Aim: What efforts were made in the 1920s to secure world peace?

American Isolationism

Isolationists like Senator Lodge, refused to allow the US to sign the Versailles Treaty.

Security treaty with France also rejected by the Senate.

July, 1921 🡪 Congress passed a resolution declaring WW I officially over

1. A More Peaceful World

During the 1920s, the United States began working for the establishment of a more peaceful world.

Many Americans came away from World War 1 feeling angry and bitter. This is because many Americans believed that the Europeans did not give them enough credit for helping them win the war.

Other people did not like the fact that the Allies did not use Wilson’s 14 Points as the basis for peace.

Most of all, people wanted to keep the United States out of any future wars.

Question 1

Why were Americans angry about World War?

1.1 The Move for Disarmament

The move for disarmament began when the Republicans won the Election of 1920.

The Republicans had been against the Treaty of Versailles and did not want the US to join the League of Nations.

Even though they were against the important pieces of Wilson’s post war plan, the Republicans wanted peace. They invited the leading world powers to speak about disarmament.

1921: The Washington Conference began. The conference was attended by the United States, England, France, Belgium, Japan, Holland, Portugal and China attended.

The purpose of the meeting was two-fold:

1-Each nation was asked to reduce the size of their navies.

2-Each nation was asked to limit the number of ships that were being built.

The conference lasted from November 1921-to-February 1922.

When the conference was over, nine treaties regarding disarmament was signed.

One major treaty was the Five-Power Pact signed by the US, England, Japan, France, and Italy would limit the number of warships they would build and agreed to limit the tonnage their ships could hold.

Question 2

What meeting took place in Washington, DC in 1921 and what was its purpose?

Question 3

What were the terms of the Five Power Pact?

1.2 Outlawing War

Many people after the Washington Conference wanted to end war altogether.

In 1927, Columbia University professor, James Shotwell, spoke to Aristide Briand about the idea of abolishing war.

In April, Briand suggested that the United States and France meet to discuss the issue. The two men agreed that other nations should take part in the discussions.

On August 27, 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed by 14 nations. Soon after, 62 nations signed the agreement which stated that war would not be used to settle disputes.

The Kellogg-Briand Pact was not effective because there was no way to enforce the terms of the treaty.

The pact, did, however, gave people hope that there would be no more war.

Question 4

Why was the Kellogg-Briand Pact not very effective?

1.3 New Policies Toward Latin America

In the middle and late 1920s, the United States began to use new policies towards Latin America.

In the past, the policies of Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft and Woodrow Wilson were not effective because many people did not like the United States constantly interfering in Latin America.

The United States began to reverse the policies of dollar diplomacy and interventionism during the 1920s.

In 1925, the United States pulled the Marines out of the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. Other disputes in the Latin American region did not use the United States military for help.

1928: At the Havana Conference, many Latin American delegates supported a measure that no nation would have the right to interfere in the affairs of other nations.

Charles Evans Hughes

1928: President-elect Herbert Hoover went on a goodwill tour of Latin America. At the same time, the American Secretary of State, Joshua Clark began to study the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine to determine whether or not the document was valid.

Clark stated that since the nations of Western Europe could not interfere in Latin America meant that the United States did not have the right to interfere.

Question 5

What was the purpose of the Havana Conference?

Question 6

How did the Clark Memorandum change the Roosevelt Corollary?

1.4 Easing Tensions With Japan

During the 1920s, the United States began to improve its relationship with Japan.

At the Washington Conference, treaties were signed between the two nations to improve the relations between the nations.

The nations of Europe, as well as the United States, also ratified treaties with Japan.

However, these treaties were not all they were cracked up to be.

Japan did not like the fact that they were not allowed to have the same tonnage of ships that the United States and Great Britain were allowed to have at the Washington Conference.

The Japanese also did not like the fact the United States were prejudiced against the Japanese immigrants who were arriving in the western United States at the start of the 1900s.

Question 7

What steps did the United States take to ease tensions with Japan?

Question 8

What things continued to cause tensions between the United States and Japan?

Aim: Towards what groups was intolerance directed to during the 1920s?

2. Intolerance and Civil Rights

World War I made some Americans intolerant-not willing to respect the beliefs, practices or behavior of others.

During the 1920s, the feeling of intolerance was directed at several different groups.

For many groups, the attempt at equality was overshadowed by intolerance. The only group to make significant strides against intolerance were African-Americans.

