

## History Revision Notes – America In The 1920s and 1930s

Wilson (D) □ Harding (R) □ Coolidge (R) □ Hoover (R) □ Roosevelt (D)

- Roaring 20s (boom)* → Jazz age, cinema, crazes, flappers etc.  
 → Mass production in America (e.g. the Model-T Ford)  
 → Multiplier effect creates more jobs as demand increases  
 → Famous movie stars such as Charlie Chaplin are seen as heroes  
 → People can make money quickly and easily on the stock market
- Problems* → There are racist groups (e.g. the Ku Klux Klan), along with immigration controls  
 → There is a fear in communism (i.e. the Big Red Scare), resulting in Palmer Raids  
 → Prohibition results in illegal speakeasies and bootlegging  
 → Gangs such as Al Capone's become rich through bootlegging and rackets  
 → Johnny Scopes and the 'monkey trial' show religious problems
- Causes of the Depression* → Poverty in the midst of plenty – only the rich can buy consumer goods  
 → Farming problems lead to overproduction – prices fall, and so do profits  
 → Trade problems – foreign goods have tariffs, so they can't sell abroad  
 → Speculation on the stock market, so money is lost when it collapses
- The Wall Street Crash* → Confidence is lost, so people begin to sell their shares  
 → Stockbrokers and banks demand their money back, so loans are taken out  
 → As share prices fall, six of the richest bankers buy shares to lift prices  
 → This doesn't work, as rumours spread and people continue to sell
- Depression* → There is a high rate of unemployment and suicide, and companies go bankrupt  
 → Hoover believes in rugged individualism, so he doesn't help  
 → Finally, he cuts taxes and sets up the Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Act  
 → People blame Hoover though – e.g. Hoovervilles and Hoover stew  
 → The Bonus Army (1<sup>st</sup> World War veterans) demand their payments early  
 → Franklin Delano Roosevelt promises a 'New Deal' and wins the election  
 → Roosevelt asks for broad executive power (Trading with the Enemy Act)
- The New Deal* → Emergency Banking Act – gives people confidence in the banks (Fireside Chats)  
 → Economy Act – cuts government pay and budgets  
 → Beer Act – makes alcohol legal again (get money from taxes)  
 → CCC – construction work for young men in the countryside  
 → FERA – gives money to the unemployed and the homeless  
 → AAA – pays farmers to produce less  
 → TVA – dams are built in the Tennessee Valley  
 → HOLC – lends home-owners money, so they won't be evicted  
 → NRA – makes sure that companies give fair wages and charge fair prices  
 → CWA – provides short term jobs for skilled and unskilled workers  
 → PWA – provides long term jobs for skilled workers  
 → WPA – provides long term jobs for unskilled workers
- Opposition* → Some jobs created by the CWA and PWA are accused of being 'boondoggles'  
 → The supreme court bans the AAA and parts of the NRA  
 → Senator Huey Long thinks that Roosevelt isn't doing enough to help  
 → Other people accuse Roosevelt of being a dictator  
 → The rich don't like the heavy taxing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> World War* → 'Cash and Carry' and 'Lend-Lease' schemes are set up  
 → These create jobs and trade for America  
 → After Pearl Harbour, America joins the war, creating jobs in the army  
 → The Second World War finally ends the depression