

## Lesson #78 U.S. History

### The Jazz Age Political

The Great War stimulated production and growth in a few countries.

#### Credit Nations

U.S.A + 278.5 billion

Japan +183.0 billion

Spain + 84.0 billion

#### Debts Nations

Germany - 123 billion

Britain - 42 billion

Austria/Hungary - 25 billion

France - 25 billion

President Wilson set his ideas for the end of the Great War and war altogether in his 14 Points. When the Armistice ended the fighting, Wilson became an international hero who traveled to Europe in victory.

President Woodrow Wilson believed that America should be a leading figure in the world to end future conflicts. His 14 points were an outline for that objective. When it came time for America to approve the treaty the President and Congress were at odds over the Treaty. When Congress was dragging their feet, he tried to rally public support for the Treaty with a national speaking tour. His Health became an issue. He was not a healthy man.

#### Wilson's Stroke history

1904 stroke

1906 stroke loss of vision in left eye

1907 weakness in upper right extremity

1908 neuritis

1910 weakness in right hand

1913 neuritis upper left extremity

1915 weakness right hand

1919 influenza

1919 Sept. 25, left hemiplegia

1919 Oct. massive stroke

His wife became the controller of who talked to the President and set the rumor off about her being the first female president. At a time when the world was in the social unrest and Bolshevik revolutions of 1917-1919.

The Russian Revolution 1917 set off a global movement of socialist and Bolsheviks to establish their ideas of utopian new governments. The United States saw radicals, labor (IWW) and other unions going on strikes for better wages and work conditions in the Seattle Strike, the Boston Police Strike, and the Steel Strike. Just in the year 1919 the U.S. saw 3,630 labor strikes with 4 million workers on strike.

The Bolsheviks and anarchist took advantage of the mood in the public and took an active part in trying to change government. In September 1920 a bomb was set off at office of J.P. Morgan killing 38 people and 400 wounded. The Reds were seen as the hidden hand behind the events of explosions, strikes, and riots.

## RED SCARE & RED SUMMMER 1919

Race riots many cities were blamed on the Reds (Bolsheviks) making the riots being caused by outsiders and not Americans. There were over 60 riots in large cities rural counties around the country. The Bolsheviks in Europe were trying to create a new world government by creating civil unrest. That summer there were Race Riots in 25 cities in country. The worst in Chicago was in Chicago when a “Black youth” at the lake was swimming into what was the “White” area of the beach front. Rocks and other thing were thrown, and the youth died setting off the riot. That ended with 15 whites and 25 black’s dead. The administration solution was the have the government roundup the Bolsheviks and radicals and deport them.

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer gave the orders for the raids on radicals. These became known as the "Palmer Raids". Some 6,000 individuals were rounded up and 556 were to be deported. In the end only 249 were to be deported to the new Soviet Union on *SS Buford* the “Soviet Ark”. They were sent to transported to Finland to walk into the Soviet Union. This group included Emma Goldman & Alexander Berkman and then had to find their way to Russia. Many began calling it the SOS policy “ship or shot”.

The National Civil Liberties Bureau (NCLB) was formed in 1917 to defend conscientious objectors. Many of the members were members of the Quaker church. Then in 1920 in response to Palmer Raids the organization formed into the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) with a boarder reach on protecting civil liberties.

One individual was Eugene Debs who convicted under the Sedition Act of 1918 and sentence to jail for anti-war activities in 1918. The Supreme Court ruled on the case *Schenck vs. United States* with the “Clear and Present Danger” that limited the Free Speech First Amendment. One could not yell FIRE in a crowded theater. Debs went to prison and was pardon him in 1921 by President Harding.

The Supreme Court ruled on other court cases that changed the economic environment. The *Maple Flooring Manufacturing Association* case reversed lower court ruling on anti-trust cases in 1925. The *U.S. vs. U.S. Steel Company* 1920 permitted oligopolies as long as competition survived. Then the Supreme courts struck down the Keating-Owen Act of 1916 that prohibited commerce using child labor in 1918 in the *Hammer v. Dagenhart* case followed by the *Bailey vs. Drexel Furniture Company* 1922 that invalidated child labor laws. The business of America became Business.

The Progressives were not done with social causes. The Temperance movement and the war helped push the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment through Congress. Prohibition began with the Volstead Act at 12:01 on January 16, 1920 Then within 59 minutes the first recorder violation was recorded.

Supporters of drinking were called “wet's” and those against Drinking were “dries”. The Manufacturing, transporting, and selling of liquor was illegal. Drinking was not illegal. No act of Congress did more for organized crime that the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Bootleggers began running the illegal liquid around the nations.

Saloons or Gentlemen Clubs before the amendment shifted to speakeasies were men and women drank together. The speakeasies severed the alcohol in (teacups). The times were changing with women smoking and drinking in public.

The Federal government had agents searching out the manufacturing and sales of liquor. The two most famous federals agents were Izzy and Moe who would do many things to get their man. They dresses in a number of different disguises that included husband and wife.

Germans and Irish believed that the law was aimed at them since most of the beer was made by German name companies and Irish with whiskey.

America has a history of making liquor. Alexander Hamilton pasted a tax on whiskey that led to Shay's Rebellion. Mountain folks made their own liquor called 'moonshine'. The transporters of illegal alcohol was called "bootlegging" in fast cars. That became the basic beginnings of NASCAR today. People made homemade drinks in their bathtub called "Bathtub Gin".

