



>> The temperance movement partially achieved its mission with the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1919. When Prohibition began, federal agents like these destroyed millions of gallons of alcohol.

 **Interactive Flipped Video**

>> Objectives

Compare economic and cultural life in rural America to that in urban America.

Analyze how foreign events after World War I and nativism contributed to the first Red Scare.

Analyze the causes and effects of changes in U.S. immigration policy in the 1920s.

Describe the goals and motives of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

Analyze the intended and unintended effects of Prohibition.

>> Key Terms

modernism
fundamentalism
Scopes Trial
Clarence Darrow
quota system
Ku Klux Klan
Prohibition
Eighteenth Amendment
Volstead Act
Bootlegger
Red Scare
Palmer Raids
Bartolomeo Vanzetti
William Jennings Bryan
Nicola Sacco
eugenics

12.6 In the 1920s, while many city dwellers enjoyed a rising standard of living, most farmers suffered through hard times. Conflicting visions of what the nation should be heightened the urban-rural division. Some of these issues, such as immigration policy and teaching the theory of evolution, still divide Americans today.

An Unsettled Society

Americans Debate New Ideas and Values

The 1920 census reported that, for the first time in American history, more people lived in urban areas than in rural regions. This simple fact had profound consequences. The nation had been divided before, but usually along north-south or east-west lines. In the 1920s, however, the split was between urban America and rural America. On virtually every important social and cultural issue, the two groups differed.

Urban Americans enjoyed new consumer products and a wide array of leisure activities. They generally showed an openness toward social change and the new discoveries of science. The growing trend to emphasize science and secular values over traditional religious beliefs became known as **modernism**.

By contrast, rural Americans did not participate fully in the consumer bonanzas, and they missed out on many of the new forms of leisure. People in the country generally embraced a more traditional view of religion, science, and culture.

An Evolving Job Market Emphasizes Education Rural and urban Americans differed in their attitudes toward formal education. In rural America, prolonged formal education had not seemed vital. Farmers expected their children to master the "Three R's"—reading, writing,

and arithmetic. But beyond that, having a formal education was not vital to the many farm tasks that needed to be done. Muscle, endurance, and knowledge of crops and animals seemed more important to farmers than abstract knowledge learned from books.

Formal education took on more importance in urban America. Mental ability, not muscular fitness, was seen as the essential ingredient for success. Mastery of mathematics and language could spell the difference between a low-paying, unskilled job and a higher-paying position as an office worker. By 1930, more American teens were graduating from high school, and more Americans than ever before went to college.

Some Embrace Religious Fundamentalism In the 1920s, many devout Americans believed that Christianity was under siege throughout the world. They pointed to Soviet communist attacks on the Orthodox Church in Russia and to the Mexican revolutionary assaults on the Roman Catholic Church in Mexico.

At home, a growing number of Christians were upset by what they saw as secular trends in religion and culture. They reaffirmed their belief in the fundamental, or basic, truths of their religion. This approach, often called **fundamentalism** emphasized Protestant teachings and the belief that every word in the Christian Bible was literal truth. Fundamentalists believed that the answer to every important moral and scientific question could be found in the Bible. Their ideas took root all over the country but were especially strong in rural America.

Bryan and Darrow Clash Over Evolution

Fundamentalism and modernism clashed head-on in the **Scopes Trial** of 1925. At issue was the theory of evolution, developed by English scientist Charles Darwin. Darwin believed that complex forms of life, such as human beings, had developed gradually from simpler forms of life. According to fundamentalists, this theory clashed with the description of creation in their Bible.

In 1925, Tennessee passed a law making it illegal to teach Darwin's theory in the state's public schools. The American Civil Liberties Union convinced John Scopes, a high school biology teacher in Dayton, Tennessee, to challenge the law. When Scopes taught evolution in his classroom, he was promptly arrested.

The Scopes Trial drew nationwide attention. Journalists flocked to Dayton to cover the emotionally charged event, which many dubbed the "Monkey Trial" because of the mistaken belief that Darwin claimed that human beings descended from monkeys.



>> The rise of modernism, with its emphasis on urbanism, intellectualism, and individualism, threatened traditionalists who believed America's social foundations were deteriorating.



>> Clarence Darrow (left) and William Jennings Bryan have a conversation during the Scopes Trial.

Clarence Darrow, the most celebrated defense attorney in America, traveled from his home in Chicago to defend Scopes. Darrow was well-known for defending labor union leaders like Eugene V. Debs and William Haywood, in addition to other famous cases. A talented speaker, he did not always win his cases, but he often revealed key issues to the public during the well-publicized trials. Three-time presidential candidate **William Jennings Bryan**, a long-time defender of rural values, served as an expert for the prosecution. Bryan, considered one of the greatest orators of his day, was charged with defending what many fundamentalists thought of as the literal truth of divine creation found in their Bible.

Both men had a significant impact on the trial by drawing national attention to it. The highlight of the trial came when Darrow called Bryan to the stand as an expert on the Bible. Bryan affirmed that the Bible stated the literal truth. He testified that he believed that God created Adam and Eve and that Joshua made the sun stand still. Darrow tried to use science to cast doubt on such beliefs, but Bryan firmly stated, "I accept the Bible absolutely."

