

II. Timeline

II. 1. Women

II. 2. WWI

II. 3. Prohibition Laws

II. 4. Al Capone

II. 5. Other crime figures

II. 6. Repeal of Prohibition

1874	Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) Founded
1893	Anti-Saloon League Founded
1914	Beginning of World War 1
1919, January 29 th	18 th Amendment ratified
1919, October	Volstead Act passed
1920, January 29 th	18 th Amendment goes into effect
1921	Al Capone moves to Chicago
1929, February 14 th	St Valentine's Day massacre
1931	Al Capone convicted of tax evasion
1933, December 5 th	21 st Amendment ratified
1948	Kansas repeals state prohibition
1959	Oklahoma repeals state prohibition
1966	Mississippi repeals state prohibition

II. 1. Women

Two organizations greatly helped the cause of Prohibition and its rules in the United States - the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and the Anti-Saloon League. Both of these organizations played an important role in the 18th Amendment.

The President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was Frances Willard. Willard was born in Churchville, New York. She was determined to win in the crusade for permanently

prohibiting the consumption of alcohol. She made money from speaking engagements. The Women's Christian Temperance Union fought not only for the cause of prohibition, but also helped represent other reform causes during that era. During the 1870's the WCTU publicized the usage of public education for the cause of temperance and prohibition. They later got their propaganda into textbooks, and achieved their goal, but they wanted to accomplish more. By 1902, all the states and territories except Arizona had laws that required temperance in the schools.

Another key figure in the WCTU was Carry A. Nation (sometimes spelled Carrie A. Nation). Carry smashed illegal saloons in Kansas with a hatchet so they would close. She strongly opposed alcohol and also disliked tobacco and fashionably dressed women. She roused citizens and got lawmakers' attention. Although she died in 1911, ten years before her dream became a reality, she still incubated the egg which hatched National Prohibition.

The Anti-Saloon League was a powerful, national organization. Many Americans greatly supported the League, including John D. Rockefeller and Mark Hanna. These people were very powerful Americans who wanted to use their power by supporting causes that affected the outcome of the nation. The Anti-Saloon League wanted more resources for the Prohibition fight, so they worked closely with many of the churches in order to complete this task. Allied with other forces for temperance, especially the WCTU, the Anti-Saloon League ensured votes of two-thirds majority from the Congress necessary to initiate what became the Eighteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

II. 2. WWI

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson called the Sixty-fifth Congress into a special session in order to declare war on Germany. But America's entry into the war provided a new weapon for the Prohibitionists. Patriotism weakened the anti-prohibitionist campaign carried out by the saloon, liquor, and brewery vested interests.

The war drastically altered the picture and advanced the dry cause. After Britain and France went to war with Germany in 1914, some people, accurately gauging the anti-German feelings of their fellow Americans. They were aware that the increasingly anti-German mood which was amounting to hysteria would be a benefit to the dry cause. Not only were brewers and bootleggers active during World War I, but even the soldiers fancied a drink from their flasks every so often. Even the greatest and most respected of men, including Generals, Lieutenants, and others were involved in heavy drinking.

At the end of war, many Americans still disliked the idea of Prohibition. However, the great patriotism in the United States during World War I was a great help to the Temperance activists' cause for Prohibition.

II. 3. Prohibition Laws

Although National Prohibition took effect in 1920, there were a series of laws in the states that attempted to restrict alcohol consumption. These are some of the laws before Prohibition and also the 18th amendment and Volstead Act.

In 1697, the first American alcohol law was put into effect in New York. The law said that all saloons must close on Sundays because Sunday is a day for worship not drinking.

In 1735, the first statewide prohibition began in the state of Georgia. This was a complete failure and was quickly abandoned seven years later, in 1742.

In 1851, Maine was the 2nd state in the history of America to attempt a statewide prohibition, and it turned out to be a major success. By 1855, 12 other states had joined Maine in becoming dry. These were the first successful alcohol Prohibition laws passed in the United States.

In 1880, after the Civil War, women joined the dries and soon the temperance movement was back in full force. The WCTU was formed and the Prohibition Party became more powerful. All sorts of Prohibitions, including alcohol, tobacco, and closing all theaters were proposed, but the only one that ever caught on was the alcohol Prohibition.

By 1900, more than half of the States had become dry. The prohibitionists thought that there was no possible way for any person to get liquor in a dry state. Unfortunately for the dries, there was a loophole, the postal service. Because the postal service was run by the federal government instead of the state government, liquor could be mail ordered from a wet state. This infuriated the dries and in 1913, the Interstate Liquor Act was passed. This act made it illegal to send liquor to a dry state. This was actually a loss for the dries, because this effectively got rid of all possible legal methods of getting alcohol. The government got taxes and the liquor industry was soon hand in hand with crime.

In 1917, the 18th amendment was proposed to ban the sale and manufacture of liquor. Many states did not agree with this view, so it remained in debate for 2 years. By 1920, 33 states had voted themselves dry, and the movement for national prohibition was passed. The prohibition party had finally won its' biggest victory yet.

January 29, 1919. The 18th Amendment was ratified and all hard liquor with over 40% alcohol content (drinks over 80 proof) were banned. Officially, it banned the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors...for beverage purposes." Many people supported this act, thinking that it was only banning hard liquors, and thinking that a glass of wine with dinner or a beer after work would be fine. The Amendment took effect one year later on January 29, 1920.

