

WAKE UP, AMERICA!



**WWI:
HOMEFRONT**

**CIVILIZATION CALLS
EVERY MAN WOMAN AND CHILD!**

WWI: A National Emergency

-**Committee on Public Information** –
headed by **George Creel**

-Created **propaganda media** aimed to
weaken the Central Powers

-Encourage Americans to buy bonds
to pay for the war (called “**Liberty
Bonds**”)

-Encourage rationing and “**Victory
Gardens**” so more food could go “over
there”

-**War Industries Board**

-Mobilized the American economy for
war

-Govt contracts made with private
companies to produce war materiel

-**Selective Service Act of 1917**

-All men aged 21-30 must register

-3.7m men drafted



Espionage and Sedition Acts of 1917 and 1918

- \$10,000 fine and up to 20 years in prison for interfering with recruitment of soldiers
- Illegal to speak against the U.S. govt, politicians, and policies

Schenck v. U.S.

- Charles Schenck distributes flyers against the draft and was arrested
- Argued his right to 1st Amendment freedoms
- Justice **Oliver Wendell Holmes** ruled that free speech is limited if it creates “**clear and present danger**” for the U.S.

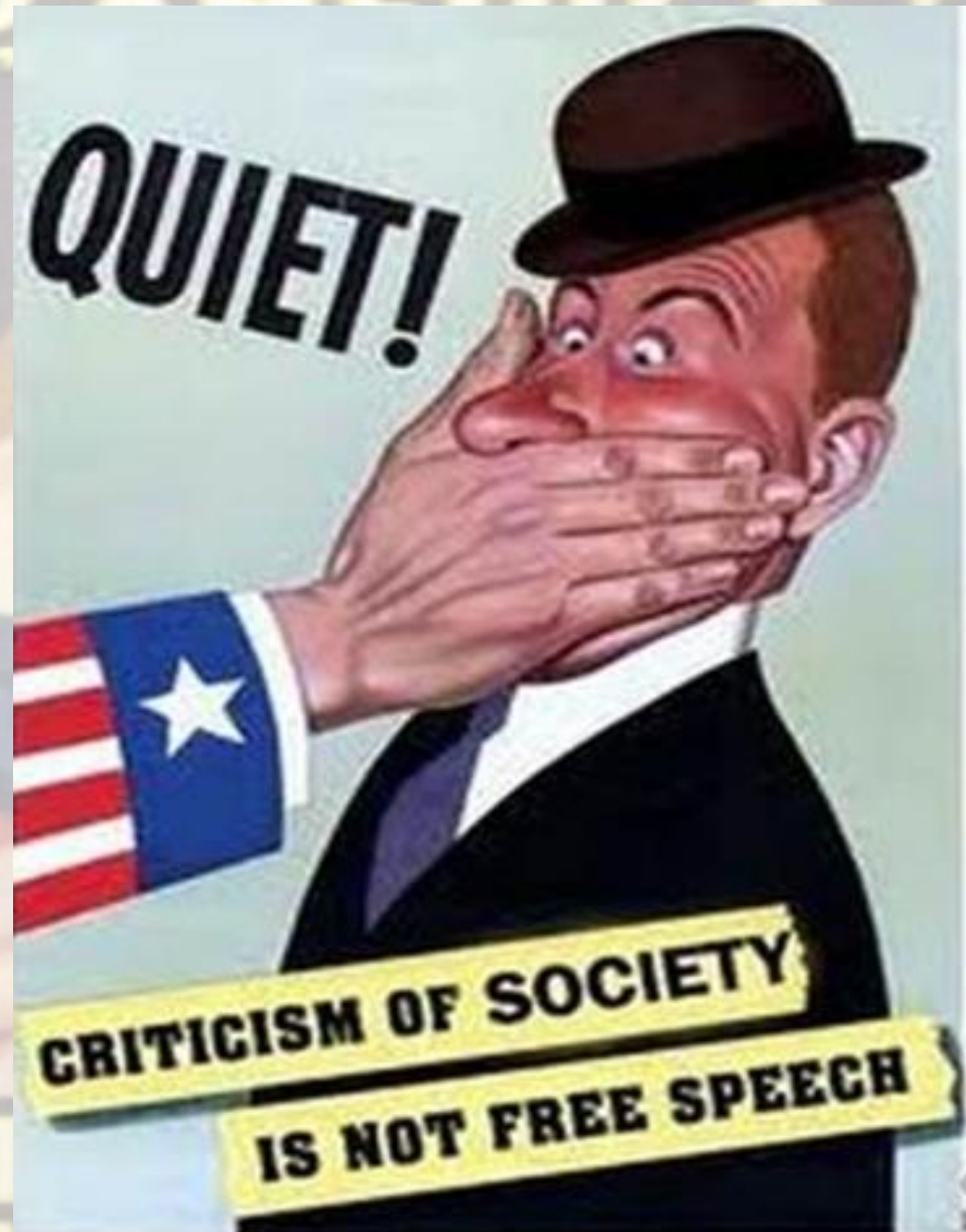
War Hysteria

- Germans were targets of violence and lynching
- Sauerkraut became “liberty cabbage”
- German measles became “liberty measles”



Government during WWI

- Used authority and power over civil liberties
- Effect: mood of fear and suspicion



INTERRUPTING THE CEREMONY

Opportunities, The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library



McCUTCHEON, CHICAGO TRIBUNE-NEW YORK NEWS SYNDICATE, INC.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R) – Senate Majority Leader

“Return to Isolation” – demands the acknowledgement of Congress to declare war & encourages a block of the Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations

Black Americans

- 400,000 were drafted and/or volunteered to enlist
 - Served in segregated units
 - Treated with greater respect by French and British soldiers

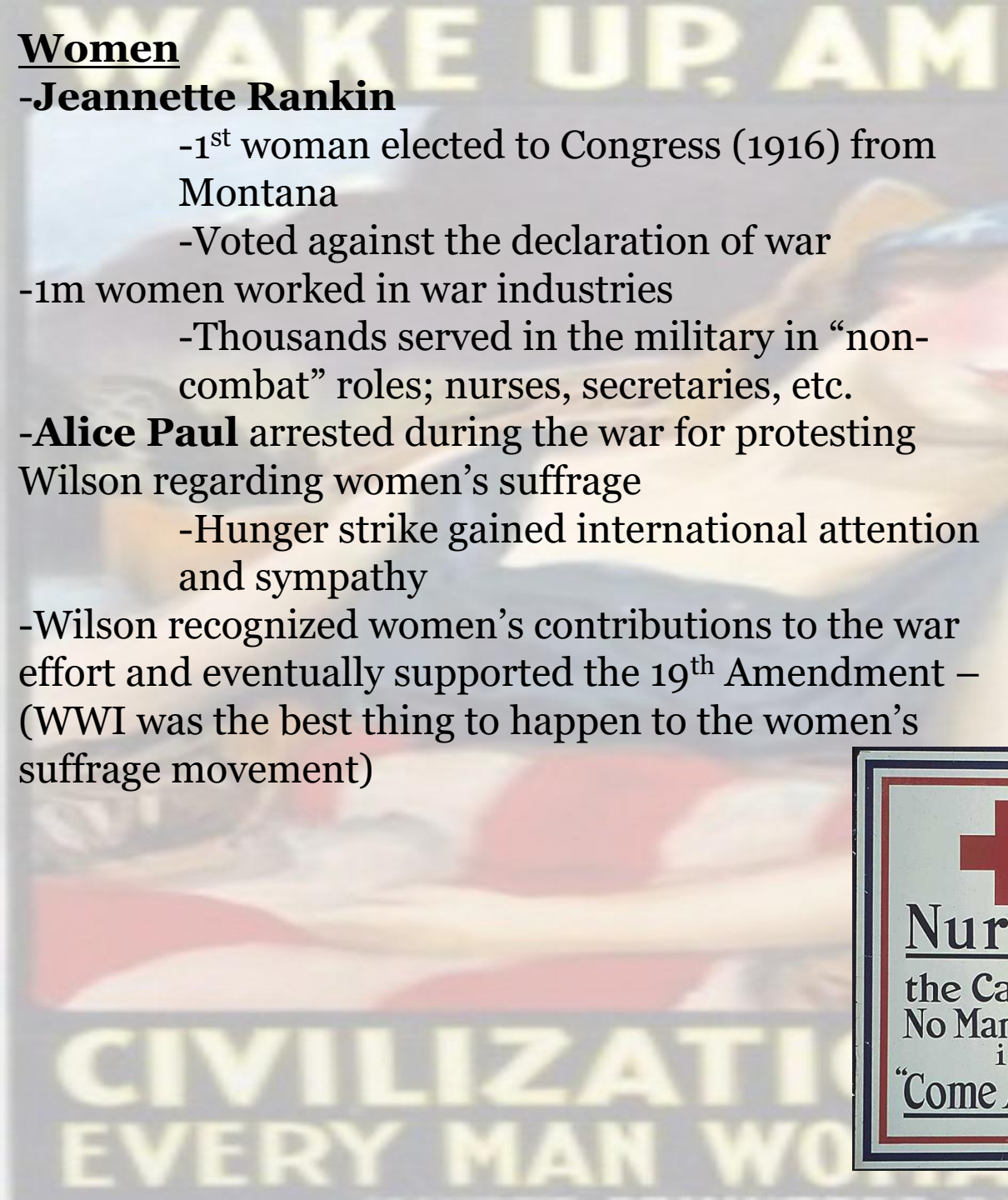
-“Great Migration”

