Chapter 31
American Life in the “Roaring Twenties,” 1919-1929

A. True or False
Where the statement is true, mark T. Where it is false, mark F, and correct it in the space immediately below.

___ 1. The “red scare” of 1919-1920 led the U.S. government to threaten military assault on the Communists government of Russia.

___ 2. The Sacco-Vanzetti case aroused liberal and radical protest because of alleged prejudice by the judge and jury against the aesthetic immigrant defendants.

___ 3. The Ku Klux Klan of 1920s was strongest in the East and Far West.

___ 4. The Immigrant Act of 1924 reflected “nativist” prejudice against the new immigrants from southern and eastern Europe.

___ 5. Cosmopolitan intellectuals like Horace Kallen and Randolph Bourne believed that immigrants should be able to retain their own cultures and should not be pressured to adopt American ways.

___ 6. The Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act were frequently violated, especially by big-city dwellers and immigrants.

___ 7. The Scopes Trial verdict acquitted biology teacher Scopes and overturned the Tennessee law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in the schools.

___ 8. The 1920s saw a shift from heavy industrial production toward a mass-consumption economy.

___ 9. Henry Ford’s great economic achievement was the production of a cheap, reliable, mass-produced automobile.

___ 10. The automobile’s large social and cultural effects in such areas as family life and gender relations were comparable to its economic importance.

___ 11. The automobile strengthened such related areas of production such as rubber, glass, and oil industries.

___ 12. The radio and film industries initially emphasized non-commercial and public service uses of the mass media.
13. The 1920’s saw attempts to restore stricter standards of sexual behavior, especially for women.

14. Jazz was initially pioneered by blacks, but later taken up and promoted by whites.

15. The center of black literacy and cultural achievement in the 1920s was Atlanta, Georgia.

16. The most prominent writers of the 1920s upheld the moral virtues of small-town American life against the critical attitudes and moral questioning of the big cities.

17. The real estate and stock market booms of the 1920s included large elements of speculation and excessive credit risk.

18. Secretary of the Treasury Mellon made great efforts to relieve the federal tax burden on the middle class.

B. Multiple Choice
Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

1. The “red scare” of early 1920s was set up by
   a. the Sacco-Vanzetti case  
   b. the rise of radical Industrial Workers of the World  
   c. the Bolshevik revolution in Russia  
   d. an influx of radical immigrants

2. Besides attacking minorities like Catholics, Blacks, and Jews, the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s opposed contemporary cultural and social changes such as
   a. evolution and birth control  
   b. prohibition and higher education  
   c. automobiles and airplanes  
   d. patriotism and immigration restriction

3. The quota system established for immigration in 1920s was based partly on the idea that
   a. America could accept the refugees created by war and revolution in Europe.  
   b. immigrants from northern and western Europe were superior to those from southern and eastern Europe.  
   c. immigration from Europe would be largely replaced by immigration from Asia.  
   d. priority in immigration would be based on family relations, profession, and education.

4. The separation of many American ethnic groups into separate neighborhoods with their own distinct institutions, cultures and values meant that
   a. English was no longer the dominant language in U.S.  
   b. the U.S. was intolerant of ethnic differences.  
   c. Catholics and Jews had a political base from which to gain presidency.  
   d. it was almost impossible to organize the American working class across ethnic and religious lines.
5. One clear result of prohibition was
   a. a rise in criminal organizations that supplied illegal liquor.
   b. an improvement in family relations and the general moral tone of the society.
   c. a turn from alcohol to other forms of substance abuse.
   d. the rise of voluntary self-help organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous.

6. The American city where gangsterism flourished most blatantly in the 1920s was

7. The essential issue in the Scopes Trial was whether
   a. scientists ought to be allowed to investigate the biological origins of humanity.
   b. the teachings of Darwin could be reconciled with those of religion.
   c. Darwinian evolutionary science could be taught in the public schools.
   d. Fundamentalist Protestantism could be taught in the public schools.

8. The most highly acclaimed industrial innovator of the new mass-production economy was

9. Two major American industries that benefited economically from the widespread use of the automobile were
   a. plastics and synthetic fibers.  b. rubber and petroleum
   c. textiles and leather  d. electronics and aluminum.

10. One of the primary social effects of the new automobile age was
    a. a weakening of traditional family ties between parents and youth.
    b. a strengthening of intergenerational ties among parents, children, and grandchildren.
    c. a tightening of restrictions on women.
    d. a closing of the gap between the working class and the wealthy.

11. Radio and the movies both had the cultural effect of
    a. increasing Americans' interest in history and literature.
    b. increasing mass standardization and weakening traditional forms of culture.
    c. undermining the tendency of industry toward big business and mass production.
    d. encouraging creativity and cultural independence among the people.

12. In the 1920s the major changes pursued by American women were
    a. voting rights and political equality.  b. economic equality and equal pay for equal work.
    c. social reform and family welfare.  d. cultural freedom and expanded sexual experience.

