

USA 1920-73 - 1920s

The 1920s was a period known as the 'boom' or the 'roaring twenties'; however not everything was positive underneath the surface....

Positive Economic Changes

- 'The Boom' - 'get rich quick' culture. Caused by taxes, tariffs, advertisement, assembly line, mass production, stock market boom, impact of WW1, Republican policies, new technology hire purchase
- Cheap goods due to mass production.
- Industrial growth (goods made) doubled in the 1920s



Positive Social Changes

- Electricity boom
- By 1929, Americans owned 23 million cars - 1 car every 10 seconds!
- 10 million radios sold by 1929
- Increased use of jazz clubs, sports games and the cinema due to electricity and the cars.
- Women gain the vote in 1920; divorce doubles; labour-saving devices; more single women in employment

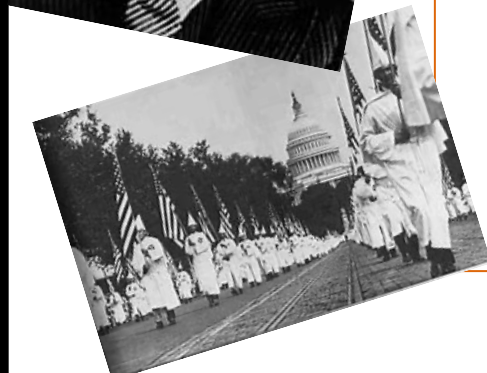
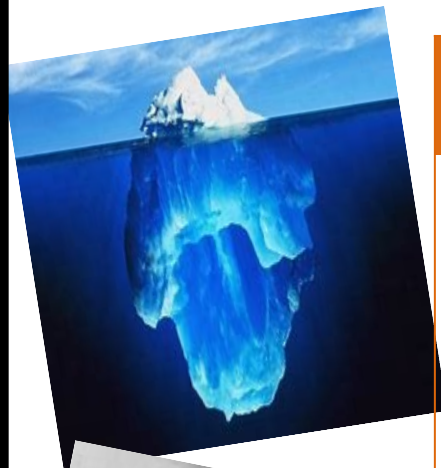


But underneath the surface...

- 60% of Americans still living under the poverty line
- Married, rural and black women didn't necessarily make progress
- Farmers overproducing; black sharecroppers lived in poverty; old industries such as cotton suffered due to new trends such as rayon
- Jim Crow laws and KKK (% million members by 1925)
- Treatment of immigrants - quotas and literacy tests; Sacco and Vanzetti
- Prohibition - rise in organised crime; difficult to monitor (large area, bribed agents and unpopularity of the law); Al Capone
- Red Scare - fear of communism and radicals; following on from the Russian Revolution and bomb scares; led to deportations after the Palmer Raids

Key dates

1919	18 th amendment – prohibition introduced
1919/1920	Palmer raids – 10,000 detained and 600 deported without a hearing
1920	Women over 30 given the vote in the 19 th amendment
1920	Sacco and Vanzetti arrested (executed in 1927)
1921-3	Warren Harding president
1922	Fordney- McCumber Tariff
1923-29	Calvin Coolidge president
1929-32	Herbert Hoover President
1929	Wall Street Crash



USA 1920-73 - Great Depression and Hoover

After the Wall Street Crash in 1929 a 'depression' swept across Europe. This was a period of high unemployment and poverty. It is not, however, fair to label Hoover as a 'do nothing' president; he did attempt some things to get the economy going....

Features of the Great Depression

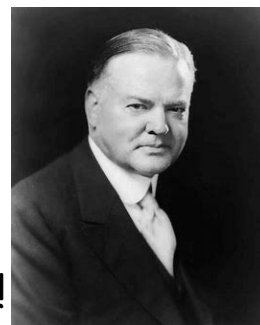
- At the height of the Depression in 1933 there were 14 million unemployed. 5000 banks had also gone bankrupt. In Toledo, 80% of people became unemployed. The average income for workers who were lucky enough to have kept their jobs fell by 60%.
- The parks were full of the homeless and unemployed. Many queued for bread and soup at charity kitchens.
- Every town had a 'Hooverville'
- When businesses were hit by the depression, they fired workers which meant less money was circulating. The banks started to demand the money that they had lent out during the boom.
- Drought and over-farming in the central southern states turned millions of acres into a dust bowl and drove farmers off their land, often to places like California in search of work - 'okies'.

