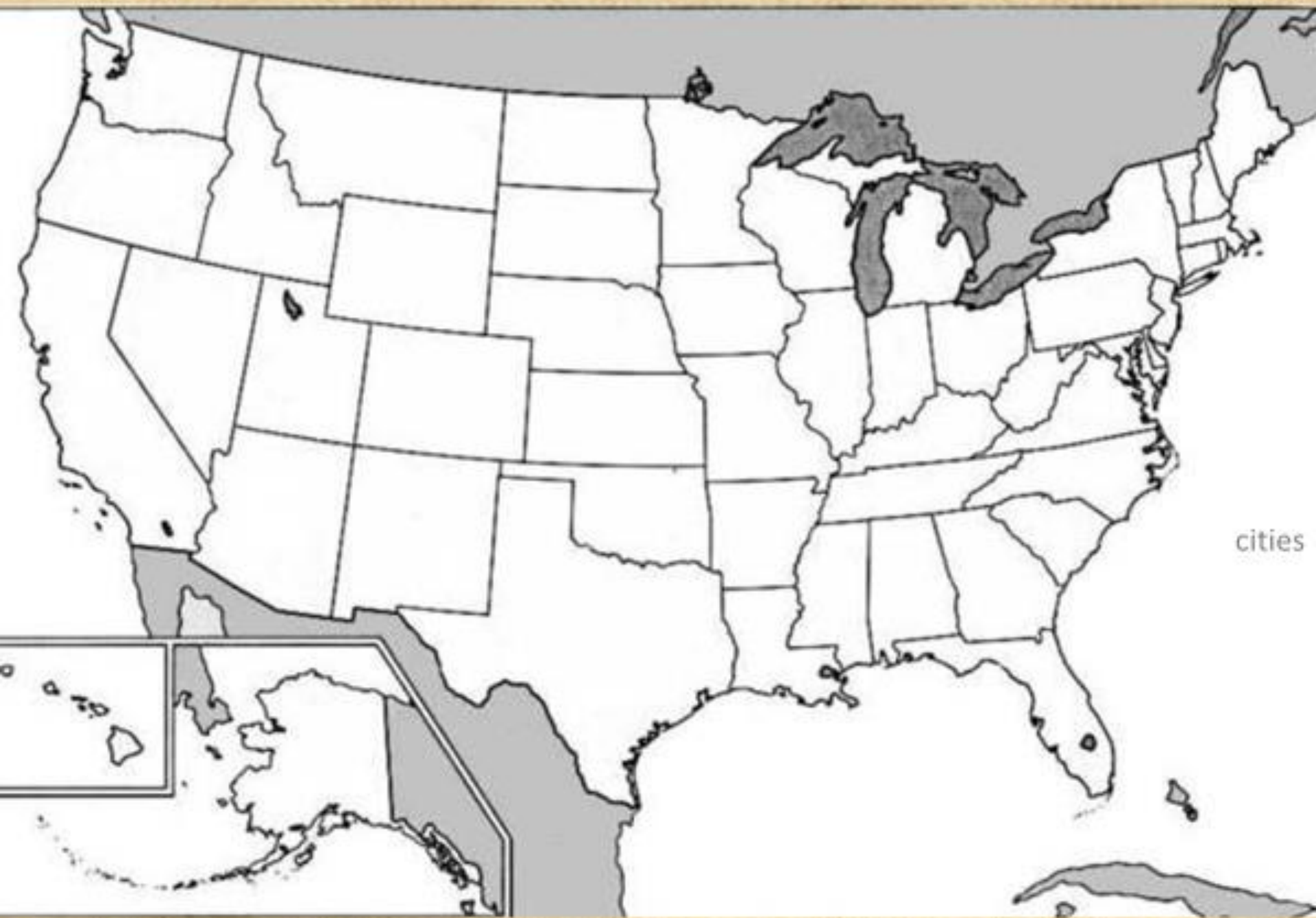


# The Jazz Age

1921-1929

Chapter 20



In 1911 Alfred Levitt left a small town in Russia to immigrate to New York City. Like many immigrants before and since, he had big ambitions, despite his poor English and lack of education. He wanted to forget his Russian heritage and become a successful American:

“My conscious drive when I got here was to escape the rigors of poverty, to become somebody of importance. This I don't mean economically, but someone who can justify his presence on the planet. I wonder: Who am I? What am I here for? At seventeen years, the first question for me, though, was: What was I going to do? What will I become? . . . I made up my mind, as young as I was, that I'm going to amount to something in the world, and I'm not going to continue being one of those who starve.”

