

GCSE HISTORY REVISION CARDS

PAPER 1

**America, 1920 -73:
Opportunity and Inequality**

By the 1920s the opportunity for a new life had been attracting people to America from all over the world for nearly 300 years. The 'American' population of around 110 million was, in fact, made up of over 100 different nationalities. America is often described as a 'melting pot' – this compares a multi-cultural society to a pot where different metals are melted together to form a new material.

Recent Immigrants:

From the mid-19th century, more immigrants came to America. Some were Mexicans and Cubans looking for work, others were Jews fleeing persecuting in Eastern Europe, or people escaping poverty in Italy and Greece. About a million Irish people emigrated to America as a result of the Irish Potato famine (1845-49). There were also immigrants from China and Japan. Many of these immigrants were poor and low skilled, and settled in large towns and cities where they would try and find work.

African Americans:

Millions of slaves were brought from Africa to work on the plantations in the colonies between 1600-1860. Slavery officially ended in 1865 and the slaves were free but they still faced huge discrimination. They could not vote, had little access to education and had only low paid jobs and low quality housing. By 1920 there were about 10 million African Americans in the USA, mostly in the south.

The Melting Pot

Native Americans:

Before the arrival of European settlers, there were tribes of native people who had lived across America for thousands of years. Over time the white settlers forced Native Americans off their land and made them live in small 'reservations'. This had a huge impact on the native population, which dropped to just 5% of its original level in less than 300 years.

Descendants of early settlers:

From the 160s onwards, white settlers came to America from Europe – mainly Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. These groups became the richest and most powerful people in America. From the 1960s they were often known as WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants). People from this group formed the bulk of the government well into the 20th century.

A period of low unemployment, high wages and high sales is called an economic boom. 1920s America was booming – many people benefited from an improved standard of living.

The First World War:

America did not initially join the war. Instead they lent money to Britain and its allies to buy food and weapons, mostly from America. This created jobs and wealth. When the USA did join the war in 1917 they were not badly affected by it. Germany however was badly damaged allowing the USA to overtake them in the production of things like medicines and dyes.

Consumer Society:

By 1920 America was producing 70% of the world's petrol, 40% of iron, 50% of timber and 55% of cotton. Access to this amount of raw materials made production of consumer goods like cars and household gadgets easier. Nearly 70% of American homes had electricity by 1929, this increased demand for new items like fridges, radios, washing machines and cars which all created manufacturing jobs.

Advertising and hire purchase:

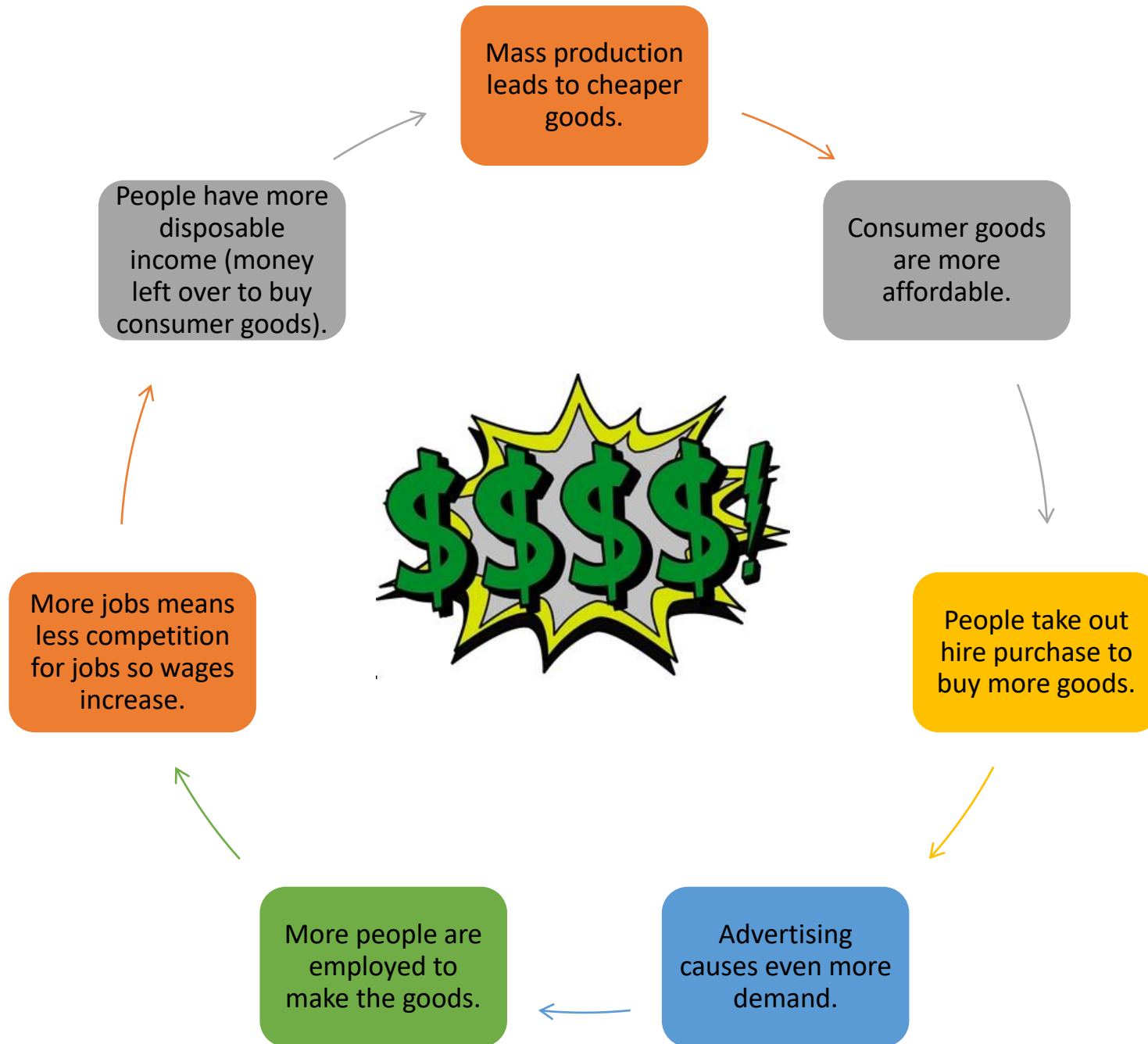
The demand for consumer goods was increasing due to advertising campaigns on billboards, in newspapers, on the radio and in cinemas. You could even order things through catalogues if you lived in the country. **Hire purchase** (a credit agreement where goods could be paid for in installments) meant that these new gadgets were accessible for all. 60% of cars were bought using hire purchase in the 1920s.

Industry and mass production:

American business took advantage of new ways to manufacture goods. One of the key changes was the introduction of **assembly lines** – instead of workers making one whole product, each stage of the process was done by a different person. This made production faster as each worker would become an expert at his one job. Since more goods were able to be produced this allowed them to be sold at cheaper prices.

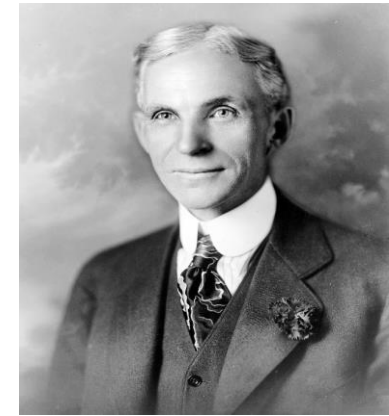
Republican government policies:

Generally, the Republican government adopted an attitude of **laissez-faire** (minimal interference) and wanted businesses to operate without restrictions. They believed in '**rugged individualism**' – that people should look after themselves and not rely on the government for help. However, they did help to support businesses by cutting taxes and introducing **tariffs** (taxes on imported foreign goods) In order to encourage people to buy US products.



Henry Ford (1863-1947)

- Ford came from a farming family. His parents were immigrants from Ireland and Belgium. He did not like farm work and in 1879 he left to become an apprentice machine operator in Detroit, Michigan.
- He founded the Ford motor company in June 1903. His first car was the Model A, and by October he had made a profit of \$37,000 (Around \$3 million today)
- He introduced the system of mass production which revolutionised American industry.
- He paid his workers nearly 3 times what factory owners did. This meant he attracted skilled engineers, reducing the cost of training. It also meant his employees could afford his cars.



Mass Production and the Model-T:

- ❑ In 1911, Ford introduced the assembly line to car making. Rather than workers building a car from start to finish, the care moved on a conveyor belt past workers who were each responsible for a small part of the process.
- ❑ The Ford Company concentrated on mass-producing a single type of car – the Model-T. It was quick and cheap to build because they were all the same, and one colour (so no time was wasted changing the paint in the spray guns, also because black pain dried the fastest).
- ❑ Faster production meant lower costs and cheaper cars. Between 1911 the cost of a car fell from \$800 to \$295. Mass production as soon used by other industries, which increased production and reduced prices, further increasing the scale of the boom.

Cars bought a sense of increased freedom and independence. They also created trade for businesses like restaurants and hotels.

The car industry created jobs. 500,000 worked in car plants by the mid 1920s. They also created jobs in glass, rubber, steel and leather industries as well as road building.

By 1926, there were 20 millions cars in America, this led to congestion on the roads.

Cars were new and not many people were good drivers, accidents were frequent.

Increased car use led to pollution.

City suburbs grew as people could drive and no longer needed to live close to work.

The impact of the motor industry



The 1920s saw a growing number of millionaires in the USA (15,000 by 1927) but there were also 6 million families living on less than \$1000 a year, they made up about 42% of the population. This was largely due to the fact that there was a lot of demand for jobs so large firms were able to keep wages for unskilled workers low.

Farmers:

During WW1, European countries had bought food from American farmers as they were not able to produce their own. By the 1920s Europe was recovering and could produce their own food, some countries added tariffs on to American food to make it more expensive. New machinery meant that farmers were now producing more than they could sell, many had taken loans to buy this machinery and could now not pay them back. In 1924 alone, more than 500,000 farmers lost their farms, and their workers lost their jobs.

