$100 million. In return these rich friends gave Fall hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The oil fields had been kept in reserve and were supposed to be used in times of emergency. Some of these oil fields were in Teapot Dome, Wyoming. Although Albert Fall made the deals in secret, he began spending large amounts of money and other government officials became suspicious about where the money was coming from.

At the height of the Scandal, Harding stated '*I have no trouble with my enemies. I can take care of them. It is my friends that are giving me trouble.*' Harding became so distressed about the scandal that he contracted pneumonia and in August 1923, died. Four years later in 1927 Albert Fall became the first government official to become imprisoned. He had been convicted of **bribery**.



SECTION 3: QUESTIONS & TASKS

- 1) What was Prohibition and when was it introduced?
- 2) Explain what the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act were?
- 3) Using the **Glossary** complete a definition for the following words:
Bootlegger, Rumrunner, Moonshine, Speakeasy & Organised Crime
- 3) Explain why attempts by the government to enforce prohibition ultimately failed? (4)
- 4) Look at the boxes below and decide which you think are the **causes** and which are the **effects** of prohibition, then copy them into your books.

Many brewers were of German descent and were unpopular during the First World War.

Rival gangs fought for control of the illegal liquor trade in the cities of the USA.

The Temperance Movement had campaigned against alcohol for 100 years.

It led to the setting up of "speakeasies" or illegal drinking places.

Many argued that alcohol caused violence, crime and poverty.

The Anti-Saloon League was set up in 1893 and led the campaign against alcohol.

By 1918, 18 states had already banned the sale of alcohol with 13 of them totally "dry".

It encouraged "bootlegging" or the smuggling of illegal alcohol from abroad.

Many officials, including the police and the Prohibition agents, took bribes.

Many people began to make their own alcohol known as "moonshine".

Many argued that alcohol led to increased absence from work.

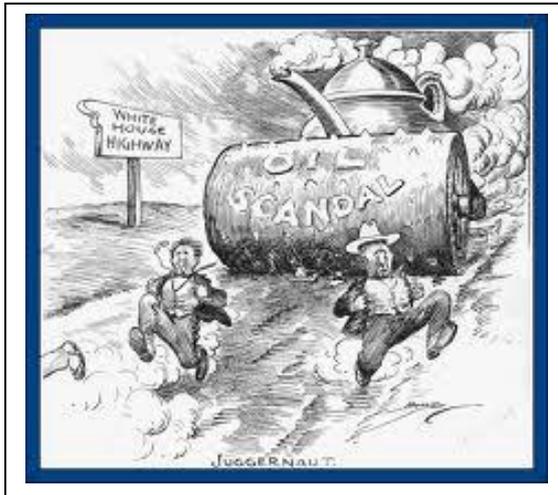
The Prohibition Agency was set up to stop the manufacture and sale of illegal alcohol.

- 5) What was the main reason behind the increase in organised crime during the 1920s?

6) Describe the role of gangsters during the prohibition era? (5)

7) What was the St. Valentine's Day Massacre?

8) How do you think the repeal of the prohibition law affected the way gangsters operated?



Source A

A cartoon which appeared in an American newspaper showing the Teapot Dome Scandal. One of the figures running away is Albert Fall. (1922)

9) How far does Source A support the view that there was government corruption during the presidency of Warren Harding? 5]

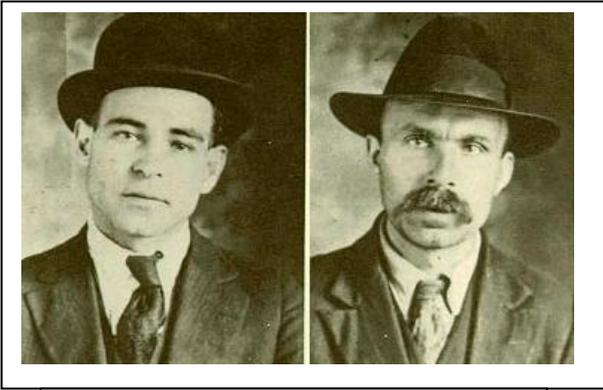
How to answer:

- Can be picture or written source - must pick out main points.
- Pick out main points and underline or write around the source.
- Source A supports the view... and say how it supports the view.
- You must then bring in your own knowledge to support what you have said about the source.
- **Maximum marks** - use source and own knowledge then - write a conclusion - state This source does / does not support the view because.