—quoted in *Centenarians: The Story of the Twentieth Century by the Americans Who Lived It*

Levitt did indeed “amount to something.” A successful artist, he lived the rest of his life in New York City. Twenty of his paintings are part of the permanent collection of the city's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

## • Nativism

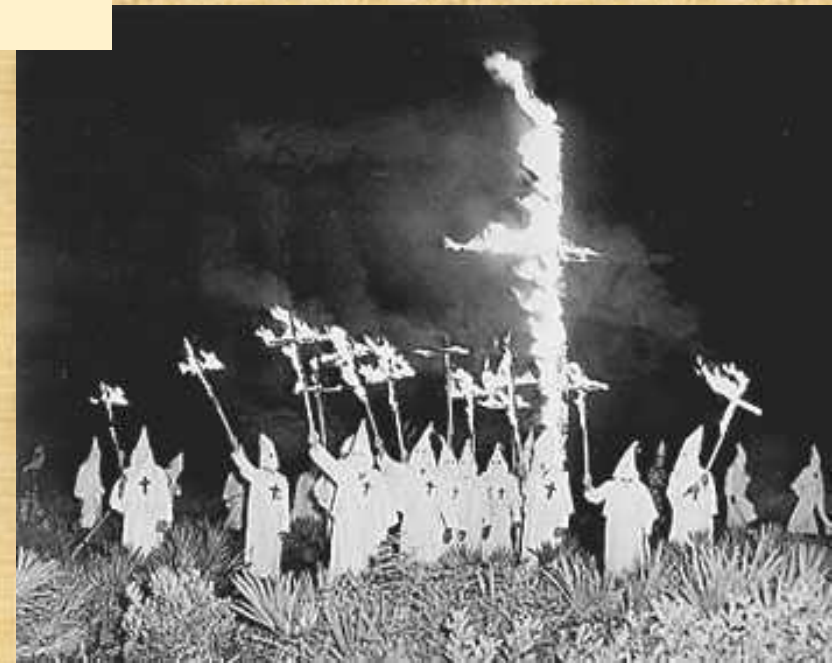
- Sacco-Vanzetti
- Eugenics/Race Science
- KKK

*I am suffering because I am a radical and indeed I am a radical; I have suffered because I am an Italian and indeed I am an Italian...if you could execute me two times, and if I could be reborn two other times, I would live again to do what I have done already.*

*--Bartolomeo Vanzetti*

*1. What three things does Vanzetti claim to be?*

## Clashing Values



# Controlling Immigration

- Emergency Quota Act
- National Origins Act
- Eastern and Southern Europeans
- Mexicans



1881-1890



1891-1900



1901-1910



1911-1920



1921-1930



1931-1940



# Changing Morality

- Women
  - Working
  - Flappers



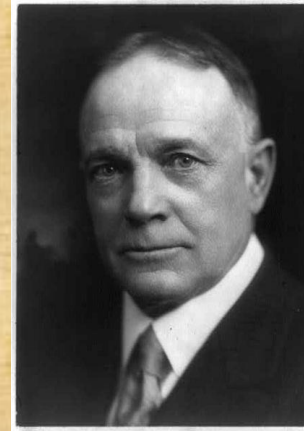
***She wore a knitted hat, with hardly any brim, of a flame or bonfire hue; a henna scarf; two strings of Betty beads, of different colors, twisted together; an open short coat, with ample pockets; a skirt with vertical stripes...Her stockings were woolen and of brilliant hue. But most noticeable of all were her high overshoes, or galoshes. One seemed to be turned down at the top and entirely unbuckled, while the other was fastened below and flapped about her trim ankle in a way that compelled attention.***

