

The 1920s



1

Table of Contents



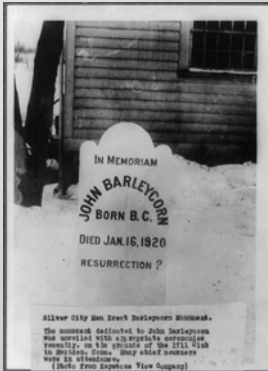
- Prohibition
- Harlem Renaissance
- Ku Klux Klan
- Automobile/Consumerism
- "The Roaring 20s"

2

Prohibition

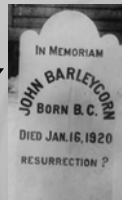
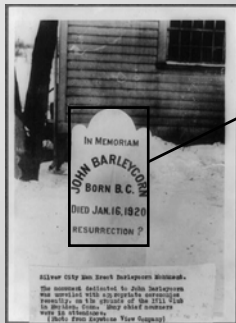
- The 18th Amendment/The Volstead Act
- Prohibited sale, distribution, and manufacture of "intoxicating liquors"
- Greatly disliked by many Americans
- People found ways around the law by either buying illegal liquor or making their own
- Eventually repealed by the 21st Amendment in 1933

3



Prohibition

4



- What is this “monument” supposed to be?
- How can you tell?

5



- What is the significance of the name “John Barleycorn” as posted on the monument?
- What does the use of this name reveal about the monument’s purpose?

6

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What is the significance of the dates mentioned on the monument?

7

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What is the significance of this line on the monument?

8

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The monument dedicated to John Barleycorn was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies recently, on the grounds of the 1711 Club in Meriden, Conn. Many chief mourners were in attendance.

- What might the "1711 Club" have been?
- How might Prohibition have affected the club and its members?

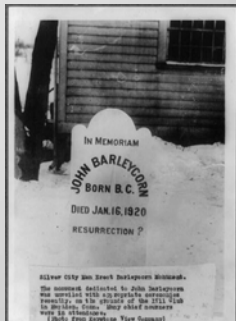
9



This monument was located in the town of Meriden, a Connecticut suburb.

Would you expect that resistance to Prohibition was more common in rural or urban areas? Why?

10



Do you think this monument was a serious protest against Prohibition or a joke?

11

The Harlem Renaissance

- Flourishing of black artistic and literary talent in the 1920s
- Black artists became more accepted in mainstream culture and explored new avenues of artistic expression
- Frequent themes included celebration of African heritage as well as the difficulties of being African American during the early 20th century
- Well-known names in the Harlem Renaissance included Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Alain Locke, and Archibald Motley

12

The Harlem Renaissance



13



- What is going on in the scene depicted in this painting?
- Describe the people in the painting—what do they look like?
- How are they dressed?

14

What type of music do you think is being played by the musicians in the picture?



15

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- How does the character of the policeman in the picture differ from most of the other characters?
- What do you think his expression conveys?



16

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What do the expressions of the bystanders in the painting reveal about the scene and the event?



17

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In the painting, several of the musicians are women.




What symbolism do you see in this? Explain.

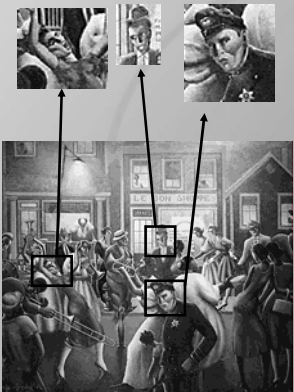
18

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The subjects' faces in this painting bear a strong resemblance to African tribal art.



Why do you think the artist chose to portray the subjects in this manner?




Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



What are the main themes the artist is trying to convey?

20

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Alain Locke, a Harlem Renaissance author, wrote in 1926 that “Negro life is seizing its first chances for group expression and self-determination.”

Does this work of art support Locke’s claim? Brainstorm as a class about why or why not.

