

# NATION: President Harding Returns Nation to Normalcy

## Normalcy Returns: Americans Put Hard Times Behind Them

Washington, D.C., 1922

The U.S. is returning to normalcy [the good life]. Many Americans now enjoy:

- More exports [selling goods to other countries].
- More jobs.
- Better pay.

Right after the world war, life was hard. Most Americans suffered from:

- Falling exports to Europe. Europe was making its own goods and food again.
- Factory slowdowns or closings. Factories had to stop making war goods. They had to put in different machines to make peacetime goods.

■ No work. People were laid off from their wartime jobs.

■ Too many workers. Millions of returning soldiers needed jobs.

■ Rising prices and low earnings.

In 1921, Americans elected **Warren Harding** president. He promised a "return to normalcy." President Harding has:

■ Lowered taxes from their wartime high.

■ Started the Veterans Bureau to help returning soldiers.

Farmers still have hard times. They are growing more food than people can buy. They get low prices for crops because there is too much food.

**Fear blankets the U.S.—see column at right.**

## Scandals Rock Government—Harding's Friends to Blame

Washington, D.C., 1924

Americans are shocked at the **Teapot Dome Scandal** [stealing government oil]. President Harding gave government jobs to many of his friends. But some have been caught using their government jobs to make money for themselves.

Harding's friend, Secretary of the Interior **Albert Fall**, took a bribe of \$100,000 from oil men. Fall let them rent the government's Teapot Dome oil fields. The oil men got rich. The government got cheated.

Other scandals in Washington involve:

- A government officer who was caught stealing public money.
- A government officer who let people out of jail for money.
- The attorney general who let people break the prohibition law [a law against drinking alcohol].



### Teapot Dome Scandal, 1923

**What:** U.S. Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall lets two rich oil men rent government oil fields. The oil men make money by selling the oil. The government makes nothing.

**Where:** Teapot Dome in Wyoming. Teapot Dome is a rock that looks like a teapot. Under the "teapot" is a "dome" of oil.

**What It Did:** Made Americans not trust government.

### Fear of the Communists

1920s—The Red Scare

**What:** A fear that Communists [also called "reds"] are planning to take over America.

**Cause:** Communists took over Russia in 1917. Communists are people who believe government should run people's lives.

**The Result:** The government suspects some people with different political ideas of being Communists. The government is putting some of these people in jail. Many of the people jailed are not Communists.

### Fear of Oriental Immigrants

1882—Chinese Exclusion Acts  
1924—Immigration Act

**What:** Laws to keep Orientals [Chinese and Japanese] out of U.S.

**Why:**

- Competition for jobs. Orientals take jobs away from Americans by working for very low pay.
- Prejudice against Orientals.

### Fear of Anarchists

1920—Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti get the

death sentence for robbing a shoe factory and killing two men.

**Why:** Sacco and Vanzetti are anarchists [people against all forms of government]. Some people think Sacco and Vanzetti were not guilty of robbing and killing. Being anarchists was their only crime.

### Fear of Blacks, Jews, Catholics, Immigrants

1917—Ku Klux Klan Forms again.

**What:** A secret club.

**First Started:** After the Civil War.

**Started Again:** In North and South.

**Why:** To keep blacks and immigrants under control so they don't:

- Take over U.S. government.
- Marry white Americans.
- Take jobs white Americans want.

### Fear of Southern European Immigrants

1921—Emergency Quota Act

**What:** A law that cut down on the number of immigrants coming into the U.S.

**Why:**

- Prejudice [dislike of people different from oneself].
- Isolationism [desire to keep America apart from other countries].

## NATION: "The Roaring Twenties"

# "The Roaring Twenties"—Changes Sweep the U.S.

Across the Nation, 1920s

This is a happy, exciting time in the U.S. Some Americans do crazy stunts for fun, such as:

- Sit on top of flag poles.
- Swallow live goldfish.
- Dance until they drop.