African Americans:

Most African Americans lived in the southern states. They worked as labourers or rented small farms as sharecroppers (farmers who have to give a share of their crops to the landlord). Most African Americans were living in extreme poverty and their living conditions were awful. The problems that hit the farming industry hit the sharecroppers especially hard.

Native Americans:

The native people had lost most of their land as it had been seized by mining and ranching companies. Native Americans were forced to live on reservations. These were often on the worst land where it was difficult to grow crops. They also made it harder for them to follow their traditional way of life. Most natives lived in extreme poverty and had lower-quality education. They had a shorter life expectancy than any other group in the USA.

Old industries:

New products created jobs and wealth but also caused a drop in demand for traditional products. Skilled workers in these old industries found that their skills were no longer needed and they had to take lower paid work. The growing use of oil and petrol for cars and electricity meant that the demand for coal dropped, leading to mine closures. New synthetic fabrics like nylon pushed down the demand for cotton and wool, workers in these industries saw their wages fall or their jobs completely disappear.

The Stock Market Boom

The Boom

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How did the Stock Market work?

During the 1920s lots of people started businesses. Starting a business takes money, for example, for wages, materials and land. Some of these business people were rich enough to use their own money, but others needed to borrow money.

Investors would lend money to businesses. In return the investors own a share of the business. These investors are called shareholders and they are paid a dividend (A share of the profits) every year.

If a company does well and makes profits, it becomes worth more. This means shares become more valuable. Shareholders can make money by selling them for more than they paid for them.

During the 1920s, companies earned record profits. Most companies invested their profits in further expansion, this made share prices rise.

Shares (also called stocks) are bought and sold in the stock market at a stock exchange. This was located on Wall St in New York City.

A booming market:

Buying shares became hugely popular during the 1920s. Stock prices were rising and rising, so it wasn't just the rich who got involved. Millions of ordinary Americans bought shares hoping to make money off their rising value. Lots of these people used borrowed money to buy shares. They would mainly buy shares using a 10% deposit hoping to pay back the loan when the shares were sold for a profit, this was called **buying on the margin** and was a good (but risky) way to make money, as long as share prices kept rising!

Government policies

American presidents during the boom – Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover – were Republican and believed in laissez-faire – that the government should not interfere in running the economy and should leave it to businesses to create wealth.

The government helped by keeping taxes as low as possible. This allowed businesses to invest more in expansion, and gave ordinary people more money to spend.

The government also tried to help economic growth by making it easier to borrow money.

The government banks relaxed the rules for credit. The American public took out loans totalling \$4 billion. Some of this money was invested in shares.

The 'Roaring Twenties'

During the economic boom of the 1920s, many people had more money and leisure time. They looked for ways to enjoy themselves. This led to social and cultural changes, and the 1920s became known as the roaring twenties.

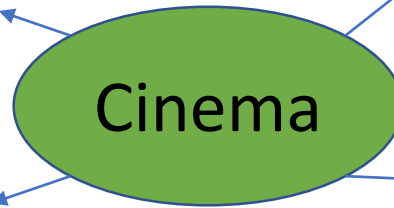
The growing popularity of cinema caused some concerns. Campaigners worried that the sexual content of some films would damage young people's morals. There were moves to ban certain films in several states. The Hays Code was introduced which banned kisses longer than 3 seconds and stopped any character benefitting from criminal behaviour.

Before 1927, films were silent. Captions appeared at regular intervals, and a pianist played music to accompany the film. In 1927 the first 'talkie' was released. This increased the demand for cinema even more.

The 1920s saw a cinematic boom. Cinema was already popular but audiences tripled in this time due to the amount of disposable income people had.

The movie business was based in Hollywood, outside Los Angeles on the West Coast. This area had good weather all year, which made it ideal for producing films. By the end of the decade Hollywood studios were producing more than 500 films a year.

Movie studios promoted their starring actors as well as their films. Actors were often presented as sex symbols to attract fans, and they were interviewed in magazines and made public appearances. Stars like Charlie Chaplin and Clara Bow had fans who would pay to see any of their films no matter the storyline.



What is Jazz?	Jazz is a musical style that combines several different musical types, including African spirituals, blues and brass band.
Where did it come from?	It began among African American musicians in the South. African Americans who move to New York and Chicago to look for work brought Jazz with them.
Why was it popular?	Jazz was new and many people found the loud, lively music very exciting. Jazz had a strong rhythm which was good for dancing. It rejected the rules of traditional music and featured improvisation, which made every performance different.
What was different about the clubs?	Jazz clubs attracted both black and white young people at a time when it was unusual for them to socialise together. Jazz music led to new dance styles. Formal dances like the waltz were replaced by the Charleston, the tango and the lindy-hop.
Did everyone like Jazz?	Jazz's African American roots meant that some people thought it was immoral. Some even called it 'the Devil's music'. By the end of the 1920s at least 60 communities had passed laws banning jazz in public dance halls.

Before WW1

- ❑ In the early 1900s woman had few opportunities. They couldn't vote and most couldn't work.
- ❑ Middle and upper-class women had to obey many rules, for example they were not allowed to be alone with men if they weren't family members.
- ❑ Make-up was forbidden and many women were discouraged from playing sports
- ❑ Poorer women had to work, but they could only do low paid, unskilled work.

As a result of WW1

- ❑ When America joined the war in 1917, men left to fight and women took over the jobs they left behind.
- ❑ Women got the vote in 1920
- ❑ Work gave women financial independence which meant that they had more options.
- ❑ The divorce rate doubled in the 1920s as women realised that they did not have to stay in unhappy marriages.

The Flapper

- Short dark bobbed hair
- Short skirts just below the knee, and no corsets.
- Bell-shaped hats
- Waistline dropped to hipline.
- Silk stockings that were visible
- Wore makeup (eyeliner, mascara, lipstick, blush.) all dark and visible.
- Dancing was a popular activity.
- Casually dated
- Smoked and drank in public



Google images (flapper girl)

Gibson Girl

- Long loose hair
- Long straight skirts with corsets.
- Large hats
- Shirts with high collars
- Wore absolutely no make up
- Activities included, tennis, bicycling, golf. Sports where they could not get hurt.
- Not allowed to date, they were set up with their husband by their parents.
- Drinking and smoking were not allowed at all. It was not womanly.



Google images (gibson girl)

Flappers:

- ❑ As women had more opportunities, the strict rules about 'proper behaviour' began to relax.
- ❑ Many young women began to wear more revealing clothes, to smoke and drink and to go out alone.
- ❑ They rode motorbikes and went dancing until the early hours of the morning. These women became known as 'Flappers'
- ❑ Many older Americans were shocked by this behaviour. They saw flappers as an attack on religious values. The 'Anti Flirt League' was established to protest this immoral behaviour.
- ❑ Flappers were usually middle and upper class women in northern cities. Many women in the countryside or in the working class found their lives did not change much at all. They were still not equal to men and mainly worked in unskilled, low paid jobs.

Before the first world war the ideal woman was a 'Gibson Girl'. This idea was replaced by the 'Flapper' in the early 1920s.

In January 1920, the government passed a law that was immediately broken in nearly every town in America. This law was known as prohibition and it banned the sale, transportation or manufacture of alcohol. This law divided society massively and had a significant impact on the US public.

Causes

There had been campaigns to ban alcohol in the USA for years. These had been led by the Anti-Saloon League as well as churches.

They argued that alcohol led to a decline in moral values and caused social problems such as violent crime, drink driving, poverty, debt, addiction and illness.

This was supported by women's groups who claimed alcohol was cause of domestic violence.

33 states had already passed laws restricting alcohol consumption. This new law made the ban law all over the nation.

Reaction

Many people felt the government had no right to interfere in their lives, they liked to drink and alcohol was still easy to get as people were willing to sell it to them.

The demand for alcohol attracted criminals who set up illegal bars called **speakeasies**. During 1920 New York had twice as many speakeasies as it had bars before prohibition.

Speakeasies got alcohol from **bootleggers** who smuggled it into the country. They also sold **moonshine**, a strong home-made alcohol. Cases of alcohol poisoning increased by 700% because of this.

Enforcement

1500 Prohibition Agents were employed to find out where alcohol was being bought or sold. They then arrested those responsible.

The agents had to stop smugglers bringing alcohol into the country. This was not easy as the USA had 18,700 miles of border and coastline. Although the number of agents doubled between 1920-30, they struggled to stop alcohol being smuggled from Canada and Mexico.

Impact of prohibition: Gangsters and corruption

Criminal gangs were soon making millions of dollars from smuggling and selling alcohol.

This meant that they could afford to bribe or intimidate police and judges to turn a blind eye.

Knowing they could bribe the law, gangs began fixing races, running brothels and extorting money through **protection rackets**.

Because crime was so profitable, the gangs began to fight with each other. There were murders, gunfights and bombings.

Many people were frightened of the gangs and worried about police corruption. However, they didn't want to stop buying the alcohol that made the gangs so powerful.

Prohibition led to corruption and organised crime. This had a significant impact on society by creating more divisions. The Mafia was by far the biggest organised crime organisation.



Alphonse 'Al' Capone

During the 19th and early 20th century. Italian immigrants came to America looking for a better life. There were 500,000 Italians in New York City by 1910.

Most were farmers and unskilled labourers, although some were skilled craftsmen.

Most were law-abiding people, but any large group of people includes some criminals. Italian criminals tended to prey on the Italian community rather than other New Yorkers.