Key dates

1929	Wall Street Crash
1929-32	Herbert Hoover is President
1932	War Bonus March
1932	Roosevelt wins the election and becomes President
1933	Height of the Depression, 14 million are unemployed
1941	USA enters WW2 after the attack on Pearl Harbour.

Hoover attempts to Hoover up the problems of the Depression...but fails

- Hoover tried to cut taxes in 1930-21
- He also tried to persuade business owner to not cut the wages of workers
- He set up the Reconstruction Finance Company to help stop banks going bankrupt
- Introduced tariffs - but this made things worse!



War Bonus March – in 1932, veterans marched on Washington to demand their pensions early. Hoover refused to meet them. General Douglas McArthur believed that they were communist and burnt down their caps and used tear gas. It was a key event in getting Roosevelt elected.

USA 1920-73 - Economic Recovery - New Deal and WW2

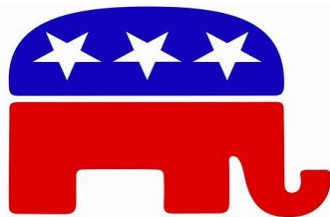
Roosevelt is elected in 1932. He promised the voters a 'New Deal' - unlike Hoover he promised to get involved and help people. Historians disagree about whether the New Deal was a success. Overall, it was WW2 that finally ended the Depression.

New Deal – 3 Rs: Relief, Recovery and Reform

- 1st 100 days - Roosevelt ordered the banks to close. He reopened 5000 trustworthy ones after a few days.
 - Fireside Chats
 - 14 million unemployed in 1933 - this was reduced to 8 million by 1937!
 - In 1938 unemployment increased again to more than 10 million, after Roosevelt reduced government spending.
- Examples of Alphabet Agencies:
- **Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA).** Paid farmers to produce less!
 - **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).** Similar to the PWA, this department provided jobs to large numbers of young men in conservation schemes in the countryside. 200,000 African Americans benefitted and only 8000 women.
 - **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - built dams and transformed the region - provided electricity and thousands of jobs.**

Criticisms: women and African-Americans still missed out; low wages and temporary jobs were not a long-term solution; Americans still only were spending 75% of what they were in the 1920s

Opposition to the New Deal



By 1935, Roosevelt was facing criticisms from Republicans, Supreme Court, Radicals

The Supreme Court declared some agencies unconstitutional such as the NRA

Radicals - share more of the wealth!

Republicans - Roosevelt is a dictator and removed the power of local government

Key dates	
1933	14 million unemployed
1936	Roosevelt re-elected. He joked that 'everyone is against the New Deal except the voters'
1937	Unemployment drops to 8 million
1938	Unemployment increases after Roosevelt reduces government spending
March 1941	Lend-Lease begins
December 1941	USA enters WW2
1944	USA is producing half of the weapons being made in the world
1945	End of WW2 - USA is now a very rich 'superpower'

Impact of WW2



- Lend Lease saw arms, food, medicine and other goods being sent to nations fighting against Germany. A total of \$50 billion was shipped.
- Impact on Women
- 7 million more women joined the workforce during WW2
 - 1 in 3 aircraft workers were women
 - 60% of managers said women were there best workers
 - Women weren't willing to return back to their old lives
 - Many men still had prejudices
- Impact on African-Americans
- Many left the south to work in factories
 - Over 1 million in the army; experience de-segregated places such as Britain
 - Tuskegee Airmen
 - NAACP membership rises from 50,000 to 500,000

USA 1920-73 - *Post WW2 Society and Economy (1950s)*

Economic Changes



- Strong economy after ww2
- The living standard of the average American was 3x better than the British
- Hire purchase and credit used
- USA producing half the worlds goods

Social Changes

- 83.2% had a TV by the end of the 1950s
- Baby boom after the war
- The term 'teenager' developed; a group with their own money and culture
- Marlon Brandon, James Dean, Elvis Presley
- Rock n Roll
- Many moved to the suburbs
- Films such as Oklahoma (1955) depict confidence and optimism



But underneath the surface...McCarthyism

China (1949) and Korea (1950-3) falls to communism - causes a witch hunt in the 1950s

House Committee of Un-American Activities set up



Senator Joe Mcarthy begins a smear campaign



Investigates government, film industry and education. Including the famous 'Hollywood 10'

Televised hearing shows McCarthy to be an irresponsible bully

FBI had files on 1 million suspects. J Edgar Hoover (Director of FBI) later used these techniques such as phone tapping against MLK



Key dates

1945	End of WW2 – USA is a superpower
1949	China falls to communism
1950-53	Korean War
1958	83.2% of households owned a TV

USA 1920-73 - *Civil Rights Movement*

After WW2 African-Americans were motivated to try and get more rights in the 1950s and 1960s.