Scopes was found guilty of breaking the law—a fact that was never in question—and fined \$100. The public, however, was paying closer attention to a more essential issue. The trial was a public confrontation between fundamentalism and modernity, between a literal and a liberal interpretation of scripture. While the Scopes Trial showcased a major cultural and religious division, it did not heal the conflict or answer its central questions. When the trial was over, each side

still believed in the truth of its position. The conflict over evolution continues today.

? RECALL How does modernism contrast with more traditional ideas about religion?

The Red Scare

As Americans continued to grapple with the ideas of modernity, the emergence of the Soviet Union as a communist nation challenged other essential U.S. ideals. In contrast to capitalism and the free enterprise systems, which emphasized the right to own private property, communist ideology called for public ownership of property and an international workers' revolution as a prelude to the death of capitalism. To this end, Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin encouraged and supported revolutions outside of his country. In Central and Eastern Europe, a series of communist revolts did break out, making it seem like the worldwide revolution was starting.

Fear of a Potential Revolution This revolutionary activity abroad, coupled with labor strikes across the United States following the end of World War I, caused the first American **Red Scare**, a wave of widespread fear of suspected communists and radicals thought to be plotting revolution within the United States. Real revolutionary activity inside America gave substance to the scare. Authorities discovered bombs mailed to important industrialists and government officials, including Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Suspected anarchists, members of a radical political movement, exploded bombs in cities across America.

The Scopes Trial: How Did They Differ?

THE PROSECUTION: WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN	THE DEFENSE: DUDLEY FIELD MALONE (WITNESS CALLED BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY, CLARENCE DARROW)
"It is high time for the people who believe in religion to make their protest against the teaching of irreligion in the public schools under the guise of science and philosophy."	"We are ready to tell the truth as we understand it and we do not fear all the truth that they can present as facts."

>> Analyze Charts Based on the quotes given in the chart, how did the Scopes trial reveal divisions within U.S. society?

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COMPLETE SENTENCES FOR ALL ANSWERS !!!!!

Questions:

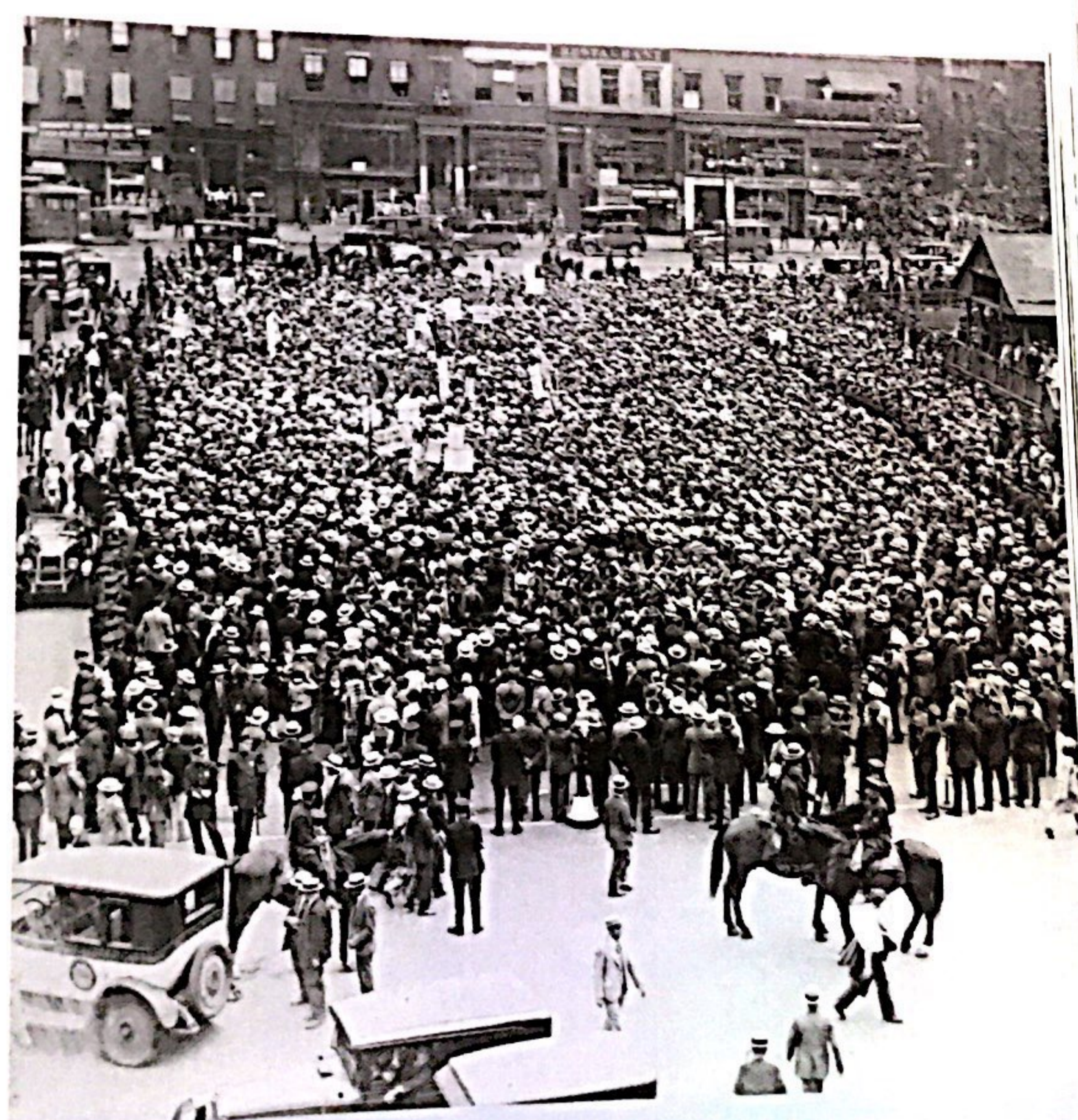
including one that killed about 40 people on Wall Street in 1920.