When Benito Mussolini became Prime Minister of Italy in 1922, he tried to get rid of the Mafia

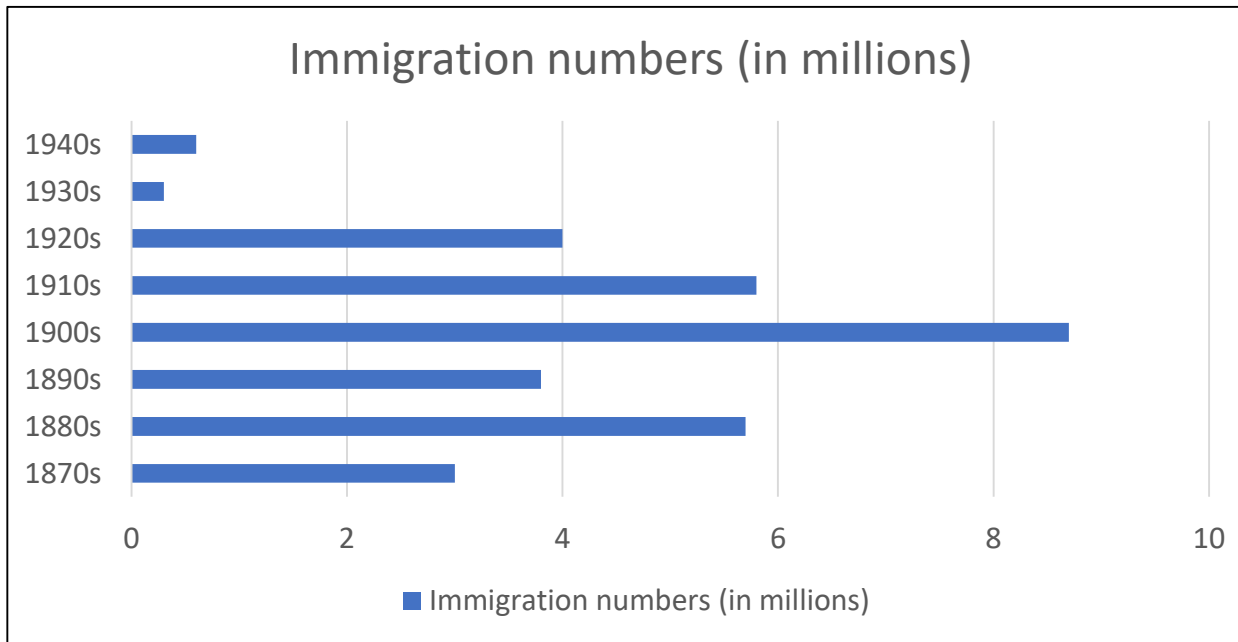
Some Italian Mafia members escaped to the USA, where they became involved in bootlegging and ran gangs in American cities such as New York and Chicago. They became known as the American Mafia or the 'Mob'.

Impact on society

- ❑ Gang Violence: Gangs fought each other for control of specific areas. These fights involved murder, gun battles and bombings, which scared the people.
- ❑ Intimidation: The Mafia kept the tradition of 'omerta' (silence and secrecy). Going to the police probably meant your death.
- ❑ Spread: The Mafia got everywhere. They fixed horse races, ran brothels and operated protection rackets. This made them even harder to challenge.
- ❑ Corruption: Mafia bosses like Al Capone bribed city mayors and the police, which protected them from the law. This meant people did not trust the police or politicians to protect them.
- ❑ Suspicion of immigrants: The Mafia made many people link immigration with crime.

After Prohibition

Prohibition had allowed organised crime to flourish, but the end of prohibition didn't mean the end of 'the Mob'. The criminal gangs simply moved into other areas, such as drug trafficking and illegal gambling. They also got involved in legitimate businesses such as construction and the clothing industry. The Italian Mafia still operates.



Immigration to America in the 19th and early 20th century was the biggest movement of people in history. The equivalent of 10% of the population of Europe came to America. Many were attracted by advertisements offering farmland, others were escaping poverty or religious persecution. America was the land of opportunity and early in the 20th century they operated an 'Open Door Policy'.

<u>What immigrants expected</u>	<u>The reality of life in America</u>
<p>Land: America is huge and there were millions of acres of farmland available. Immigrants were attracted by the offer of free farmland called 'Homesteads'.</p>	<p>Most of the land available was in the far west or south. This land was desolate, the journey there was dangerous and could take months. Life for Homesteaders was also very difficult and many suffered extreme poverty.</p>
<p>Work: America's new industries and large factories meant there were opportunities to work. Pay and working conditions were generally better than Europe.</p>	<p>Many immigrants found good jobs, others started businesses and made a good living. Some were not so lucky though. They were not well educated and didn't speak English so could only find low paying jobs.</p>
<p>The American Dream: America was founded on the idea of liberty and equality. The American Dream was the idea that anyone could become rich if they worked hard</p>	<p>Many immigrants worked hard and remained poor. They were often paid less than Americans. Despite the idea of equality, many immigrants faced prejudice and had to live in areas of extremely poor housing.</p>
<p>Freedom: The constitution said that everyone had the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. America also had freedom of worship for all faiths.</p>	<p>This was attractive to Eastern Europeans who were persecuted at home such as Jews. This freedom though did not protect immigrants from religious or political prejudice e.g. The Red Scare.</p>

The Impact of Immigration

The first immigrants were usually welcomed because they came from the same Northern European countries as the original colonists. They were there not seen as foreign.

The immigrants who began to come to America in the late 19th century came from poorer countries in Eastern or Southern Europe. These immigrants were considered foreign or different.

Many of these new immigrants didn't plan to stay in America. Most of them were young men who had hoped to stay for a few years and earn enough money to live a better life in their homeland.

More than half of immigrants who came to America between 1880-1920 are believed to have eventually returned to their countries. This lack of desire to become an American increased the feeling that the immigrants were different from Americans.

Impact on Society:

New immigrants rapidly formed new communities in cities. Areas like 'little Italy' and 'Irish Town' became common. These were close knit communities with their own ethnic shops, banks, cinemas and restaurants. This was a good support system but made integration in society difficult. 85% of the US population had been born there. However a concentration of immigrants in major cities created the feeling that they were 'taking over'. By 1920, more than 40% of the population of New York, Chicago and San Francisco had been born abroad.

Causes of racial tension:

The fact that many immigrants were seen as more 'foreign' contributed to prejudice against them. As a result, they were often blamed for social issues such as disease, crime and alcoholism. They were accused of stealing work from Americans since they were willing to work for low wages. They increased demand for poor housing and so were blamed for rising rent prices. Language barriers also increased tensions as well as the religious makeup of new immigrants being Catholic or Jewish rather than the traditional Protestant immigrants.

Government response to immigration:

Suspicion of the new immigrant groups was shared by the government, who passed legislation to restrict the numbers allowed into America.

1917: Literacy rules meant that immigrants had to be able to read a 40 word sentence. This excluded uneducated migrants from Eastern Europe.

1921: Immigration Quota Law set a limit of 350,000 immigrants a year. It also limited the numbers from any country to 3% of the total population that was already in the USA.

1924: The National Origins Act cut the number of immigrants to 150,000 a year and reduced the national quota to 2%. These were both attempts to restrict numbers from 'new immigrant' groups.

Experience of African Americans

All minority groups faced discrimination but it was particularly bad for African Americans. Slavery had been abolished in 1865, but in the 1920s, African Americans were still severely discriminated against by the white population.

Racial Division:

After the abolition of slavery, the southern states where slaves had worked on cotton and tobacco plantations had a black majority. The white minority were frightened of the power African Americans might have if they weren't 'controlled'. In 1877 they began to pass segregation laws to keep blacks and whites separate. These became known as 'Jim Crow' laws.

Black and white soldiers were segregated in the military.

Schools were segregated. Black children had fewer resources and less teachers.

Some states banned marriages between different races.

Black people could only rent houses in poorer neighbourhoods.

The impact of racial divisions of African Americans.

Difficult literacy tests were introduced to stop black people from voting.

African Americans could not use the same hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, water fountains or taxis as white people. They even had separate cemeteries.

Lynching:

Many black Americans were murdered for supposed 'crimes' without a trial. This was called '**lynching**'. Lynching had taken place since the end of slavery, but was still common in the 1920s – 61 people were lynched in 1921. The police mostly turned a blind eye. Most victims had done nothing wrong. Lynching's were often attended by thousands of people and sometimes postcards were sold showing the murder. The purpose of lynching was to show black Americans that white people were in control. This idea is called '**white supremacy**' and was a key factor in creating racial division in American society.

Moving North:

Not surprisingly, many African Americans decided to leave the south. About 2 million moved north where there were more jobs. They still faced discrimination in the north, they were paid less than white people and had fewer opportunities. Still, things were better than in the south. The black population of cities like New York and Chicago doubled between 1900 and 1920.

The NAACP:

In 1909, W.E.B. Du Bois set up the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP). They campaigned for better rights for African Americans such as better housing and the right to vote. The political class of the 1920s did not accept their recommendations, but the NAACP became more influential in the 1960s. It still exists today.

The 1920s was the time when a white supremacist group, The Ku Klux Klan, was at its strongest. The rise of the KKK is a clear example of the divisions in American society in the 1920s.

What was the KKK:

The Ku Klux Klan was originally founded in the 1860s as a protest against the ending of slavery. It faded away within a few years, but regained strength in the early 1900s. In 1915 a film called 'The Birth of a Nation' presented the KKK as protecting white people from violent black thugs. By 1921, the KKK had marketing staff and presented itself as a fraternal society. It was a secret, Protestant white supremacist group which targeted African Americans, Jews Catholics and immigrants. By 1925, there were about 5 million members, mainly in the south. Members wore white robes and hoods.

Impact of the KKK:

The KKKs secrecy meant that black people were aware that any white person they met could be a member, which would be very frightening. KKK members carried out activities to intimidate black people, such as marches and cross burnings. Klan members were involved in many murders known as lynchings. Other victims were beaten, whipped or attacked with acid. Some police, judges and sheriffs were members, so actions were rarely punished. This increased the feeling that society was divided along racial lines.

The Ku Klux Klan

Why did people join?

Poor white people in the south and the west were angry that they were not seeing the rise in prosperity that had happened in the north. They wanted someone to blame. They said that non-white people worked for lower wages, putting whites out of a job. They saw themselves as defenders of Protestantism. They also wanted to improve moral standards by attacking alcoholics, prostitutes and gamblers. Some people were attracted by the secrecy and the ceremonies. Some were simply racist and saw the KKK as a way to express these beliefs without repercussions.

The decline of the KKK:

In 1925 David Stephenson, a Klan leader in Indiana, was convicted of kidnapping, raping and murdering a teacher called Madge Oberholtzer. He was sentenced to life in prison. During his trial he revealed several KKK secrets. Membership began to decline quickly.