21

The Ku Klux Klan

- Enjoyed a resurgence in the 1920s
- The “Red Scare” and nativism helped fuel prejudice
- The Klan persecuted not only blacks, but also Jews, Catholics, and immigrants
- “One hundred percent Americanism”
- The Klan enjoyed popularity in several areas of the United States
- Criminal activity and the arrest of the Grand Dragon of the Indiana Klan led to its decline at the end of the decade

22

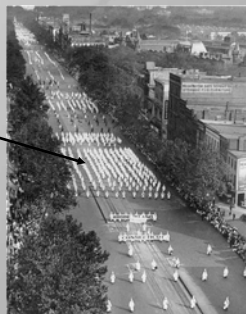


The Ku Klux Klan

23

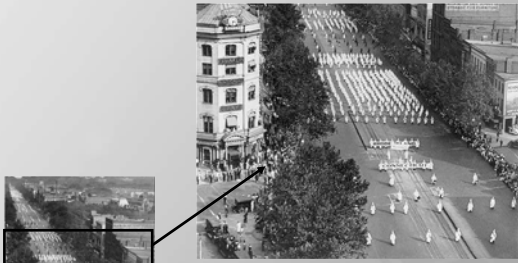


- Speculate as to the number of Klan members on parade in the photo.
- What can you infer about the popularity of the Klan at the time based on what you see?



24

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- Does it look as if many people came out to watch the parade?
- Do you think they supported the Klan or were merely curious?

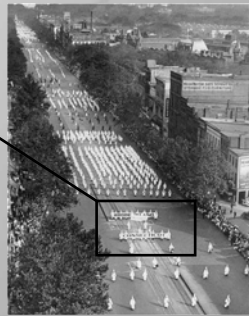
25

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- Why might the marchers have had banners reading "Rhode Island" and "Connecticut"?
- What do the banners imply about the strength and outreach of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s?

26



Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



Why do you think the Klan decided to hold a parade rather than just a rally with featured speakers?

27

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



28

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



Why might this man have been carrying an American flag?



29

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



In many pictures of Klan rallies, members have their faces covered. Why do you think the Klan members in this picture are marching in public with their faces in full view?



30

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



Look at the expressions on the faces on the men in the picture.

- What sort of emotions or feelings do their faces display?
- What impression do you think they wanted to convey to the crowd through their behavior?



31

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



Note the elaborate insignia and the variety of Klan uniforms.

Why might the Klan have thought it important to emphasize the quasi-military nature of their organization during this march?



32

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



Note the Capitol Dome in the background.

Why do you think the Klan held this march in Washington, D.C.?



33

Automobiles/Consumerism

- Advertising “came into its own” during the 1920s
- Brand names become well-known
- The “installment plan”/“big ticket” items
- Owning an automobile became an essential part of American life
- Consumerism led to overuse of credit

34



Automobiles/ Consumerism


35



- What features of the automobile does the large headline in the ad highlight?
- Why might these things have been important to 1920s consumers?

36

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520
Easier to handle-
safer to drive


How might these words in the ad have induced consumers to buy this automobile?

Ford

BEAUTY .. COMFORT .. CONVENIENCE .. UTILITY

37

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- To which consumers would the idea of “convenient time payment plans” been appealing?
- What does this line tell us about the type of consumers Ford hoped would buy this car?

demonstrate their easy handling. Get full particulars about convenient time payment plans.

38

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This car cost \$520 at the time, which is roughly equivalent to \$5800 today.

- Was this car relatively cheap or expensive?
- What does the location of the price in the ad imply as to how important the cost of the car might have been to the consumer?

39

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Why do you think the ad shows a woman driving the car rather than the man?

AMERICAN MOTORIST

520

Easier to handle - safer to drive

Ford

40

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources

AMERICAN MOTORIST

- In what sort of publication did this ad appear?
- What does this tell us about the popularity of automobiles at the time?

520

Easier to handle - safer to drive

Ford

41

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The “Roaring ‘20s”

- Booming economy, desire to recover from the sacrifices of WWI and have fun
- Fads: flagpole sitting, dance marathons
- Silly songs, slang, fashions, dances
- “Flappers”

42



The “Roaring ‘20s”

43



- Approximately how old do the people in the photo appear to be?
- What do they appear to be doing?

44

How do the women’s hairstyles and clothing symbolize the changes in women’s attitudes and roles during the 1920s?

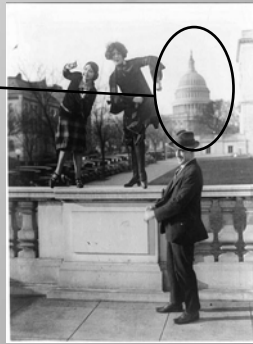


45

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Why might the photographer have framed this picture with the U.S. Capitol in the background?



46

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How do you think the average American living in the 1920s might have viewed this photo and the scene depicted in it?



47

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



- Do you think the women in the photo offer a good representation of the “reckless youth” or “flappers” of the 1920s?
- Do they seem “reckless” or “rebellious” by today’s standards?

48

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources



49