Life in the 20s is very different from life before World War I. And many people of the 20s look at life differently than people did before the war. Many people of the 20s think:

- "Money is easy to get."

Good jobs, high wages, and credit buying [buy now, pay later] make some people think they do not have to save money.

■ "Everyone deserves possessions." More and more goods are being made. New inventions



### The Right to Vote—A Say In Government

- The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. It was added to the U.S. Constitution August 26, 1920.
- Women voted for the first time in the presidential election of 1920.

### New Job Opportunities—An Income

- Women are freer to choose new and different jobs—jobs only men once held.

### New Fashion—Physical Freedom

Young women in style are called "flappers."

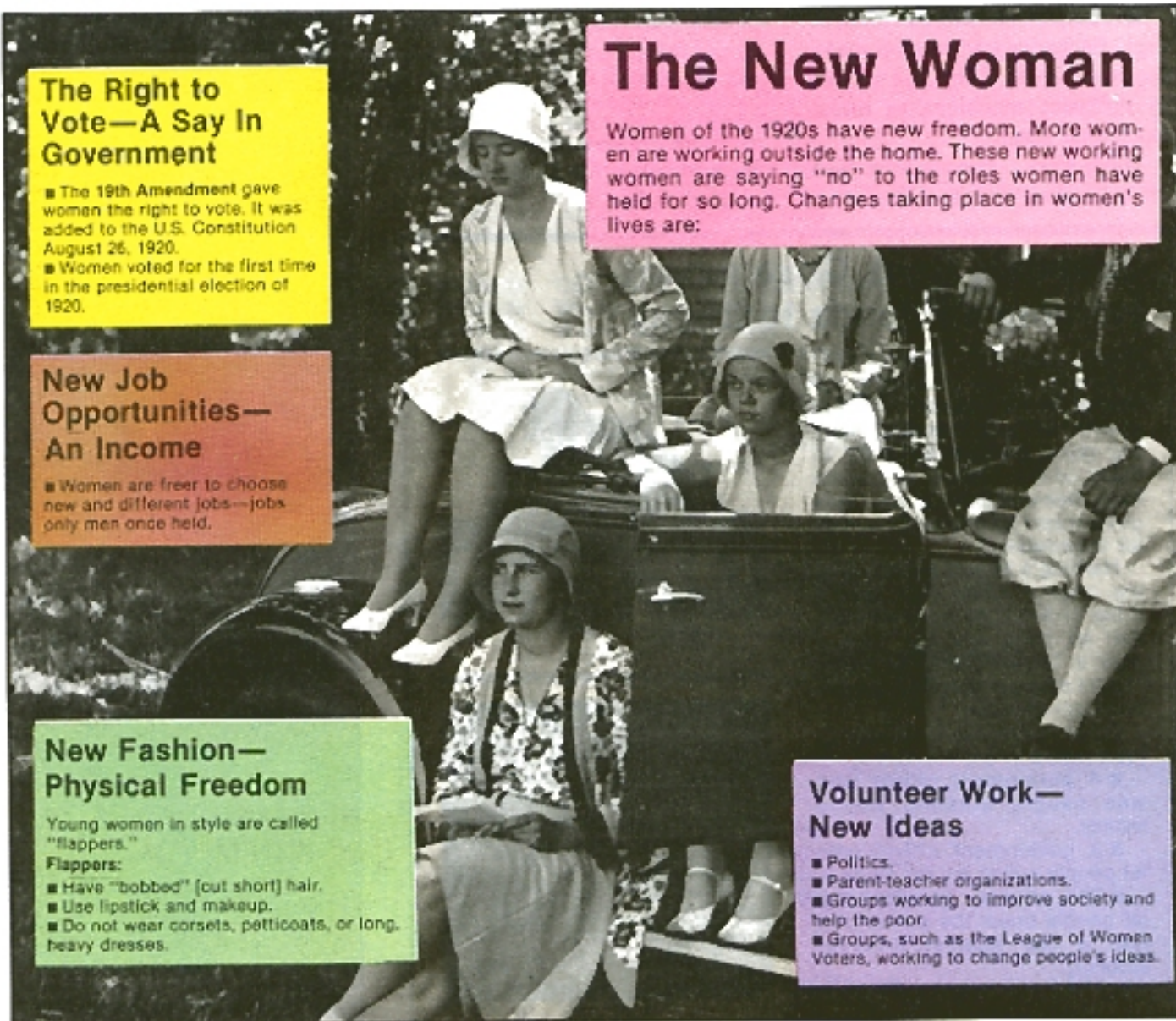
- Flappers:**
- Have "bobbed" (cut short) hair.
  - Use lipstick and makeup.
  - Do not wear corsets, petticoats, or long, heavy dresses.

