The Roaring 1920s

An Era of Prosperity, Republican Power and Conflict over America's Future

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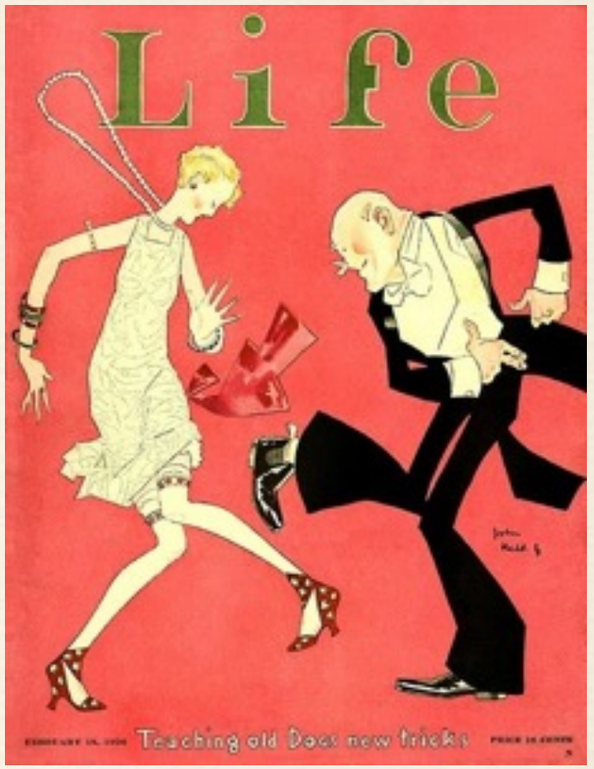
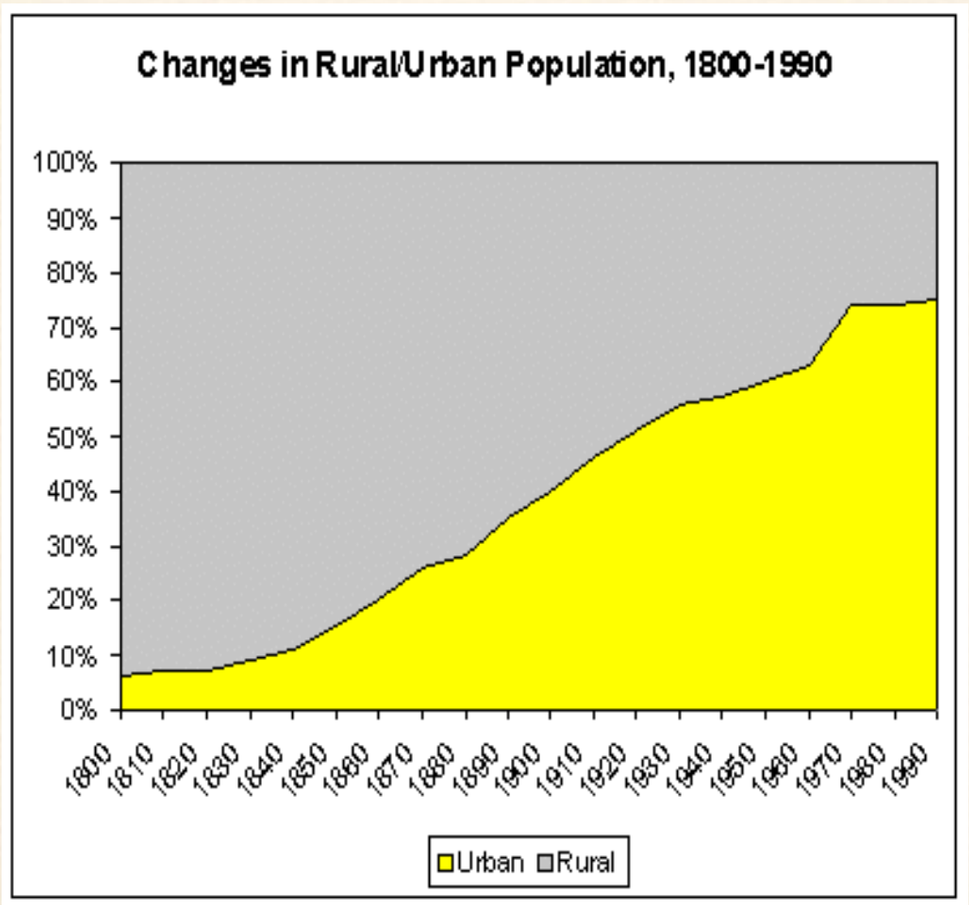
Roaring Twenties / Jazz Age

Modern America is Born



In 1920, for the first time the urban population was greater than rural population