2.1 The Red Scare

One reason for the rise of intolerance during the 1920s grew out of a fear of communism.

People who follow communism believe that through the government, the people own all property.

The government is suppose to meet the needs of the people equally. Communists also believe that competition is the cause of many problems and since there is no competition, people share everything equally.

Under communist rule, there is no other party besides the Communist Party.

In 1917, the Communists took over the Russian government.

Before 1917, the Bolsheviks, the Communist Party of Russia, began planning to overthrow the government of Russia.

When the Russian Revolution finished, the Communist Party believed that they could spread communism all over the world.

As Americans read about the Russian Revolution, many Americans began to grow fearful of the impact of communism in the United States.

Because communists were called “Reds”, the period of time where communism was feared became known as the Red Scare.

In 1919, many Americans believed that something had to be done regarding the rise of the Communists.

In 1919, the Red Scare forced the Department of Justice and Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer to do something regarding the scare.

During the Red Scare, the Department of Justice went after people who the government believed was disloyal to the United States. This included many people who Americans accused of being communist.

By the early 1920s, some 4,000-to-6,000 communists were arrested in Palmer Raids.

Question 1

What were the beliefs of the Communists?

Question 2

What actions were taken under the Red Scare?

2.2 Distrust of Immigrants

The fear of communism helped to bring about a distrust of immigrants.

Some Americans thought that immigrants were spreading ideas that were harming the way of life in the United States. Because of this, much of the distrust caused by the Red Scare was directed at immigrants and their families.

In 1920, the Sacco and Vanzetti case illustrated American attitudes towards immigrants.

The case dealt with two Italian immigrants who were accused of committing a crime in 1920. The two men were convicted of robbery and murder.

In 1921, the men were convicted and sentenced to death.

The case divided the American public. Many people believed that since they were anarchists, their ideas were not viewed with favor by many citizens.

Some felt that since the two men were convicted; that was due to the fact they were immigrants and with the climate of intolerance, they would not receive a fair trial.

Other Americans believed that the two men were able to receive a fair trial.

In 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed.

The growth of intolerance caused the United States to restrict immigration.

In 1921, the United States Congress passed a law that set up a quota (a set number) for people who wanted to move to the United States.

This new law stated that the number of immigrants arriving from Europe would be limited to 3 percent of the number each nationality living in the United States in 1910.

These new laws, however, did not please every member of the US Congress.

1924: Congress cut the quota to two percent for that nationality group. The number would be based on the number of immigrants that the nation sent in 1890.

Because of the new quota, the number of eastern and southern immigrants arriving to the US dropped to three percent of that nationality living in the United States in 1910.

This law, however, did not please everyone. Many members of Congress were upset at the fact that there were many people from southern and eastern Europe still living in the United States.

Because of this, the quota system was instituted in 1921.

Then in 1924, the US Congress reduced the quota from 3 percent to 2 percent and changed the year from 1910 to 1890. (This allowed fewer people to enter the United States.)

In the 1924 quotas, all Asian immigrants were barred from entering the United States.

1929: The National Origins Act was passed. This act allowed for 150,000 immigrants to enter the United States. The number of people was based on the number from the area living in the United States in 1920.

The new quota laws seriously affected the number of workers on the sugar plantations. To fill the shortage, immigrants from the Philippines filled the jobs. There was not a problem because the Philippines were an American possession.

Question 3

Who were Sacco and Vanzetti? What happened to them?

Question 4

What immigration laws were passed in the 1920s? What were their terms?

2.3 Reaction of Blacks

Many whites also reacted strongly towards Blacks during the 1920s.

During the war, many Blacks had moved from the south to the northern cities.

After the war, attacks on Blacks led to riots in Houston, St. Louis and Chicago. Many were killed, including hundreds of Black soldiers returning from the war.

During the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan reformed. The Klan spoke out against Catholics and Jews, but their main target were Blacks.

By 1924, the Klan had recruited five million members and had power in some of the state governments in the United States.

The Klan used threats and violence against those people who opposed their ideas. The members wore white and masks to cover up their identity.

However, other states passed laws prohibiting masks, so the Klan lost a lot of their power. These laws, along with publicity and state investigations led to a decline in the Klan’s membership numbers.

Question 5

Why were their race riots in many cities following World War I?

Even with the growth of an intolerant nation during the 1920s, some groups were making progress in regards to achieving civil and political rights.

Some groups that made advancements during the 1920s included women, Indians, Blacks and Mexican-Americans.

