Chapter 25
Lecture Outline

The Modern Temper
1920’s Turbulence
The Reactionary Twenties

- **Nativism**
  - Red Scare of 1919
  - ½ white males working were from Eastern Europe
    - Where socialism and anarchism was flourishing
- **Sacco and Vanzetti**
  - Two self-described anarchists were arrested for a robbery and murder. Both were convicted in a widely publicized trial & eventually executed
The Reactionary Twenties

- Immigration Restriction
  - This rise of nativist sentiment led many to restrict immigration.
  - New quota meant to allow N & W Europeans

- The Klan
  - find new life in this nativist surge. No longer limited to the South, the Klan was a reaction against shifting moral standards, the rise in the number of immigrants, and the declining influence of churches.
The Reactionary Twenties

• Fundamentalism
  – Fundamentalism is the belief that the Bible should not be viewed under scientific scholarship

• Darwinism on Trial
  – John **Scopes** disobeyed the law, and a trial erupted
  – William Jennings Bryan as the prosecution
  – Clarence Darrow of Chicago as the defense lawyer.
  – At the end of the trial, Scopes was found guilty
Courtroom scene during the Scopes trial The media, food vendors, and others flocked to Dayton, Tennessee, for the case against John T. Scopes, the teacher who taught evolution.
The Reactionary Twenties

• Prohibition
  – Prohibition was ratified in 1918 in the Eighteenth Amendment. Although it made the sale of liquor illegal, it was impossible to enforce. The manufacture and distribution of alcohol during this time period encouraged organized crime to control it.

America Story of Us: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixjFhOG5JzQ&t=1988](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixjFhOG5JzQ&t=1988)

The Untouchables (1987): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCeDBqvwLCw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCeDBqvwLCw)
Prohibition A 1926 police raid on a speakeasy, where illegal "bootleg" liquor was sold.
The “Jazz Age” during the “Roaring Twenties”

- The New Woman and the New Morality
The “Jazz Age” during the “Roaring Twenties”

• The “New Negro”
  – The most significant development in African American life in the twentieth century occurred in the **Great Migration**, over 323,000 African Americans were encouraged to move north during the war, and by 1930, 615,000 more had joined them.

• Harlem Renaissance
  – Nations first self conscious black literary and artistic movement

“Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NX9tHul7zVo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NX9tHul7zVo)
“Into Bondage” This painting by Aaron Douglas exemplifies how black artists in the Harlem Renaissance used their African roots and collective history as artistic inspiration.
The “Jazz Age” during the “Roaring Twenties”

• The Birth of Jazz
  – F. Scott Fitzgerald dubbed the postwar era the Jazz Age because young people were more willing to embrace new experiences such as jazz. African and European music came to be melded during this era, and the result was jazz.

Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2VCwBzGdPM

Duke Ellington’s “Don’t Mean A Thing”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDQpZT3GhDg
Frankie “Half Pint” Jackson and his band at the Sunset Cafe, Chicago, in the 1920s Jazz emerged in the 1920s as an especially American expression of the modernist spirit. African American artists bent musical conventions to give fuller rein to improvisation and sensuality.
The “Jazz Age” during the “Roaring Twenties”

• Garveyism
  – During this time, a period *Negro nationalism* would develop with an emphasis on their culture. Adherents were known as the “new negroes.” The greatest proponent of this time was **Marcus Garvey**. Garvey created the Universal Negro Improvement Association, which promoted the recolonization of Africa by its members.
The Crisis This national journal of the NAACP carried the subtitle “A Record of the Darker Races.”

- Founded in 1910 by white and black progressives
- Main strategy is to use legal actions to bring 14\textsuperscript{th} & 15\textsuperscript{th} amendments back to life.
- Believed social problems can be solved via educating people of society’s ills
- 1919 launched national campaign against lynching by lobbying an anti-lynching bill to congress
Mass Culture

• The Growing Consumer Culture
  – New products swept the markets, and as a result, prices dropped considerably.
  – Innovations in communication made a more homogeneous American society.
  – Radios and movie theaters became commonplace, and they drove the American desire to talk the same, dress the same, and experience the same lifestyles they saw on the big screen.

Charlie Chaplin Factory Work: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfGs2Y5WJ14
Mass Culture

• Airplanes, Automobiles, and the Economy
  – In 1927, Charles Lindbergh would fly across the Atlantic solo. This would promote the feasibility of air travel in American society.
Ford Motor Company’s Highland Park plant, 1913  Gravity slides and chain conveyors contributed to the mass production of automobiles.
Mass Culture

- Spectator Sports

Lou Gehrig’s Farewell Speech: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=626Dt9JdjQs
The Modernist Revolt

• Science and Social Thought
  – When Albert Einstein announced his theory of relativity, he upended two centuries worth of conventional wisdom. This would lead to the birth of the modern physics movement.

• Modernist Art and Literature
  – Traditional authors/artists believed everything in the world could be readily observed and represented accurately, their counterparts found themselves in a reality where new things could actually be created.
Gertrude Stein Pablo Picasso’s 1906 portrait of the writer.
The Modernist Revolt

- The “Lost Generation”
  - term coined by Gertrude Stein to describe the generation of adults who came of age during WWI
  - Lost their innocence, their illusions and their motivation