

1920s Lecture 10-9-18

I. Birth of Liberties

- a. Freedom in the Modern World
 - i. An economic vision of freedom
 - ii. Emphasis on “freedom of contract”
 - iii. a lack of tolerance for dissent (especially labor unrest)
 - iv. return to the idolatry of big business
- b. Free Mob?
 - i. What does Foner mean by this phrase?
- c. Free Speech?
 - i. *Schenck v. United States* (1919) (Clear and Present Danger test)
 - ii. *Debs v. United States* (1919)
 - iii. *Abrams v. United States* (1919)
 - iv. *Gitlow v. New York* (1925) – *incorporation doctrine*

II. The Culture Wars

- a. Fundamentalist Revolt
 - i. What is a fundamentalist? Why does Foner call it a revolt? From what?
 - ii. Scopes Trial – immediate impact, legacy
- b. Second Ku Klux Klan
 - i. Why then?
 - ii. How was it different? The same?
- c. 1924 Johnson Reed Act (Closing the Golden Door)
- d. Race and the Law
 - i. Pseudo-science of race
 - ii. Harding on Race
- e. Americanization continued post-war
 - i. Impact of self-determination – Wilsonian Moment
 - ii. Red Scare
 - iii. Invention of Ethnicity
- f. Harlem Renaissance
 - i. Great Migration
 - ii. Black urban enclaves
 - iii. Black criminality
 - iv. Langston Hughes

III. Great Depression

- a. Election of 1928
 - i. Hoover – American hero – expertise in White House
 - ii. Al Smith – Catholic
- b. What caused the great depression? Myth of the stock market crash. Why is this question still so hotly debated?
- c. Hoover’s Responses
 - i. What did he try to do?
 - ii. What is the Hoover myth? Why does this matter?
 - iii. How did the economy respond in early 1930s?

During heyday in early 1920s, second KKK numbered about 3 million. Gained political power in IN, OK, OR, but comparatively weak in NC. Unlike first Klan, it was primarily urban, reflecting demographic changes in the country. Its members, drawn chiefly from lower middle class, often religious fundamentalists who felt threatened by the drift away from small-town Protestant culture. They disdained immigrants, especially communists and other radicals, labor unions, Jews, Catholics, and increasing number of blacks moving into northern and southern cities. Some Klansmen resorted to terrorism of earlier days, but vast majority nonviolent. NC Pedia

Other notable things of late 1920s:

Major League Baseball (Black Sox Scandal to Babe Ruth's Yankees)

- ✓ Prior to 1920, four players (2 in Negro leagues) hit more than 20 HRs in season – in 1920 George Herman Ruth hit 54, next year he hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60
- ✓ Roger Maris hit 61 in 1961 and Hank Aaron broke Ruth's career HR record in April 1974

Those "troubles" mentioned in the newspaper involved a strike in June 1929 at the Loray mill in Gastonia. During a strike, employees temporarily stop working, or walk off their jobs, to protest or bring attention to work-related demands. In 1929 Loray workers grew so unhappy that they organized a strike to demand more pay, a 40-hour workweek, and better working conditions. Violence broke out between those who supported the strike and those who did not. On September 14, 1929, a carload of armed men attacked a group of strikers traveling to a rally. One of the strike organizers, Ella May Wiggins, was killed.

Some of the most famous *Lost Generation* writers were F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, and John Steinbeck. Many of these writers lived as expatriates in Paris, which played host to a flourishing artistic and cultural scene.

Evolution Debate in North Carolina in the 1920s, Written by Adrienne Dunn

Anti-evolutionist sentiment in North Carolina became prevalent in the 1920s. On the national level, William Jennings Bryan, three times a presidential candidate, emerged as a leading anti-evolutionist figure. When in 1925 he argued for the banning of teaching evolution in public schools in the "Scopes Monkey Trial." Meanwhile in North Carolina, legislator D. Scott Poole evolved into the state's leading anti-evolution spokesman.

Religious leaders and educators heavily debated evolution during the 1920s. Conservatives criticized William Poteat, president of Wake Forest University, for openly accepting the theory of evolution. Conservatives and evangelical leaders also censured The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an institution that allowed evolutionary theory in the classroom. The issue became political in 1924, when Governor Cameron Morrison, ex-officio chairman of the State Board of Education, banned a biology book that included the theory of evolution.

As the debate continued in 1925, Representative D. Scott Poole (Raeford, NC) introduced resolution requiring public schools to teach evolution as hypothesis not as fact. Bill's supporters argued that the resolution did not infringe on freedom of speech, for the legislation, they contended, required that theory not be taught as truth. The bill's opposition interpreted the bill differently, and they considered the legislation an attempt to regulate religious views.

The Poole Bill reached a vote in the House with unfavorable results. The bill was defeated by a vote of sixty-seven to forty-six. The reintroduction of the Poole resolution produced lackluster results. It received another unfavorable report with a final vote twenty-five to eleven against.