

## Clash of Cultures—The 1920s

### Scopes Monkey Trial

#### **Microcosm of the National Clash of Cultures**

### 20th Century Nativism: Some Things Never Really Change

- ✿ Sacco & Vanzetti case
- ✿ Resurgence of KKK
- ✿ Immigration Restrictions
  - ⊕ Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
  - ⊕ 1921 Immigration Act--Created quotas for immigrant groups at 3% of ethnic population measured in 1910 Census.
  - ⊕ 1924 National Origins Act--Shifted to 1890 Census, lowered to 2%, banned all Asian immigration, cut total number of immigrants allowed in half.
- ✿ By 1931 more emigrants than immigrants.

### Women in America

- ✿ **19th century Developments**
  - ⊕ Shift from Republican Motherhood to Separate Spheres & Cult of Domesticity
  - ⊕ Rise of "Woman Movement" & Suffrage
  - ⊕ Led by Stanton & Anthony, Seneca Falls Declaration;
  - ⊕ Arose out of belief in special nature of women and perceived need for nurturing, moral influence.
  - ⊕ End of Century Trends--Breakdown of Separate Spheres
  - ⊕ Charlotte Perkins Gilman--Economic independence;
  - ⊕ Participation of middle-class women in Progressive movement;
  - ⊕ Greater movement into workplace.
- ✿ **Cultural Shifts in Gender Norms**
  - ⊕ Margaret Sanger & Sexual Independence
    - Strong proponent of family planning & birth control;
    - Believed women needed to have control over their bodies before they could expect to have influence on the world.
  - ⊕ Rise of Companionate Marriage as ideal relationship.
  - ⊕ New Images of Women
    - Working Girl, "It" Girl, Gibson Girl;

- Victorian image of women stressed extreme femininity through norms in clothes & actions;
- New image was both more sexualized and more androgynous.

### ✿ **Suffrage at Last**

- ⊕ 19th Amendment a result of new ideals & new tactics
- ⊕ National American Women's Suffrage Association
  - Middle-class, Progressivism still emphasized special nature of women;
  - Led by Carrie Chapman Catt, carried on the legacy of Cady Stanton & Anthony;
  - Largely given up on Suffrage Amendment, sought state-by-state victories.
- ⊕ National Women's Party
  - Formed by Alice Paul & Lucy Burns, impatient w/NAWSA;
  - Radical, direct protest tactics taken from English suffrage movement & Paul's Quaker heritage;
  - Pushed for Suffrage Amendment, 24-hour protests outside White House even during WWI;
  - After passage of 19th Amendment, moved on to Equal Rights Amendment.

## Great Migration & Harlem Renaissance

### Demographic Shifts

- ✿ 1900 Census--90% of African Americans live in South working in agriculture & domestic service.
- ✿ Great Migration begins during WWI, shift to urban, industrial North:
  - ⊕ 500,000 migrate during war;
  - ⊕ Through 1920s, over 1.5 million African Americans move to Chicago (150% ↑), Cleveland (300% ↑) & Detroit (600% ↑)
  - ⊕ Primarily single males, many veterans.
- ✿ Reality of Legal Segregation
  - ⊕ *US v. Reese* (1876) allowed denial of vote on any grounds other than race;
  - ⊕ *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)--"Separate but Equal"
  - ⊕ *Cummins v. County Board of Ed.* (1899)--Applied *Plessy* to schools.

### African American Culture

- ✿ Extremes of African American Rights
  - ⊕ Booker T. Washington, Industrial Schools, Integration.

- ⊕ WEB DuBois, NAACP & Civil Rights.
- ⊕ Marcus Garvey on the fringe
  - Universal Negro Improvement Association;
  - Very visible, militaristic presence in community;
  - Mix of Black Nationalism & "Back to Africa" resettlement.
- ⊗ New Cultural Modes
  - ⊕ "New Negro"--Replacement of docile Sambo-type with militant assertiveness;
  - ⊕ Harlem Renaissance--Flowering of modern African American culture
  - ⊕ Langston Hughes in poetry, Richard Wright in literature, Aaron Douglas in art;
  - ⊕ Focus on non-slavery history & culture of African Americans.

## **The Great Depression & New Deal**

### **Hoover's Response**

- ⊗ Blamed Depression on outside economic factors
- ⊗ Economic Recovery
  - ⊕ Rejected direct relief & urged Americans to seek help from churches, Salvation Army & Red Cross;
  - ⊕ Sought cooperation from labor & industry--similar to voluntary compliance from WWI;
  - ⊕ Instituted Reconstruction Finance Corporation for loans & loan guarantees to railroads, banks, etc.
- ⊗ Believed in Rugged Individualism & Laissez-faire Capitalism
  - ⊕ Believed "dole" would create disincentives to work;
  - ⊕ Sought to "prime the pump" by supporting production;
  - ⊕ Believed that benefits would "trickle down."

### **Election of 1932**

- ⊗ Hoover the Incumbent--Faith in American Enterprise & Individual Initiative
  - ⊕ Defensive in tone, continued trade policies & maintenance of the Gold Standard;
  - ⊕ Hampered by images of Hoovervilles & Bonus Army.
- ⊗ FDR, Optimism & Promise of a "New Deal"
  - ⊕ No real program for voters to evaluate;
  - ⊕ Contradictory promises --balanced budget & direct aid;
  - ⊕ Advocated repeal of Prohibition (21st Amendment)
- ⊗ Election of FDR represented most significant political realignment since Reconstruction.