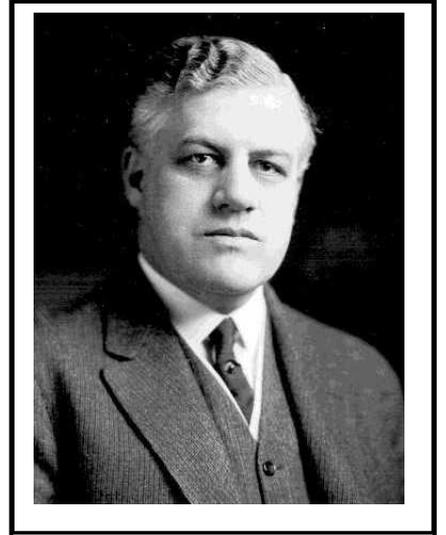
10) Now complete your Mind Map for this topic - same rules apply.

KILLER QUESTION:

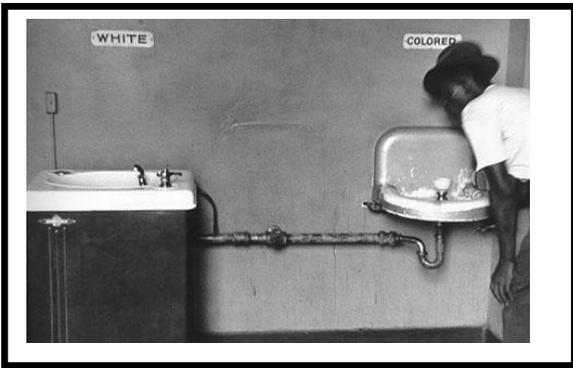
Was the treatment of black people in America the most significant form of intolerance shown by Americans during the 1920s? (10)



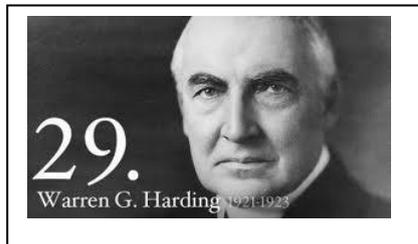
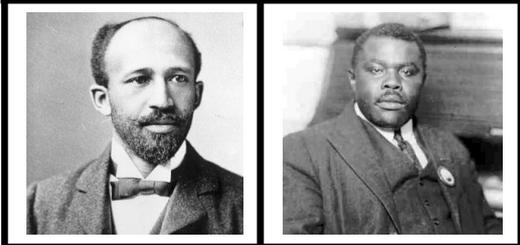
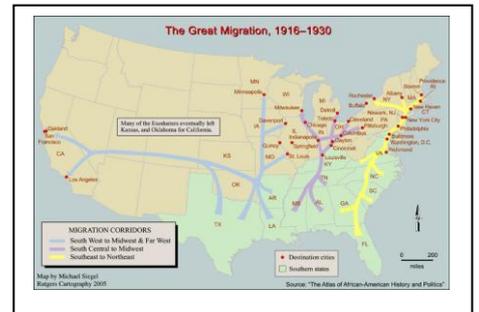
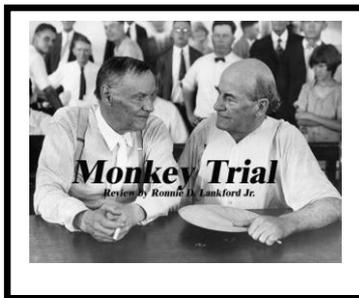
SACCO & VANZETTI

