

THE ROARING '20s

Suggestions for presentations

Sept. 18: Prelude and Chapter II – Back to Normalcy

Wilson states war aims with the 14 Points

November 11, 1918: Armistice, *not* surrender

Wilson loses both House and Senate in the off-year elections of 1918

Wilson is forced to modify or eliminate several of his 14 Points, but is still able to have the Treaty of Versailles contain provisions for the establishment of the League of Nations.

Republicans in the Senate, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, defeat the Treaty.

The end of Wilson's presidency: political mistakes and Wilson's stroke.

The 1920 elections: Republicans sweep the presidency, House, and Senate.

Post-war disillusionment sets in.

Sept. 25: Chapter III – The Big Red Scare

Radical labor unions

Immigration

Mail bombings

Wall Street bombing

Boston Police strike

Sacco & Vanzetti case

The Palmer raids, on what authority?

America at its worst: the KKK

Chapter IV – America Convalescent

America's short attention span, diverted by new toys and ever-changing fads:

Crossword puzzles, Mah Jong, the tabloid press featuring sports, crime and sex.

A vigorous stock market

Oct. 2: Chapter V – The Revolution in Manners and Morals.

The revolt of the young: smoking, drinking, and cars

Veterans have trouble assimilating

The right to vote makes women the full equals to men [... or ??]

New electric appliances free up time for housewives to go to work.

Freudian ideas popularize the idea that sex is the essential force that drives mankind

Prohibition makes drinking a new fad for many

Movies contribute to changing styles in women's clothing and hair styles

The arrival of the "Flapper"

Oct. 9: Chapter VI -- Harding and the scandals

Harry Dougherty, Attorney General

Albert Fall, Secretary of the Interior

Charles Forbes, Head of the Veterans Bureau

"The Boys from Marion"

Nan Britten

The Washington Conference (1922) and the Washington Naval Treaty limiting the size of U.S., British and Japanese navies to a ratio of 5:5:3

Chapter VII – Coolidge Prosperity

Was prosperity universal across the nation?

The influence and growth of the advertising industry

Identifying business with a moral calling: “Doing God’s business,” “The business of the U. S. Is business,” “Don’t rock the boat!”

The effort to collect the war debts owed to the U. S. by France and Britain: “They hired the money, didn’t they?”

Oct. 16: Chapter VIII – The Ballyhoo Years

People were tired of the government being so much a part of their lives: war-time restrictions; war-time super patriotism; post-war fears of communism. They wanted fun and the press, magazines and radio gave them a good show:

Amy Semple McPherson

Floyd Collins

The Scopes Trial

“The Pig Woman”

Hollywood

Charles Lindbergh

Sports heroes

Commander Richard Byrd

Jazz

The comics

Oct. 23: Chapter IX -- The Revolt of the Highbrows

Artists, musicians, writers and critics express contempt of middle-American values brought about by the assembly line sameness of their lives. They also wanted to lead a break away from the old culture of Europe to a new American literature, music, and art:

Sinclair Lewis

Eugene O’Neill

H. L. Menken

George & Ira Gershwin

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Aaron Copeland

Dorothy Parker

The New Yorker

Chapter X – Alcohol and Al Capone

What were the forces in America that made the passage of the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act so easy? And enforcement so difficult?

Enforcement of the law

Capone vs. O’Banion

Bootleggers

Racketeering

Rum runners

The spread of crime nationally

The Wickersham Report

The F. B. I.

Oct. 30: Chapter XI – Home, Sweet Florida

What caused the land boom in Florida, and why did it end? The boom in farmland ended in 1921-1922; the boom in suburban real estate ended in 1927; the boom in the cities ended in 1928-1929. Why?

Nov. 6: Chapter XII – The Big Bull Market

The spirit of “Coolidge prosperity” is still strong, despite jolts in the stock market in 1927 and 1928.

The election of 1928	Loans to brokers
The role of speculators	Buying on margin
The role of the Federal Reserve	Investment banks
The role of the President and other officials	

Nov. 13: Chapter XIII – Crash!

Time to pay the piper...

Volatility in the market, 1927-1928	Margin calls
October 24-29, 1929	Nov. 13, 1929
New York bankers buy stocks	Depression sets in

Nov. 20: Chapter XIV – Aftermath: 1930-1931

The causes of the Depression
How to recover from Depression
Blame and finger pointing
The election of 1930