- ⊕ Especially African Americans moving to Democratic Party.

## **FDR Meets the Great Depression**

- ⊗ Economic & Psychological Crisis
  - ⊕ 25-33% Unemployment
  - ⊕ 25% of banks failed & farms foreclosed
  - ⊕ Spreading impact on American family & traditional authority.
- ⊗ FDR's Inaugural Address:
  - ⊕ "This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive & will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself--nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance."

## **New Deal Programs & New Deals**

- ⊗ The Three R's of the New Deal
  - ⊕ Relief--Meeting immediate needs of Americans, putting cash & other resources into people's hands;
  - ⊕ Recovery--Stemming uncontrolled economic decline & re-establishing the natural business cycle;
  - ⊕ Reform--Ensuring the the systemic, structural weaknesses were repaired.
- ⊗ Keynesian Economics
  - ⊕ Shift in "priming the pump" to include demand side;
  - ⊕ Role of government to deficit spend--but also cut taxes.
- ⊗ Two New Deals
  - ⊕ First New Deal--Dealt primarily with Relief & Recovery
  - ⊕ Second New Deal--Introduced some of the most significant Reforms.

## **Banking Crisis as Case Study**

- ⊗ Bank Holiday—Closed all banks to stop massive withdrawals
- ⊗ Emergency Banking Relief Act (March 1933)
  - ⊕ Designed to restore faith in banking system:
  - ⊕ Federal government examined all banks, only financially sound ones could reopen;
  - ⊕ Over \$1 billion flowed back into reopened banks from private depositors, RFC & Federal Reserve.
- ⊗ Glass-Steagall Banking Reform Act (June 1933)
  - ⊕ Created Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation guaranteed deposits up to \$2500;

- ⊕ Separated commercial banks from investment banks.

## **New Deal & Economic Recovery**

### **⊗ Regulating Investment**

- ⊕ Federal Securities Act (1933), Securities Exchange Commission (1934), Public Utility Holding Company Act(1935)
- ⊕ Dealt with speculation & manipulation in investment markets.

### **⊗ Regulating the Economy**

- ⊕ FDR took US off Gold Standard allowing for "managed currency"
- ⊕ Restructuring of Federal Reserve System to actively regulate banks during specific phases of business cycle.

### **⊗ Stabilizing Markets**

- ⊕ Agricultural Adjustment Administration (1933) provided subsidies to stabilize prices
- ⊕ National Industrial Recovery Administration (1933) designed to prevent extreme competition, overproduction labor-industry disputes.

### **⊗ Addressing Unemployment**

- ⊕ Federal Emergency Relief Administration (1933)
- ⊕ Initial \$500 million distributed through state & local government agencies;
- ⊕ By 1935, \$3 billion distributed to 8 million Americans;
- ⊕ Intended to provide jobs not cash relief, but most programs were "make-work" or "boon-doggling."

### **⊗ Key Examples of Relief Programs**

- ⊕ Civilian Conservation Corp (1933)--Most popular New Deal program, employed 2.75 million young men in reforestation, flood control, firefighting, etc.
- ⊕ Public Works Administration (1933)--Provided funding for construction of schools, , dams, govt buildings, etc.
- ⊕ Works Progress Administration (1935)--More radical than PWA, employed 40% of American workers at cost of \$11.4 billion, included Federal Arts Project & Federal Writers Project.

## **TVA as Case Study**

- ⊗ Rural Electrification in Tennessee River Valley
  - ⊕ Expanded on the Muscle Shoals property already owned by federal government;
  - ⊕ Built 20 dams along the river;
  - ⊕ Provided hydroelectric power, provided for flood control, limited soil erosion, etc;

- ⊕ Provided for Full Employment & Cheap Electricity throughout region.
- ⊗ Meaning of TVA for Nation
  - ⊕ Represented progress, development & technological innovation;
  - ⊕ Government ownership of utilities seen by many as socialist, step toward planned regional economy.

### **Challenges to the New Deal**

- ⊗ **Father Coughlin**--Believed 1st New Deal benefited industry, promoted a fundamental shift in values toward Social Justice.
- ⊗ **Huey Long**--Believed businesses were responsible for Great Depression, Share Our Wealth campaign promised \$5,000 to every American.
- ⊗ **Dr. Francis Townsend**--Believed the elderly had been ignored by most of the New Deal work programs, advocated an Old age Revolving Pension Plan.
- ⊗ **American Liberty League**--Thought worst of Depression was over after 1st Hundred Days, feared "Creeping Socialism" and power of FDR.
- ⊗ **Communist Party USA**--Over 55,000 members during Depression, many others supported as "Fellow Travelers"

### **Legacy of New Deal & FDR**

- ⊗ Most significant long-term reforms
  - ⊕ Creation of SEC & FDIC
  - ⊕ Social Security--Supplemented by Medicare, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs;
  - ⊕ Wagner Act recognized the absolute right to Collective bargaining for labor.
- ⊗ Policy Shift--Keynesian Economics & regulation of economy became policy after WWII.
- ⊗ Legacy of FDR
  - ⊕ New Deal not responsible for end of Great Depression--"Roosevelt Recession" followed by WWII
  - ⊕ Imperial Presidency--Court-Packing Episode
  - ⊕ 22nd amendment limits presidents to 2 terms
  - ⊕ Role of president as emotional focal point during crisis