***---We, the American Woman.***

1. What type of person does this quote describe?

# • Fundamentalism

- Billy Sunday
- Scopes Monkey Trial
  - Creationism vs. evolution
  - Darrow vs. Bryan



***Scopes isn't on trial;  
civilization is on trial.***

***–Clarence Darrow  
If evolution wins,  
Christianity goes.***

***–William Jennings  
Bryan***

1. What possible compromise can be achieved



# Prohibition

- 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- Speakeasies
- Volstead Act
- Gangsters
- bootlegging



ORIGINAL  
LIQUOR PRESCRIPTION STUB  
E378812 \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE PRESCRIBED

FULL NAME OF PATIENT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER STREET

CITY STATE \_\_\_\_\_

AILMENT FOR WHICH PRESCRIBED \_\_\_\_\_

KIND AND QUANTITY OF LIQUOR PRESCRIBED \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ M.D.

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER STREET

CITY STATE PERMIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

97

ORIGINAL  
PRESCRIPTION FORM FOR MEDICINAL LIQUOR  
E378812

R \_\_\_\_\_  
KIND OF LIQUOR QUANTITY DIRECTIONS

FULL NAME OF PATIENT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE PRESCRIBED \_\_\_\_\_

PATIENTS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE

PRESCRIBERS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PRESCRIBERS PERMIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PRESCRIBERS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE

CANCELED \_\_\_\_\_  
DRUG STORE NAME AS ON PERMIT PERMIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DISPENSERS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE FILLED AND CANCELED \_\_\_\_\_ STRIP STAMP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

STORE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS  
DO NOT REFILL OR TRANSFER UNDER PENALTY

ISSUED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
NATIONAL PROHIBITION ACT

97





# Prohibition 1920

*The reign of tears is over. The slums will soon be a memory. We will turn our prisons into factories and our jails into storehouses and corncribs. Men will walk upright now, women will smile and the children will laugh. Hell will be forever for rent.*

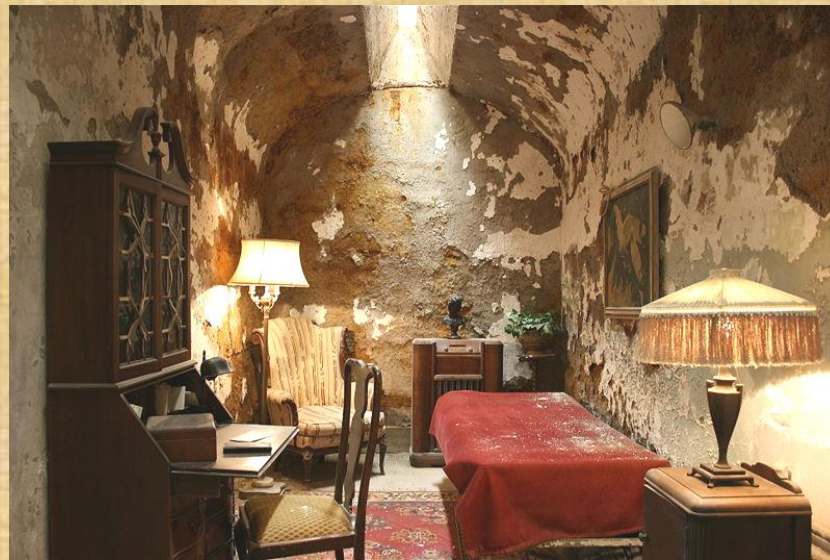
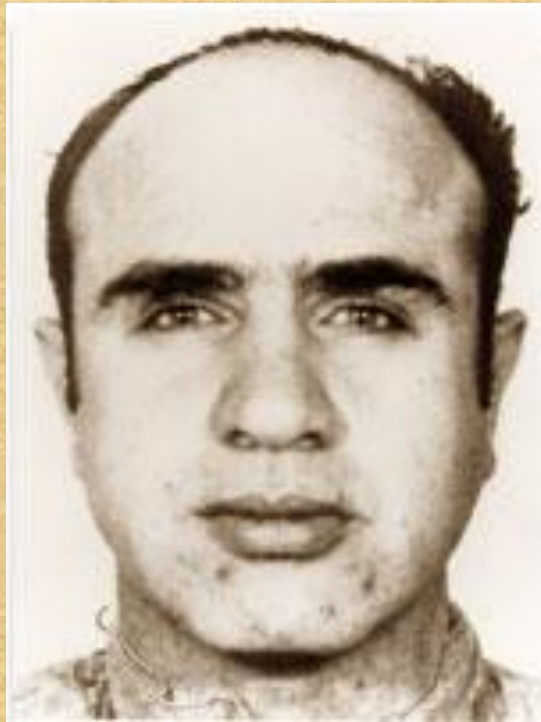
– Reverend Billy Sunday

