

After reading Kennedy's Chapter 31, you should be able to:

- analyze the movement toward social conservatism following World War I.
- describe the cultural conflicts over such issues as immigration, cultural pluralism, prohibition, and evolution.
- discuss the rise of the mass-consumption economy, led by the automobile industry.
- describe the cultural revolution brought about by radio, films, and changing gender standards.
- explain how new ideas and values were reflected and promoted in the American literacy renaissance of the 1920s.
- explain how the era's cultural changes affected women and African Americans.

Concept/Reading Questions:

1. How and why did America turn toward domestic isolation and social conservatism in the 1920s?
2. How was the character of American culture affected by the social and political changes of the 1920s? (for both whites and blacks)
3. Why was immigration, which had existed for many generations, seen as such a great threat to American identity and culture in the prosperous 1920s?
4. Why did critics like Horace Kallen and Randolph Bourne dislike the pressure on immigrants to "Americanize" and join the "melting pot"?
5. How did some of the events of the 1920s reflect national conflicts over social, cultural, and religious values?
6. How did the automobile and other new products create a mass-consumption economy in the 1920s?
7. How did the new films, literature, and music of the 1920s affect American values in areas of religion, sexuality, and family life? Were African American cultural developments fundamentally different, or were they part of the same cultural movement?
8. In what ways were the 1920s a social and cultural reaction against progressive idealism that held sway before and during World War I?
9. In what ways did the novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald or musical developments like jazz appeal to people living amid the social and economic changes of the 1920s?
10. How revolutionary is the new media of the 1920s (radio and motion pictures)?