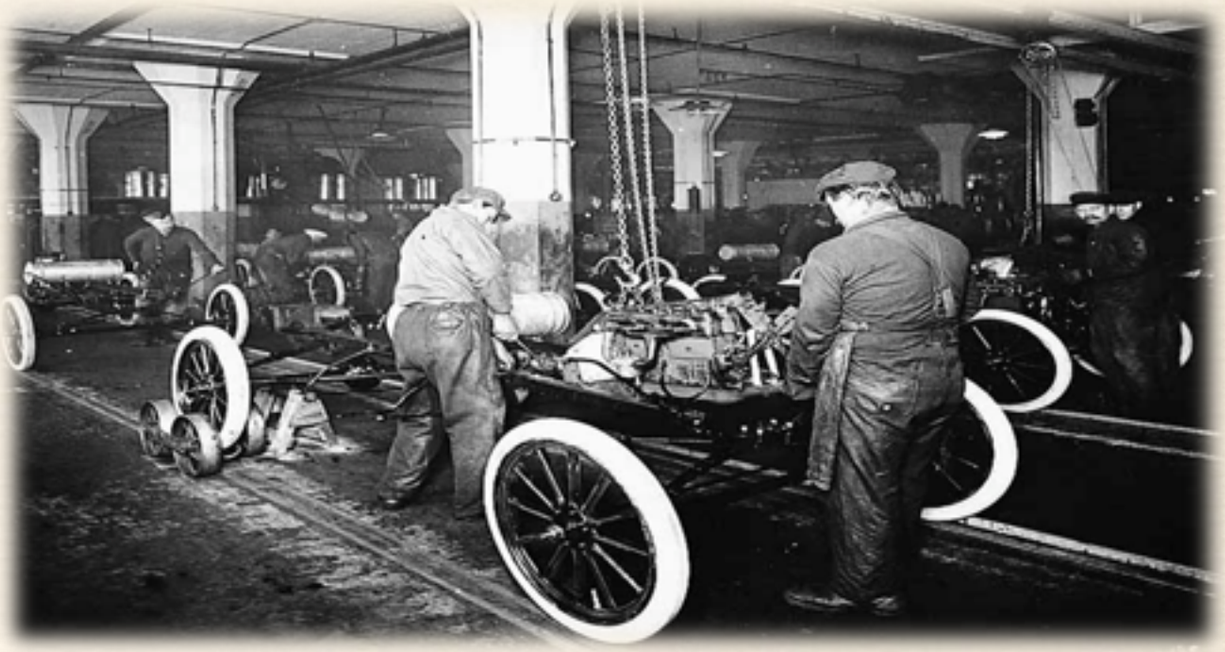
People moved to the cities to have a higher standard of living

An Age of Prosperity

A decade of economic growth

Mass Production of Products

Assembly Line



Government in the 1920s - Republicans in Control

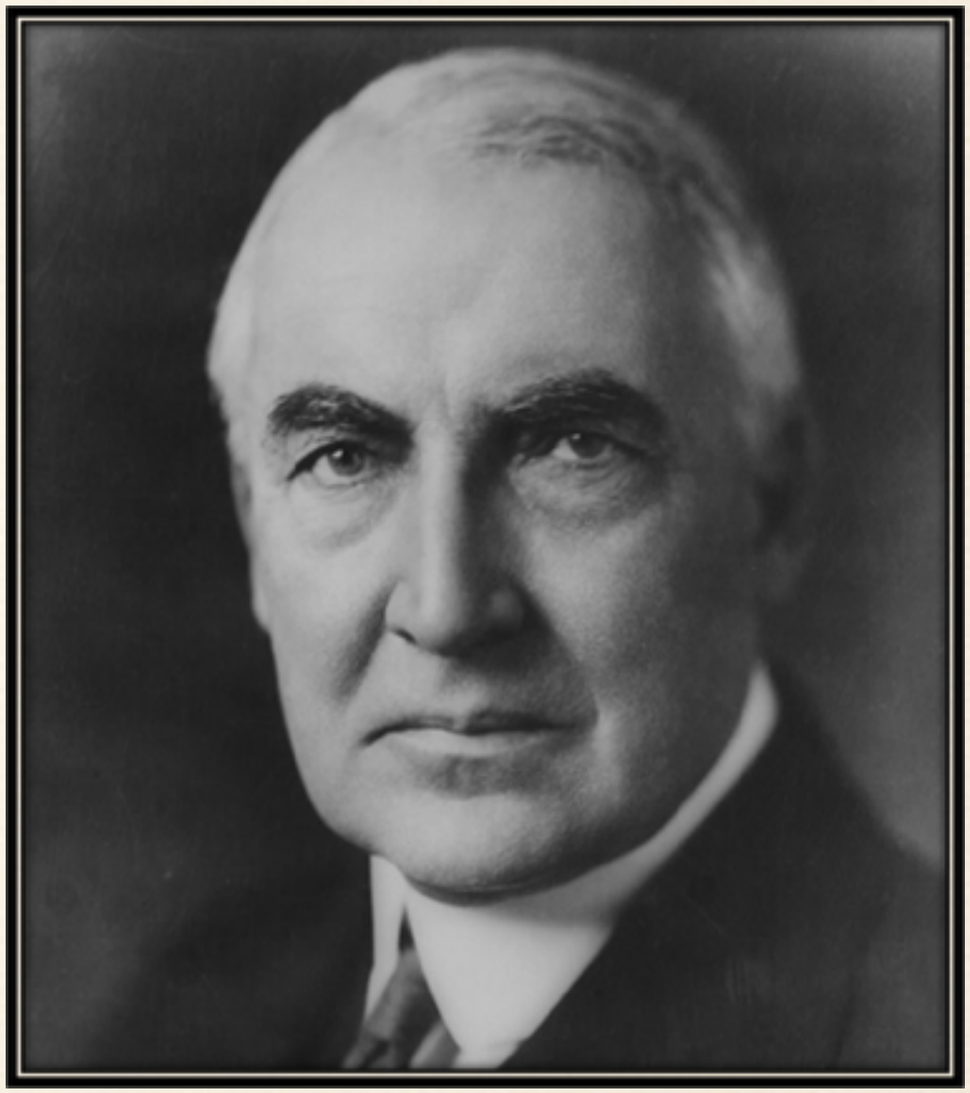
Warren G. Harding (Ohio) was elected President in 1920