1. How does prohibition and this quote relate?

- Women's vigils
- Noble Governmental experiment
- 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - Volstead Act




# Al Capone Chicago Gangster



- Life in Chicago
- Life in Prison

## Review-1920s Morality

1. Many people viewed the \_\_\_\_\_ case as an example of prejudice against people based on their ethnic origin and beliefs.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ act was to enforce prohibition.
3. A public relations campaign by some slick salesmen prompted many to join the \_\_\_\_\_ during the 1920s.
4. After a series of scandals in the late 1920s, the \_\_\_\_\_ began to decline in popularity.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ trail was a battle between fundamentalist religion and evolutionists.
6. The new morality of the 1920s glorified personal expression especially by \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ act was to limit immigration.



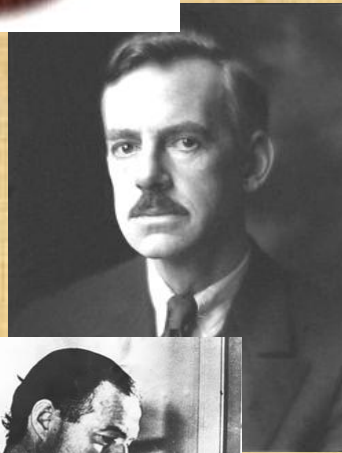
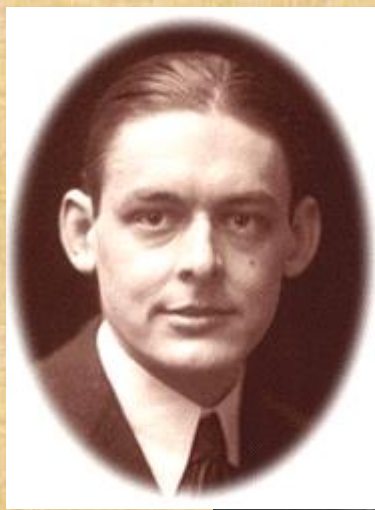
On May 20, 1927, a lanky, sandy-haired young man named Charles Lindbergh took off from an airfield on Long Island, New York, in a small, single-engine plane called the *Spirit of St. Louis* and headed east across the Atlantic Ocean. The next evening—more than 33 hours after Lindbergh left New York—thousands of people waited anxiously at the small Le Bourget airfield outside Paris, France. Attention was riveted on the sky, and the spectators strained their eyes as they watched Lindbergh’s small airplane softly slip out of the darkness. When the plane landed, the crowd ecstatically greeted the pilot, who had just completed a historic event—the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

In an era when people questioned ideals and heroes, Lindbergh’s historic flight symbolized American progress in the modern age, and his solo triumph restored Americans’ belief in the courageous, pioneering individual. American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald said of Lindbergh:

“A young Minnesotan who seemed to have nothing to do with his generation did a heroic thing, and for the moment people set down their glasses in country clubs and speakeasies and thought of their old dreams.”