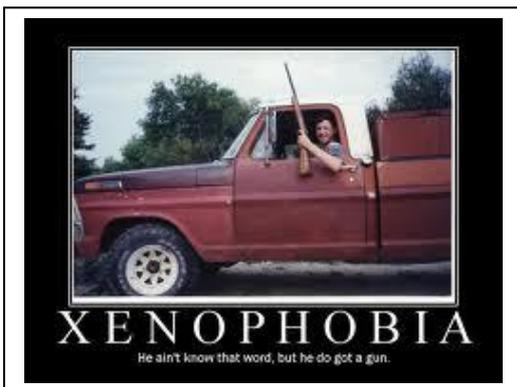
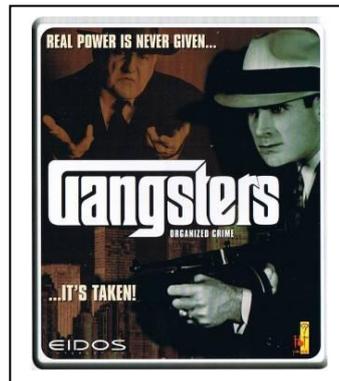
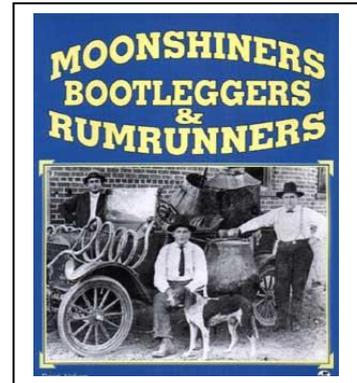
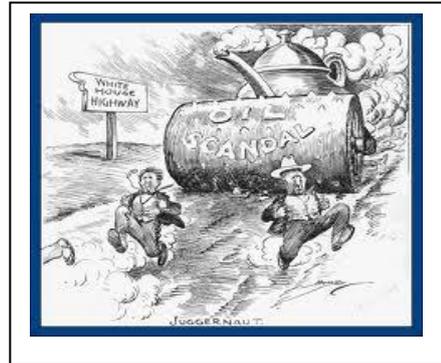
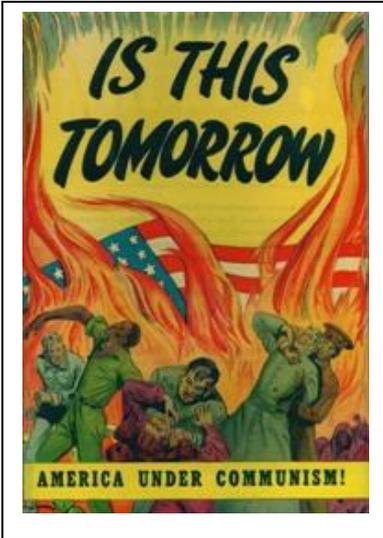
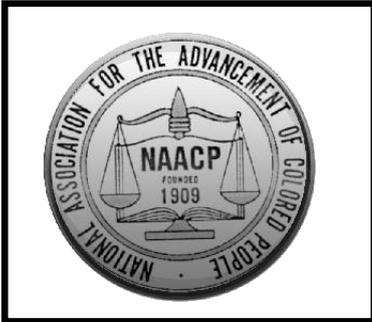


A Mitchell Palmer



Marcus Garvey
William Du Bois





| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| Al Capone | Anarchist | Anti-Saloon League | Capitalism | Intolerance |
| | Communist | | | |
| Corruption | Ellis Island | Gangsters | Ghettos | Great Migration |
| Immigration | Jim Crow Laws | KKK (Ku Klux Klan) | Lit Test / Emerg Quota / Nat Orig | Lynching |
| Teapot Dome Scandal | Moonshine / Bootlegger | Xenophobia | NAACP - William Du Bois | Native Americans |
| Open Door / Closed Door | Organised Crime | Palmer Raids | Prohibition | Thompson sub- machine gun |
| Red Scare | St Valentine's Day Massacre | Christian Fundamentalism /Monkey Trial | Sacco & Vanzetti | Segregation |
| Speakeasy | Trade Union | UNIA - Marcus Garvey | WASPs (White Anglo Saxon Protestants) | 'Normalcy' |

GLOSSARY

Al Capone _____

Anarchist _____

Anti-Saloon League _____

Bible Belt _____

Bootlegger _____

Christian Fundamentalism _____

Capitalism _____

Corruption _____

Ellis Island _____

Gangsters _____

Ghettos _____

Great Migration _____

Immigration _____

Jim Crow Laws _____

Ku Klux Klan _____

Lynching _____

Moonshine _____

GLOSSARY continued

NAACP _____

Native Americans _____

Open Door _____

Organised Crime _____

Palmer Raids _____

Political Extremism _____

Prohibition _____

Thompson sub-machine gun _____

Red Scare _____

St Valentine's Day Massacre _____

Sacco & Vanzetti _____

Segregation _____

Speakeasy _____

Trade Union _____

UNIA _____

WASP _____

Xenophobia _____

NOTES