### The New Woman

Women of the 1920s have new freedom. More women are working outside the home. These new working women are saying "no" to the roles women have held for so long. Changes taking place in women's lives are:

### Volunteer Work—New Ideas

- Politics.
- Parent-teacher organizations.
- Groups working to improve society and help the poor.
- Groups, such as the League of Women Voters, working to change people's ideas.



## NATION: "The Roaring Twenties"

make life easier. Many people do not want to choose which to buy. They want everything.

■ "The world is getting smaller." The car, the airplane, the radio, magazines, and movies are bringing people and ideas close together.

■ "Women have been slaves long enough." More women are working and earning money like men. So many women are dressing like men, cutting their hair short, smoking, voting, and traveling. Some do not want to stay home and have children.

■ "Education helps everyone." More people are going to high school and college than ever before.

■ "Life in the city is fun." Cities are growing larger as more people move there to work and play.

Life in the U.S. is changing.

### Coolidge Keeps Presidency

Washington, D.C., 1924

**Calvin Coolidge** has won his own four-year term as president by a landslide vote. Most Americans seem to believe that "Cool Cal" has brought good times to the U.S.

Coolidge first became president in 1923. He took over when President Harding died in office. Because Coolidge seems so honest, most people are forgetting the Harding scandals.

Coolidge is known as a silent man who runs a silent government. He believes business, not government should run the country. "The business of America is business," he says.

Progressives do not like Coolidge. He has stopped business reforms started by Progressives.

## The New Transportation

### Cars:

- Cars and trucks are taking the place of horses and buggies on the roads.
- Cars are no longer owned only by the rich.
- More Americans can travel farther away from home.
- The automobile industry is becoming the biggest industry in the U.S. It is creating many jobs for Americans.

### Henry Ford:

- Wanted to make a car that was "simple, tough, and cheap."
- Wanted everyone to be able to own a car.
- Made the **Model T**:
  - A cheap but strong car.
  - Simple tools could fix it.
  - Parts were cheap to buy.
- Started the **assembly line** system to make cars. In the assembly line:
  - Each worker does one simple job to put the cars together instead of one person doing many jobs.
  - Cars can be made much faster and cheaper.

### Airplanes:

- Are faster than other transportation. Make quick travel between continents possible.
- Pioneers:
  - Who: **Orville and Wilbur Wright**
  - What: First to make a machine that could fly.
  - Flew their flying machine 120 feet.
  - When: December 17, 1903
  - Where: **Kitty Hawk, North Carolina**

- Who: **Charles Lindbergh**
- What: First to fly across the Atlantic Ocean from New York to Paris, France.
- When: 1927
- How: Flew all alone.
  - Did not make any stops.
  - Did not have a radio in his plane, the "**Spirit of St. Louis**."
  - Had only a compass.
  - Landed in Paris after 33½ hours.

Charles Lindbergh, in front of the "Spirit of St. Louis"—the plane he flew across the Atlantic Ocean.



## The 18th Amendment: Prohibition

The Prohibition Amendment has made some changes in the U.S.—both good and bad. **Prohibition** means no one can make, drink, or sell alcohol.

In 1917, Congress passed the prohibition amendment. Congress wanted to use grain and

sugar to feed soldiers instead of to make alcohol.

