A Clash of Values

Chapter 10
Section 3
Nativism Resurges

- **Big Ideas:**
  - An increase in immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe after WW I led to intolerance, racism, and new immigration laws.
Americans had a fear of German, Jewish, Catholic, and communist immigrants. This led to a rise in **nativism** – a belief that one’s native land needs to be protected against immigrants.
Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were two Italian immigrants who were convicted of killing and robbing two people.

- Many people assumed the men were guilty because they were foreigners and newspapers reported that both were anarchists (people who oppose all forms of government).
Defense attorneys tried to sway public opinion by portraying the men as victims of discrimination.

In 1927, after 6 years of appeals, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed.

People viewed the case as anti-immigrant prejudice.
Return of the Ku Klux Klan

- Anti-immigrant feelings gave new life to the Ku Klux Klan as the organization expanded its hatred to foreigners.
  - By 1924, the KKK had 4 million members and expanded beyond the south into the mid-west and northern cities.
  - At the end of the decade, when new laws reduced immigration, Klan membership declined rapidly.
The government responded to nativist feelings by passing legislation that put limits on immigration.

- 1921 Harding signed the Emergency Quota Act that restricted the number of people of a particular ethnic group to 3%.
- 1924 the National Origins Act set quotas at 2% of each national group represented in the 1890 census.
  - These numbers favored immigrants from northwestern Europe.
Clash of Cultures

**Big Ideas:**

- The culture of the 1920s glorified personal freedom.
- However, not everyone was happy to see these changes take place.
Now that women had the right to vote, young women wanted even more freedom.

- They altered ideas about marriage, romance, sex, and what was considered acceptable behavior.
- Many young women took jobs to become financially independent.
- Cars allowed young people to “go out” beyond the watchful eye of their parents.
Many Americans, especially in rural areas, feared that the nation was in a moral decline and joined Christian fundamentalist organizations.

- These groups spoke out against the teaching of evolution in schools.
- They also spoke out against the use and abuse of alcohol.
Tennessee outlawed any teaching that denied man was created by God.
- The ACLU searched for a teacher willing to be arrested for breaking that law.
- John T. Scopes volunteered and was put on trial for teaching evolution.
- The Scopes trial put the legality of evolution before the court and is commonly referred to as the “Scopes-Monkey Trial.”
The temperance movement gained traction in the early 1900s and by 1919 the 18th Amendment was ratified and alcohol was banned across the country.

- The Volstead Act was passed in order to enforce prohibition.
- During the 1920s the Treasury Department made more than 540,000 arrests.
- Most Americans broke the law and visited secret bars called speakeasies.
Prohibition

- While prohibition reduced alcohol consumption, it did not result in an improved society as supporters had promised, and it had serious unintended consequences.
- Gangsters made millions smuggling booze into the country and selling it to the speakeasies.
- Different crime syndicates fought for control of territory leading to skyrocketing murder rates and overflowing jails.
Prohibition

- Anti-prohibition leagues, breweries, and distilleries, fought to repeal the 18th Amendment.
- The 21st Amendment was passed in 1933 ending prohibition.