- 500,000 Southern black Americans migrated North to work in wartime factories
- Race riots broke out in 26 cities, North and South, in 1917
 - Worst riots were in East St. Louis, Illinois

Great Migration → Harlem Renaissance, a movement promoting black culture

Remember
“Birth of a Nation” in 1915? Rise in KKK activity during these years – another factor in the Great Migration





Women

-Jeannette Rankin

- 1st woman elected to Congress (1916) from Montana
- Voted against the declaration of war
- 1m women worked in war industries
- Thousands served in the military in “non-combat” roles; nurses, secretaries, etc.
- Alice Paul** arrested during the war for protesting Wilson regarding women’s suffrage
 - Hunger strike gained international attention and sympathy
- Wilson recognized women’s contributions to the war effort and eventually supported the 19th Amendment – (WWI was the best thing to happen to the women’s suffrage movement)

AMERICAN RED CROSS



OUR BOYS NEED
SOX
KNIT YOUR BIT



Pacifists:

-“Conscientious Objectors” (some either for philosophical or religious reasons) believed in peace over war in all circumstances

Socialists:

-Many anti-war socialists were the very ones the “Espionage and Sedition Acts” were designed to silence
-Eugene V. Debs (labor union activist) was prosecuted for an anti-war speech along with many other socialists
-Many lost citizenship or were imprisoned

Immigrants:

-Immigrants often sympathized with their native country
-Those who were publicly anti-war were often deported

Women:

-Some wanted men to live and contribute to society rather than supporting the bloodshed, starvation, and death that was occurring
-Women’s Peace Party actively opposed war

Black Americans:

-Some did not support the war due to segregation and discrimination faced at home and in the military
-W.E.B. Du Bois supported the war; believed Germany was a greater enemy than racism in the U.S.

HIS BEST CUSTOMER



Soldiers Return Home

Post-war production
decreases →

Unemployment soars

→

Wages fall →

Prices of goods
remain high →

Strikes erupt



WWI Ends 1918

-Death and destruction leads to a world “mood”

-Becomes violent and unsettled



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The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917