In 1919, the prohibition amendment became law when enough states had ratified [said yes to] it. States ratified this amendment because many people are against drinking alcohol.

### Prohibitionists

#### Think:

- Drinking is not healthy. Some say drinking is a sin.
- Because of the 18th Amendment, many people are not drinking anymore.

### Problems Caused by Prohibition:

Some people are becoming lawbreakers:

- **Bootleggers** sneak alcohol into the U.S. from Canada and the West Indies.
- **Speakeasies** [bars] sell alcohol secretly to people who come there to drink.
- Some people make their own alcohol at home.

Gangsters are taking over places where alcohol is secretly made or sold. Since alcohol is against the law, bootleggers and speakeasies cannot ask the police for help against the gangsters.

## NATION: "The Roaring Twenties"

### The New Consumer

Goods are being made to make life easier for the **consumer** [person who buys].

#### New factory machines:

- Make goods cheaper, faster, with more safety.
- Create more jobs for workers.
- Let workers earn more money.

#### Power to run machines:

The U.S. owns the fuels it needs to run the machines it makes. The U.S. has:

- Electric power.
- Oil.
- Natural gas.
- Coal.

Electric power is the fuel of the future.

#### New appliances make it easier to keep up a home.

The latest appliances are:

- Electric refrigerator.
- Electric stove.
- Vacuum cleaner.
- Electric iron.
- Washing machine.
- Toaster.

#### New farm machines:

- Make farm work easier.
- Make farms bigger.
- Make many farmers go broke because farmers:
  - \$ Borrow money to buy machines.
  - \$ Overproduce—grow more crops than they can sell.
  - \$ Cannot pay back their loans.

### "The New Negro"

Blacks in the 1920s are feeling a new pride. The "New Negroes" are proud that blacks, like whites, have great artists, too. And many whites are also discovering black greatness.

#### Harlem Renaissance:

Many are calling this time the Harlem Renaissance. Harlem is an area in New York City. Many black people live in Harlem.

Renaissance means "rebirth." The Harlem Renaissance is a time when black music, art, and writing are being reborn.

#### Writers:

Black writers write about black people and what it means to be black. They write:

- Poetry.
- Plays.
- Stories.
- Autobiographies [stories about one's own life].

#### "Blues" and "Jazz"

Black musicians are creating new kinds of music called "blues" and "jazz."

- Started in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Played by black musicians like **Louis Armstrong**.

**Blues**—soft and sweet music; tells of joy and pain felt by blacks.

**Jazz**—energetic music; new and unusual rhythms.

#### On Stage:

Black actors and entertainers are popular on stages around the U.S.

#### College and Business:

More blacks:

- Are going to high school and college.
- Are working in business and industry.
- Are getting involved in American society.

### The New Mass Media

The new **mass media**—radio, motion pictures, magazines—link all corners of the U.S. as nothing else has done before. The media bring city people and country people together. Radio tells everyone what is happening around the U.S. Movies show Americans how other people live. Magazines let people read about stories and events in other parts of the U.S. and of the world.

#### Radio— A New American Fad

Broadcast for the first time:  
**WHEN:** November 2, 1920  
**WHERE:** KDKA radio in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  
**WHAT:** Gave the results of that day's presidential election—Warren G. Harding the winner.

Changes American life because it:

- Gives different parts of the U.S. a shared experience.
- Lets everyone hear news as it happens around the world.
- Offers entertainment.



#### Magazines—News Written for the Common People

■ 1922: *Readers Digest* starts. It prints parts of books and news stories from many magazines. Soon it is sent all over the U.S.

■ 1923: *Time* magazine starts. It tells about the week's current events. It, too, is read by Americans across the U.S.

#### Motion Pictures (Movies)— Fantasy for Everyone

- Most movies have no sound until 1927. In that year, "The Jazz Singer" comes out with some sound.
- Big movie theaters are going up in most cities.