

**THE ROARING 20'S & THE
30'S AND THE GREAT
DEPRESSION**

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WORLD WAR I- A VERY BRIEF OVERVIEW

How did the 1st World War start?

- World War I started with the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria → triggered a chain of events
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was the nephew of Emperor Franz Josef and heir to the throne of Austria and Hungary.
- The assassination was planned by a Serbian terrorist group, called **The Black Hand** and the man who shot Franz Ferdinand and his wife was a Bosnian revolutionary named **Gavrilo Princip**.

U.S. Involvement

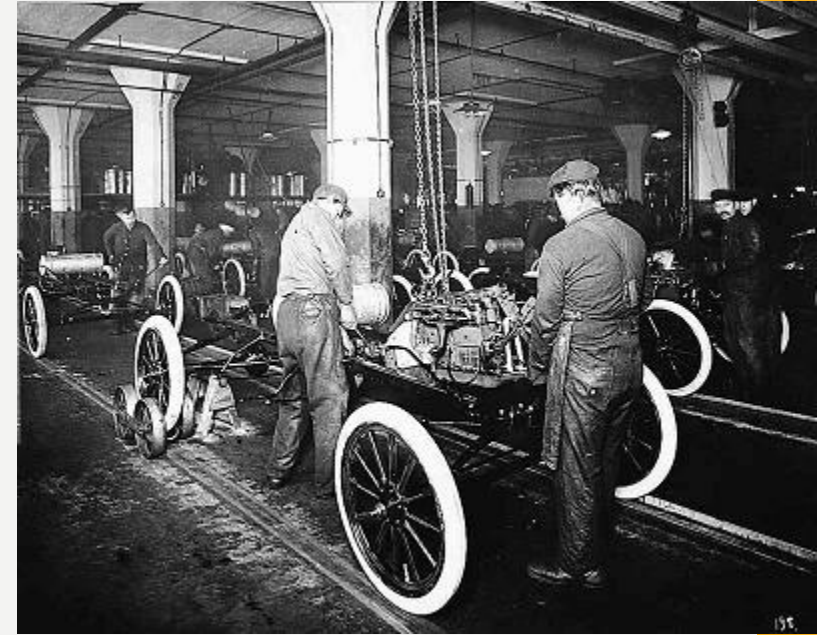
- The United States did not join the war until 1917.
- The impact of the United States joining the war was significant. The additional firepower, resources, and soldiers of the U.S. helped to tip the balance of the war in favor of the Allies.
- **Germany formally surrendered on November 11, 1918, and all nations had agreed to stop fighting while the terms of peace were negotiated. On June 28, 1919, Germany and the Allied Nations (including Britain, France, Italy and Russia) signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ending the war.**

THE ROARING 20'S

- The Roaring Twenties is a nickname for the 1920s in the United States.
- It was a time of hope, prosperity, and cultural change. With the economy and the stock market booming, people were spending money on entertainment and consumer goods.
- There was lots of optimism due to the end of World War I in 1918. → The United States had been on the winning side of the war and had emerged from the war as a major world power.
- Confidence in the U.S. government and the ability of the armed forces to protect freedom was at an all time high.

INDUSTRY

- American Industry grew rapidly during the 1920s.
- There was mass production of consumer products like automobiles, phonographs, and radios lowered prices and made these products available to the average middle-class family.
- For the first time, working-class families could buy a car on credit. Everyone wanted to own a car and a radio. The economy was booming and it looked like there was no end.
- Ford was the big car maker.. Ford cars, such as the Ford Model T, were popular because they were cheap and reliable.



JAZZ MUSIC

- The 1920's were known as the Jazz age.
- Jazz is an original style of American Music. It is a unique blend of many styles of music including gospel music, brass bands, African music, blues, and Spanish music. Jazz incorporates musical notes that are "bent" to create emotion in the music.
- Jazz music was first created in New Orleans, Chicago, New York City, and Kansas City
- The evolution of jazz music and culture into a societal revolution elevated aspects of African American popular culture for the first time in the history of the United States. The culture of a minority became the desire of the majority.
- African-American jazz was played more frequently on urban radio stations than on their suburban counterparts. Young people of the 1920s were influenced by jazz to rebel against the traditional culture of previous generations
- Famous Jazz musicians include: King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Earl Hines, etc..

