

Chapter 22: A Turbulent Decade (1919-1920)

Section 1: Postwar Troubles

Question 1:

What is the message of this cartoon?



Demobilization

- Demobilization: transition from a war-time economy to non-war economy
 - No need to build tanks and bombs
- 4.5 million soldiers returned to workforce
- Millions of women forced out of work; patriotic duty
- Unemployment skyrocketed (12%)
- Consumers went on spending spree
 - caused shortages
 - Cost of living went up

Labor Strife

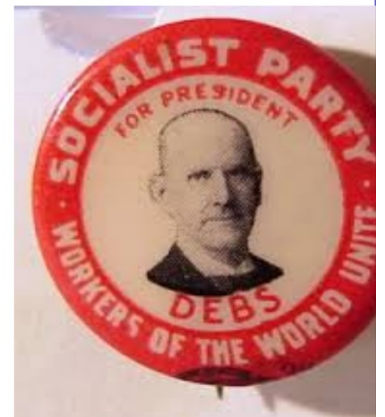
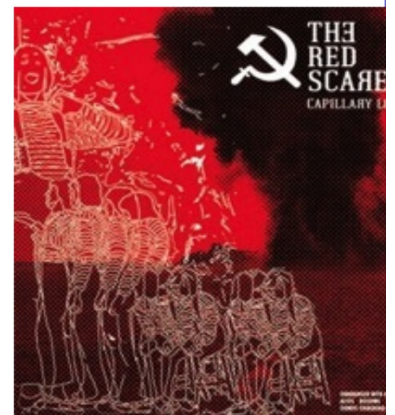
- 1919: 3600 strikes w/ over 4 million workers
- Demanded higher wages, better working conditions, and shorter hours
- Many people blamed immigrants and Communists
- **Seattle General Strike:** 60,000 shipyard workers; no violence; lasted 5 days
 - "A strike is revolution."
- **Boston Police Strike:** 75% of police went on strike; caused 2 nights of violence; National Guard was called in; all were fired
 - "Agents of Lenin"
- **Steel Strike:** 365,000 steel workers in W. PA
 - Mill owners hired thugs to intimidate
 - Strikers were jailed, beaten, shot
 - Thousands of black and Mexican **scabs** brought in



scabs → replacement workers

The Red Scare *in Russia*

- Bolshevik Revolution: factory workers went on strike; gov't now owned all factories; private ownership was illegal
 - **FIGHT BETWEEN RICH AND POOR**
- Red Scare: 1919-1920: fear that Bolsheviks would cause revolution in US
 - Thousands of Socialists in US; many were in labor unions & factories
 - Eugene Debs: Socialist Party; ran for President 5 times
 - Many felt there would be violent revolution and immigrants and labor unions would be cause
 - "Reds" were everywhere spying on us



- Attorney General Mitchell Palmer
 - Home was bombed by Italian man
 - 1919: 36 bombs found in the mail sent to rich Americans (John Rockefeller)
 - Bomb scare intensified Red Scare
 - Palmer ordered FBI to gather info on Reds
 - Jan. 1920: "Palmer Raids"
 - Thousands arrested in 33 cities
 - Immigrants were "armed to the teeth"
 - 3 pistols were found
 - Hundreds were deported

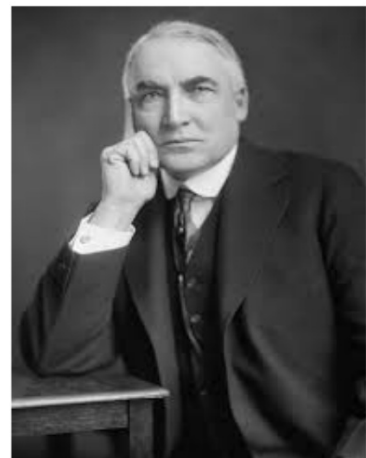


Section 2: The Republicans in Power

Question 2: During the Red Scare, What types of people did Americans fear the most?

Election of 1920

- Republicans nominated Sen. Warren Harding (OHIO)
 - Looked like a President
 - Not as smart as W. Wilson
 - Pro-business
 - Wanted to lower taxes & limit immigration
- Democrats nominated Gov. James Cox (OHIO)
 - Wanted us to be involved in League of Nations (BAD IDEA)
- Harding won 404-127



Harding's Pro Business Administration

- Less gov't in business (Laissez Faire)
- Advisors/cabinet were business leaders
- Reduce the national debt & create economic growth
- Increased tariffs to all-time high to help US businesses
- Lowered taxes on rich
- Policies seemed to work--unemployment went down

The Effects of Republican Policies

- 1,000 business mergers happened--made BIG BUSINESS
 - 200 companies owned 1/2 of US wealth in 1930
 - Business profits grew 60%
 - Workers' pay grew 10%
 - Factory workers & farmers were still struggling
 - Union membership shrank

New Directions for Women

- Feminism: fight for women's rights
 - 19th Amendment (1920): women's suffrage
 - Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) died due to lack of support

— fight
to vote



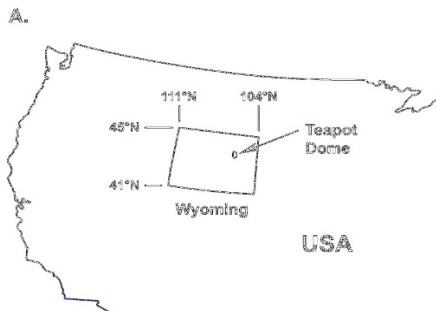
women were

seen as too

dangerous → Red?