Women During the 1920s

Carrie Chapman Catt developed a three-way plan to get women the right to vote.

Pass a constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote.

Amending state constitutions to give women the right to vote.

Giving women the right to vote in primary elections.

During WW1, women’s suffrage lost a little momentum.

After the war, President Wilson asked Congress to amend the Constitution to give women the right to vote.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified and women received the right to vote.

Indians During the 1920s

1924: Congress passed a law which made all Indians citizens of the United States.

This law was written by Senator Charles Curtis, who was part Native American.

However, once the Native Americans became citizens they were not ready for the changes assimilation brought them.

Mexican Americans During the 1920s

Mexican Americans were useful as laborers during the war.

When the war was over, however, they found the jobs that they had, closed to them.

They also had to face new immigrants entering the US. This caused Mexican Americans to compete for low paying and unskilled jobs.

Groups formed in the US to help assimilate new immigrants in the US.

African Americans During the 1920s

Many were facing the same problems as the Mexicans and that was the loss of jobs.

Blacks had groups that were established to advance their causes during the 1920s.

Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) was established by Marcus Garvey.

Blacks should become independent of whites.

Blacks should research and become familiar with their history.

Unfortunately, Garvey was harassed by the United States Government who arrested him because of his racist beliefs.

The NAACP was established in 1909 by W.E.B. DuBois. However, during the 1920s, the NAACP was able to win court cases and improve the conditions for African Americans.

Question 6

What bill was sponsored by Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas?

Question 7

What conditions did Mexican-Americans face after WWI? What did they do?

Question 8

How were the conditions faced by Blacks the same as those faced by Mexicans in the years following World War I?

Question 9

What did Marcus Garvey believe?

Aim: What led to the booming economy of the 1920s?

3. Politics and the Economy

During the 1920s many Americans experienced a period of prosperity.

The prosperity was tied to the fact that the government no longer controlled all facets of the economy as was the policy during WW1.

The end of the war also ended the Progressive Era, so governmental regulations were loosening.

With the end of the Progressive Era and governmental control came a return of free enterprise an re-emergence of business.

Many businessmen found this reconnection with the Republican Party.

The Republican Party controlled the 1920s with the three Presidents who were in office:

Warren Harding (1920-1923)

Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)

Herbert Hoover (1929-1933)

The return of the Republicans was met with the return of a pro-management policy towards business.

Question 1

What party supported big business during the 1920s?

3.1 The Politics of Normalcy

American foreign policy after World War 1 was called normalcy.

Normalcy meant that the United States would return to the period of time before World War 1.

Normalcy would be the policy practiced by Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover.

Warren Harding (1920-1923)

Main feature of Harding’s administration was scandal.

-Harding believed that there should be less government in business and more business in government.

Although some members of his administration were qualified-many members of his administration were unqualified.

Pressure of all the scandals brought an unfinished term for Harding who died in 1924.

Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)

Coolidge became president when Harding died in 1923.

Coolidge was respected by big business.

-During his six years as President, the economy became prosperous.

Hoover and the Election of 1928

Hoover became president when Coolidge did not run in 1928.

Hoover led the Food Administration and guided the relief in Europe following the war.

The Democrats chose Alfred Smith as their nominee. He was the first Catholic to be nominated for the Presidency.

Hoover and the Republicans promised that if the United States stayed with the current policies, the nation would continue to do well.

The Republicans won the election with 58 percent of the vote and carried all but 8 states in the nation.

Question 2

Which President’s administration was plagued (filled with) scandal?

Question 3

Who were the candidates for President in 1928?

3.2 The Boom Economy

The Boom Economy dominated the 1920s.

The US after WW1, experienced a brief depression, but the economy rallied for the better part of the decade.

Many people believed that the prosperity would continue way past the 1920s.

One reason to why the prosperity occurred was the birth of new industries.

The major industry of the 1920s was the automobile industry.

By 1930, the United States was producing 23 million cars and 4 million trucks and buses.

The major reason for the growth of automobiles was the development of Henry Ford’s assembly line which shortened production time. This allowed for mass production which meant goods could be made quicker and cheaper.

Other industries soon sprouted off the automobile industry.

Aviation also became a very important industry during the 1920s.

In 1903, the Wright Brothers were developing the airplane in Kitty Hawk, NC.

By the end of WW1, the development of better airplane equipment allowed for better planes to be made.