-Civil war broke out in the USSR

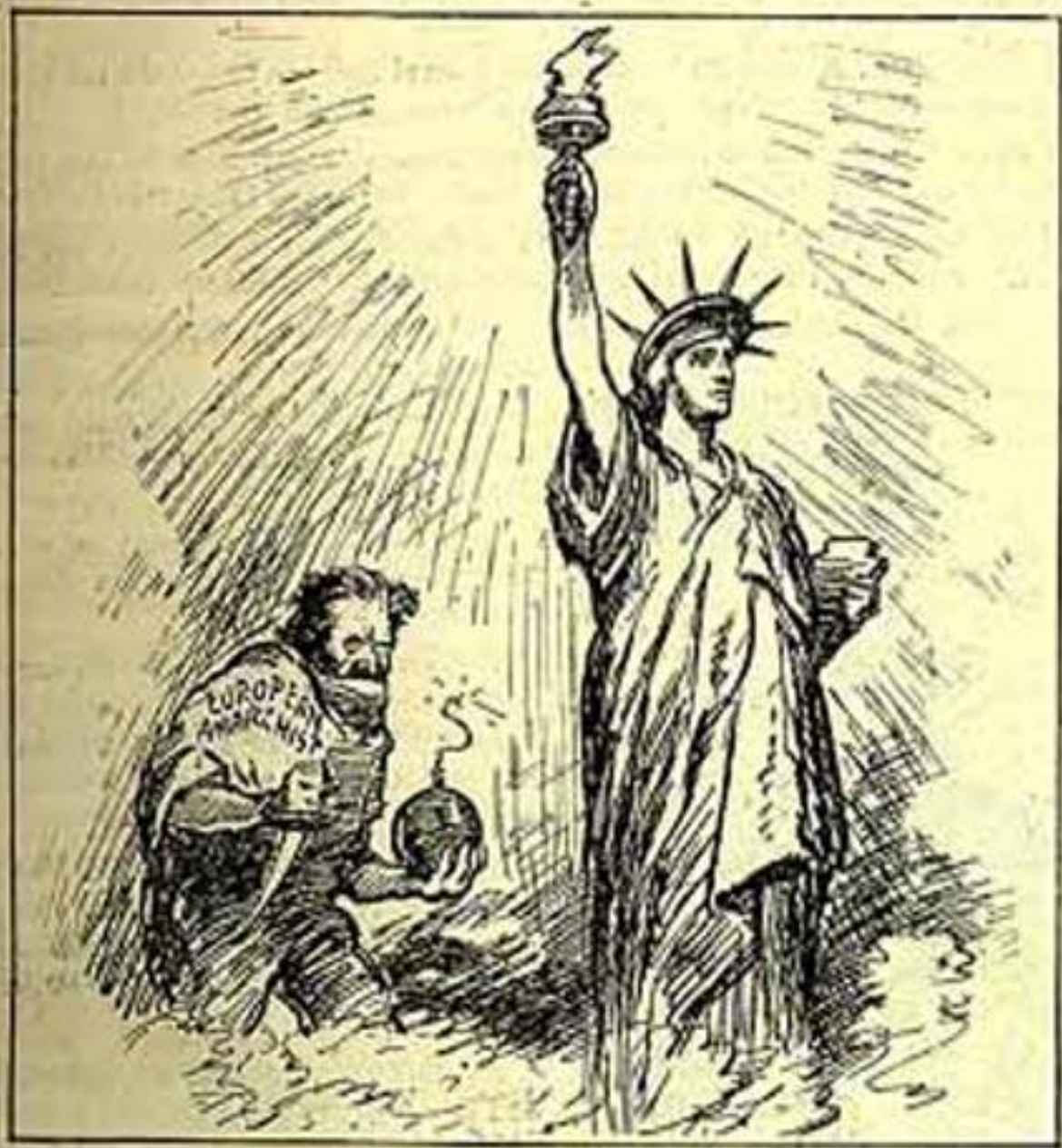
-The U.S. supported the anti-Communists

-The U.S. sent military aid and occupied Soviet ports



The First Red Scare

1918-1921



"COME UNTO ME, YE OPPREST!"

—Alley in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

Unrest Begins in the U.S.

- Radicals in the West organize a U.S. Communist party
- Although powerless, caused chaos and terrified the nation

