

AP United States History: 1920s Continuity and Change SPARK Note

By Lynde Mogensen

Topic	Continuity	Change
Innovation & Consumerism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1930, two thirds of all American households had electricity; half had telephones. New appliances followed this: refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, toasters. Due to the automated moving assembly line, cars became more affordable for the average American. More highways were built, more travel happened, and more rural housing occurred. About 60% of furniture and 75% of all radios were purchased on an installment plan; about 60% of Americans had purchased cars on credit, paying interest rates of 30% or more. <u>In contrast to the Victorian society that prioritized thrifting and saving, the new consumer society emphasized spending and shopping.</u> Charles Lindbergh demonstrated that the airplane is a safe, reliable form of transportation by using it to fly from New York to Paris Movies climbed in popularity, affecting American pop culture. Radio as well.
Harlem Renaissance & the New Negro Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to housing became a major source of friction between Blacks and Whites. Blacks were confined to all-Black neighborhoods (Harlem, upper-Manhattan, was the most notable). This is an example of the continuance of segregation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1910, 75% of Black Americans lived on farms; 90% were in the South. During the Great Migration, however, 500,000 moved to Northern Cities, hoping to escape sharecropping. Redlining is beginning to take shape. African American history and literature evolved rapidly during this time period. This evolution of Black art is called the Harlem Renaissance. This cultural awakening was called the New Negro movement. Coinage of the phrase “Black is Beautiful”, Black Nationalism, Separate but Equal.
Modern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married women were to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flappers represented a departure from

<p>Women</p>	<p>remain in the domestic sphere. New household technologies and child-bearing philosophies further tied them to the home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women did not win significant new opportunities in the workplace. 	<p>traditional values, departing from the rigid Victorian values of desexualized modesty and self-restraint. They were unfazed by social traditions or restrictions, wearing short dresses and elaborate makeup, having short hair, and smoking cigarettes. They ushered in a new morality that permitted women greater independence, freedom of movement, and access to the same urban life that men would enjoy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Although there was a great change in policy surrounding women soon after their enfranchisement in voting (that shall not be discounted), this early momentum quickly faded. ● The 19th amendment allowed for the enfranchisement of women, which made the female vote imperative to male politicians. ● Birth control began to gain legality.
<p>Prohibition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 65% of the country had already banned alcohol before the 18th amendment; temperance as a movement had existed for many decades. ● The decline in alcohol consumption was short-lived; levels returned to their normal amounts in at least seven years after the 18th amendment. Medicinal liquor helped with this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alcohol consumption declined dramatically, by 30–50%. The death rate from alcoholism was also cut by 80%; alcohol-related crimes, too, dropped markedly. ● Organized crime and violence flourished due to prohibition, for it had created a large consumer market unmet by legitimate means. Homicides increased (gang wars, increase in drunkenness).
<p>Revamped KKK & Race Riots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “The Birth of a Nation” (film) was incredibly racist, portraying the KKK as heroes and Blacks as villains in popular culture. ● Fears of immigration, radicalism, etc. fanned anxiety in large parts of the country. All minorities were targeted. ● The KKK branded itself as a group that would fight to protect morality and traditional values. Many 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An estimated 75 House members took their seats due to the support of the KKK, often called the “Invisible Empire” ● There was a postwar depression in the agriculture industry, leaving many Americans without jobs and bringing more Blacks into major cities.

	<p>members would participate in lynchings. The group's members also included doctors, lawyers, and ministers.</p>	
Modernism vs. Fundamentalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing an existing anti-science sentiment, the Butler Act made it illegal for Tennessee schools to teach religion, existing for 40 years. (Scopes trial). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernists took a historical and critical view of certain passages in the Bible, believing that they could accept science without abandoning religion. The Fundamentalist movement arose as a backlash against modernism, secularism, and scientific teachings that contradicted their religious beliefs. They insisted on a literal reading of the Bible, and attacked other religions (Catholics).
Nativism & Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers feared foreign radicals; others feared that immigrants would result in lower wages for Americans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Quota Act of 1921: maximum immigrants in total was 350k, no more than 3% of people from that country living in the US, no quota for those in the Western Hemisphere. National Origins Quota Act of 1924: maximum immigrants was 150,000, 2% of each nationality, no Asians, required visas, created border patrol. WW1 revealed that the nation could function just fine without immigration; as follows, some immigration restriction opposition lessened. In 1919 and 1920, President Wilson's attorney general led raids on leftist organizations such as the Communist Party and the radical labor unions. He created the precursor to the FBI, collecting information on thousand of supposed communists. This led to arrests and deportations.

Source: Barrett, Kristin. "1920s Culture Wars (AP 2022)." Padlet, 7 Feb. 2023, d125.padlet.org/kbarrett75/1920s-culture-wars-ap-2022-cxr2tcy4e493x4t4.