This was the first presidential election in which women were able to vote (19th Amendment)

Harding - a Legacy of Scandals

Teapot Dome Scandal / Ohio Gang

Harding died in office in 1923
He was replaced by Calvin Coolidge



Warren G. Harding
Return to Normalcy

“Silent” Calvin Coolidge

U.S. President, 1923-29

Calvin Coolidge

“The business of America is business”

Believed in limited government [laissez faire]

Cut government spending by nearly 50 %

Tariffs to protect American businesses (Smoot - Hawley Tariff)

Herbert Hoover

"A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage"

Led relief effort to help European civilians after World War I

He was a successful businessman (an engineer) who knew how to succeed in the "modern world"

The perfect man to Continue America's decade of economic growth

U.S. Stock Market crashed eight months into Hoover's presidency

http://learningzoneclass.com/aoat11/rahman/Images2/HerbertHoover.jpg

Herbert Hoover

U.S. President, 1929-33

American Standard of Living Soared

Americans owned 40% of the world's wealth

The average annual income rose 35% during the 1920s

Discretionary income increased

Wealth not distributed equally. The income of the top 0.1% of families equaled the income of the bottom 42%

A Consumer Economy

Electricity transformed people's lives

People were eager to buy the "latest and greatest" new appliance

Eventually people reached their limit - spending (even using credit) slowed down

Changing Ways of Life

Flappers = "Modern" women

bobbed hair, short dresses,
smoked in public, drove cars,
had jobs & money

A Society in Conflict

Changing patterns of immigration brought more immigrants from Southern & Eastern Europe to the U.S.

People with "different" religions appeared in large numbers (Catholics, Jews, etc.)

Communism in Russia - Red Scare

New Wave of Nativism

Fear of those who were "different"

Quota Acts to limit immigration

"COME UNTO ME, YE OPPRST!"
—Alley in the Memphis *Commercial Appeal.*

"Returning to Normal" after World War I caused many challenges

Economic Challenges

Shift from "war products" to "consumer products"

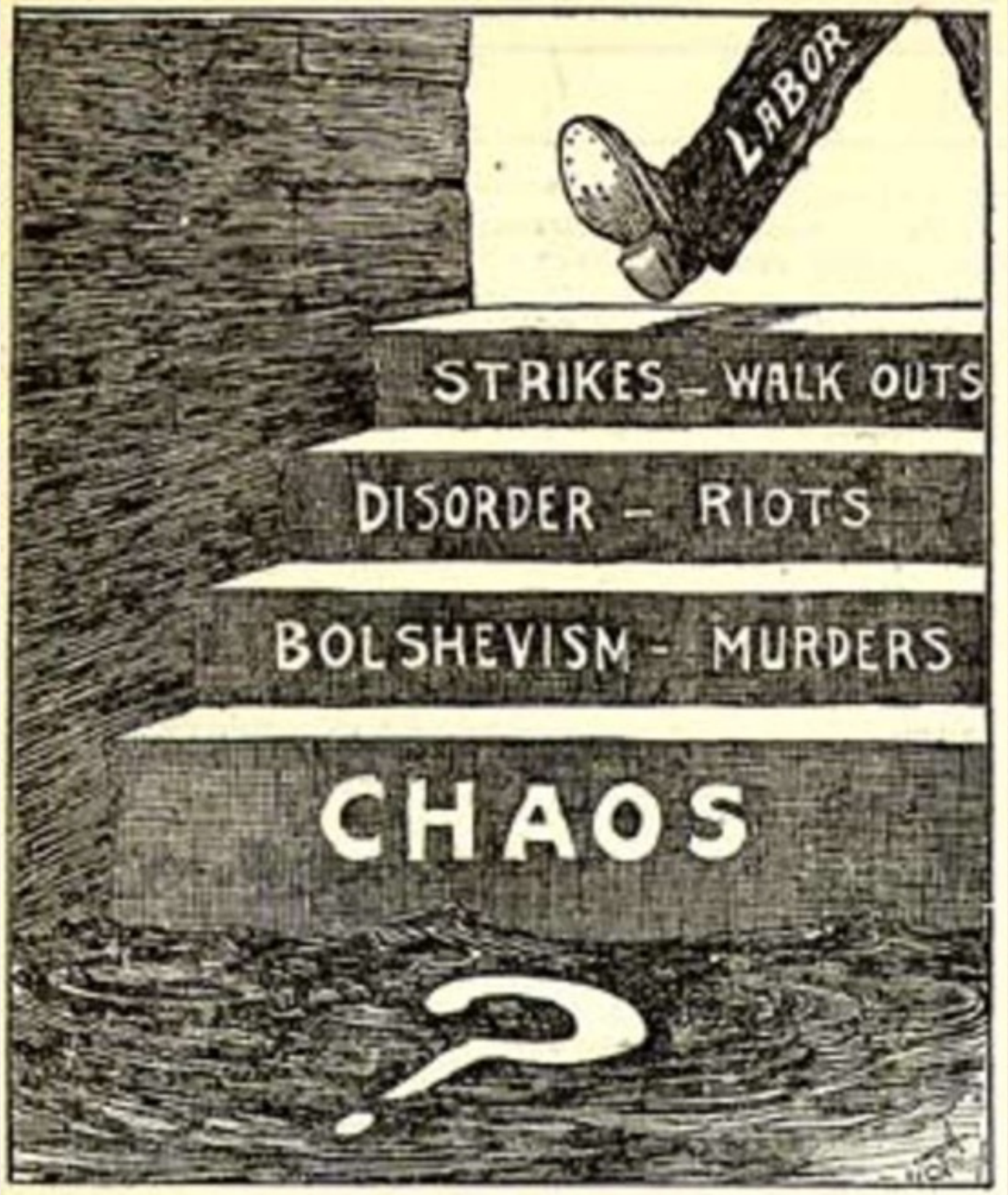
During transition fewer workers were needed — people lost jobs