The KKK was damaged further in 1927, when a group of Klansmen in Alabama launched a wave of violent attacks on African Americans and also on white people they thought were immoral. Many people disapproved of these attacks and stopped supporting the KKK. By 1930, membership had dropped from 5 million to 30,000

Communist Threat

- ❑ In 1917, the communist Soviet Union was established in Russia.
- ❑ Americans believed there were many communists in the USA. Many were frightened especially since president McKinley had been assassinated in 1901.
- ❑ The fear of communism increased after a series of strikes in 1919. The communists usually got the blame for strikes, which the press presented as conspiracies against the government.
- ❑ The blame for strikes and the spread of revolutionary and anarchist ideas was pinned on southern and eastern European immigrants.
- ❑ In actuality the strikes were a result of low pay and poor working conditions but Americans did not accept this.

The Palmer raids

- ❑ In 1919, Mitchell Palmer became Attorney General (chief government lawyer).
- ❑ He claimed that communist agents were trying to overthrow the US government. The bomb attacks that Palmer had claimed were going to happen, never did.
- ❑ On New Years Day, 1920, Palmer ordered a series of raids on the homes of suspected communists and anarchists.
- ❑ Over 6,000 people were arrested and put in prison. Many had to be released and only three guns were found in their homes.
- ❑ Apart from those arrested, very few people complained that these arrests weren't legal. They were so afraid of communists, that they were prepared for the government to use illegal methods to tackle it.

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were Italian immigrants. In May 1920 they were arrested and charged with armed robbery and the murder of two men.

As they didn't speak much English, they didn't understand much of what was said at their trial.

They were both known to be anarchists and it is widely believed that this is why they were targeted.

The evidence against them was weak. However, the judge claimed that they should be found guilty anyway as anarchists are enemies of the government.

They were found guilty and sentenced to death. They spent 7 years in prison during appeals but both were executed in August 1927 in the electric chair.

The Sacco and Vanzetti case and its significance

- ❑ When the verdict was reported there was an outcry. There were strikes and protests because many people felt the trial had been unfair.
- ❑ The protests continued long after the men's execution. They claimed it showed the legal system was biased and corrupt.
- ❑ In December 1927 the state Judicial Council admitted that the trial had not been fair and proposed changes to the system to ensure it did not happen again.

What was the Wall St Crash?



Throughout the 1920s, The US economy had been booming. Millions of people had bought shares, often with borrowed money.

During the boom there was huge demand for luxury goods but by 1929 everyone who could afford them, had them. This meant that more were being made than being sold (overproduction).

Foreign government had put high taxes on US goods (in response to American tariffs) so the extra goods could not be sold abroad.

Company profits started to dip and a few people began to sell their shares because they were worried that they wouldn't get a dividend.

As more companies lost profit, more people sold shares. Share prices began to fall and this led to panic as people scrambled to sell their shares before prices dropped even further.

On October 24th 1929, 13 million shares were sold, 5 times the usual number. Share prices plummeted. This became known as 'black Thursday'. 16 million more were sold on the 29th.

How can falling share prices cause a depression?

- ❑ Many people had borrowed money to buy shares. When the share prices collapsed, they couldn't repay their loans. The banks had also invested money in shares.
- ❑ The stock market crash caused banks to fail, more than 600 closed in 1929. The people who had put their life savings into banks lost everything. Hundreds of thousands of people and businesses lost everything. This caused panic as people rushed to get their money out of banks causing more banks to fail.
- ❑ The banks left were reluctant to lend money in case people did not repay it. This made it harder to borrow. Many businesses had to close and so many people lost their jobs.
- ❑ Unemployment meant that people had less money to spend, making it hard for them to buy food and pay rent.

How does a bank work?

- Banks have two functions – savings and loans.
- ❑ Savings – People deposit money into a bank. In return, the bank pays them a small amount of interest.
 - ❑ Loans – The bank lends the savers' money to people who want to borrow it. They charge interest on the loan. This is how they make money.
 - ❑ The crash hurt banks because when people removed their savings they could no longer use money to make loans. Other people could not repay loans and so banks ran out of money.

The Great Depression: Impact

The great Depression that followed the Wall St Crash hit American society hard and unemployment increased dramatically. Farmers and businessmen were among the groups hit the worst.



People Queuing to remove all their money from banks.

Impact on business owners:

- ❑ Banks had lent billions of dollars during the 1920s. Many borrowers couldn't repay loans so banks went bankrupt.
- ❑ Banks were reluctant to lend any more money so businesses had to close.
- ❑ Between 1929 and 1932, industrial production fell by nearly 45%. Business profits dropped from \$10 billion in 1929 to \$1 billion in 1932.



Unemployment rose to record highs.

Unemployment:

- ❑ Factories struggled and many eventually closed, leaving workers without jobs.
- ❑ Businesses supplying factories with materials (steel, timber, textiles, etc) also suffered, causing more closures and more unemployment.
- ❑ Workers no longer used restaurants, shops and businesses near the factories, so these began to struggle as well.
- ❑ In 1929 3% of Americans were unemployed. By 1932, 13 million (25%) of the workforce were unemployed.
- ❑ 34 million people were in families with no full time wage earner. In some cities like Toledo, Ohio, there was 80% unemployment.

Farmers:

- ❑ During the boom farmers had borrowed money to buy new machinery. The new machinery meant they produced more food than they could sell so food prices dropped.
- ❑ Struggling banks demanded that farmers repay their loans. Some could not afford this and so had to sack workers or even sell their farms.
- ❑ Rising unemployment meant that demand for food fell further. Over 1 million families lost their farms between 1930-4. Those who kept theirs had to struggle with a drought which created a 'Dust Bowl' causing crops to not grow. Many farmers abandoned their farms and sought other work.

Hoover's Response

Herbert Hoover became president in 1929 – a few months before the Wall St Crash. He thought the Depression was a short-term problem and in January 1930 he said America was over the worst. His lack of response to the Depression made him very unpopular.

Hoover tried to solve some of the problems but his belief in laissez-faire limited the intervention he would allow.

He encouraged businesses to keep wages high to increase the amount available for buying goods. By 1931, businesses had no choice but to cut wages.

In June 1930, despite opposition, he introduced the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. Raising tax on imported goods. Other nations responded by doing the same, this damaged US international trade massively.

Hoover introduced a two cent tax on bank cheques to raise money. People stopped using cheques altogether and used cash. This damaged banks and caused even more to close.

He also supported new public works projects to create employment for construction work.

He introduced \$100 million to lend to farmers. However, this was merely a drop in the ocean and didn't make anywhere near enough difference to farmers in debt.

To combat unemployment amount white Americans, he sent over 500,000 Mexicans back to Mexico.

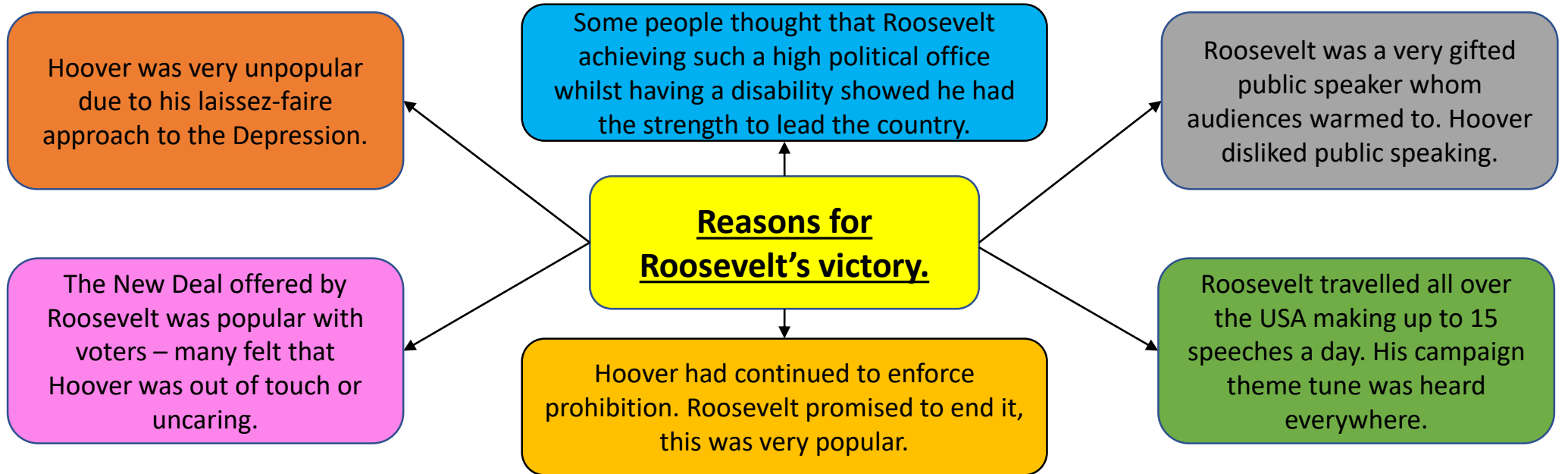


Hoovers unpopularity:

- ❑ Hoover's belief in 'rugged individualism' meant that he stopped several bills that would have provided direct relief to many struggling Americans. He wanted people to help themselves.
- ❑ In 1930, Republicans did badly in local elections. Despite this, Hoover refused to change his policies.
- ❑ The people became angry at his lack of action. Protests began around the nation. In 1932, WW1 veterans marched to Washington hoping to receive their military pensions early. Hoover refused this and called the military to break the protest. This was incredibly unpopular.

In the 1932 presidential election, Herbert Hoover was challenged by a Democrat called Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt promised to do more to help American get out of the Depression. He offered the people a New Deal. Roosevelt had already been a very popular Governor of New York.

Hoover's laissez-faire approach	Roosevelt's New Deal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The electorate were familiar with Hoover's methods of dealing with the Depression. His 'hands-off' approach was very unpopular. ❑ After the depression had run on for several years Hoover began to lend money to businesses and farms and make funding available for states to help the unemployed. This was widely seen as too little, too late. 	<p>Roosevelt offered the American people what he called a 'New Deal' – a change from the laissez-faire approach taken by Hoover. The New Deal was focused on meeting the needs of the people affected by the Depression. It was made up of the 'Three R's'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Relief – Help for the unemployed, homeless, elderly and sick by providing money and temporary work. ✓ Recovery – Creating jobs by spending on large government schemes such as schools and roads. ✓ Reform – Permanent programmes to avoid another depression and protect people from economic disasters such as protecting bank accounts)



Roosevelt won the election by a landslide because he promised a 'New Deal' for the American people. His policies aimed to support many groups. In his first hundred days he introduced many new policies and laws in America.

