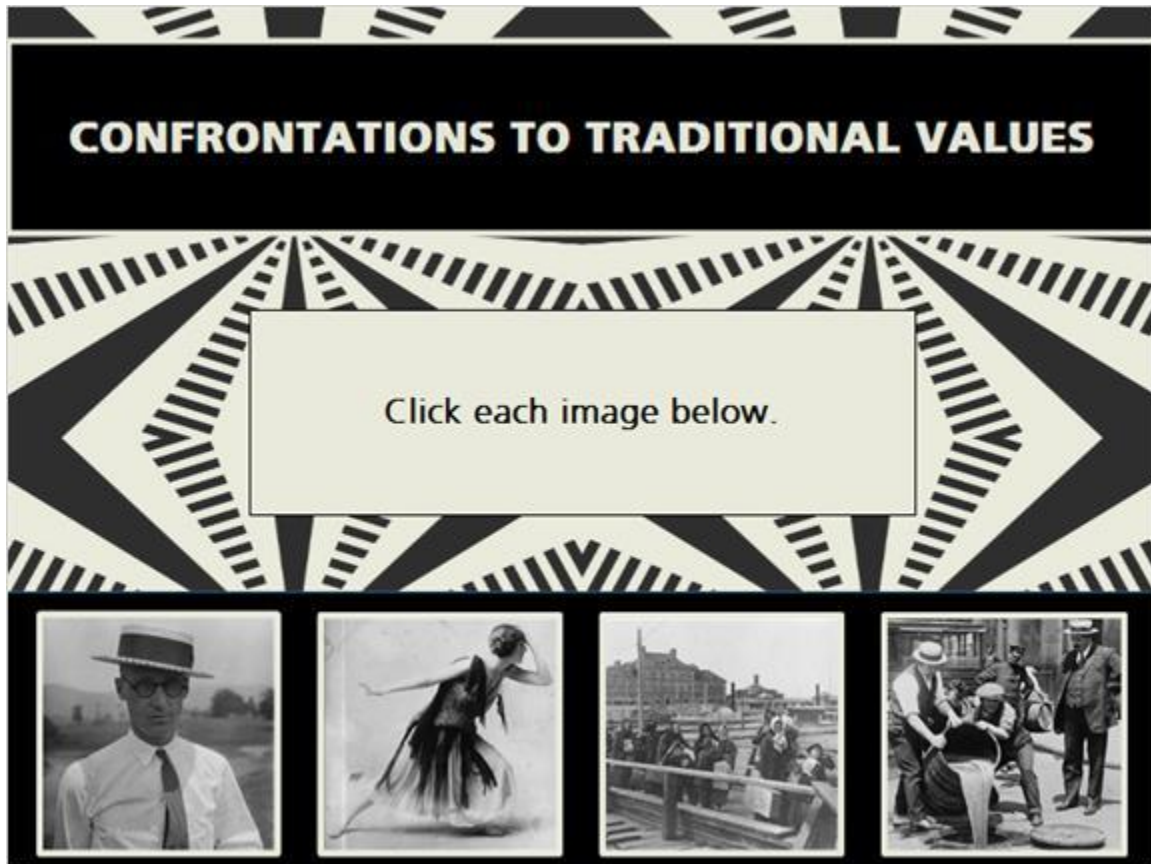


Module 7: America at the Turn of the Century – 1900 to the 1930s

Topic 3 Content: Confrontations to Traditional Values

Introduction



The graphic features a black and white geometric pattern of triangles and lines. At the top, a black banner contains the title "CONFRONTATIONS TO TRADITIONAL VALUES" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a white rectangular box with a black border contains the text "Click each image below." in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are four small, square, black and white photographs arranged in a row. From left to right: 1. A man in a white dress shirt, dark tie, and a light-colored fedora hat. 2. A woman in a dark, sleeveless, floor-length dress with a long, dark, flowing skirt, captured in a dynamic, dancing pose. 3. A group of people on a wooden pier or dock, with a large building in the background. 4. A group of men in work clothes and hats, one is kneeling and working on a large, round object on the ground.

Click each image at the bottom of the interactivity to learn about confrontations to traditional values during the 1920s and 1930s.

