

# U.S. HISTORY: 1865 TO THE PRESENT

## STUDY GUIDE - SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE STANDARDS OF LEARNING CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK 2015 STANDARDS

Reformatted version created by SOLpass - www.SOLpass.org

### STANDARD USII.6A – RISING STANDARD OF LIVING

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the social, economic, and technological changes of the early twentieth century by

- a) explaining how developments in factory and labor productivity, transportation (including the use of the automobile), communication, and rural electrification changed American life and standard of living.

Technology extended progress into all areas of American life, including neglected rural areas.

Social and economic life in the early 20th century was different from that in the late 19th century as a result of:

- **Improved transportation** brought about by **affordable automobiles**
  - Greater **mobility**
  - Creation of **jobs**
  - Growth of **transportation-related industries** (road construction, oil, steel, automobile)
  - Movement to **suburban** areas



- **Invention of the airplane**
  - The Wright **brothers**
- **Use of the assembly line increases factory and labor productivity**
  - Henry **Ford, automobile**
  - Rise of **mechanization**



- **Communication** changes
  - Development of the **telephone** (Alexander Graham **Bell**) and **increased availability** of telephones
  - Development of the **radio** and **broadcast** industry
  - Development of the **movies**



- **Ways electrification** changed American life
  - **Labor-saving products** (e.g., washing machines, electric stoves, water pumps)
  - Electric **lighting**
  - Entertainment (e.g., **radio**)
  - Improved **communications**

### STANDARD USII.6B – SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES

- b) The social and economic changes that took place, including prohibition and the Great Migration north and west.

Reforms in the early twentieth century could not legislate how all people behaved.

#### Prohibition

**Prohibition** was imposed by a constitutional amendment (the **18th Amendment**) that made it illegal to manufacture, transport, and sell **alcoholic beverages**.

#### Results: Prohibition not effective

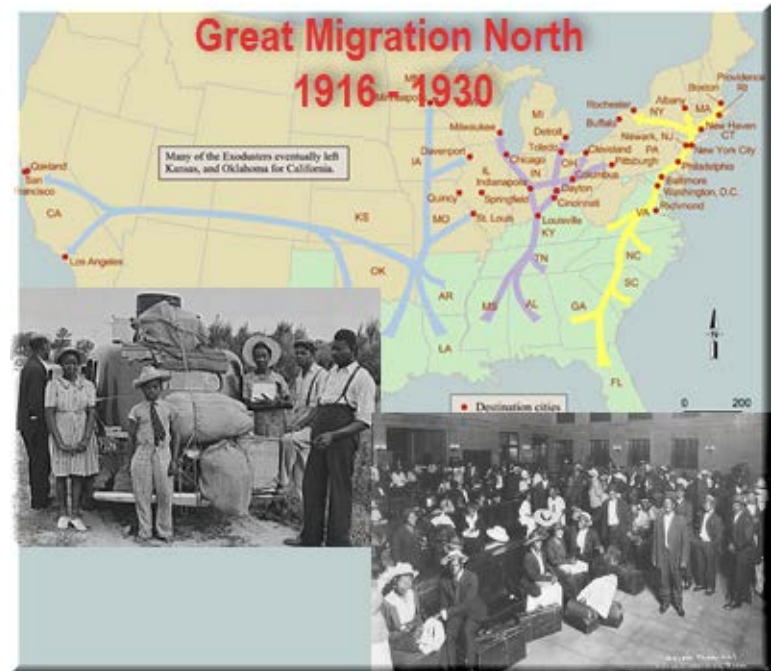
- **Speakeasies** were created as places for people to drink alcoholic beverages.
- **Bootleggers** made and smuggled alcohol illegally and promoted organized crime.
- Repealed by the **21st Amendment**



Economic conditions and violence caused African Americans to migrate to northern cities

### Great Migration north and west

- Jobs for African Americans in the South were **scarce** and **low paying**.
- African Americans faced **discrimination** and **violence** in the South.
- African Americans **moved to cities** in the North and Midwest in search of **better employment** opportunities.
- African Americans also faced **discrimination** and violence in the North and Midwest.



## STANDARD USII.6C –ART & LITERATURE IN THE 1920’S -30’S

c) art, literature, and music from the 1920s and 1930s, with emphasis on Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Georgia O’Keeffe, and the Harlem Renaissance.



The 1920s and 1930s were important decades for American art, literature, and music.

### Cultural climate of the 1920s and 1930s

- Art: **Georgia O’Keeffe**, an **artist** known for urban scenes and, later, paintings of the Southwest
- Literature: **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, a **novelist** who wrote about the **Jazz Age** of the 1920s;
- **John Steinbeck**, a **novelist** who portrayed the strength of poor **migrant workers** during the 1930s
- Music: **Aaron Copland** and **George Gershwin**, composers who wrote uniquely American music

The leaders of the Harlem Renaissance drew upon the heritage of African American culture to establish themselves as powerful forces for cultural change.

### Harlem Renaissance

**African American** artists, writers, and musicians based in Harlem revealed the freshness and variety of African American culture.

- Art: **Jacob Lawrence**, a **painter** who chronicled the experiences of the **Great Migration** through art
- Literature: **Langston Hughes**, a **poet** who combined the experiences of African and American cultural roots
- Music: **Duke Ellington** and **Louis Armstrong**, jazz musicians; **Bessie Smith**, a blues singer

The popularity of these artists **spread beyond Harlem** to the rest of society.

---

# STANDARD USII.6D – THE GREAT DEPRESSION

d) the causes of the Great Depression, its impact on Americans, and the major features of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

The optimism of the 1920s concealed problems in the American economic system and attitudes about the role of government in controlling the economy.

The Great Depression and the New Deal dramatically changed the lives of most Americans and began to change both their understanding of the economic system and the role of government in American life..

## Causes of the Great Depression

- People **overspeculated** on **stocks**, using **borrowed money** that they could not repay when stock prices crashed.
- The **Federal Reserve's poor monetary policies** contributed to the collapse of the banking system.
- High **tariffs** discouraged international trade.



## Impact on Americans

- A large number of **banks closed** and other **businesses failed**.
- One-fourth of workers were without **jobs**.
- Large numbers of people were **hungry** and **homeless**.
- **Farmers' incomes fell** to low levels.

## Major features of the New Deal

- **Social Security**
- Federal **work programs**
- **Environmental** improvement programs
- **Farm** assistance programs
- Increased **rights** for labor