

The Roaring Twenties

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. President Harding promised a return to peace and prosperity.
2. Calvin Coolidge supported a probusiness agenda.
3. American business boomed in the 1920s.
4. In 1928, Americans elected Herbert Hoover, hoping he would help good financial times continue.

Key Terms and People

Warren G. Harding a Republican president elected in 1920

Calvin Coolidge became president when Harding died; reelected to office in 1924

Teapot Dome scandal the acceptance of bribes by Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall in exchange for control of government oil reserves

Kellogg-Briand Pact an unenforceable agreement among 62 nations to outlaw war

Model T a low-cost automobile invented by Ford

moving assembly line a production system that moves parts between groups of workers

Herbert Hoover a president elected in 1928 with promises for more prosperity

Academic Vocabulary

incentive something that leads people to follow a certain course of action

Section Summary

RETURN TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY

As the war ended, millions of soldiers came home just as factories stopped making war supplies. Many people could not find jobs. But demand for goods was high so prices rose. Workers couldn't afford the goods, so many went on strike for higher wages.

Warren G. Harding ran for president with running mate **Calvin Coolidge**. Harding promised a return to "normalcy." After he was elected, Harding worked hard to strengthen the economy. He used tax cuts for the wealthy as an **incentive** to invest in business. As a result, an economic boom started.

What was Warren G. Harding's campaign promise?

Section 1, continued

Harding's term in office was filled with problems. Several appointees used their power for illegal purposes. In the worst scandal, Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was convicted of taking bribes. This became known as the **Teapot Dome scandal**.

COOLIDGE'S PROBUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

When Harding died in 1923, Vice President Coolidge became president. Coolidge acted quickly to clean up the government. He was more pro-business than Harding. He pushed tax cuts and higher tariffs. During his term, the United States and 14 other nations signed the **Kellogg-Briand Pact**. There wasn't a way to enforce the effort to ban war.

How did Coolidge's policies differ from Harding's?

BUSINESS BOOMS

In the 1920s U.S. business boomed as factories changed. Henry Ford built the **Model T**, a car many people could afford. He reduced costs using a **moving assembly line**. Ford raised wages and reduced the work day to eight hours. He also hired workers that other factories would not hire, such as African Americans and people with disabilities.

Circle the name of the first automobile that the general public could afford.

Millions of Americans found jobs related to the automobile industry. Travel increased, which also spurred business. Many companies produced new goods that took advantage of the increasing number of homes with electricity.

HOOVER ELECTED

In 1928 Secretary of Commerce **Herbert Hoover** ran for president with promises to continue the prosperity. He easily defeated Al Smith, whose campaign focused on city dwellers. For many voters, Smith's religious faith also was an issue.

What position did Herbert Hoover hold before he was elected president?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Hypothesizing The availability of electricity in homes was a great boost to the economy. Write a paragraph about how things might have been different in the 1920s without electricity.