Workers who had jobs wanted higher pay, fewer hours and more job security

Large increase in number of labor strikes after WWI

COMING OUT OF THE SMOKE.

—Kirby in the New York World.



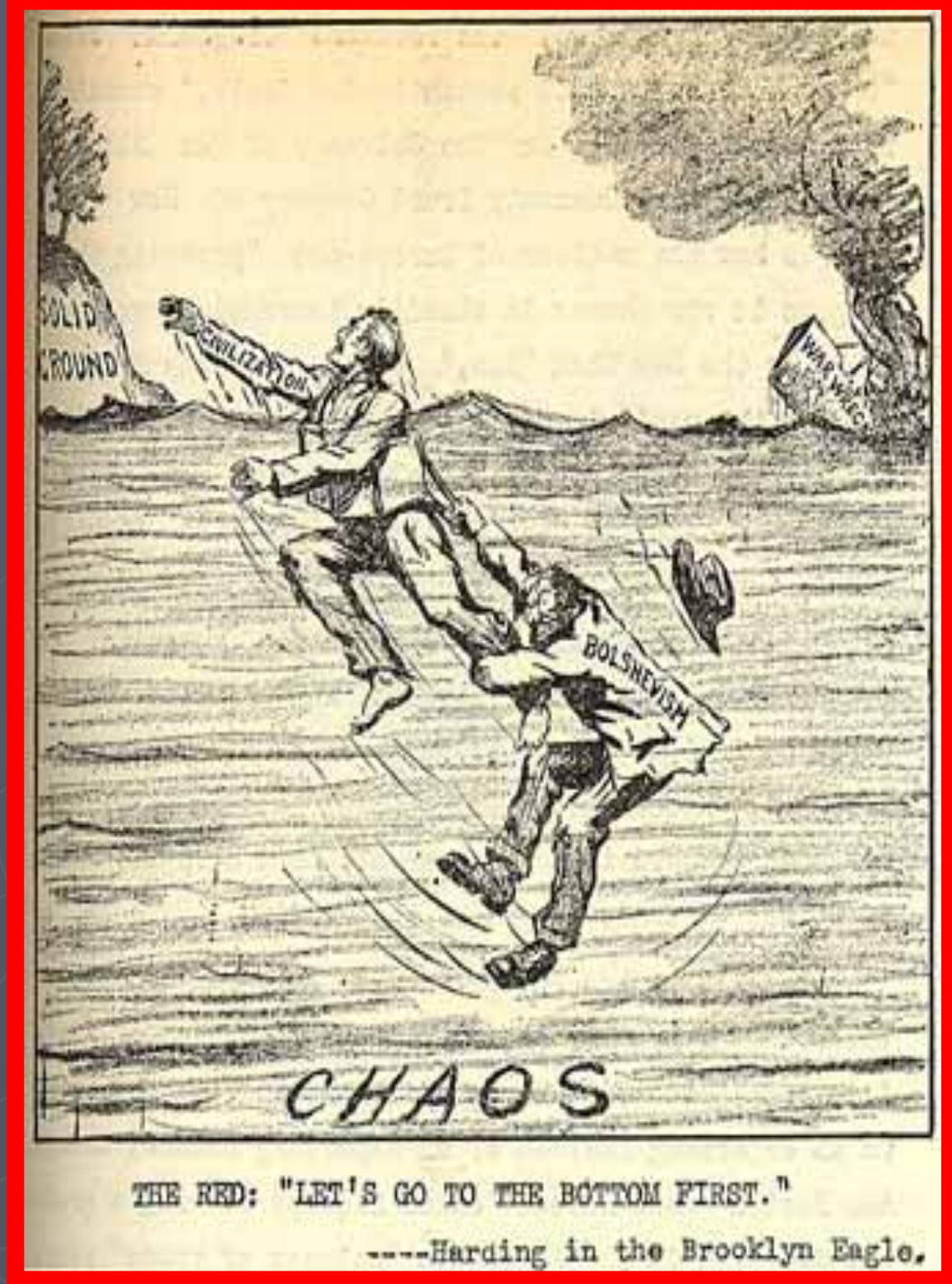
STEP BY STEP

-- Greene in the New York Evening Telegram

The Red Scare

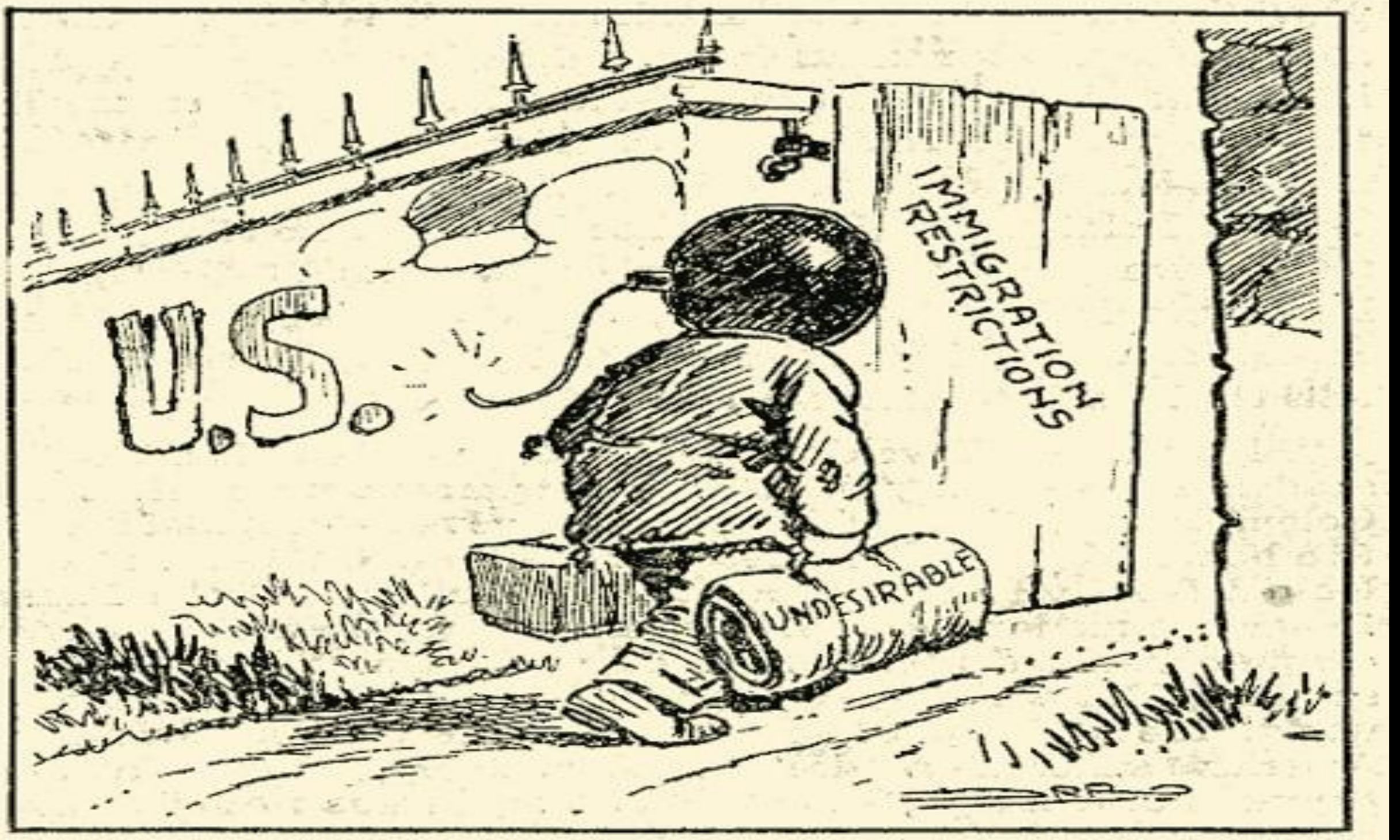
Because the Russian Revolution started as a workers revolt, many Americans associated labor strikes to Bolshevism

The fear that Communists were trying to overthrow the U.S. government was known as the <u>Red Scare</u>



THE RED: "LET'S GO TO THE BOTTOM FIRST."

----Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle.



CLOSE THE GATE.

—Orr in the Chicago *Tribune*.

The Red Scare led to calls to limit immigration

Emergency Quota Act 1921

<u>Goal</u>

Temporarily limit the number of people immigrating to the US

Annual quota for each country set at 3% of the total number of foreign born persons from that country living in the US in 1910