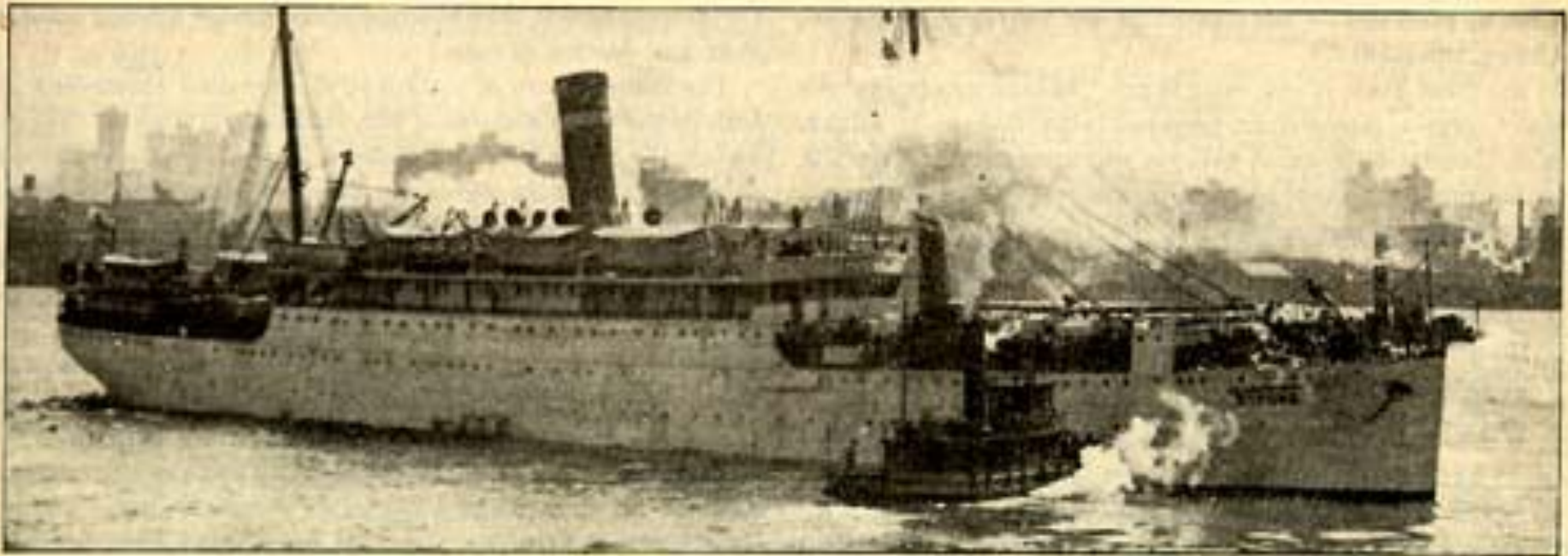


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WAKE UP AMERICA!

-Dec. 1919: 249 alien “radicals” deported to Russia on the ship *Buford*

-Sept. 1920: hysteria heightened by a bombing on Wall Street



"THE SOVIET ARK."

The United States Army transport *Buford*, carrying 249 Russian "Reds" as America's Christmas present to Lenin and Trotsky.

EVERY MAN WOMAN AND CHILD!

Responses to the Red Scare

- Espionage Act (1917) and Sedition Act (1918) passed
- “Fighting Quaker” Attorney Gen. A. Mitchell Palmer led crusade against leftists with suspect allegiance, 6,000 suspects held
- “Palmer Raids” arrested suspected radicals
 - Imprisoned and denied a lawyer



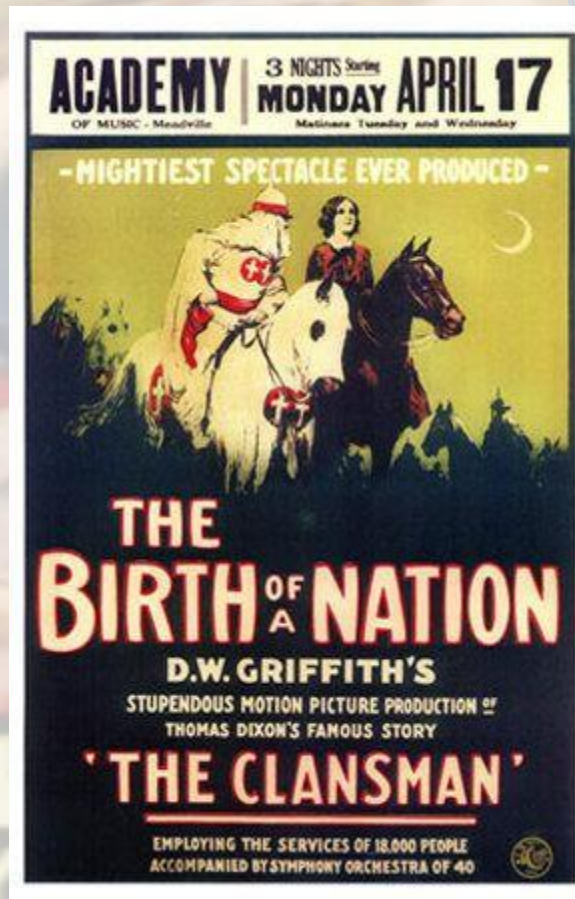
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Immigration Restrictions

National Origins Act of 1924: severely restricted immigration by establishing a system of national quotas

-Blatantly discriminated against immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe and virtually excluded Asians

Rise in KKK activity to oppose both blacks as well as “radical” new immigrants, Jews, Catholics, etc. →



THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE IT

-Several states passed “criminal syndicalism” laws: mere advocacy of violence for social change was criminalized

-1920: 5 NY legislators denied seats because they were socialists

-1921: many regarded the conviction of Sacco & Vanzetti as a “judicial lynching” because they were Italians, atheists, anarchists, and draft dodgers



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Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti

-4 April 1920: a paymaster for a shoe factory & his guard shot and killed

-\$15,000 was stolen from the payroll; later used in trial to link with anarchist bombings

