ZORA NEALE HURSTON

- Zora Neale Hurston wrote novels, short stories and poems
- She often wrote about the lives of poor, unschooled Southern blacks
- She focused on the culture of the people—their folkways and values

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PERFORMERS

- During the 1920s, black performers won large followings
- Paul Robeson, son of a slave, became a major dramatic actor
- His performance in *Othello* was widely praised

LOUIS ARMSTRONG

- Jazz was born in the early 20th century
- In 1922, a young trumpet player named Louis Armstrong joined the Creole Jazz Band
- Later he joined Fletcher Henderson’s band in NYC
- Armstrong is considered the most important and influential musician in the history of jazz

EDWARD KENNEDY “DUKE” ELLINGTON

- In the late 1920s, Duke Ellington, a jazz pianist and composer, led his ten-piece orchestra at the famous Cotton Club
- Ellington won renown as one of America’s greatest composers

BEESIE SMITH

- Bessie Smith, blues singer, was perhaps the most outstanding vocalist of the decade
- She achieved enormous popularity and by 1927 she became the highest-paid black artist in the world

Counter-Reactions

- Klan reborn
  - “Colonel” William Simmons ⇒ Hiram Evans ⇒ David Stephenson
  - Cross Burning
  - *Birth of A Nation* by D.W. Griffith. Glorified the Klan
    - Used for recruitment ($4 kickback for every new recruit)
    - Pres. Wilson calls it “History written in lightning”
  - 5,000,000 members by 1924 including growing # of women
  - 40,000 march on D.C.
  - membership is almost a must for southern democrat politicians
    - 12 senators
    - 11 governors
    - tens of thousands of local officials
    - almost splits the Democratic Party in 1924 over a plank condemning the Klan. It finally passed by only 5 votes
More Counter-Reactions

- Nativism:
  - Anti-syndicalism laws
  - Immigration restrictions
  - Sacco and Vanzetti
  - Scientific racism by Ripley and Grant. (later used by Hitler as proof of Aryan superiority)
  - Woodrow Wilson inflamed anti-immigrant sentiments when he said "citizens born under other flags inject America with the poison of disloyalty."
  - 1921 Emergency Quota Act restricted yearly immigration to 3% of the # living in US in 1910.
  - Immigration Act of 1924 lowered it to 2% of the 1890 numbers.
  - ACLU is founded to fight for rights taken away during WWI

- 1919:
  - 30 brown paper pakage bombs sent to prominent citizens
  - 20 lbs of dynamite exploded in 7 different cities.
  - A car bomb killed 33 people on Wall St. NYC.
  - Palmer raids and the RED SCARE
    - Played on post war patriotism: SOS = "shoot or shipout"
    - The day after the "Fighting Quaker" declares war on terrorism a bomb explodes on his door.
      - 10,000 radicals are arrested & held w/o charges
      - 244 "Bolsheviks" shipped out on the "Soviet Ark"
      - 600 other deported.

Even More Counter-Reactions

- Prohibition:
  - See overhead of progression from Dry states to Wet
  - WCTU, but really its WWI that gets 18th Amendment passed
  - Enforced by the Volstead Act.
  - Actually it DID reduce total consumption, better family atmosphere, and less absenteeism, but at the cost of
    - Gangsterism: Al Capone
      - Became a public hero to many
      - Made $110 million in one year
      - Responsible for an estimated 1,100 deaths
    - police corruption
    - blurring of the line between legal and illegal activities, good and bad, etc. rise of the anti-hero in American mythology. We now root for the criminal to "get away with it".