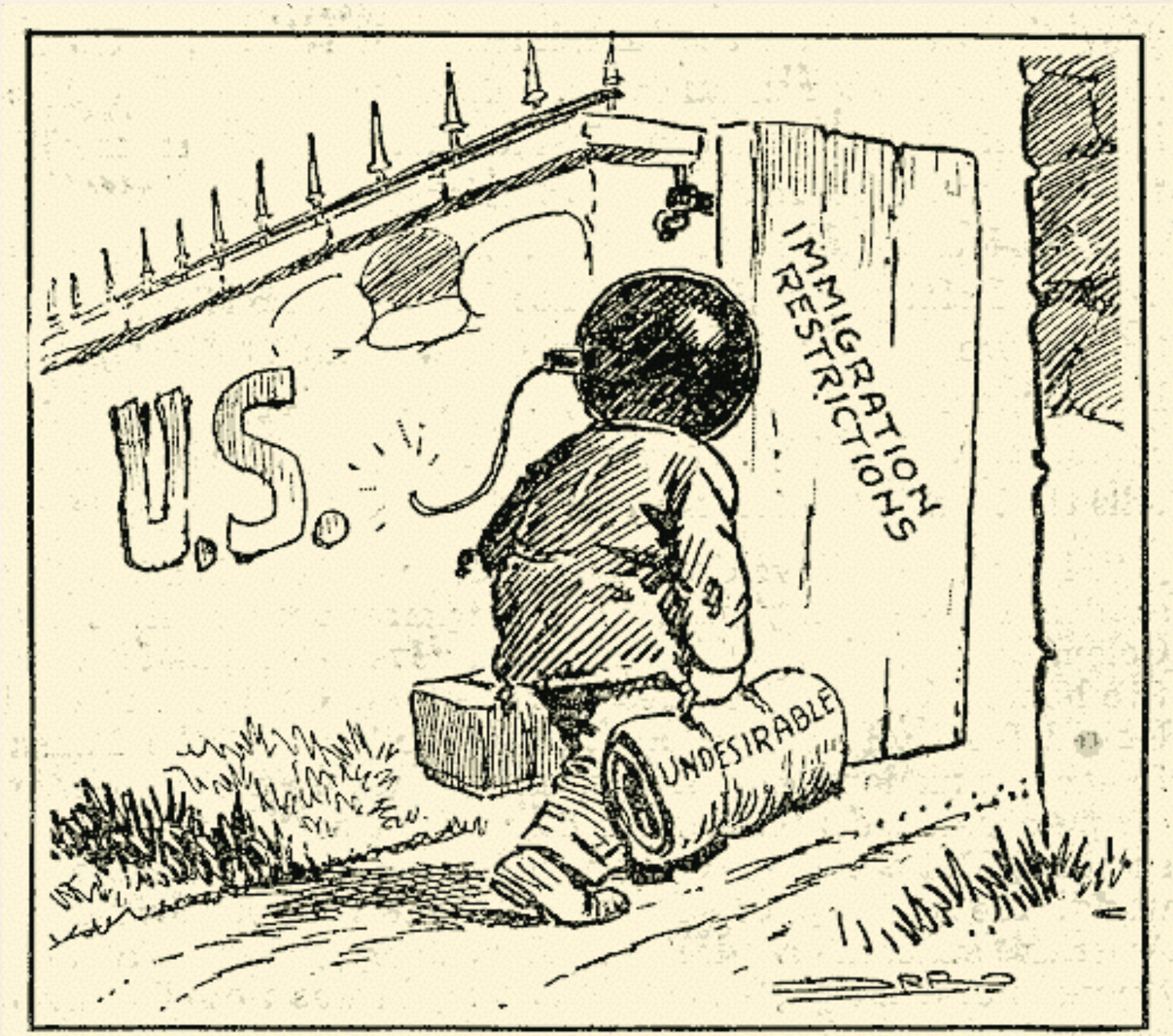
Judge

THE UNRESTRICTED DUMPING-GROUND.

Immigration Act 1924 - The National Origins Act

Unlimited immigration for Northern & Western Europe peoples

Annual quotas for people from other countries set at 2% of the total population of that nationality living in the US in 1890



CLOSE THE GATE.

—Orr in the Chicago *Tribune*.

Sacco - Vanzetti Trial

Sacco & Vanzetti were Italian-born immigrants who came to the United States in 1908. They were anarchists.

In 1921 they were put on trial for murdering two men during an armed robbery in Boston in 1920.

Despite much evidence showing their innocence, they were found guilty.

They were executed in 1927

The consensus is that they were unjustly executed - due to America's fear of anarchists and anti-Italian prejudice

The Story of the

Sacco-Vanzetti Case

Including an

Analysis of the Trial

Price Ten Cents.

The Great Migration

During WW I, Blacks moved north to take advantage of job opportunities in factories

Harlem Renaissance

Within city neighborhoods like Harlem, a distinct black culture emerged - and flourished

Langston Hughes

One of the most important writers of the Harlem Renaissance

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/assets/jb/progress/jb_progress_hughes_2_e.jpg

The Ku Klux Klan

Increased Power in the 1920s

http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/anti-masonry/kkk_1925.jpg

K.K.K rally in Washington, DC (1925)

The K.K.K tried to resist the changes taking place in American society.

Anti-black

Anti-immigrant

Anti-Jew

Anti-Catholic

Anti-women's suffrage

The Klan DID support Prohibition!