JAZZ MUSICIANS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3KxPsfZkS0>

PROHIBITION



- Prohibition was a period of time when it was illegal to sell or make alcoholic beverages like beer, wine, and liquor.
- During the early 1900s there was a movement, called the "temperance" movement, that tried to stop people from drinking alcohol. People who joined this movement believed alcohol was a leading cause in the destruction of families and moral corruption.
- In 1917, after the United States entered World War I, President Woodrow Wilson instituted a temporary wartime prohibition in order to save grain for producing food.
- **Bootleggers: people that made alcohol and smuggled it into cities or to bars. Some bootleggers sold homemade whiskey called "moonshine" or "bathtub gin."**

SPEAKEASIES

- Speakeasies were secret establishments that sold illegal alcoholic beverages. They usually bought the alcohol from bootleggers. There were lots of speakeasies in most towns throughout the United States.
- The Prohibition era encouraged the rise of criminal activity associated with bootlegging.
- Chicago gangster Al Capone, earned \$60 million annually from bootleg operations and speakeasies.



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

- The women's suffrage movement was the struggle for the right of women to vote and run for office and is part of the overall women's rights movement. (The movement lasted about 70 years)
- Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the **19th amendment** granted women the right to vote.
- The first national suffrage organizations were established in 1869 when two competing organizations were formed, one led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the other by Lucy Stone.