Module 7: America at the Turn of the Century – 1900 to the 1930s
Topic 3 Content: Confrontations to Traditional Values

Religion


RELIGION

Americans questioned creationism

Tennessee banned teaching evolution in 1925

John T. Scopes, shown in the picture, taught Darwin's theory of evolution

Scopes' trial sparked debate about the role of science and religion in public schools

The complex block contains a central text area with a decorative border and four small photographs below it. The photographs are: 1. A portrait of John T. Scopes, a man in a white shirt, tie, and hat. 2. A woman in a long, dark, flowing dress, possibly a dancer or performer. 3. A crowd of people on a boat or pier, with buildings in the background. 4. A group of men in a courtroom setting, one man is seated and another is standing.

In the 1920s people began to question creationism, and some scientists started teaching evolution. Tennessee passed the first law that banned teaching evolution in 1925. In response, a biology teacher from the state named John T. Scopes read a passage about Darwin's theory of evolution to his students, and was arrested. The Scopes trial was the first to be broadcast publicly on radio. Ultimately, Scopes had to pay a one hundred dollar fine for his actions. This was the start of a debate regarding the role of science and religion in American public schools.

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Topic 3 Content: Confrontations to Traditional Values

Women




ROLE OF WOMEN

Change in the way women dressed, wore makeup, and behaved

Violet Romer, an actress, dancer, and flapper, is shown in the picture

Women gained more independence

19th Amendment gave women the right to vote



The role of women drastically shifted in the 1920s. Women began to change the way they dressed, wore makeup, and behaved. These evolving women were called Flappers. They wore bobbed hairstyles and shorter skirts; they smoked cigarettes and danced a new dance called the Charleston.

With so many other changes occurring for women during this time period, they began to question why they did not have the right to vote. As women grew more independent, they did not want to feel constrained by any aspects of American life. Long before the 1920s, a group of women, called suffragists, began fighting for the right to vote. After an almost seventy year fight that led into the 1920s, women received the right to vote in national elections through the addition of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Module 7: America at the Turn of the Century – 1900 to the 1930s

Topic 3 Content: Confrontations to Traditional Values

Immigration

OPEN IMMIGRATION

Many Americans feared immigrants

Quota Act limited the number of immigrants to 350,000

National Origins Act limited the number of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe

Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was revived around 1915

KKK opposed immigration, influenced politics, and supported the prohibition



After World War I and the rise of Communist ideals in Russia and other areas of Europe, many Americans feared certain groups of immigrants. Therefore, through the Quota Act, Congress set the parameters that no more than 350,000 immigrants could enter the United States. Furthermore, in order to curb the number of immigrants entering the country from eastern and southern Europe, Congress created the National Origins Act. Specifically, this act limited the number of immigrants to 150,000, and detailed that out of those 150,000 people fewer than 4,000 could hail from Italy, 6,000 from Poland, 34,000 from Great Britain, and 50,000 from Germany. The goal of the National Origins Act was to restrict the number of immigrants who came from less desirable countries.

Due to the rise of immigration and shift in traditional values, a group of men who cherished the conventional ways of America was revived around 1915. The group was the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), which originally began during the time of Reconstruction in the southern part of the United States. The KKK favored people who were one hundred percent Protestant American, and opposed anyone who was not; including African Americans, Jews, Catholics, and foreigners. Moreover, the KKK only accepted native-born Americans. The KKK opposed immigration, and competed against African Americans and immigrants for jobs and housing. In the mid-1920s the KKK was more than three millions members strong and very influential in politics. In fact, KKK members controlled legislatures in some states. One of the causes the KKK supported was prohibition.

Module 7: America at the Turn of the Century – 1900 to the 1930s

Topic 3 Content: Confrontations to Traditional Values

Prohibition

PROHIBITION





18th Amendment was passed in 1920 to prohibit alcoholic beverages

Volstead Act enforced the 18th Amendment

Speakeasies arose as underground saloons and nightclubs

Prohibition caused more crime

In 1933, 21st Amendment repealed the prohibition



In 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment was added to the United States Constitution, and Congress passed the Volstead Act to enforce it. Because reformers viewed liquor as a cause of immorality, the Volstead Act stated that no one should make, sell, trade, transport, import, export, deliver, or possess any intoxicating liquor.

Alcohol consumption in the United States decreased by almost half due to the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act. However, people still found ways to consume, make, and sell alcohol. For example, underground saloons and nightclubs called speakeasies arose, and people also brewed alcohol in their homes. Furthermore, the efforts to enforce prohibition were underfunded and understaffed, and those who found ways around the prohibition contributed to the increase in organized crime.

Many people realized that prohibition caused more problems than it solved, so it was repealed in 1933 by the Twenty-first Amendment to the United States Constitution.