

The **1920s** was an era of extreme economic growth, big social changes, and political conservatism. The "Roaring" 1920s era came to an end with the Stock Market crash on October 29, 1929.



Economics and Technological Advances of the 1920s



- Automobile and film industries experience significant growth during 1920s.
- Due to the innovations of Henry Ford, cars become more affordable and more widely available.
- On May 20, 1927, Charles Lindbergh makes the first successful non-stop airplane flight from New York to Paris.
- Economy grows because presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover all follow a policy of *laissez faire*, in which industry goes unregulated.

Domestic and social changes of the 1920s

- The 18th Amendment is passed in 1919, resulting in the Prohibition of Alcohol.
- Prohibition leads to rise in gangster warfare and speakeasies.
- Anti-communist, conservative feelings lead to Red Scare in 1919 and 1920, in which the Palmer Raids occur (massive arrest of alleged radicals).
- Immigration Act of 1924 greatly reduces the number of immigrants coming into America from Asia and Eastern Europe.
- In the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925, Clarence Darrow defended John Scopes who had been charged with illegally teaching evolution. Populist leader and former presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan serves as prosecutor.



Great Migration north



- Jobs for African Americans in the South are scarce and low-paying.
- African Americans move to northern cities in search of better employment opportunities.
- African Americans face discrimination and violence in both the South and the North.

Increasing equality for women

- Passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, grants women the right to vote.
- New inventions (washing machines, electric stoves, water pumps) make domestic chores less burdensome.
- Increased professional opportunities in the wake of WWI.
- Previously all-male universities admit women.
- "Flapper" image becomes powerful and popular symbol of the changing role of women.



Cultural climate of the 1920s



- Georgia O'Keeffe paints urban scenes and, later, paintings of the Southwest.
- F. Scott Fitzgerald writes about the Jazz Age of the 1920s.
- Aaron Copland and George Gershwin write uniquely American music.

Harlem Renaissance

- African-American artists, writers, and musicians based in Harlem reveal the freshness and variety of African-American culture.
- Jacob Lawrence (painter) chronicles the experiences of the Great Migration north through art.
- Langston Hughes (poet) combines the experiences of African and American cultural roots.
- Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong compose jazz classics.