THE 19TH AMENDMENT

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

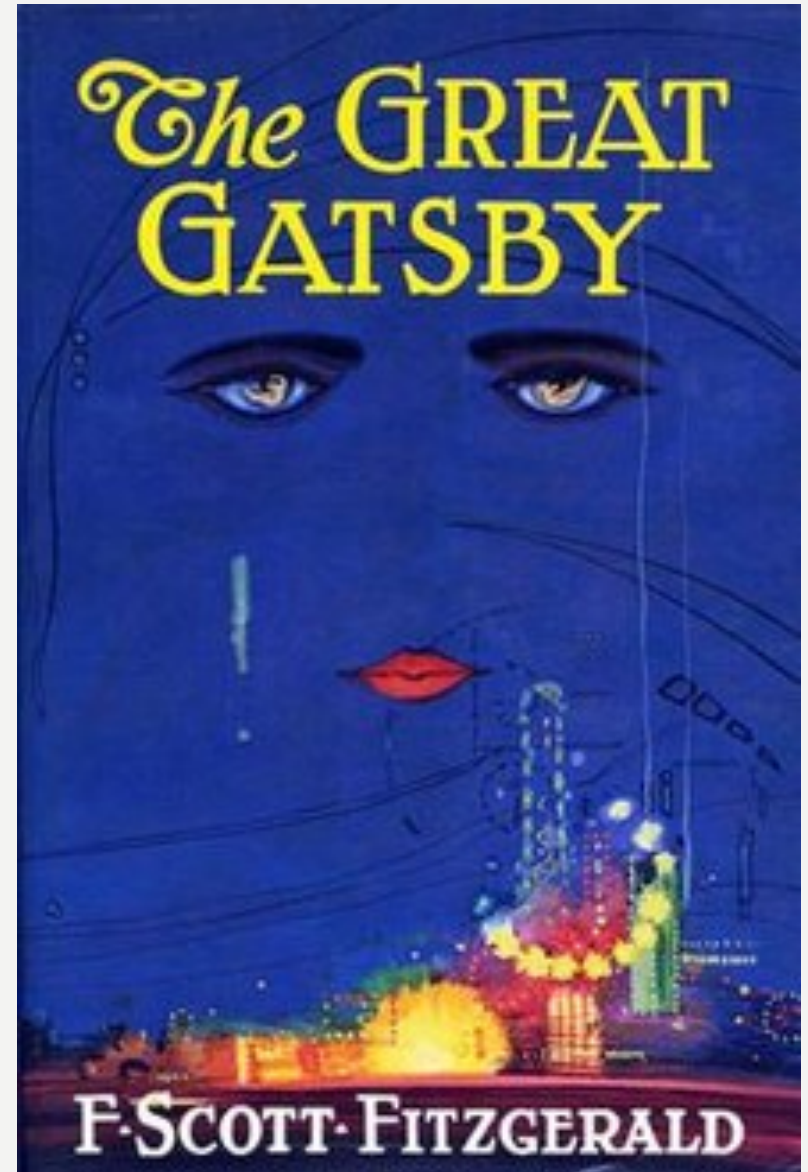
FLAPPERS

- Flappers of the 1920s were young women known for their energetic freedom, embracing a lifestyle viewed by many at the time as outrageous or immoral.
- Flappers pushed barriers in economic, political and sexual freedom for women.
- They wore short skirts, bobbed their hair, and listened to jazz



THE GREAT GATSBY

- The Great Gatsby is a famous novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1925
- The book is about Jay Gatsby, (protagonist) the mysterious and wealthy neighbor of the narrator, Nick Carraway.
- We know little about Gatsby at first, we know from Nick's introduction—and from the book's title—that Gatsby's story will be the focus of the novel.
- As the novel progresses and Nick becomes increasingly drawn into Gatsby's complicated world, we learn what Gatsby wants: Daisy, Nick's cousin, the girl he once loved.
- The book was later turned into a film in 2013, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.



MAJOR THEMES IN THE GREAT GATSBY

- **The Decline of the American Dream in the 1920s** → The reckless jubilation that led to decadent parties and wild jazz music—epitomized in *The Great Gatsby* by the opulent parties that Gatsby throws every Saturday night—resulted ultimately in the corruption of the American dream
- **Dissatisfaction** → None of the characters in *The Great Gatsby* are happy: they're dissatisfied with marriage, with love, with life, and most of all with themselves. (Gatsby goes above and beyond to get Daisy back, but in the end she chooses Tom) → leads into the theme of **Materialism and money** (always wanting more)
- **Society and Class** → the novel draws clear distinctions between the kind of money you have: old money (inherited) or new money (earned). Fitzgerald portrays the newly rich as being vulgar, gaudy, ostentatious, and lacking in social graces and taste; the old aristocracy possesses grace, taste, subtlety, and elegance.

IMPORTANT QUOTE

“He had one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced, or seemed to face, the whole external world for an instant and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. It understood you just as far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself.”

Meaning: This description of Gatsby’s smile captures both the theatrical quality of Gatsby’s character and his charisma. It encapsulates the manner in which Gatsby appears to the outside world, an image Fitzgerald slowly deconstructs as the novel progresses toward Gatsby’s death.

THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF 1929

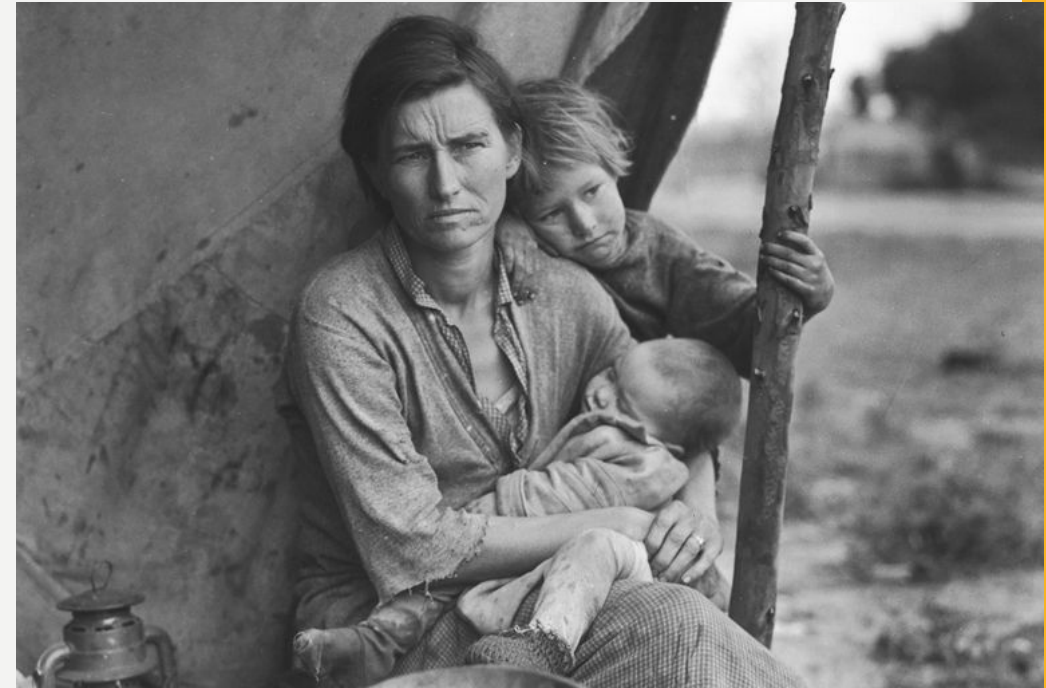
- The stock market crash of 1929 was one of the worst stock market crashes in the history of the United States. The value of stocks fell dramatically over the course of several days at the end of October.
- Many people lost all of their savings and ended up losing their homes. Businesses had to layoff employees or go bankrupt.
- The worst days were October 28th and 29th when values fell a total of 23%. These days became known as "Black Monday" and "Black Tuesday."

THE STOCK MARKET CRASH CONT...

- Banks went bankrupt because of “bank runs” → people going to the banks to get their money, but the bank had none to give them → banks went under
- People were buying stocks using credit - Many people were borrowing money to buy stocks (called "margin"). When the market began to fall, they had to sell quickly in order to pay their debts.
- This signaled the beginning of the Great Depression.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

- **The Great Depression** was a time of great economic crisis during the 1930s. It began in the United States, but quickly spread throughout much of the world.
- During this time, many people were out of work, hungry, and homeless.
- In the city, people would stand in long lines at soup kitchens to get a bite to eat.
- In the country, farmers struggled in the Midwest where a great drought turned the soil into dust causing huge dust storms. (This was known as the “Dust Bowl.”)



SOME CAUSES OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

- Property and land prices collapsing after a property boom, causing investors to lose money.
- Too many people speculating on the stock market to try and make money quickly.
- Unbalanced distribution of wealth: wealthy Americans owned more than a third of all the American assets. When the economy started to struggle, these people started to hoard the money that caused industries to struggle even more.
- An overabundance of small banks that didn't have enough funds to pay out all the people's savings at once after the stock market crash. In the 1920s, bank deposits were not insured and when a bank would fail, all the people who banked there, lost their savings.
- America recalling debt from European countries caused the economies of countries that were already struggling financially after the war to collapse.