# 1920s Culture

- Bohemian
  - 1<sup>st</sup> social rebels
- Modern Art
- Poets
  - Carl Sandburg
  - T.S. Eliot
- Writers-(ex-patriots)
  - Eugene O'Neill
  - Ernest Hemingway
    - Farewell to Arms
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald
    - Great Gatsby



*They were careless people, Tom and Daisy. They smashed up things and like creatures retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made.*

**---F. Scott Fitzgerald**

1. What does this quote reveal about the culture of many people in the 1920s?

# Pop Culture

- Spectator Sports

- Baseball

- Babe Ruth

- Boxing

- Jack Dempsey

- Football

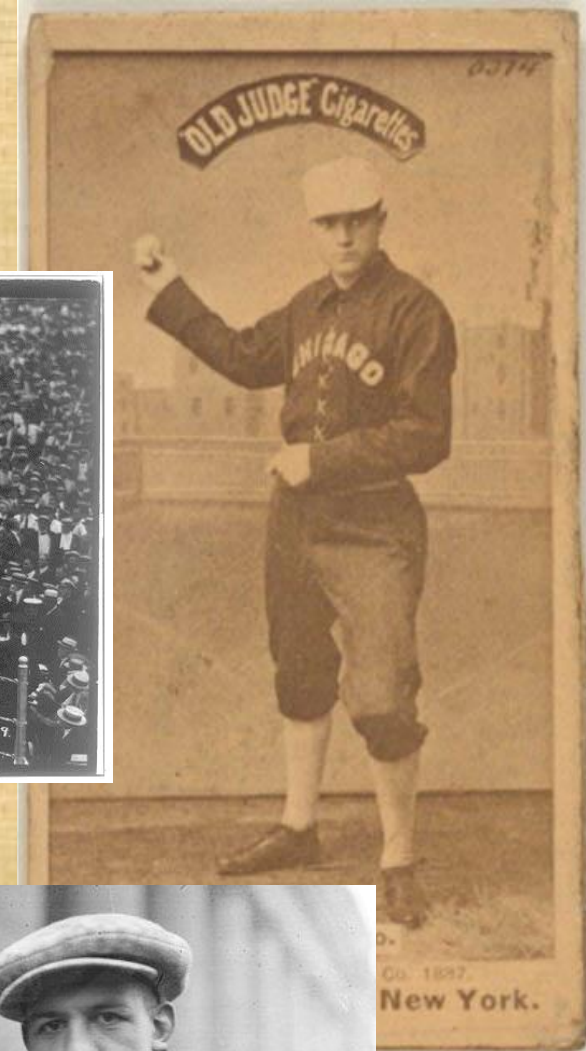
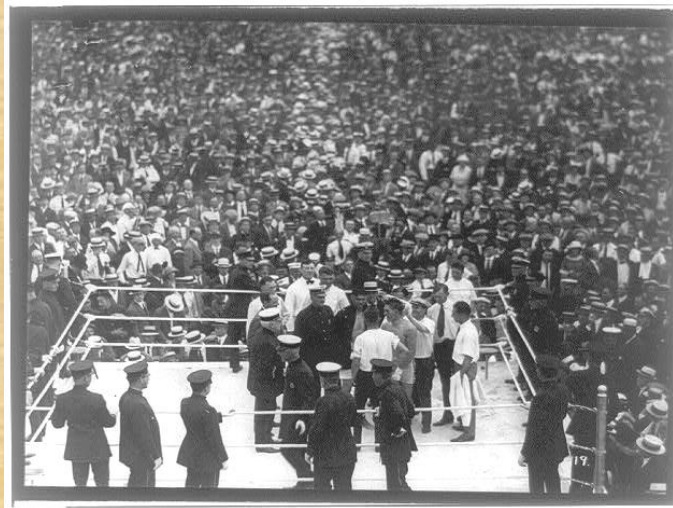
- Red Grange (galloping ghost)