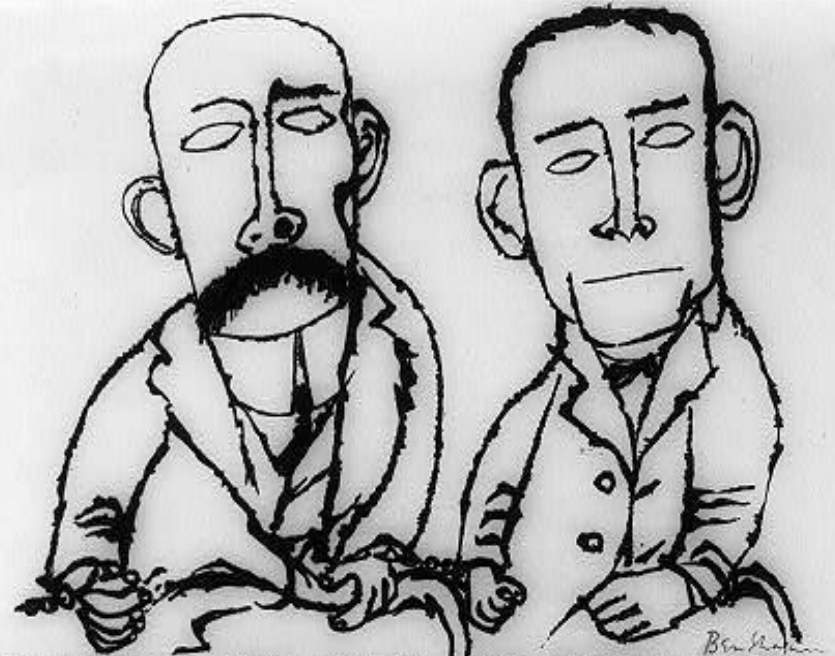
-“Getaway” car linked them to the crime where they found the “Smoking Gun” - convicted and sentenced to death by electrocution

-In 1925, another man confessed to his participation in the murders, but the MA Supreme Court wouldn't allow an appeal

-Despite mass protests due to the wrongful convictions, Sacco and Vanzetti were put to death on 23 August 1927

-In 1961, ballistic evidence proved that the gun did belong to Sacco, but there was no physical proof of Vanzetti's involvement

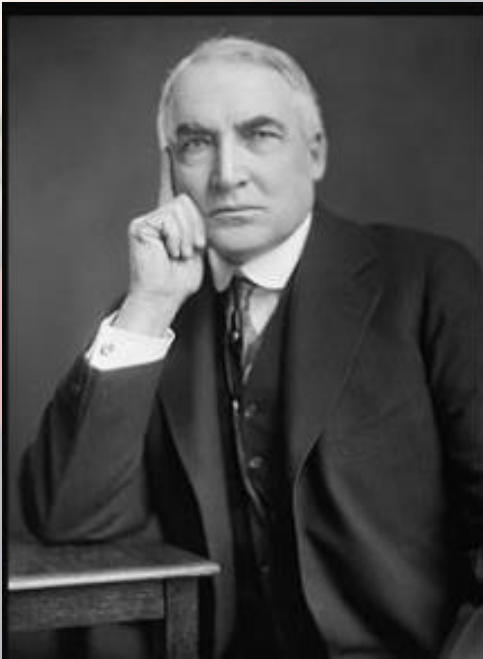
-Proved to be an example of the political and social environment of the Red Scare/Nativism/Anti-Radicalism



IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THESE THING, I MIGHT HAVE LIVE OUT MY LIFE TALKING AT STREET CORNERS TO SCORNING MEN. I MIGHT HAVE DIE, UNMARKED, UNKNOWN A FAILURE. NOW WE ARE NOT A FAILURE. THIS IS OUR CAREER AND OUR TRIUMPH. NEVER IN OUR FULL LIFE COULD WE HOPE TO DO SUCH WORK FOR TOLERANCE, FOR JOOSTICE, FOR MAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF MAN AS NOW WE DO BY ACCIDENT. OUR WORDS - OUR LIVES - OUR PAINS NOTHING! THE TAKING OF OUR LIVES - LIVES OF A GOOD SHOEMAKER AND A POOR FISH PEDDLER - ALL! THAT LAST MOMENT BELONGS TO US - THAT AGONY IS OUR TRIUMPH.

“Return to Normalcy”

- By May 1920 the U.S. political/cultural “climate” settles → public backlash to Palmer Raids and restrictions on protesting
- Warren G. Harding campaigns for a “Return to Normalcy” & pardons victims of Palmer Raids → 1920s becomes a decade of *laissez-faire* politics



America's present need is not heroics but healing;
not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution but
restoration;... not surgery but serenity.

(Warren G. Harding)