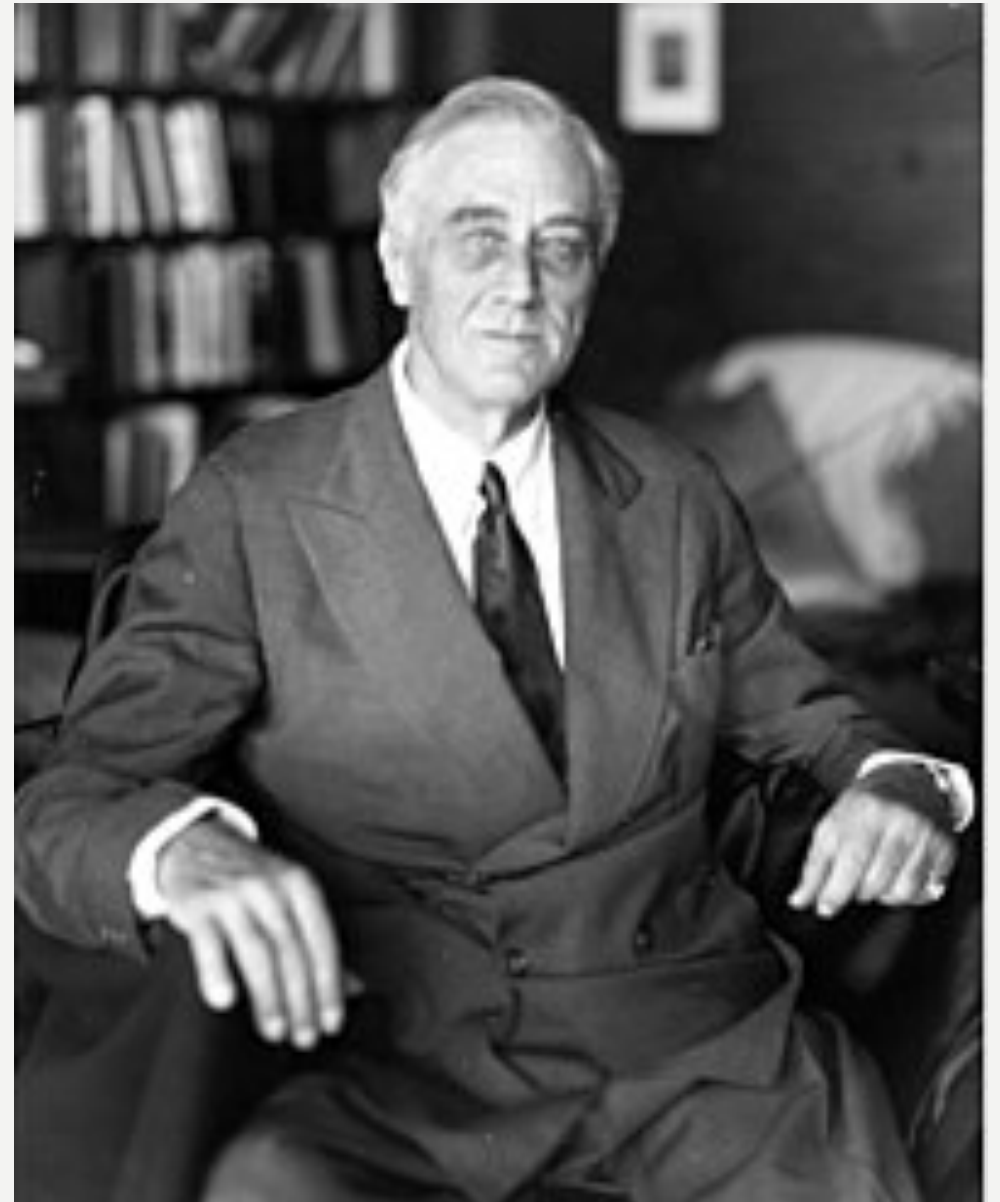


Alabama Family 1935 or 1936



THE NEW DEAL

- The New Deal was a series of laws, programs, and government agencies enacted to help the country deal with the Great Depression. These laws placed regulations on the stock market, banks, and businesses. They helped put people to work and tried to help house and feed the poor. Many of these laws are still in place today like the Social Security Act.
- The New Deal was enacted Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was elected president during that time.
- It helped stabilize the banks and clean up the financial mess left over from the Stock Market crash of 1929.



WORLD WAR II – THE US HOMEFRONT

- The United States did not enter the war until after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.
- The Great Depression ended with the start of World War II. The wartime economy put many people back to work and filled factories to capacity.
- Many products were in short supply. Metal had to be used to make tanks and battle ships.
- To fill the gap and help build supplies for the war, many women went to work. They took on tough physical labor jobs that previously had been done mostly by men.
- The US government knew that Americans must stay united in the war effort in order to win the war. They created all sorts of posters that showed patriotism



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