Restoring trust in the banks	Helping the unemployed	Ending prohibition
The problem: Over 5000 banks closed during the Depression. Millions lost their savings. This meant that people no longer trusted banks. They panicked and kept their money at home stopping banks from lending money.	The Problem: Roosevelt needed to take immediate action to help the unemployed but there was no money.	The problem: Prohibition was unpopular, had led to organised crime and police corruption, as well as social problems.
The solution: Emergency Banking Act 1933. The Act closed all banks for four days so they could be inspected. Only those found to be honest and trustworthy were allowed to re-open (5000).	The solution: Economy Act 1933. This cur pay for people working for the government and armed forces by 15%.	The solution: Beer Act 1933. This made it legal to make and sell alcohol again.
Did it work? Yes. \$1 billion was pain into bank accounts when the banks opened.	Did it work? Yes. This made nearly \$1 billion available for the New Deal.	Did it work? Yes. Although it didn't end organised crime, it did reduce the power of gangs. It also created jobs and raised money through taxing alcohol.

Alphabet Agencies:

Roosevelt knew that getting America out of the Depression would be hard and that he didn't know exactly what to do. He recruited lots of expert advisers, called the 'Brain Trust' and introduced over 100 new agencies to help tackle the Depression.

Priming the pump:

Roosevelt's theory was that by spending money he could kick start the economy. In other words, if the government created work, people would spend their wages and businesses would expand, creating more jobs and more prosperity. This was known as priming the pump .

Fireside Chats:

Roosevelt would come on to the radio every Sunday to explain his policies to the people and let them know how things were working. The people took great comfort in this and felt that Roosevelt really cared about them. 60 million Americans would tune in to these 'Fireside Chats'

The Alphabet Agencies

Agency	Relief	Recovery	Reform	In what ways did the agency provide relief, help recovery or bring reform
FERA	✓			Set aside \$500 million for emergency relief. Money was spent on soup kitchens, blankets, clothes and general relief.
HOLC	✓			Gave loans at a to many Americans to help pay their mortgages. It helped 300,000 Americans in the first year.
CCC	✓	✓		Employed 2.5 million 18-25 year old men doing temporary conservation work. Some money was sent back to their families.
PWA	✓	✓		Provided temporary jobs building schools, dams, bridges, roads and hospitals. Replaced by the WPA in 1935.
AAA		✓		Set quotas on how much food farmers could produce in order to increase prices of food so they could make more money.
NRA			✓	Voluntary scheme encouraging employers and workers to build relationships. Set minimum wages and better working conditions.
TVA		✓		Provided jobs building dams in the Tennessee Valley. Dams then provided cheap hydro-electricity to the valley.
WPA		✓		Focused on finding more full time employment rather than part time work. Jobs in the arts, acting and office work were introduced.
Wagner Act			✓	Forced employers to allow trade unions and negotiate better wages. Made it illegal to sack a worker for being in a union.
Social Security Act			✓	Provided a pension for anyone over 65. Also introduced unemployment pay that workers and employers contributed to.

Not everyone was in favour of the New Deal. Some people, like Hoover, believed that people should look after themselves, while others thought that more should be done.

The Rich

Roosevelt increased taxes on the rich in order to pay for the New Deal. The rich felt like it was a waste of money to pay people to plant trees and paint buildings. They also felt that they had lost enough in the Wall St Crash and were being punished further. Many business owners resented Roosevelt's policies interfering in business e.g. increasing workers rights by setting minimum wages and maximum working hours.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is Americas highest court. They decide whether new laws obey the constitution. In 1935, they decided that the AAA was unconstitutional because it took away states rights to regulate farming. They also said that the NRA was illegal as the President did not have the right to interfere in businesses. This led to a power struggle between Roosevelt and the mostly Republican Supreme Court.

Republicans

Many Republicans still believed in laissez-faire, that the government shouldn't get involved, and rugged individualism, that people should solve their own problems. They thought that the New Deal policies were making the government too involved in people's lives and too powerful. Some accused Roosevelt of being a dictator and others thought America was headed towards communism.

Radical politicians

Some politicians took the opposite view from Republicans. They believed the New Deal didn't go far enough and that the government should be doing more. Francis Townsend suggested a retirement age of 60 to make jobs for young people. Charles Coughlin's National Union for Social Justice said that Roosevelt should do more to create jobs and ensure higher wages. Huey Long suggested any fortunes over \$5 million should be confiscated and shared out, his ideas were very popular.

Economic Changes

	Success	Limitation
<u>Jobs</u>	Jobs were created. Unemployment fell from 14 million in 1933 to under 8 million in 1937.	It didn't solve the problem completely. Unemployment was still around 10%. This problem was only solved by WW2.
<u>Wealth</u>	America's GNP (Gross National Product, the sum of all wealth in the nation) rose from \$442 per person in 1932 to \$701 per person in 1937.	Although the economy improved, benefits were not shared equally. Some lives improved far more than others and poverty was still a social problem.
<u>Farmers</u>	Farmers were supported through raising the prices of food and lending money to ensure they don't lose their farms.	Most of the help went to larger farms. The Supreme Court closing down the AAA meant that it was unable to help as much as intended.
<u>Banks</u>	The number of bank failures fell dramatically. 4000 banks closed in 1933 and only 100 closed in 1934.	

Social Changes

	Success	Limitation
Unemployment and poverty	The New Deal helped many Americans. In 1935 the SSA made sure that anyone out of work would get government help. This provided security while searching for work.	However, tackling poverty was still a priority in the 1960s for President Kennedy and Johnson.
Workers	Workers rights improved with a minimum wage through the NRA and through the Wagner Act (1935) which gave workers the right to join a union.	There were no New Deal programmes aimed at women. The NRA rules set lower wages for women than for men.
Native Americans	The Indian reservations Act of 1934 meant that Native Americans could run their reservations themselves, for example, running their own law courts.	However, this did not stop the rampant poverty and discrimination faced by Native Americans.

Popular Culture reflects what people are interested in. It is influenced and spread by the media. People experience it by hearing music, watching television, going to the cinema, playing or watching sports and reading popular books and magazines.

Comics:

The first comic books were published in 1933. They became wildly popular in 1938 when action comics appeared featuring the introduction of Superman. They were popular because they were cheap and offered an easy method of escape for young people tired of the Depression.

Cinema:

Cinema was as popular during the Depression as in the 1920s. About 60 million people went to the movies every week. People wanted to forget about their troubles and films offered an escape from this. Examples were Musicals such as the Wizard of Oz, horror films such as King Kong or Dracula and the comedy films of Charlie Chaplin.

Music:

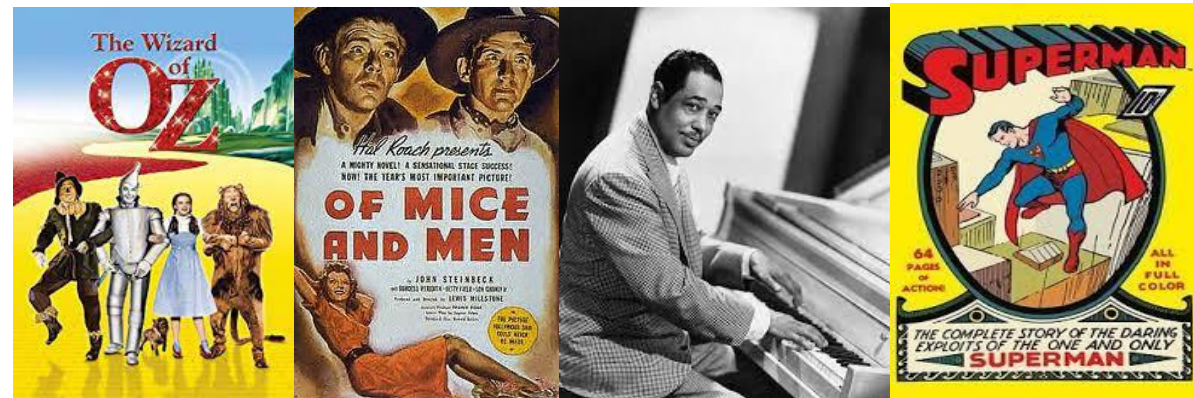
Jazz performers such as Billie Holiday and Duke Ellington were still very popular. People still went to concerts and clubs, but more people listened to music on the radio, buying records also became very popular.

Sports:

During the Depression, attendance at football and baseball games fell sharply. As ticket income fell, promoters and athletes looked for other ways to make money. Sponsorship became a common form of advertising. However, more people began to play sport, as unemployed people had more free time. The increasing popularity of radio meant that more people followed sports events via radio broadcast.

Literature:

The 1930s were a golden age for American literature. Some of the country's most famous books were produced during, and inspired by, the Depression. Examples of this are Steinbeck's 'The Grapes of Wrath' and 'Of Mice and Men'. Both told stories from the Depression that people could relate to.



Whilst the New Deal helped the economy to remain stable. Real economic recovery came due to the impact of the Second World War.

Challenges to Isolationism

After WW1 the USA followed a policy of **isolationism**. They focused on themselves and not the problems of other nations. In 1935 they passed the **Neutrality Act** banning loans to any country at war. In 1937 selling weapons to warring countries was banned. When WW2 broke out in 1939 Roosevelt declared support for Britain and France. They feared that if Germany won then America would be their next target, they were also concerned about Japanese hostility threatening American markets in the Far East. After the neutrality laws were changed, Roosevelt convinced Congress to help support the **Allies** through supplies being sent to them. This not only helped the Allies but also helped the US economy to boom again.