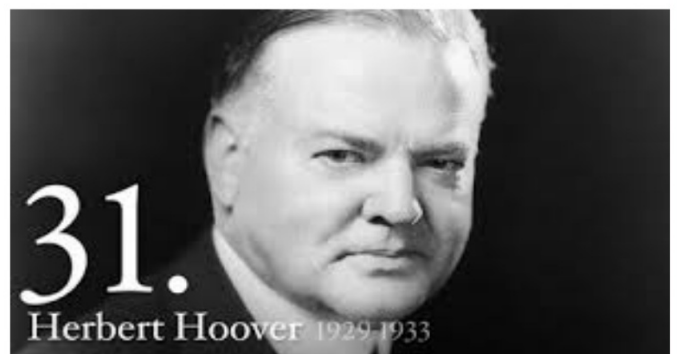
The Enduring Republican Presidency

- Harding dealt w/ scandals
- "Ohio Gang"; group of Harding's friends came to DC w/ him
- Friends were often given easy gov't jobs
- Teapot Dome scandal: Harding's Sec. of Interior had taken bribes to sell gov't owned land for cheap (WYOMING)
- Aug. 2, 1923: Harding dies of heart attack in San Francisco
- VP Calvin Coolidge becomes POTUS
 - Fires many of the people in the scandals
 - "Silent Cal"
 - Easily won reelection in 1924
 - Very pro-business
 - Very popular



The Election of 1928

- Sec. of Commerce Herbert Hoover (REP)
 - Quiet & smart
 - Pro-business
 - Benefited from good economy
- NY Gov. Alfred Smith (DEM)
 - Catholic--BAD
 - Supported by immigrants & poor
- Hoover won big



Lesson 3: A Nation Divided

"Assure them [African Americans] of the cordiality with which I invite them back to the home land, particularly those qualified to help solve our big problems and to develop our vast resources."

--King of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in 1922 speech

What is the King of Abyssinia saying to African Americans?

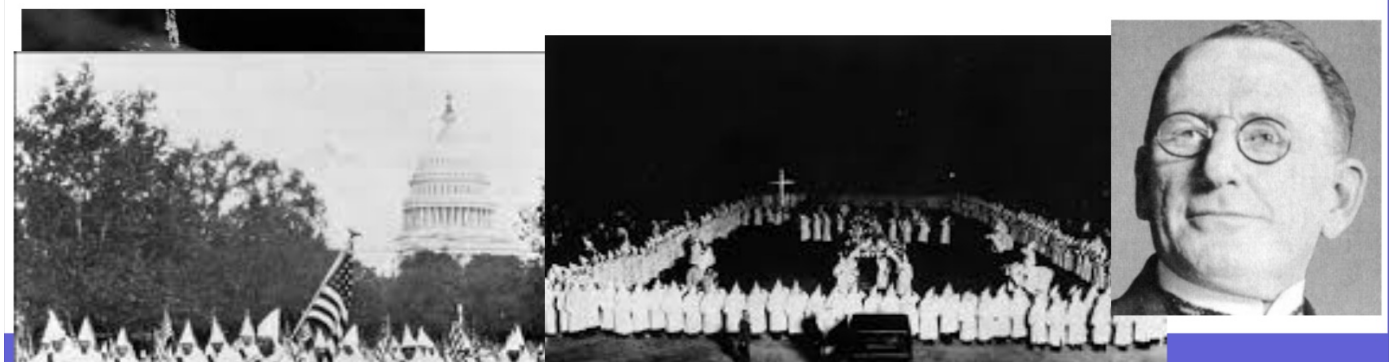
African Americans Move Northward

- 1930: AA population in North & Midwest was doubled from 1910 (2.5 million)
- Cities like Chicago, NY, Detroit
- Reasons for move: avoid discrimination & look for work
- Caused racial tension in cities
- July 1919: black teen killed while swimming in Chicago; police arrested nobody; week-long race riot
 - 38 killed & 537 wounded



Return of the Ku Klux Klan

- KKK disbanded after Civil War
- Recreated in Georgia in 1915 by preacher William Joseph Simmons
- Carried out kidnappings, beatings, cross burnings, and lynchings to terrorize
- Grew outside of South
- In North they targeted Catholics, immigrants, and Jews
- Mass rallies held across country
- Membership skyrocketed b/c of Red Scare (5 million members)
- Helped political candidates win office (intimidated black voters)
- Bad publicity by 1930 caused membership to decline...duh...



African Americans Defend Their Rights

- NAACP created anti-lynching campaign
- Pressured gov't and police officials to punish violence
- Black workers created unions
- Black nationalism: desire of many AA's to create their own nation in Africa
 - Belief that equality in America was impossible
- Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA):
 - Increase # of black business owners
 - Create a nation in Africa of African Americans

Immigration Restrictions

- 1920: 25% of US population was foreign-born or non-white
- Decline in immigration during WWI
- Immigration picked up after WWI
- Americans feared/hated immigrants
- We demanded limits on # of immigrants we let in
- Immigration Act of 1924: set a limit on # of immigrants from all countries; banned all Asians
- Immigration reduced to a trickle