The Cocktail Culture had two functions. One to cover the taste of "bathtub gin". Then how to get women into the clubs? The answer was mixed drinks became a necessary two draw women into the establishments. Little umbrellas and flowers were added to the drinks for the ladies. The martini shaker became the symbol of masculinity in this new environment. They were chrome plated brass Martini Shaker took on the shape of modern architecture. The Norman Bel Geddes 1934 Martini Shaker was the image of Rockefeller Center.

By 1919 the United States Army drove a convoy of 81 motorized vehicles across the country. Henry Ford's Model "T" had Americans driving more than moving on horseback and wagons. The Model "T" could be purchase in any color "BLACK". Then Congress passed the 1921 Highway Act to keep up with the transportation shift to auto's it provided \$75 million for road constructions and national parks and 6% in states.

The automobile was becoming the engine of economy. America's roads were paved, and gas stations and repair shops started dotting the roads. Billboards were advertising products at the sides of roads. Hotels were becoming motels and restaurants were roadside café. Some allowed dinners to eat in their car at the new Drive-in dinner. Families were taking Sunday drives. The common criminal was using the car for fast "get-a-ways" while the local police was on horseback. Even romance moved from "calling" at home to the car in a "date". Some would say from the "Front porch to the back seat".

1921 Sheppard Towner Act – Hygiene and infant mortality and health. The infant mortality rate before 1921 was 111.2 per 1,000 live births. By 1929 the morality rate was down to 67.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. The bill provided for 3,000 child and mental health care centers. This was after a pandemic that took millions of lives around the world.

President Wilson was bed ridden and his wife did a lot of the communication between Wilson and others. He retired from public in 1921 and died in 1924.

Warren G. Harding ran for President and won with the statement "America's present need is not Heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution but restoration....". He won the election and his "Ohio Gang" of trusted friends and they setup resident at the Green house on K Street. It was said of Harding he was the "Best of the second raters" for he easy to manipulate and he did look Presidential. He was chosen in a "Smoke-filled Room" by party bigwigs. During the campaign he coined the phrase "Normalcy" and ran the "Front Porch Campaign". His wife Florence, strong-willed, women who concealed a previous divorce by saying she was a widow.

The Harding's Scandals began immediately. He was a womanized with many different women. The Women in Harding's Life:

Grace Cross (a Senators wife) worked as Harding secretary and had an affair – threaten to go public with letters before election. The Burn's Detective Agency burglarized the Cross's home but did not find the letters. Then a reporter Jesse Smith set a meeting to meet Grace at a restaurant for lunch. When the letters were produced Jesse snatch the letters. The Cross's then went to Washington before the election and the Justice Department paid then a visit along with members of the Burn's Detective Agency. The couple left town.

Carrie Phillips in Harding's hometown – she was given \$200,000.00 up front and a monthly \$2,000.00 to keep quiet.

Nan Briton a 30-year affair and had child in 1919 by Harding out of wedlock. The Secret Service would escort Nan into the White House to Harding in the Oval Office. Harding held weekly poker parties and liquor was supplied by Joseph Kennedy

The longtime friends were given jobs in the government. Harry M. Daugherty became Attorney General, Albert Fall was secretary of the Interior.

### **Teapot Dome and Elk Hills**

Albert Fall – Secretary of Interior was given \$100,000.00 by Edward Doheny and \$300,000.00 Harry F. Sinclair. Edward Doheny returned 35 million and went to prison and Harry F. Sinclair returned \$12 million.

### **Veteran's Scandal**

Surplus items sold at lost – 84,000 bed sheets sold for .26 cent that had cost \$1.37 - while these were being sold the Bureau was buying 25,000 more bed sheets  
Forbes resigned and Charles F. Cramer went to a hotel – wrote a letter and shot himself in the head March 16, 1923?

### **Liquor Patents Scandal**

Jesse Smith on Memorial Day 1923 went to the Wardman Park Hotel burned his records and some from the Justice Department and then shot himself in the head.

### **Daugherty-Burns Scandal**

Attorney General Daugherty had Burns the head of the Bureau of Investigations (BOI) investigate and follow jury members of the Teapot Dome trial. Half-way through the trial government investigators discovered Burns men and the trial was declared a mistrial.

Daugherty said it was done to protect the jury members. Burns was sentence to 15 days in jail.

Congressional Investigations into scandals:

Senators Walsh and Wheeler were attacked as “assassins of character”, “mud-gunners” and as “a Democratic lynching-bee” for looking into Harding’s scandals. Attorney General Daugherty charged the Senator Wheeler with conspiracy and placed him on trial he was acquitted.

Warren G. Harding died on August 2, 1923 and his wife Florence refused to allow an autopsy. Then she returned to the White House and burned papers for five days creating rumors. Harding had said one time he did not need enemies “...it was friends that caused him problems.”

The Ohio Gang later:

Attorney General Daugherty was charged with graft and was acquitted twice

Jess Smith - Sec. to Attorney General - influence peddling

Charles F. Cramer – Veterans Bureau shot himself

Charles R. Forbes kickbacks \$250 million

Col. Thomas W. Miller convicted of fraud

Bureau of Investigations – William J. Burns retired in 1924 and replaced with J. Edgar Hoover. Who built the FBI into his own bureaucratic organization for spying and surveillance!

The social change included fashion. The war had needed cloth for uniforms and women’s dresses became shorter and bathing suits were also becoming less. Women were arrested for indecent exposure in public. They had won the right to vote with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and voted much as their fathers and husbands. The war and the Red Scare changed the America of the 1920’s.