Cash and Carry Plan:

In 1939, Britain and France bought American weapons and planes under the 'Cash and Carry Plan'. America would sell these weapons provided the nations paid in cash and transported them themselves. This boosted the US economy by creating manufacturing jobs whilst also allowing the USA to remain neutral. In 1940, however, Germany invaded France and seemed on the point of defeating Britain. FDR abandoned neutrality and gave Britain 50 ships to help defend themselves.

Lend Lease:

In March 1941, Roosevelt agreed a 'Lend Lease' arrangement with Britain. Instead of selling weapons America would lend them \$7000 million worth of weapons. The allies would repay the loan with gold and allowing US aircraft to use bases. This created millions of jobs. Not everyone supported Lend Lease, they feared America would be dragged into another war. Eventually America began to rearm and millions of people were employed making planes, tanks and ships. Thousands more joined the armed forces. Unemployment was disappearing.

America enters the war:

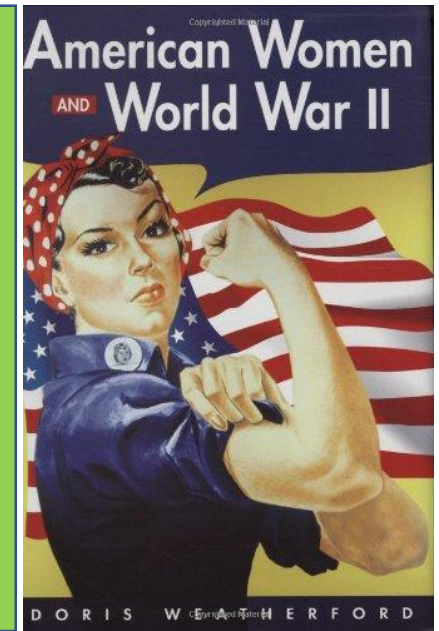
On the **7th of December 1941**, the Japanese attacked **Pearl Harbor**. Over 2000 men were killed as well as many ships and planes destroyed. This caused America to join the war. Military production increased and unemployment fell as men rushed to join the army. Peacetime industries began to convert to begin focusing on war production. Car companies made tanks and planes whilst garment factories made parachutes. FDR set a target of 50,000 airplanes a year. In 1944 America produced 96,000. In 1939 **9.5 million** Americans were unemployed, by 1941 half of them were in work and by 1944 unemployment had fallen to below 2% at around **500,000** people. Farmers who had struggled were now producing food for the army. WW2 brought America back to being the economic powerhouse we know today.



Women:

Only 1 in 5 American women had a job in 1929, and although some women did manage to pursue careers in the law or medicine, most of those who did work outside the home either did unskilled work or 'feminine' jobs like teaching or nursing. Many women found that they were expected to give up their jobs when they got married.

In 1941, with men going away to fight, women had to take more opportunities to work. They began to take jobs in factories, shipyards and on the railways, and made up a third of America's workforce. This gave them financial independence and more freedom. Involvement in the workplace meant that many women felt that they were more involved in society and political engagement amongst women increased.

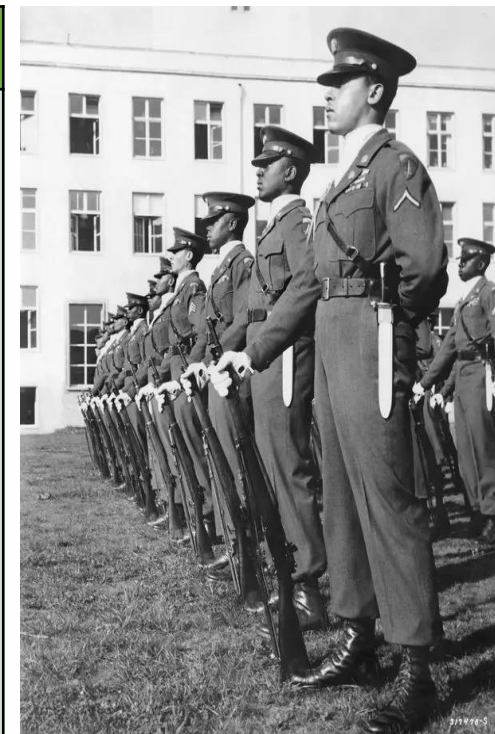


African Americans in the military

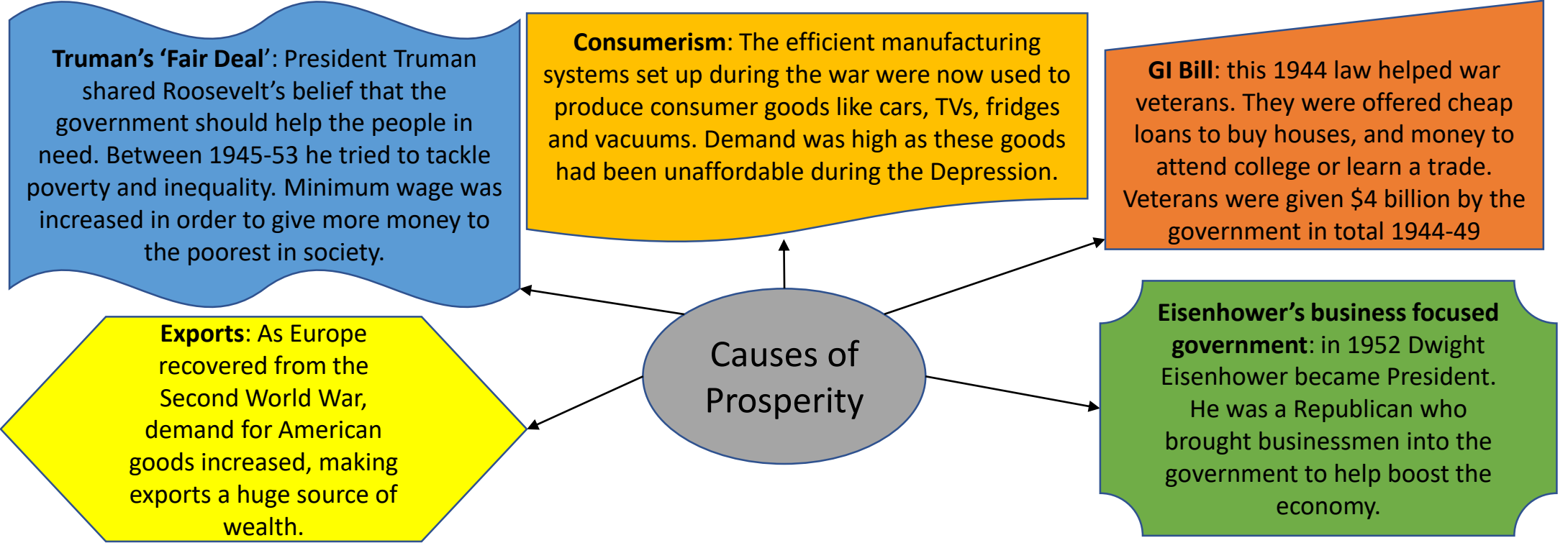
- ❑ Around a million African Americans served in the army during WW2. However, they faced a lot of discrimination.
- ❑ Before the war black soldiers could not become officers. Black sailors could only work in ships kitchens. The air force did not allow any black pilots. Black women could become military nurses but they could only treat black soldiers.
- ❑ As the war progressed these policies began to ease. In 1941, the first black pilots were trained, although they had to train separately. Black soldiers were allowed to become officers but they could only command black soldiers, they could not give orders to white soldiers.

The war and civil rights

- ❑ In 1941, Philip Randolph organised a march on Washington to protest segregation in the military.
- ❑ Roosevelt set up the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC) to investigate discrimination. They couldn't force companies to employ African Americans but they could recommend that companies did not get government contracts if they didn't.
- ❑ After the war, President Harry Truman ordered that there should be racial equality in the military (1948). The work of the FEPC contributed to the fight for civil rights.



Consumerism and Prosperity



The effects of consumerism

- A huge advertising industry was created, especially through TV, which in turn created demand for more consumer goods.
- Companies offered more 'buy now, pay later' schemes.
- By the mid 1950s, there were 75 million vehicles in America. This meant more roads and car parks were built.
- More car ownership and roads meant that there were large housing developments in the 'suburbs'
- Thanks to low housing costs, wage rises and cheap loans due to the GI Bill, many Americans could buy their own homes.
- Manufacturing methods from the war were now used in house building. Thousands of houses were built using mass production.

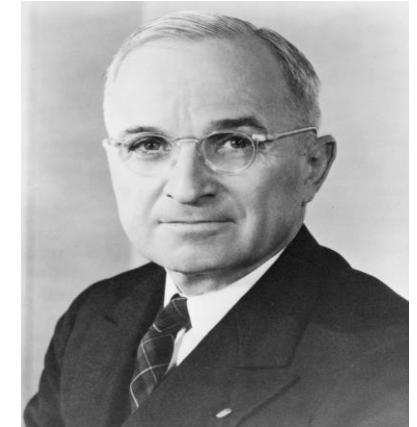
The post war 'baby boom'

- The birth rate after the war rose dramatically. Between 1944-61, more than 65 million children were born.
- Many couples waited to get married until the end of the war, or had not been able to afford to have a family during the Depression. Peacetime, and increased prosperity, made more people keen to have children.
- The GI Bill meant that many veterans could afford to settle down, buy houses and learn a trade, which contributed to the baby boom. The people known during this period became known as 'baby boomers' (or Boomers for short in the modern day).

The 'American Dream' is the idea that in America anyone can succeed as long as they work hard enough. This idea had been attracting immigrants to America since the 19th century. In the 1950s, America was the richest country in the world and more people were living the American Dream than ever before. However, not everyone benefitted.

Did everyone experience the American Dream?

- ❑ Despite rising prosperity in post-war America, there were many inequalities.
- ❑ President Truman had tried to tackle some of the inequality with his 'Fair Deal'. He had some success replacing slum housing and raising the minimum wage, but some of his other policies were not introduced.
- ❑ Access to healthcare was not something everyone could afford (there is no NHS in the USA). Truman, a Democrat, wanted to introduce healthcare plans but this was blocked by Republicans (they're the worst).
- ❑ The African-American population suffered low pay, poor housing and widespread discrimination, but southern politicians voted against Truman's attempts to improve their lives.