- Tennis

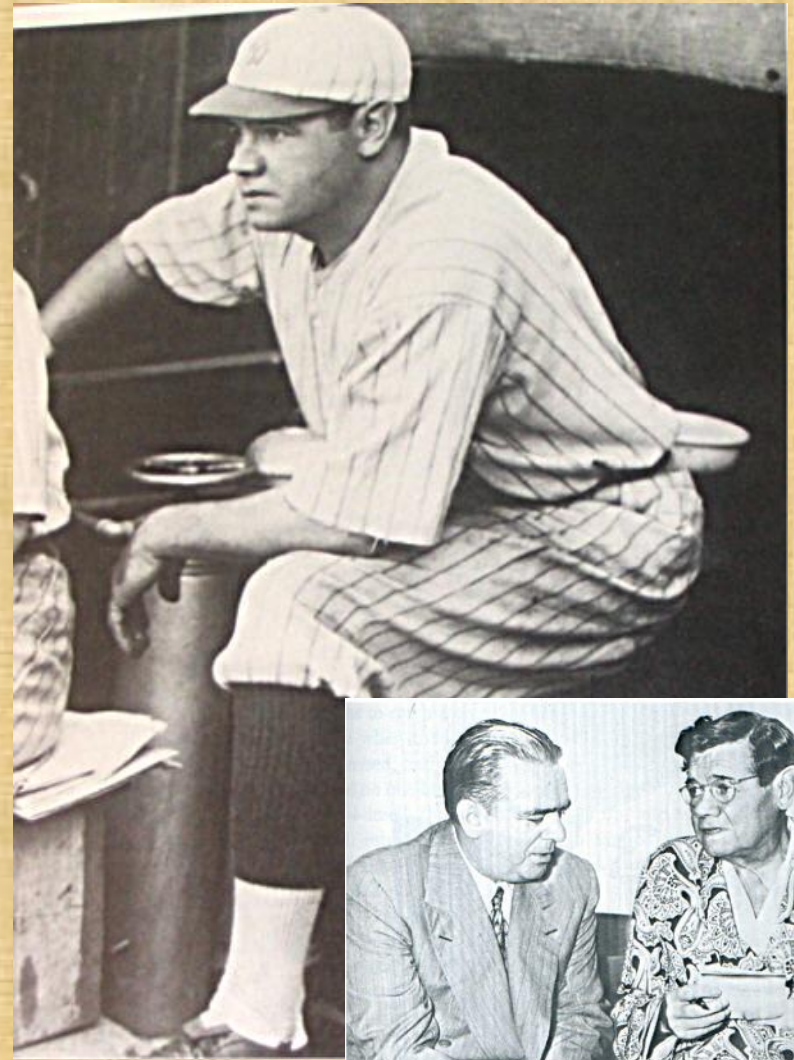
- Bill Tilden

- Swimming

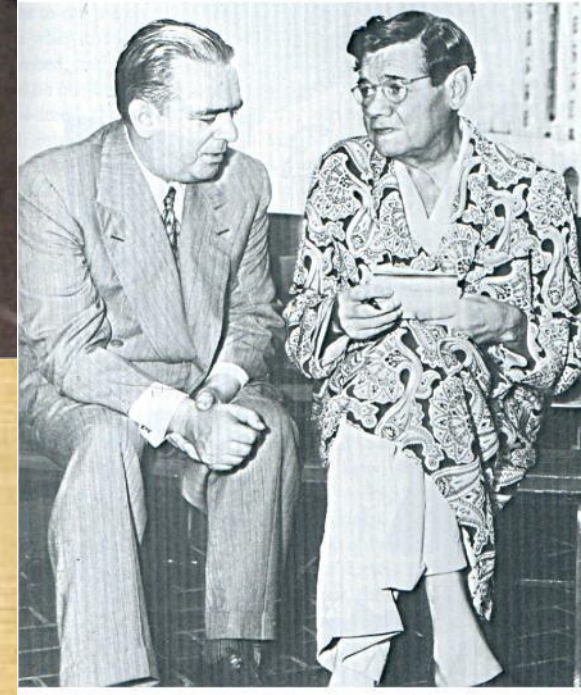
- Gertrude Ederle (English Channel)