Most Americans assumed that prohibition

- A. would soon be overturned.
- B. was unworkable in the cities.
- C. would be a total failure.
- D. would be permanent.
- E. could never be enforced in the South.
**SUPPORT FOR PROHIBITION**

- Reformers had long believed alcohol led to crime, child & wife abuse, and accidents
- Supporters were largely from the rural south and west
- The church affiliated Anti-Saloon League and the Women’s Christian Temperance Union helped push the 18th Amendment through

**SPEAKEASIES AND BOOTLEGGERS**

- Many Urban Americans did not believe drinking was a sin
- Most immigrant groups were not willing to give up drinking
- To obtain liquor illegally, drinkers went underground to hidden saloons known as speakeasies
- People also bought liquor from bootleggers who smuggled it in from Canada, Cuba and the West Indies

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**Prohibition lasted from 1920 to 1933 when it was repealed by the 21st Amendment**

**Poster supporting prohibition**

**Help Me to keep Him Pure**

**Please Vote Against the Sale of Liquors**

**Poster for proper dancing**

**CASTLE HOUSE SUGGESTIONS FOR CORRECT DANCING**

Do not wriggle the shoulders.
Do not wriggle the body.
Do not wriggle the arms.
Do not wriggle the neck.

Avoid low, fantastic, and acrobatic dips.

Stand far enough away from each other to allow free movement of the body in order to dance gracefully and comfortably.

The gentleman should hold his hand lightly against the lady’s back, touching the small of the hips.

The gentleman should turn the lady’s hand lightly on his palm, the arm should never be straightened out.

Remember you are at a social gathering, and not at a gymnastic.

Deep the Turkey Trot, the Glittering Bear, and the Benny Gun, etc., these fashions are silly, unsportsmanlike, and out of season.
GOVERNMENT FAILS TO CONTROL LIQUOR

- Eventually, Prohibition’s fate was sealed by the government, which failed to budget enough money to enforce the law
- The task of enforcing Prohibition fell to 1,500 poorly paid federal agents — clearly an impossible task

Federal agents pour wine down a sewer

SUPPORT FADES, PROHIBITION REPEALED

- By the mid-1920s, only 19% of Americans supported Prohibition
- Many felt Prohibition caused more problems than it solved
- The 21st Amendment finally repealed Prohibition in 1933

Democratic Nominating Convention 1924 is a mess:

Conflicts
- Wets vs. Drys
- City vs. Country
- Fundamentalist vs. Modernist
- Northerners vs. Southerners
- Bourgeoisie vs. Booboisie

Takes 102 tries to choose John Davis, a Wall Street banker!!!!!!!

Since both major parties choose ultra-conservative candidates

Progressives:
- “Fighting Bob” LaFollette
- AFL jump on board
- Socialist Party endorses
- But 80+% are farmers
- 5,000,000 votes
- Coolidge gets 15,000,000+
“The Business of America Is Business” Calvin Coolidge

- Back to Laissez-Faire (unless labor gets out of hand) economics
- Frugal
- Dry sense of humor (Coolidge Effect)
- Lazy, lazy, lazy. Slept 14 hours a night, then took an afternoon nap.
- Lowered taxes and spending
- Helped create Dawes Plan that helps create temporary RICH times but ultimately the Great Depression.

Hero worship. The progression has been:
- 1660: Religious Leader (Mathers, Bradford)
- 1776: Civilian politician (Washington, Jefferson)
- 1820: Military hero (Jackson)
- 1880: Businessmen (Carnegie, Rockefeller, etc)
- 1920: Entertainer and/or Criminals

- Babe Ruth (athletes)
- Valentino (actors)
- Capone (gangsters)
- Lindberg (daredevils)
AMERICAN HEROES OF THE 20s

- In 1929, Americans spent $4.5 billion on entertainment (includes sports).
- People crowded into baseball games to see their heroes.
- Babe Ruth was a larger than life American hero who played for Yankees.
- He hit 60 homers in 1927.

Beginning of Endorsements!!!

SCANDALS

Boxers as heroes
CRIMINAL AS HERO

Al Capone was finally convicted on tax evasion charges in 1931.

LINDBERGH’S FLIGHT

- America’s most beloved hero of the time wasn’t an athlete but a small-town pilot named Charles Lindbergh.
- Lindbergh made the first nonstop solo trans-Atlantic flight.
- He took off from NYC in the Spirit of St. Louis and arrived in Paris 33 hours later to a hero’s welcome.

ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS

- Even before sound, movies offered a means of escape through romance and comedy.
- First sound movies: *Jazz Singer* (1927).
- First animated with sound: *Steamboat Willie* (1928).
- By 1930 millions of Americans went to the movies each week.

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MUSIC AND ART

- Famed composer George Gershwin merged traditional elements with American Jazz
- Painters like Edward Hopper depicted the loneliness of American life
- Georgia O’Keeffe captured the grandeur of New York using intensely colored canvases

WRITERS OF THE 1920S

- The 1920s was one of the greatest literary eras in American history
- Sinclair Lewis, the first American to win the Nobel Prize in literature, wrote the novel, *Babbitt*
- In *Babbitt* the main character ridicules American conformity and materialism

WRITERS OF THE 1920S

- Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald coined the phrase “Jazz Age” to describe the 1920s
- Fitzgerald wrote *Paradise Lost* and *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Great Gatsby* reflected the emptiness of New York elite society

WRITERS OF THE 1920S

- Edith Wharton’s *Age of Innocence* dramatized the clash between traditional and modern values
- Willa Cather celebrated the simple, dignified lives of immigrant farmers in Nebraska in *My Antonia*

Literary changes caused by WWI, disillusionment, new generation of writers:

- F. Scott Fitzgerald: all gods dead, all wars fought, all faiths in man shaken
- Sinclair Lewis: Babbitt as the foolish ‘sheeple’
- H.L. Mencken: Journalist who lampooned EVERYTHING
- Theodore Dreiser: An American Tragedy
- Ernest Hemingway: anti-war novel *A Farewell to Arms*
- William Faulkner: unmasked the vacuity and inbreeding of the aristocratic South.
- Ex-patriots poets: Pound, Elliot,
- Playwrights like Eugene O’neill
- e e cummings

Sinclair Lewis, the first American to win the Nobel Prize in literature, wrote the novel, *Babbitt*.
In *Babbitt* the main character ridicules American conformity and materialism.
WRITERS OF THE 1920

- Ernest Hemingway, wounded in World War I, became one of the best-known authors of the era.
- In his novels, *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*, he criticized the glorification of war.
- His simple, straightforward style of writing set the literary standard.

THE LOST GENERATION

- Some writers such as Hemingway and John Dos Passos were so soured by American culture that they chose to settle in Europe.
- In Paris they formed a group that one writer called, “The Lost Generation.”

By 1928 the coming crash is apparent to some

- Middle-East partitioned under Sykes-Pichot and Balfour Agreement
- Dawes Plan is bankrupting Europe
  - American investment in Europe is the only thing keeping it going.
- Major agricultural overproduction
- McNary-Haugen Bill to help farmers vetoed TWICE by Coolidge

Election of 1828

- The Smartest Cook Ever!
Black Tuesday Oct. 29th 1929

- $40,000,000,000 lost in 2 months
- No more loans to Germany = world-wide bankruptcy
- 4 million jobless Americans
- 5,000 banks declare bankruptcy
- Smoot-Hawley Tariff raises it still higher

Hoover’s response = Huge federal spending, but still Trickle Down

- Hoover Dam
- RFC
  - Banks
  - Insurance co’s
  - RR’s
  - Local Gov’ts
- Went fishing to appear calm and in-charge
- Agricultural Marketing Act
  - Set up Agric. Coops
  - Federal Farm Act $1/2 Billion in loans. Too little, too late

Result was:
- Hoovervilles
- Hoover Flags
- Hoover Blankets
- Bonus Army and “Battle of Anacostia Flats”

World Wide Effects

- Hitler,
- Mussolini,
- Franco (Spain)
- Hirohito
  - Attacks China
    - League of Nations does nothing
    - US issue Stimson Doctrine
    - WWII has begun in 1932

Causes Of Great Depression
PowerPoint