Poverty:

- ❑ About a quarter of Americans still lived in poverty.
- ❑ More than half of African Americans were living in poverty compared to 18% of whites.
- ❑ The north and west-coast were much better off than the south.
- ❑ More than two thirds of people over 65 were living on less than a quarter of the average factory wage.
- ❑ Most Native Americans also lived in poverty, had less access to education and were forced to live on reservations with poor-quality land.

Women's lives:

- ❑ **Motherhood:** The 'baby boom' meant that many more women were having more children. At the time childcare fell to mothers so larger families increased this burden
- ❑ **Marriage:** By 1950, the average age for a woman to get married was 20, the lowest since the 19th century.
- ❑ **Changing roles:** Many women had done valuable work during the war, but once it was over they were expected to go back to traditional roles.
- ❑ **Falling wages:** Women who kept their jobs saw their wages fall from 66% of the male wage to 53%.
- ❑ **Jobs:** Women who did manage to find work were kept in 'feminine' roles such as nursing or secretarial work. Women who tried to become managers faced extreme discrimination. By the late 1950s many women became frustrated and dissatisfied with the lack of opportunities open to them.

In the 1950s a Red Scare (fear about the spread of communism) spread through America. Investigations by senator Joseph McCarthy led to the period becoming known as McCarthyism.

The Cold War (1947-91): The USSR, which was communist, became a rival to America as a **superpower**. Tensions grew worse after the USSR began testing nuclear weapons in 1949.

Communism spreads: America adopted a policy called **containment**, which aimed to stop the spread of communism. Communist advances in Eastern Europe and China made it look like this wasn't working.

Causes of the 1950s Red Scare

Korean War (1950-53): American help during the war in Korea was intended to challenge communist advances in South East Asia – but the war was going badly.

Spy scandals: in 1950, a government employee called Alger Hiss was accused of spying for the USSR. In 1953, two Americans, (Julius and Ethel Rosenberg) were executed for spying. The public became frightened about the possibility of communism spreading to America.

McCarthyism:

In 1950, senator Joseph McCarthy claimed that he had the names of over 200 communist spies employed by the government. This caused panic and McCarthy became seen as a hero by the people.

Between 1950-55 he led a series of investigations to root out communism. He rarely had any evidence for his claims.

Anyone who opposed him was accused of being a communist.

His researchers searched libraries and found 30,000 books that were 'communist' and removed them from library shelves across the USA.

Effects on society:

Left wing groups began to disappear due to association with communism. Many left wing people left the USA causing a political imbalance.

Politicians began to fear opposing McCarthy as they did not want to harm their careers. Even President Eisenhower did not want to work with those who opposed him.

The government started removing individual rights of citizens in order to protect America from communism.

Some filmmakers and writers who did not talk about their political beliefs were jailed and never worked again, this made others reluctant to deal with social or political issues.

McCarthy's fall:

McCarthy went too far. He accused 45 army officers of being communists, a poor decision in a country that loves their military. He was not able to provide any proof for this. Army officials began to feed anti-McCarthy stories to the press. Public support for McCarthy disappeared and many disapproved of his bullying tactics. To this day people still use the term 'McCarthyism' to describe someone making accusations without any evidence.

Children born in the 'baby boom' had a very different upbringing to their parents/ this led to changed in popular culture, such as the arrival of television and rock and roll.

New possibilities:

- ❑ During the Depression many 14-15 year olds left school to help support their struggling families.
- ❑ After the war was over, parents wanted a better life for their children.
- ❑ Increased prosperity meant that children did not need to work and many stayed in school or went to university.

Features of popular culture:

- ❑ Young people are often the first to consume popular culture.
- ❑ New trends start in one area and spread rapidly to large numbers of people.
- ❑ It is constantly changing and evolving.
- ❑ It includes commercial products and the growing demand for those products.

Teenagers:

The word 'teenagers' was introduced in the 1950s to describe the new group of young people who had more spare cash and more time to spend it in. This reflected the increased prosperity as well as social changes. Teenagers spent money on clothes, records, restaurants, entertainment and even alcohol. American industries began targeting teenagers with advertising campaigns as they realized they had money to spare.

A 'generation gap'

The popular culture of the time meant that teenagers soon dressed, spoke and behaved differently to their parents. They listened to different music and enjoyed different things. Parents often struggled to understand their children leading to a 'generation gap'. Many Americans saw teenagers as rude, rebellious and disrespectful. Film stars like James Dean became a symbol of teenage rebellion.

Rock & Roll:

Rock and roll developed in the 1950s. It came from blues and jazz but was made for a largely white audience who had more money to spend. It's strong rhythm made it easy to dance to and the lyrics would refer to staying out late and drinking. Many older Americans saw this as immoral (shock), which of course made teenagers like it even more!

Television:

In 1950 about 3 million families had a television. By 1960 this was 55 million. The price of a television dropped from \$500 to \$200. Television presented an ideal family life from an entirely white point of view. It showed adverts that encouraged purchasing products to be like the people they saw on TV. Television influenced every aspect of American culture.

Segregation & Jim Crow Laws

Despite the social improvements in the military after the Second World War. Black Americans were still living under the same Jim Crow laws that had segregated them in the 1920s. They would have separate hospitals, schools, parks, water fountains, bus seats and waiting rooms as well as many other essential services. In the 1940s the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded, they began to campaign for civil rights in America and started a movement that would change the USA.

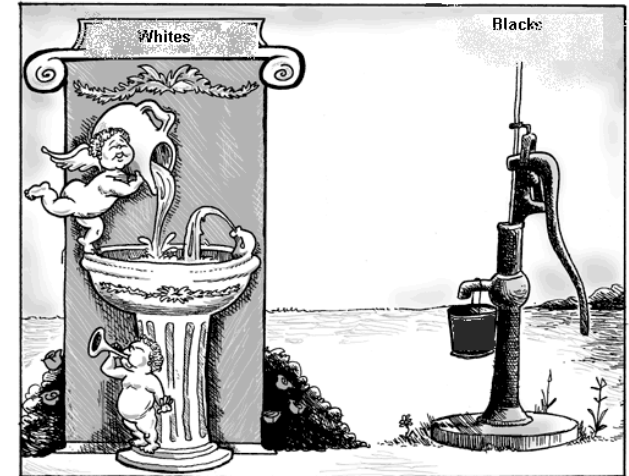


They can't even spell coloured right!



In 1896 the Supreme Court ruled, in a case called **Plessy vs Ferguson**, that segregation in America was legal and acceptable on the basis that services provided were 'separate but equal'. In reality there was no equality. Black schools were underfunded, black nurses were not trained to the same standards, the quality of housing was significantly lower and black Americans were paid far less than whites if they were able to become employed at all.

PLESSY VS. FERGUSON



SEPARATE BUT NOT EQUAL

The Murder of Emmet Till:
Emmet Till was a 14 year old boy, in 1955, a white woman named Carolyn Bryant claimed that he had flirted with her (she later admitted this was a lie). Her husband and brother in law brutally murdered Till, this was another graphic example of racism in America. Emmet's mother insisted on an open casket so that everyone could see his body. Thousands turned out to his funeral and despite clear evidence that the murderers were guilty, they were found innocent. They later sold their story to a magazine admitting that they had done it but could now not be punished. Till became an icon in progressing the civil rights movement.



Changes in Education (Little Rock + Brown vs Topeka)

Brown vs Topeka 1954

Linda Brown had to walk a long distance to attend the local African American school. She wanted to attend the local white school that was far closer and better equipped.

Her parents and the NAACP took the case to the Supreme Court who decided that segregated schooling caused feelings of inadequacy among black children and was not 'Separate but Equal'

The court ruled that all schools in the south must begin to desegregate 'at the earliest possible speed'. This was not a clear enough guideline.

Whilst this was a landmark case in achieving desegregation (300,000 black children in mixed schools by 1957) many southern politicians fought back against the rulings and refused. 1957 – 2.4million black children still in Jim Crow schools.

Resistance to desegregation became more prevalent through White Citizens Councils formed to keep segregation in the south. This came hand in hand with the re-emergence of the Ku Klux Klan

Little Rock High School 1957

In 1957 the NAACP registered 9 students to attend Little Rock High School. However, the governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, was not willing to let this happen without a fight.

The students arranged to travel together on the first day for safety but one of them, Elizabeth Eckford, did not get this message and ended up having abuse hurled at her as she walked towards the school.

Faubus had called in state troopers to prevent the students from entering the school whilst a large angry crowd protested outside. The media covered this event and President Eisenhower could not stay silent.

Eisenhower sent the national guard in to protect the students and after a year long legal battle they were able to attend the school in 1959. However, they still faced hostility and abuse throughout their time.

Elizabeth Eckford. She's so cool.



This was the first time that a President had intervened to help the civil rights movement and was a significant moment. Following this event both JFK and Lyndon Johnson continued to support civil rights in the 1960s.

Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955.

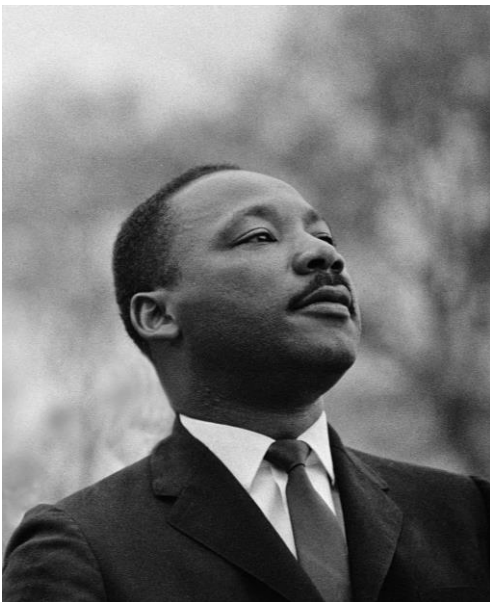
Despite the ruling that education should not be segregated, many other services were still segregated in the south such as buses. African Americans continued to suffer violent oppression.

On 1st December 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white man and was arrested for breaking city laws.