# George Herman Ruth 1895-1948



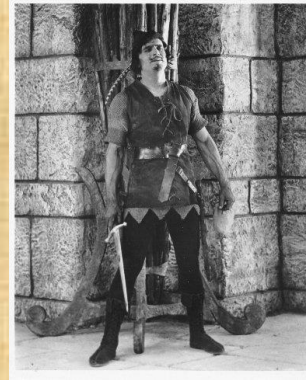
Dies of  
Cancer  
1948



# Hollywood and Entertainment

- Movies

- Charlie Chaplin
- Mary Pickford
- Douglas Fairbanks
- Rudolph Valentino
- The Jazz Singer (1927)





# Radio

- KDKA
- Amos 'n Andy
- Lone Ranger
- [Green Hornet](http://www.whertheyesterdaylive.com/otr_shows/green_hornet.htm)
  - [http://www.whertheyesterdaylive.com/otr\\_shows/green\\_hornet.htm](http://www.whertheyesterdaylive.com/otr_shows/green_hornet.htm)



## Review-1920s Culture

1. Hemmingway's \_\_\_\_\_ portrayed war's meaningless violence.
2. In 1920 in one of the first commercial radio broadcasts in history, listeners of station KDKA in Pittsburgh heard the 1920 presidential election results of \_\_\_\_\_.

On August 8, 1922, a young cornet player named Louis Armstrong took the train from New Orleans to Chicago. His hero, the bandleader Joe "King" Oliver, had sent a telegram to Armstrong offering him a job. Here, Armstrong recalls his trip:

“When I got to the station in Chicago, I couldn't see Joe Oliver anywhere . . . I'd never seen a city that big. All those tall buildings, I thought they were universities. I said, no, this is the wrong city. I was just fixing to take the next train back home . . . when a red cap [train porter] Joe had left word with came up to me. He took me to the Lincoln Gardens and when I got to the door there and heard Joe and his band wailing so good, I said to myself, 'No, I ain't supposed to be in this band. They're too good.'”

The next night, near the end of the show, Oliver let Armstrong perform a solo. Armstrong later recalled his feelings: "I had hit the big time. I was up North with the greats. I was playing with my idol, the King, Joe Oliver. My boyhood dream had come true at last."

# African American Culture

## • Harlem Renaissance

### • Writers

- Claude McKay
- Langston Hughes
- Zora Neale Hurston

### • Music

- Jazz
  - Duke Ellington
  - Louis Armstrong
- Cotton Club
- Blues
  - Bessie Smith

