

## The Roaring Twenties

### Section 2



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. In the 1920s many young people found new independence in a changing society.
2. Postwar tensions occasionally led to fear and violence.
3. Competing ideals caused conflict between Americans with traditional beliefs and those with modern views.
4. Following the war, minority groups organized to demand their civil rights.

### Key Terms and People

**flappers** young women in the 1920s who challenged traditional women's roles

**Red Scare** a period of fear of Communists and radicals in the United States

**Twenty-first Amendment** a Constitutional Amendment that repealed prohibition

**fundamentalism** belief in word-for-word interpretation of the Bible

**Scopes trial** the trial of John Scopes for teaching evolution in school

**Great Migration** the movement of African Americans to northern cities

**Marcus Garvey** a black leader who encouraged an independent black economy

### Academic Vocabulary

**traditional** customary, time-honored

### Section Summary

#### A CHANGING SOCIETY

World War I changed the way people saw the world.

People moved to cities and for the first time more Americans lived in cities than in rural areas.

Young adults had more personal freedom than in the past. They were better educated and more women had joined the workforce. Women found new opportunities. **Flappers** challenged the traditional ideas of how women should behave.

What event led to the changing society of the 1920s?

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#### FEAR AND VIOLENCE

Some of the social changes of the 1920s were violent. There were massive labor strikes caused by

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unemployment and inflation. As Communists took control in Russia, the **Red Scare** led to action against Communists in the United States.

Some people saw immigrants as a threat to their jobs and culture. This led to a fear of foreigners. Laws were passed to restrict the number of immigrants. The Quota Act of 1921 gave preference to immigrants from Western Europe. The National Origins Act of 1924 banned immigration from East Asia.

**Why were some Americans afraid of immigration to the United States?**

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**COMPETING IDEALS**

Differences were also growing between older rural traditions and modern urban society. One issue was prohibition, which was hard to enforce. It led to corruption and created new ways for criminals to get rich. In 1933 prohibition was ended by the **Twenty-first Amendment** to the Constitution.

Religious leaders saw a move away from traditional values. In response **fundamentalism** grew strong in rural areas. The fundamentalists believed in an exact, word-for-word reading of the Bible. They believed that scientific theories such as evolution contradicted the Bible. The **Scopes trial** was the center of a national debate over modern science and religious values.

**Circle the name of the act that marked the end of prohibition in the United States.**

**MINORITY RIGHTS**

The **Great Migration** continued during the economic boom of the 1920s. Economic recession led to racial tensions in many cities. Minorities, including African Americans and Hispanic Americans, began fighting to protect their rights. **Marcus Garvey** encouraged pride in black culture. Native Americans gained the rights of citizenship and fought to protect their lands.

**Why do you think the Great Migration continued even after World War I ended?**

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Compare** Write a paragraph comparing immigration issues today with immigration issues in the 1920s.