The most famous airplane accomplishment came in 1928 when Charles Lindbergh and the Spirit of St. Louis crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

Lindbergh’s accomplishment increased air travel during the 1920s and 1930s.

Another factor was that the United States became an economy of consumer goods-products that were used for individual use.

Many of these gods were electric appliances such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines and radios.

The electric industry during the 1920s grew to accommodate the growing need for electrical power.

Another factor was advertising.

Advertising was used in business so that people would buy a company’s goods.

Goods were advertised in newspapers and radios.

In 1925, more money was spent on advertising than on public education.

Lastly, more people began to use credit cards to buy the things they wanted.

However, some parts of the economy did not prosper during the 1920s.

One part of the economy that did not do well was agriculture.

During the early 1920s, farmers grew to meet post-war demand, but as Europe recovered, the cost of farm products reduced.

Question 4

What was the status of the American economy during the 1920s?

Question 5

What factors helped to bring about a boom economy?

Question 6

What part of the American economy did not prosper during the 1920s?

3.3 Protecting American Business

Just as they did in the late 1800s, the government did all they could to protect their interests in American business.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew Mellon, passed laws to benefit the growth and prosperity of the economy.

Lower corporate taxes

Protection of industries from imports.

No oversight of Progressive legislation-more trusts, mergers and monopolies occurred as a result.

Question 7

How and why did Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon support business?

3.4 Holding Down American Labor

Although the government protected American businesses, it held down labor after the war.

During the war, the government backed labor in their efforts to organize-wages rose and membership in labor unions increased.

Once the war was over, there was serious trouble between labor and management and strikes occurred.

In 1919, strikes occurred across the United States.

The most serious strike was in the steel industry. 350,000 workers walked off their jobs.

Steel companies threatened their workers by stating if they refused to go back to work-they would lose their jobs to other immigrants.

The steel companies took out anti-union advertisements in newspapers across the United States.

The steel companies issued warnings in many languages to discourage immigrants from striking.

The steel companies hired workers called scabs to replace these workers.

The police and state militias also came in to break the strikes and crush the unions.

Once the strike was ended and the steel workers union crushed, businesses tried to crush union activity through two methods.

Yellow-Dog Contracts: workers had to sign

an agreement stating they would not join a union.

Blacklists: Companies who knew of union members would refuse to hire these men/women for work.

As a result of the tactics, the number of people in labor unions declined after WW1.

Pay for workers increased during the 1920s, but unfortunately, not as fast as other members of American society.

Question 8

What was the most serious strike of 1919?

Question 9

What was the American Plan?

Aim: What societal changes occurred during the 1920s?

4. The Jazz Age

The decade of the 1920s became known as the Jazz Age.

Jazz, the most popular music of the decade, had accented rhythms and developed from ragtime and blues music.

Jazz became a symbol for many Americans because it welcomed the chance for a change for a less-ordered life.

There were sharp contrasts because many people did not accept the change.

Question 1

What is jazz?

4.1 New Styles of Life

During the 1920s, people developed a new style of life.

One of the reasons for this new style of life was that new inventions freed people from certain tasks:

New inventions cut down on the time to do housework.

As a result, many women found that they had more free time and greater freedom.

Many women, as a result, were able to work outside the home, receive an education and enter the job market doing the same things as men.

More Americans seemed to be doing things for fun.

People were doing things to gain attention like airplane and automobile stunts. People traveled around the nation performing in these activities.

Many people did not follow this way of life especially those who lived in rural areas.

People in rural areas felt that hard work, being thrifty, and religion were the best American values.

The people who lived in the rural areas supported religious and political leaders who spoke out against those values of the 1920s.

Question 2

What new inventions brought changes to the American lifestyle? How did these changes affect people’s lives?

Question 3

What Americans did not adapt to the new styles of living? Why did they not accept these styles of living?

4.2 The Years of Prohibition

The 1920s were the years of Prohibition, when drinking alcoholic beverages were against the law.

The 18th Amendment, which prohibited the buying and selling of alcohol, was ratified and went into effect in 1920. This made it illegal to make, transport or sell alcoholic beverages. This was the first federal prohibition law.

This was the accomplishment of groups like the Women’s Christian Temperance Movement who worked for this goal years ago.

Large numbers of Americans were not willing to accept the law.

Some people began to make their own beer and liquor at home.

Other people were able to smuggle alcohol into the United States from Mexico and Canada.

Nightclubs called speakeasies sold liquor even though it was against the law.