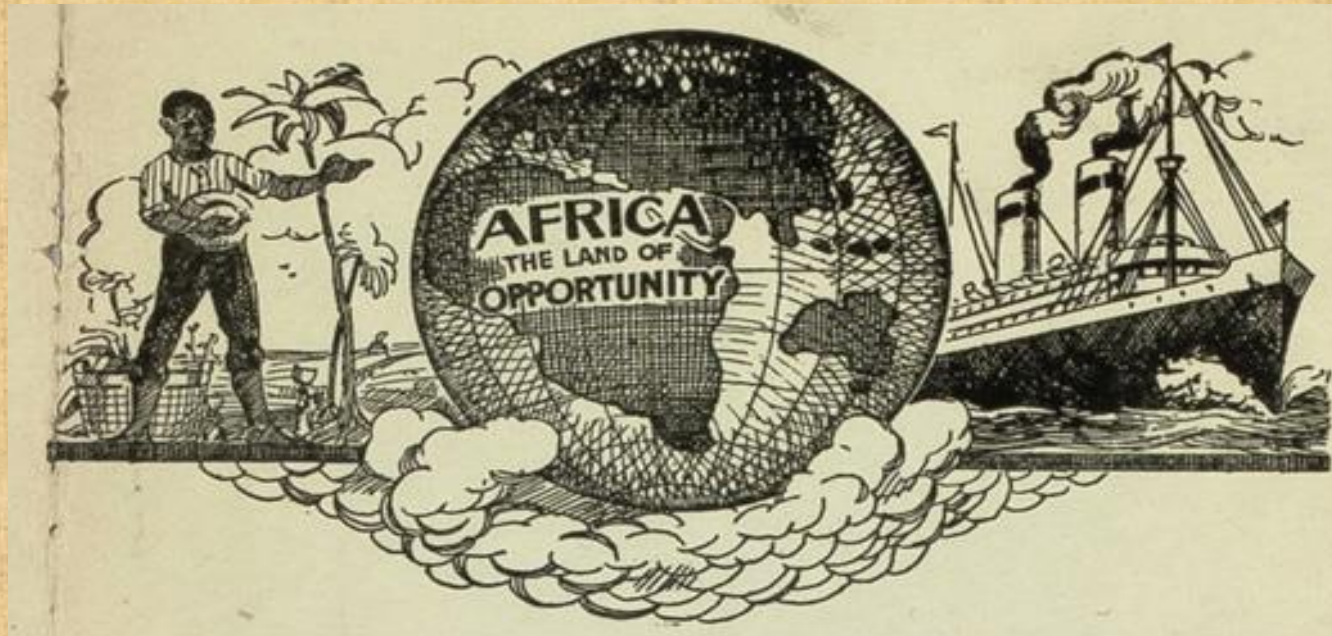
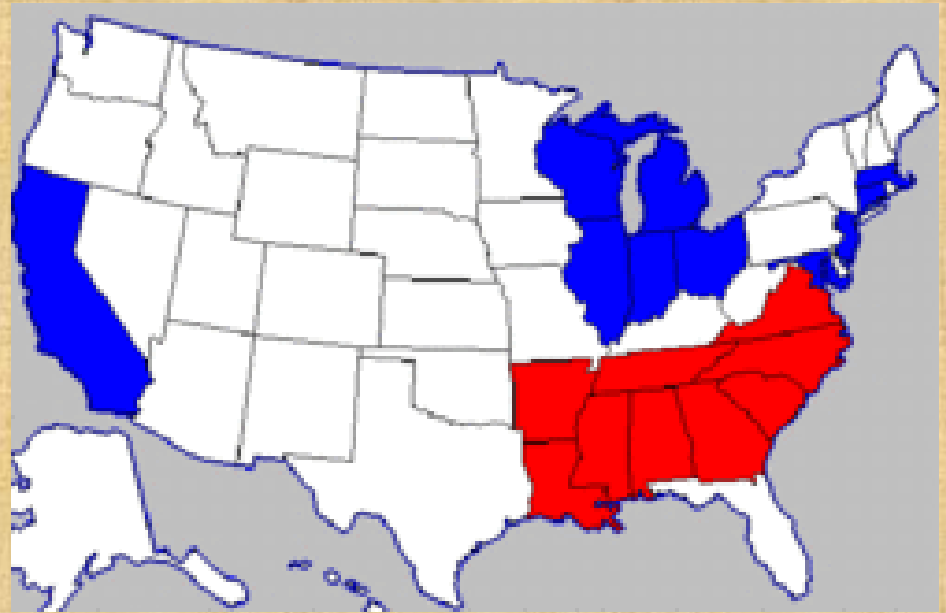
### • Theater

- Paul Robeson



# African American Politics

- Great Migration
- NAACP
- Lynching
- Marcus Garvey
  - Universal Negro Improvement Association



Analyze the Great Migration  
Identify which are push or pull factors  
influencing African Americans migration  
during the 1900s.

1. Segregation:
2. Low wages:
3. High wages:
4. Barriers to voting:
5. A variety of jobs:
6. The chance to go to school:
7. Poverty:

# Review-Roaring Twenties

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the first "talking" picture (movie).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was a composer, pianist, and bandleader whose sound was a blend of improvisation and orchestration with Jazz.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was a writer who became a leading voice of the African American experience in the United States.
4. The golden age of Hollywood began in 1927 with the release of a movie with \_\_\_\_\_ called the Jazz Singer.