

# The Roaring Twenties

*Part Three*



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

## Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

## Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



# Xenophobia and nativism

Between 1870 and 1920, about 20 million immigrants arrived in the U.S. Unlike the Northern European immigrants of previous years, most of these new immigrants came from Eastern and Southern Europe and Asia.

People were suspicious of immigrants because they were different – in terms of religion, ethnicity and language – and because they also competed for American jobs.

The response was **xenophobia**, a fear of foreigners, and **nativism**, favoring established inhabitants over immigrants.

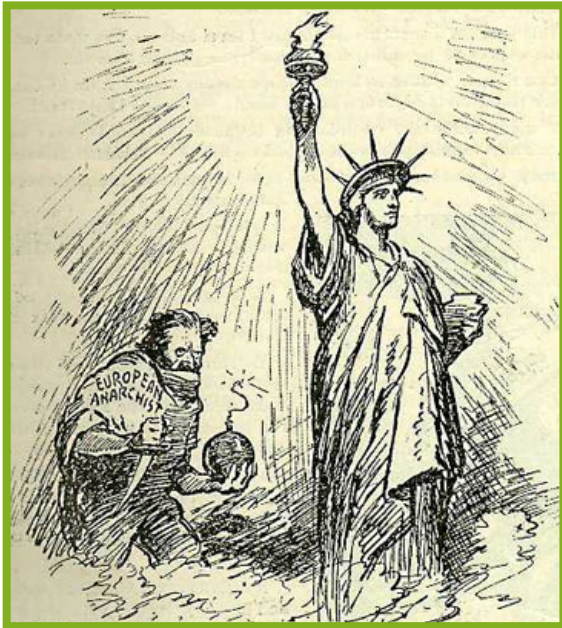




# The “Red Scare”



The growth of **communism** became a big fear at this time. It was prompted by the 1917 **Russian Revolution**, in which the people overthrew the Tsar. Power was seized by Vladimir Lenin, leading to the rise of communism and the Soviet Union.



Many people feared the same would happen in the U.S. During the **Palmer Raids** of 1919, many suspected revolutionaries were imprisoned.

However, there was no evidence of a conspiracy and the “**Red Scare**” died out.

Do you think a revolution was really likely to happen?



Increased xenophobia and nativism led the **Ku Klux Klan** (**KKK**) to broaden its prejudices. The KKK came to oppose:

- black people
- immigrants
- Catholics
- Jews.



The Klan had significant political power in some places. Membership peaked in 1925, before its campaign of violence and terror sparked widespread public backlash.







# Isolationism

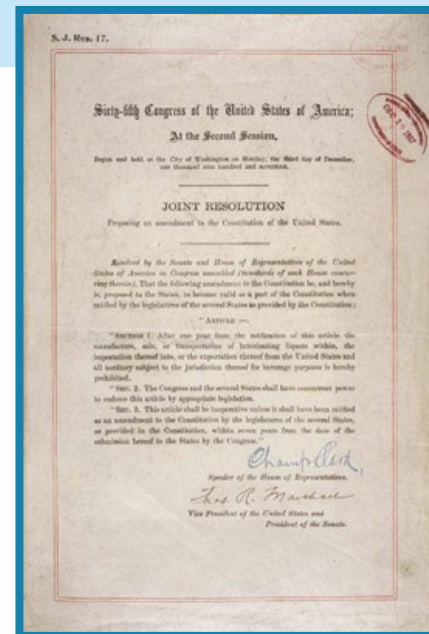




Some groups in the U.S. believed that alcohol was a major cause of social problems and moral decline.

In 1919, the **18<sup>th</sup> Amendment** was ratified, banning the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors.”  
Reasons in favor of the ban included:

- a belief that it caused poverty, violence, crime and disorder
- the fact immigrants controlled the industry
- the idea that it was un-American to drink.





# Organized crime





People came to blame Prohibition for the decline of public morality, even calling it a threat to society. In the 1932 presidential election campaign, Franklin D. Roosevelt pledged to repeal Prohibition.

Roosevelt won the election and in March 1933 the **Beer Wine–Revenue Act** was passed, making the manufacture and sale of beer and wine legal again.



The **21<sup>st</sup> Amendment** was ratified in December 1933. It fully repealed the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the only time in U.S. history that a constitutional amendment has repealed another.

How did repealing Prohibition aid the New Deal?

In the Roaring Twenties, economic prosperity improved the lives of many and had a significant impact on society.



The economy soared, ushering in a new era of consumerism, encapsulated in the automobile. New freedoms developed, along with an exciting popular culture. However, there was a dark side to prosperity. Farmers suffered and Prohibition failed. Xenophobia and nativism were widespread and minorities faced continued discrimination.

**Did prosperity and freedom lead to social intolerance?**

# Review