The problem with Prohibition was that the laws were hard to enforce.

There were not enough border agents to patrol all the borders of the United States.

As a result, smuggling became a popular way of doing business in the United States and the business of alcohol was now being controlled by gangsters like Al Capone.

The people who controlled alcohol were constantly fighting one another for control in a certain city or state.

Much of the profit that these criminals made were used to take over other businesses.

Question 4

What was Prohibition?

4.3 Literature of the 1920s

The literature of the 1920s focused on both the excitement and problems of the 1920s.

Some writers wrote about the sadness of modern life.

Ernest Hemmingway, the author of *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* had characters who searched for values and the meaning of life.

Another important writer of the 1920s was F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The stories of Fitzgerald had characters that were carefree and many were wealthy and rich.

The most famous stories of Fitzgerald were *The Great Gatsby* and *This Side of Paradise.*

Fitzgerald was a symbol of the Jazz Age.

Sinclair Lewis was another author of the 1920s.

The stories of Lewis told of dullness and the narrow views of people living in the 1920s.

The most famous stories written by Lewis were  *Main Street* and *Babbitt*. These stories told about small-town life.

In 1930, Lewis won a Nobel Prize for Literature.

Some poets also gained fame during the 1920s:

Edna St. Vincent Millay-Her famous poems include “*A Few Figs from Thistles”* and *The Harp Weaver and Other Poems.*

Robert Frost-His famous poems include “*Stopping Woods on a Snowy Evening”*. His poems were well received in rural areas.

African American authors also became famous during the 1920s:

Claude McKay published “*If We Must Die”* and “*To My White Friends”* spoke out against the racial feelings of segregation.

Countee Cullen published “*The Ballad of the Brown Girl”* and “*Copper Sun”.*

Both Cullen and McKay were part of a larger movement called the Harlem Renaissance.

Harlem Renaissance was a period where important Black writers and artists lived and worked during the 1920s.

Question 5

In general, about what did the authors of the 1920s write?

Question 6

Who was the first American writer to win a Nobel Prize for literature?

Question 7

About what did African American writers during the 1920s write about?

Question 8

What was the Harlem Renaissance?

4.4 Entertainment

During the 1920s, more people enjoyed new forms of entertainment.

The new forms of entertainment include

Radio

Movies

Music

Sports

The media became a dominant force in entertainment during the 1920s.

The radio became America’s source of both news and entertainment.

Stations KDKA in Pittsburgh and WWJ in Detroit began broadcasting in 1920.

During the 1920s, the National Broadcasting Company began broadcasting. We call the company NBC (Channel 4).

Newspapers and magazines continued to be important sources of news and entertainment.

Saturday Evening Post: published editorials and articles by well-known American writers.

Reader’s Digest: published articles and shortened stories from best-selling magazines and books

Time: began to print news articles in 1925.

Saturday Evening Posts

A large majority of Americans went to be entertained by vaudeville shows. These were live stage shows that featured many different acts much like a variety show.

During te 1920s, many Americans began to see motion pictures or movies.

The first movies had no sound, but in 1927, the first movies with sound called “talkies” were being shown in theaters.

By 1927, about 50,000,000 Americans were attending movies on a regular basis.

Some of the biggest stars included Rudolph Valentino, Clara Bow, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin and John Barrymore.

During the 1920s, many musicians began to experiment with new forms of music.

One of these new styles of music was jazz which spread to American cities during the decade.

One of the largest communities in New York, Harlem, attracted large audiences of Blacks and whites to hear the music of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith and Billie Holliday.

Another style of music popularized during the 1920s was symphonies.

Composers such as Aaron Copland and George Gershwin were able to take jazz music and make that into symphonies.

In the 1920s, jazz became known as America’s favorite style of music.

Another form of popular entertainment in the United States was organized sports.

Baseball, during the 1920s, became known as the “national pastime.”

Millions of people began to idolize athletes such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Ty Cobb.

In football, the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, under coach Knute Rockne won 105 games during the 1920s while losing 12.

Football had its share of heroes like Red Grange and Jim Thorpe.

In 1920, cities across the United States formed the National Football League.

Boxing was also popular during the 1920s.

At one fight, 100,000 people paid a total of $2,500,000 to see Jack Dempsey fight Gene Tunney in 1927.

Individual sports such as golf and tennis had heroes too. People idolized Bill Tilden’s rule in tennis and Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen in golf.

Because of their accomplishments, the 1920s were called the “golden age of sports.”