On December 5th, Martin Luther King Jr led a boycott of Montgomery buses that went on for several months. African Americans made up 75% of bus passengers and so the bus companies suffered significant financial difficulties because of this.

The protestors received threats and violence. In 1956 King's house was bombed. Some activists wanted to fight back but King told them that peaceful direct action was the only way to win the fight for civil rights.

The boycott made national headlines, King gave speeches and interviews appearing on television. In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated buses were illegal.



- Martin Luther King Jr became a Baptist minister in 1954. His Christian beliefs influenced his belief in non-violent protest such as sit-ins and boycotts. He called this 'Direct Action'
- In 1955 he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. This was his first big step to working in the civil rights movement.
- In 1957, he co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to bring together black churches to organise non-violent protests against segregation.
- He organised many influential protests, notably the marches on Birmingham, Selma and Washington where he made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech in 1963.
- King was assassinated in 1968 by a white racist named James Earl Ray. He had been a key player in the civil rights movement and the passing of the Civil Rights Act (1964+1968) and the Voting Rights Act (1965)

In 1957, Congress passed a Civil Rights Act making it illegal to discriminate against African Americans. This was not properly enforced though and so civil rights activists felt that far more needed to be done.

Sit-ins: In February 1960, four black students wanted to be served in a white only area of a department store. When asked to leave they refused and held a sit-in, staying there until closing time. The next day more students joined them. Within 19 months there had been 70,000 sit ins across the southern states.

March on Birmingham, 1963: The city refused to accept de-segregation and instead closed public facilities to avoid this. King led a peaceful march in the city but protestors were attacked with dogs and fire hoses. Many children were arrested. The media covered this and the public were outraged. JFK introduced the Civil Rights Bill in response to this outrage.

Selma to Montgomery march, 1965: Despite the passing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, many African Americans still faced discrimination when it came to voting rights. In March 1965, activists marched from Selma to Montgomery, the state capitol. The marches were met with violence from police and many arrests were made. Finally President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act (1965) and the march took place peacefully.

Freedom Riders: African Americans were still experiencing discrimination on public transport. In May 1961 the Freedom Riders set out on buses from Washington DC to highlight the issues. Some of the buses were attacked by the KKK and many riders were arrested or assaulted. Despite this over 60 Freedom Rides took place that summer and in November the Federal Government forced southern states to desegregate their buses.

March on Washington, 1963: MLK organised this march in August 1963 calling for civil and economic rights for black Americans. He made his famous 'I Have A Dream' speech. The protest attracted over 250,000 people with 80,000 of them being white.

Further protests

Civil Rights Laws:

- Civil Rights Act, 1964 – This act effectively outlawed segregation across the whole of the USA.
- Voting Rights Act, 1965 – This act banned racial discrimination in voting and registering to vote.
- Civil Rights Act, 1968 – This act prohibited discrimination concerning the sale or rental of housing based on race, religion, national origin, and sex.

Black Power

Rejected the slow non-violent approach. They did not want to try and fit into a society that treated them badly.

Focused on issues such as poverty, unemployment and the Vietnam war rather than just segregation in the south.

Many black Americans became more radical after the assassination of MLK in 1968

Felt that the civil rights movement did not focus enough on the issues in the north.



Influenced by the ideas of Malcolm X, they demanded more rights for black Americans.

Believed that self defence was justified and that African Americans should feel more pride in their heritage

Complained about issues such as police brutality in black communities.

Some black Americans wanted to separate entirely from the USA and create a nation for black people

Poor relations with the police led to a series of race riots between 1965-67 mostly in the west.

Malcolm X

- ❑ He had a troubled upbringing, was involved in crime and spent time in prison.
- ❑ Thought non-violent action didn't work because white Americans would never allow equality unless it was forced.
- ❑ Initially thought that Black Americans should live separately but later believed that integration may be possible.
- ❑ Encouraged African Americans to take more pride in their heritage and fight inequality with violence if necessary
- ❑ Was a member of the Nation of Islam until he left in 1964 and was assassinated by one of their members in 1965.



Impact of Black Power

- ❑ The Black Power movement caused many young black Americans to begin to feel more pride in their heritage.
- ❑ The more aggressive sides of the movement ended up alienating potential allies to the cause particularly white Americans who would have been sympathetic.
- ❑ Media coverage of black power at the time was often misinformed and based on ignorance.
- ❑ Black power brought more attention to the issues black Americans faced in the north (poor housing, unemployment, Vietnam war, police brutality) rather than just the issue of segregation of the south.



John F. Kennedy was elected in 1960. He had ambitious plans to improve social policies on poverty, education and health. Kennedy described America as being on the verge of dramatic change, he called this a 'New Frontier'. He said that America would need new leaders to cope with new problems and new opportunities. When he was elected he promised to tackle the problems of inequality, poverty, ill health and poor education so that all Americans could live in dignity. He wanted to encourage Americans to all work together to make the country a better place. "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"

Civil Rights

- ✓ Kennedy gave more government jobs to African Americans (Thurgood Marshall appointed to the Supreme Court)
- ✓ He challenged politicians who allowed discrimination.
- ✓ Created the Commission on Equal Employment Opportunities (CEEO) to make sure the government didn't discriminate against non-white employees.
- ❖ He campaigned for the Civil Rights Act but this was not passed until after his death
- ❖ Many believed this was because Kennedy was too worried about offending southern politicians who were pro-segregation
- ❖ The CEEO only protected current federal employees, it didn't help African Americans to get jobs.

Health and Housing

- ✓ Funded development of poor areas through the Area Redevelopment Act
- ✓ Funded research into mental illness
- ✓ Provided loans for people in poor areas to improve housing through the Housing Act.
- ❖ People could not afford repayments on loans and so the poorest could not improve their homes.
- ❖ Congress blocked Kennedy's plan for state provided health care.

Poverty

- ✓ Cut taxes to increase the amount people had to spend.
- ✓ Provided \$900 million for employers to create new jobs and train employees.
- ✓ Increased minimum wage by 25%
- ✓ Amended the Social Security Act (1963) to provide benefits for the unemployed and elderly.
- ❖ Companies used the funding to buy high-tech equipment which meant they needed fewer staff so jobs were lost.
- ❖ African Americans were still twice as likely to be unemployed as white Americans.
- ❖ Minimum wage increased helped those with jobs but made no difference to the unemployed.

Education

- ✓ Kennedy established the Peace Corps, which gave young people an opportunity to travel and learn skills by volunteering abroad. The scheme was a huge success.
- ❖ Congress blocked his plans to provide federal funding for schools.

Johnson & the 'Great Society'



Lyndon B. Johnson was Kennedy's vice president and became President after JFK was assassinated in 1963. He wanted to carry on Kennedy's work through a programme he called the 'Great Society'. He intended to end poverty and racial discrimination. His main aim was to introduce new laws to make sure Americans could reach their potential. His Great Society ideas and sympathy after Kennedy's assassination meant that he was supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

Area of focus	Key legislation passed
Civil Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights Act (1964) making segregation illegal across the USA. <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Act (1965) ended the system of racial quotas for immigration. <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Rights Act (1965) made it illegal to prevent anyone from voting or registering to vote.
Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965) increased funding for schools in poor areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare gave health insurance to those over 65. Medicaid helped to provide medical assistance to those on low incomes. <input type="checkbox"/> Model Cities Act (1966) worked to clear inner city areas and create parks and sports facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was increased helping 750,000 families.
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in taxation helping those who were better off. <input type="checkbox"/> Increased funding for universities benefitting the middle classes.

- ✓ Government spending on education and health trebled between 1964-7.
- ✓ Government aid to the poor trebled since 1960.
- ✓ A million people were retrained under new federal programmes.
- ✓ 2 million children participated in the 'Head Start' programme that ensured proper education to the poorest children.
- ✓ The percentage of African Americans living in poverty had fallen to 27% (from 55% in 1960).

- ❖ Republicans resented seeing their taxes being spent on what they saw as government handouts.
- ❖ Many thought the government shouldn't be this involved in people's lives.
- ❖ By 1968, unemployment was on the rise again leading to riots.
- ❖ Johnson's policies were overshadowed by the Vietnam war. The war was extremely costly and resulted in over 58,000 American deaths. It was a significant reason for economic struggles during this time.

During the 1960s and 1970s a number of feminist movements developed and fought for women's equality. They had an impact on women across America. Women were still not treated equally to men. They were paid less for the same jobs, and many stayed in domestic roles. Television and cinema depicted women as happy wives and mothers. During the 1960s women fought for equal pay, anti discrimination laws and increased access to education and professional jobs. Much of this change in attitude was influenced by a book called 'The Feminine Mystique' written by Betty Friedan where she argued that there was more to a woman's life than being a wife or mother.

PCSW and the Equal Pay Act

In 1960 President Kennedy set up the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women to investigate the issues faced. It reported in 1963 that women earned far less than men for the same work, were sacked for getting married, faced discrimination and did not have access to maternity leave or childcare. In June 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act stating that women should be paid the same as men for the same work.

The National Organisation of Women

The 1964 Civil Rights Act banned discrimination in employment on the basis of race or sex. Many women were inspired by the civil rights movement and began to campaign for equality. Betty Friedan set up the NOW campaign in 1966, other groups followed such as the Black Feminist Organisation. NOW quickly grew to 40,000 members but most were white and middle class, the more extreme women formed the 'women's liberation movement' or the 'Women's Lib'

Roe vs Wade

Abortion was banned in many states in America. The women's movement argued that a woman should be able to decide what happened to her body. In 1969, 'Jane Roe' (not her real name) wanted an abortion and went to court to challenge Henry Wade, the District Attorney of Texas. The case went to the Supreme Court, which ruled in 1973 that women had the right to a legal abortion. By then, Jane Roe had had her baby who was adopted.

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

In 1972, Congress passed an amendment to the Constitution that would give women equal rights with men. However, Phyllis Schlafly, a woman, led a campaign against this. She argued this would cause women to go into the army, gay marriage and unisex toilets (OH NO!). Unfortunately her campaign was a success and the ERA did not become law because it was not supported by enough states. The ERA was only ratified in 2020 when Virginia passed it achieving the full 38 states necessary.