13. A prominent advocate of African-American self-reliance and migration to Africa was
14. The primary achievement of the Universal Negro Improvement Association was
   a. its promotion of black jazz and blues
   b. its positive impact on black racial pride
   c. its economic development program in Harlem
   d. its transportation of numerous blacks to Liberia

15. The literary figure who promoted many new writers of the 1920s in his magazine, *The American Mercury*, was
   a. H. L. Mencken
   b. W.C. Haney
   c. F. Scott Fitzgerald
   d. Henry Adams

16. Many of the prominent new writers of the 1920s were
   a. fascinated by their historical roots in old New England.
   b. disgusted with European influences on American culture.
   c. interested especially in nature and social reform.
   d. highly critical of American ‘Puritanism’ and small-town life.

C. Identification
   Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

1. The movement of the 1919-1920, spawned by fear of Bolshevik revolution, that resulted in the arrest and deportation of many political radicals

2. Hooded defenders of Anglo-Saxon and “Protestant” values against immigrants, Catholics, and Jews

3. Restrictive legislation of 1924 that reduced the number of newcomers to the United States and discriminated against immigrants from southern and eastern Europe

4. New constitutional provision, popular in the South and Midwest, that encouraged lawbreaking and gangsterism in big cities of the East and North

5. Term for area of the South where traditional evangelical and Fundamentalist religion remained strong

6. Legal battle over teaching evolution that pitted modern science against Fundamentalist religion

7. New industry spawned by the mass-consumption economy that encouraged still more consumption.

8. Henry Ford’s cheap, mass-produced automobile

9. Invented in 1903 and first used primarily for stunts and mail carrying

10. One of the few new consumer products of the 1920s that encouraged people to stay at home rather than pulling them away from home and family
11. The first talking motion picture, produced in 1927, which ended the “silent”-film era

12. The cause, promoted by feminist Margaret Sanger, that contributed to changing sexual standards, especially for women

13. The syncopated style of music, originally created by blacks, that attained national popularity in 1920s

14. Marcus Garvey’s self-help organization that proposed leading blacks to Africa

15. H.L. Mencken’s monthly magazine that led the literary attack on traditional moral values, the middle class, and Puritanism

16. The New York institution in which continuously rising prices and profits were fueled by speculation in the 1920s

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

| ___ 1. A. Mitchell Palmer       | A. The “Poet Laureate” of Harlem and author of *The Weary Blues* |
| ___ 2. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti | B. Writer whose novels reflected the disillusionment of many Americans with propaganda and patriotic idealism |
| ___ 3. Al Capone               | C. Italian-American anarchists whose trial and execution aroused widespread protest |
| ___ 4. John Dewey              | D. Mechanical genius and organizer of the mass-produced automobile industry |
| ___ 5. William Jennings Bryan  | E. Federal official who rounded up thousands of alleged Bolsheviks in the red scare of 1919-1920 |
| ___ 6. Henry Ford              | F. Baltimore writer who criticized the supposedly narrow and hypocritical values of American society |
| ___ 7. Bruce Barton            | G. Top Chicago gangster of the 1920s |
| ___ 8. Langston Hughes        | H. Former presidential candidate who led the fight against evolution at the 1925 Scopes trial |
| ___ 9. Charles A. Lindbergh    | I. Federal official who attempted to promote business investment by reducing taxes on the rich |
| ___ 10. Marcus Garvey          | J. Founder of the advertising industry and author of new interpretation of Christ in *The Man Nobody Knows* |
| ___ 11. Sigmund Freud          | K. Viennese psychologist whose writings were interpreted by Americans as a call for sexual liberation and gratification |
L. Leading American philosopher and proponent of “Progressive Education”
M. Humble aviation pioneer who become a cultural hero of the 1920s
N. Minnesota-born writer whose novels were especially popular with young people in the 1920s
O. Jamaican-born leader who enhanced African American pride despite his failed migration plans

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. American fear of Bolshevism</td>
<td>A. Caused the rise of Ku Klux Klan and the imposition of immigration restrictions</td>
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<td>2. Nativist American fear of immigrants and Catholics</td>
<td>B. Caused many influential writers of the 1920s to criticize traditional values and search for new moral standards</td>
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<td>3. Prohibition</td>
<td>C. Caused the red scare and the deportation of foreign radicals</td>
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<td>4. The automobile industry</td>
<td>D. Enabled many ordinary citizens to join in the speculative Wall Street boom</td>
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<td>5. The radio</td>
<td>E. Stimulated highway construction, petroleum production, and other related industries</td>
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<td>6. Rising prosperity, new technologies and the ideas of Sigmund Freud</td>
<td>F. Helped stimulate mass attention to sports and entertainment while spreading the reach of advertising</td>
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<td>7. Resentment against conventional and small-town morality</td>
<td>G. Reduced the tax burden on the wealthy and perhaps strengthened the stock-marker boom</td>
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<td>8. The economic boom of the 1920s</td>
<td>H. Greatly raised the incomes and living standards of many Americans</td>
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<td>9. The ability to buy stocks with only a small down payment</td>
<td>I. Created a new atmosphere of sexual frankness and liberation, especially among the young</td>
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<td>10. Andrew Mellon’s tax policies</td>
<td>J. Helped spawn “bootlegging: and large-scale organized crime.</td>
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