Farmers Struggle Throughout 1920s

Farmers bought more land and
increased production during WW I

When war ended - demand decreased

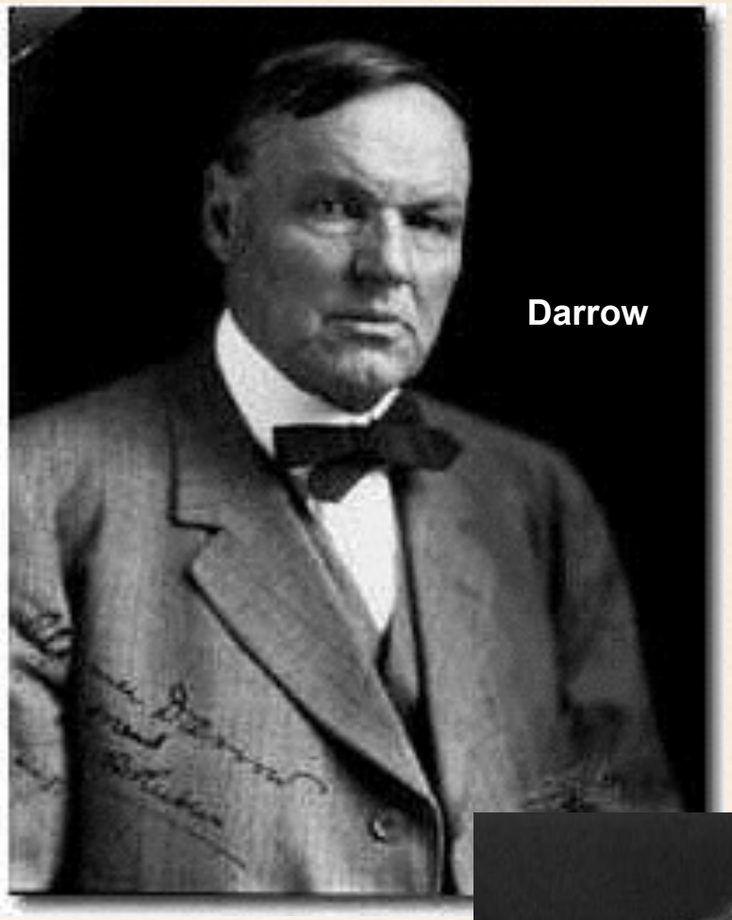
Farmers maintained production - surplus
(price falls - farmers cannot pay bills)

The Scopes "Monkey" Trial

John Scopes
High School Biology Teacher,
Dayton, Tennessee

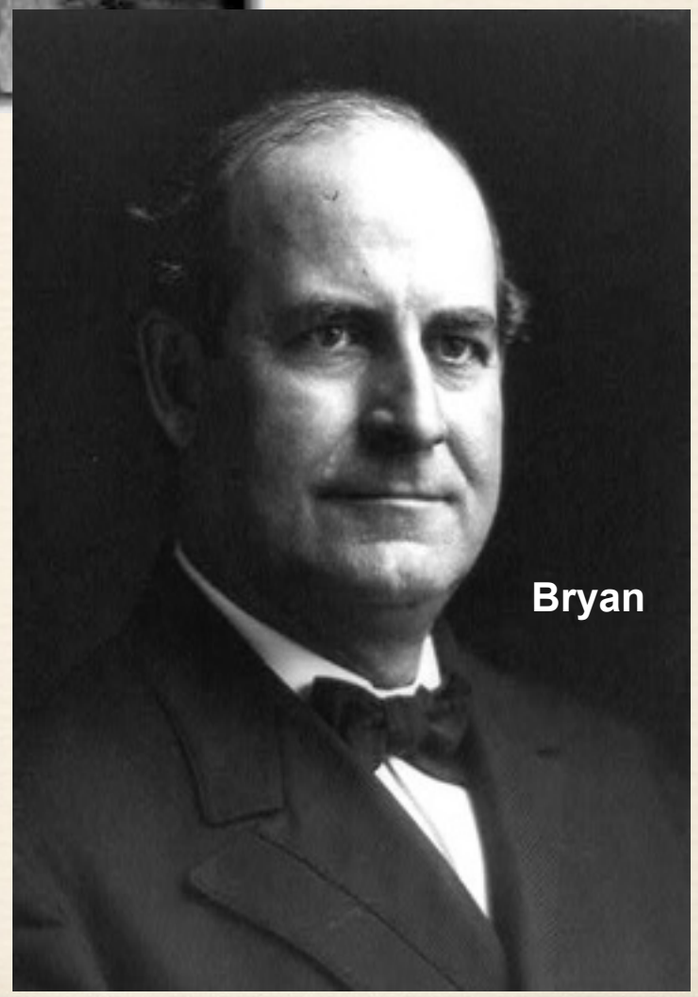
In March, 1925, Tennessee passed a law that made it illegal to teach Darwin's Theory of Evolution

With the support of the ACLU, Scopes decided to challenge that law



The ACLU hired Clarence Darrow, the most famous trial lawyer of the era, to defend Scopes

The prosecution hired William Jennings Bryan, the three-time Democratic presidential candidate



The Scopes Trial

Evolution vs. Creationism

The trial began on July 10, 1925. It was a national sensation!

Ultimately, Scopes was found guilty of violating the Tennessee law and fined $100

Science vs. Religion

EUROPE IS AMAZED
BY THE SCOPES CASE

British and Continental Pres
Report the Proceedings and
Comment on its Significance.

NOTED SCIENTISTS PROTEST

The case is important because it shows the deep divisions in American society

The Fight Over Prohibition

18th Amendment (Prohibition) went into effect in 1920

It became illegal to produce, consume or transport alcoholic beverages

Those in favor of the law believed that alcohol led to crime, child & wife abuse and accidents

Supporters of the law tended to be religious and / or from rural areas - especially the south and west