Brown vs Board 1954	Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955	Little Rock 1957	Sit Ins 1960	Freedom Rides 1961	March on Washington 1963	Civil Rights Act 1964	Selma 1965	Voting Rights Act 1965	MLK assassination 1968	Fair Housing Act 1968
Linda Brown 'test case' Earl Warren declares 'separate is not equal'	Rosa Parks 10-15,000 hear MLK speak Buses lose 65% of income Montgomery laws declared illegal	Tested Brown vs Board 9 students Governor Orval Faubus vs. Eisenhower State Troops	North Carolina 500 students - Nashville Restaurants, libraries, churches	CORE SNCC 200 arrested; 40 days in jail JFK supports riders, Governor of Alabama does not protect	200,00 black people; 50,000 white Wanted a civil rights bill 'I have a dream' speech	LBJ takes over Illegal to discriminate in housing and employment	Voting Rights March Racist Sheriff Jim Clark Bloody Sunday Turnaround Tuesday	Agents can inspect voting procedures Ended literacy tests	Encourages the Fair Housing Act to be passed	Outlaws discrimination in housing based on sex, religion and race.



Other Civil Rights Groups

- SNCC stood for 'Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee' By 1969, they changed this to 'Student National Coordinating Committee'
- CORE; SCLC
- Black Power - Mexico Olympics 1968, race riots, arson, Black Panthers, Huey Newton
- Malcolm X "by any means necessary"
- Stokely Carmichael and MLK did agree on a number of issues ie poverty and opposing the Vietnam War
- Seen as partly responsible for the Fair Housing Act



Arguably it was because of the threat of violence from the Black Power movements that JFK/LBJ responded to MLK instead.

MLK

- Advocated non-violence; this made white people look like aggressors and remove the stereotype of black people being violent
 - Mesmerising speaker
 - Led the MIA during the Montgomery Bus Boycott; played a part in Selma (agreed to 'turnaround' Tuesday); March on Washington speech
- It was partly because of his non-violent approach that the Civil Right Act and Voting Rights Act was passed
Given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964
Assassinated 1968



USA 1920-73 - JFK/LBJ/Womens' Liberation

Both JFK and LBJ had helped the Civil Rights Movement by passing the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and then the Voting Rights Act. The Civil Rights Act also benefitted women. Both were determined to make wider changes to help society in areas such as health, poverty and education.

JFK's New Frontier (HEP)

- Health - Congress defeated his Medicare proposals
- Education - Gave more money to schools but wanted to give more (denied by Congress), and improved training schemes to reduce crime.
- Poverty - increased minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25 - only useful for those in work. Improved benefits for elderly and unemployed.



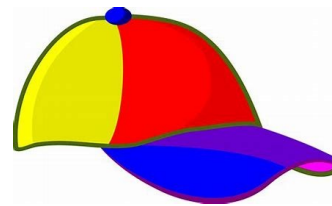
LBJ's Great Society (HEP)

- Health - Medical aid given to the poor and elderly.
- Education - gave money to schools in cities to help the poor. Gave major funding to schools.
- Poverty - Increased minimum wage from \$1.25 to \$1.40. Declared a 'war on poverty'



Womens' Liberation Movement

- NOW, 1966 - leaders such as Betty Friedan
- Equal Pay Act 1963 led onto the Equal Rights Amendment Act in 1972; women still paid 70% less than men on average
- Contraception made legally available on the same terms for unmarried couples as married couples
- Roe vs Wade - Abortion made legal in 1973
- Strong opposition especially towards abortion



Contraception
Abortion
Pay



Key dates

1963	Equal Pay Act
1966	NOW forms
1968	Nixon replaces Johnson as President
1972	Equal Pay Amendment Act
1973	Roe vs Wade