However, in October of 1919, the Volstead Act was passed. The Volstead Act banned all alcohol that had more than 1/2% alcohol content. This effectively banned all forms of alcoholic beverages, with the exception of some non-alcoholic beers. After the 18th amendment was ratified, the Volstead Act was brought into the light by the Prohibition supporters. Many of the original supporters of the 18th amendment who just wanted a little wine now and then were left empty handed. Many of these supporters felt betrayed, as

anyone would be.

Another group that felt betrayed was the World War I Veterans, returning home from the war. Many of these had been stationed in France and had seen first hand that alcohol in modest quantities could be mixed with everyday life. Coming home from the war and finding out that the evangelists, reformers, dries had won a total victory added to bitterness of the veterans.

All in all, the dries came out of the woodwork and won the battle for prohibition. The fatal mistake was to ban all types of alcohol, which lost the Prohibition Party most of its' followers.

II. 4. Al Capone

Al Capone is the first name that comes to mind when someone thinks of the Prohibition era or gangsters. Alphonse Capone was raised as a good boy by his Italian family. He started out working for a munitions factory and then as a paper cutter. After this, he was hired as a bartender at Frankie Uale's new nightclub, the Harvard Inn.

Capone became very popular with the customers and with his new boss, but then his luck turned when he waited on a young couple. The girl was young and pretty and Capone was spellbound. The first words out of his mouth were, "Honey, you have a nice a** and I mean that as a compliment." The boyfriend then proceeded to punch Capone and soon a fight erupted. During this fight, Capone was slashed with a knife across the face. This is where he earned the name Scarface.

At the age of 22, Capone moved to Chicago with Johnny Torrio and took over a nightclub, gambling den, and brothel called the Four Deuces. He soon moved up the underworld ladder and became a major player in the speakeasy business, owning almost half of Chicago's speakeasies.

Luck was with him, until the attempted assassination of another powerful crime figure, Bugs Moran. This event is more commonly known as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, where 4 bootleggers were caught and killed by Capone's fake policemen. Unfortunately, Moran was not among those bootleggers. No one was ever brought to justice for these crimes.

Capone was eventually arrested and convicted of income tax evasion. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison, \$50,000 in fines and another \$30,000 in court fees. He died at the age of 48, just after being released from Alcatraz early on good behavior.

II. 5. Other crime figures

Al Capone was not without competition in the underworld of the United States. Many of them, albeit not as well known, were just as rich.

Frankie Uale: A partner in the notorious 5 Points Gang of New York, he apprenticed Capone. He eventually became Capone's ally and was later killed by Capone on the pretext of stealing Capone's shipments of booze.

George Remus: Born in Germany in 1876, George Remus would become one of Prohibition's best known crime figures, along with the likes of Al Capone. When he was five, his family moved to Chicago and within 20 years, he was one of the cities most successful lawyers. But practicing law did not suit George, and as soon as prohibition came into effect, he was one of the main suppliers of alcohol in Chicago and Cincinnati. He did this by buying an abandoned distillery and finding loopholes in the Volstead Act that allowed him to sell his liquor to himself for "medicinal purposes", where most of the "medicine" wound up on Chicago's raging liquor black market. George would ambush his own trucks on the trip from the distillery to their destination, sending them to Death Valley Farm, the place where he stored all the illicit liquor he made. The liquor would then be sold on the black market. After three years, he had accumulated \$40,000,000 and had bribed hundreds of government officials, including a \$500,000 bribe to the district attorney.

Remus was convicted on bootlegging charges and was sentenced to \$10,000 and 2 years in the Atlanta State Penitentiary. While in jail, his wife, whom he had given the power of attorney, stripped him of almost \$2,000,000 and started dating the special agent who brought his downfall, Franklin R. Dodge.

As soon as Remus was released, he headed for his wife, and found her in Cincinnati. On October 6th, 1927, he shot and killed his wife in Eden Park, Cincinnati. He then promptly turned himself in and pleaded insanity in the following lawsuit so he could not receive the death penalty. He was given a 6 month sentence to Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane and lived the rest of his life in leisure.

Johnny Torrio: Capone's original partner, he employed Capone when Capone first moved to Chicago. He soon got out of the underworld after the death of his mentor, "Big Jim" Colosimo.

"Big Jim" Colosimo: Owner of the most popular nightclub in Chicago, the Colosimo Club, he was brutally gunned down by Frankie Uale in his own nightclub.

II. 6. Repeal of Prohibition

By 1931, most people had realized that National Prohibition had been a mistake and were ready to repeal it. Almost all, except for President Hoover, who actually increased government spending on Prohibition law enforcement. Soon, the entire nation was clamoring for repeal, and not even the president could do anything to stop it.

The 1932 presidential election came and a new president was elected, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (more commonly known as FDR). Within a month of his election, the alcohol content allowed in beer was raised to 3.2 percent. Soon an amendment to the constitution was proposed. It was on December 5, 1933 that Utah was the 36th state to ratify the 21st

amendment and end National Prohibition. This made the 18th amendment the only constitutional amendment to be repealed.

After that, it was the states' job to decide if a state prohibition was necessary. Most states got rid of state prohibitions, but Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma kept their prohibition laws in place the longest. Kansas ended statewide prohibition in 1948, whereas Oklahoma ended theirs in 1959. The longest state prohibition was Missouri, who ended state prohibition in 1966, almost 35 years after National Prohibition was repealed.