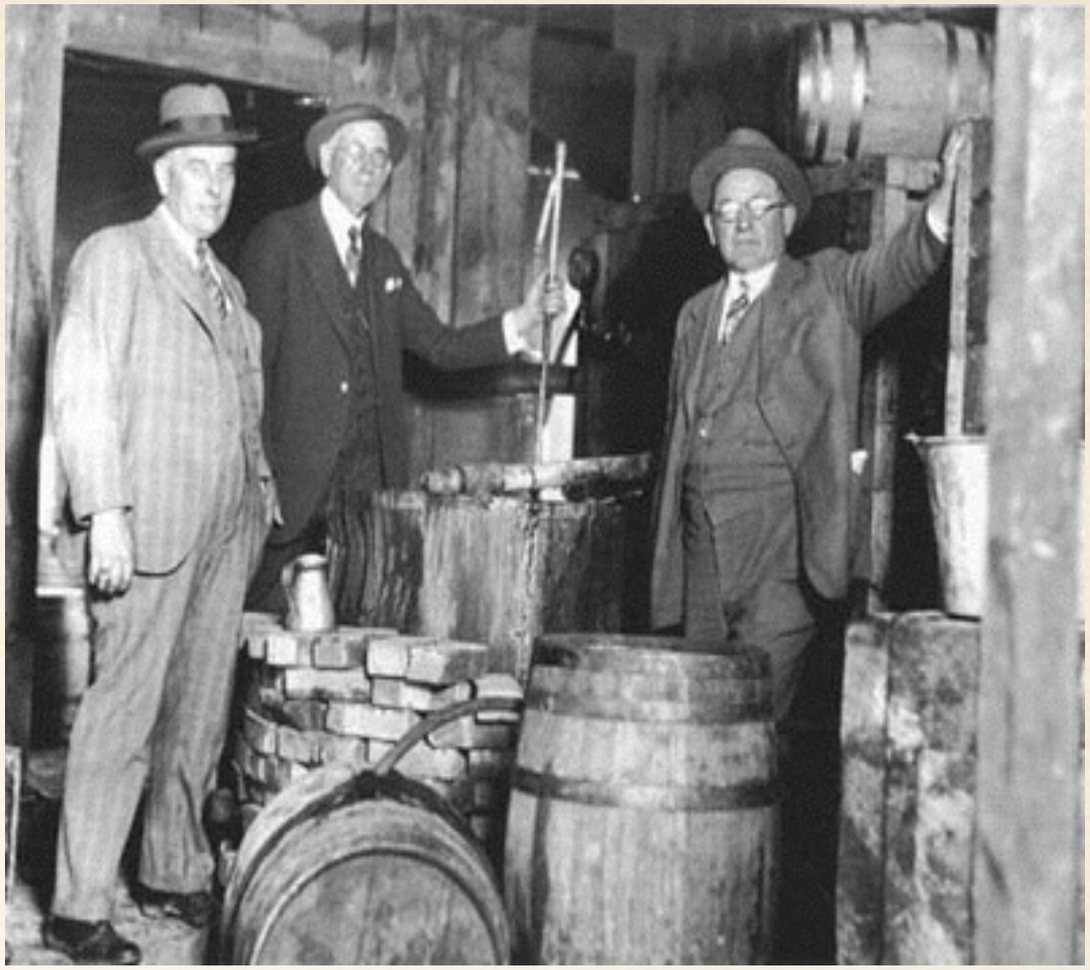
Speakeasies and Bootleggers

Many people, including immigrants (who tended to live in cities) were not willing to give up drinking

To obtain liquor, drinkers sometimes went to hidden saloons - which were known as speakeasies

People also obtained alcohol from bootleggers (smugglers)

Prohibition contributed to the growth of organized crime in America's cities



Prohibition Repealed

By the mid-1920s only 19% of Americans supported Prohibition

Many felt that Prohibition caused more problems than its solved

Prohibition was repealed by the 21st Amendment (1933)

Stock Market Crash of 1929

Stock prices reached high point in September 1929, then began to fall

October 29, 1929 (Black Tuesday) - the stock market crashed.
16.4 million shares were sold.

By mid-November, investors had lost about $30 billion - an amount equal to how much America spent in WW I

http://static3.businessinsider.com/image/5245cf4d69bedd2d708f0407-960/stock-market-crash-1929.jpg

BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE
And Complete Long Island News
LATE NEWS
WALL STREET 1:15 PRICES ★★
NEW YORK CITY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1929.
32 PAGES
THREE CENTS

WALL ST. IN PANIC AS STOCKS CRASH

Attempt Made to Kill Italy's Crown Prince

ASSASSIN CAUGHT IN BRUSSELS MOB; PRINCE UNHURT

Royal Suitor Was About to Lay Wreath on Unknown Soldiers' Tomb.

Princess, Deeply Moved, Falls Into Fiance's Arms and Kisses Him

Hollywood Fire Destroys Films Worth Millions

ATTEMPT MADE ON LIFE

Consolidated Studios Are Swept by Flames Fatal to One—Master Pictures Burned Include Many New Talkie Productions.

FEAR 52 PERISHED IN LAKE MICHIGAN: FERRY IS MISSING

Wreckage Picked Up Indicates Craft Went Down With All Aboard.

PIECE OF PLANE LIKE DITEMAN'S IS FOUND AT SEA

Black and Orange Wreckage Indicates Daring Flier Went to Death.

High Duty Group Gave $700,000 to Coolidge Drive

Grundy Agrees Rates Went Up Due to His Activities as Propagandist. Favors More Lobbying to "Carry Out Voters' Wish."

FOR MORE LOBBYISTS

JOSEPH R. GRUNDY

STOCKS CRASH IN RUSH TO SELL; BILLIONS LOST

Morgan, Mitchell Buying Stocks in Effort to Check Rush to Unload.

http://makinghistoryatnorthumbria.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/46611240_newspaper_getty512.jpg