As the leading law-enforcement official, Palmer mounted a broad offensive against radicals in the United States in 1919 and 1920. In a series of raids in early 1920, known as the **Palmer Raids**, police arrested thousands of people, some who were radicals and some who were simply immigrants from southern and Eastern Europe. Most were never charged or tried for a crime. The government then deported hundreds of radicals or suspected radicals.

To many, these actions seemed to have the effect of attacking the liberties that Americans held most dear. A group of people in New York City formed the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 1920 to protect these liberties. The ACLU tried to do this by becoming involved in important court cases. To this end, the ACLU became involved in one of America's most controversial court cases: the trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.



>> Lenin's support for revolutions of working class people everywhere against the system of capitalism led leaders to fear just such an uprising within the United States.



>> In New York City, thousands of people protested against the verdict in the Sacco and Vanzetti trial. Many felt government prosecutors were unjustly targeting immigrants without sufficient evidence.

A Questionable Conviction Nicola Sacco (SAH koh) and **Bartolomeo Vanzetti** (van ZEHT ee) were Italian immigrants and known anarchists. They were charged with shooting and killing two men during a holdup at a shoe factory in a town near Boston. Eyewitnesses at the event said the robbers "looked Italian." Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested and charged with the crime. Even though the ACLU provided defense counsel, the two men were found guilty in a swift and decisive trial, despite the fact that there was little hard evidence against them. Some prominent legal scholars, intellectuals, and liberal politicians charged that the convictions were based more on Sacco and Vanzetti's ethnicity and political beliefs than on the facts of the crime. Nevertheless, on August 23, 1927, the two men were put to death in the electric chair.

At its worst, hysteria accompanied by violence characterized the Red Scare. Mobs attacked suspected radicals, abused immigrants, and committed crimes in the name of justice. By the summer of 1920, the height of the Red Scare had ended. Americans saw that democracy and capitalism were more powerful in the United States than Lenin's call for worldwide revolution. But, as shown by the Sacco and Vanzetti trial, the effects of the great fear would linger throughout the 1920s in negative feelings towards immigrants, labor unions, and, to some extent, the reforms pushed by progressives before World War I.

RECALL What was the Red Scare?

Immigration in the 1920s

As the trial of Italian immigrants Sacco and Vanzetti came to a close, another social issue involved the ongoing boom in immigration continued. As in the past, nativists, or those who preferred native-born Americans to immigrants, argued that the new arrivals took jobs away from native-born workers and threatened American religious, political, and cultural traditions.

Eugenics and Social Darwinism Influence the Perception of Immigrants Although nativist politicians had been able to restrict immigration from China in 1882, they had failed to push through laws to restrict immigration from southern and eastern Europe. On the eve of U.S. entry into World War I, however, Congress did pass a law requiring immigrants to take a literacy test.

Immigrants who could not read or write their own language were prohibited from entering the United States. President Wilson vetoed the law, but Congress overrode Wilson's veto. Immigration dropped during the war, worsening labor shortage problems during the war.



>> The rise of nativism within the United States led to increased restrictions on immigration, such as the rejection of immigrants who could not read and write in their own language.

During the postwar Red Scare, fear that communists and socialists from eastern Europe were traveling to the United States with their revolutionary doctrines caused the debate to heat up once again. On one side were nativists who disagreed with traditional immigration policy. On the other side were immigrants and Americans who viewed the immigration experience as part of what made an American an American. Nearly all Americans who could trace their ancestry back far enough discovered foreign origins.

Nativists were concerned that immigrants would diminish America's political and economic power. They believed that many immigrants had undesirable physical and social traits and would therefore be unproductive members of society.

These views were partly based on **eugenics**, the since-discredited idea that intelligence and other favorable social traits were inheritable characteristics passed on by one's parents and more frequently found in some races than others. Eugenics was related to Social Darwinism, the idea that life was a competition in which only the fittest survive. The rise of both Social Darwinism and eugenics was caused in part by Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection. Both were also motivated by ethnic or racial prejudice to some degree. Those who believed in both theories wanted the United States to be that fittest nation that survived and to ensure that it was, sought to exclude those they thought of as weaker and undesirable.

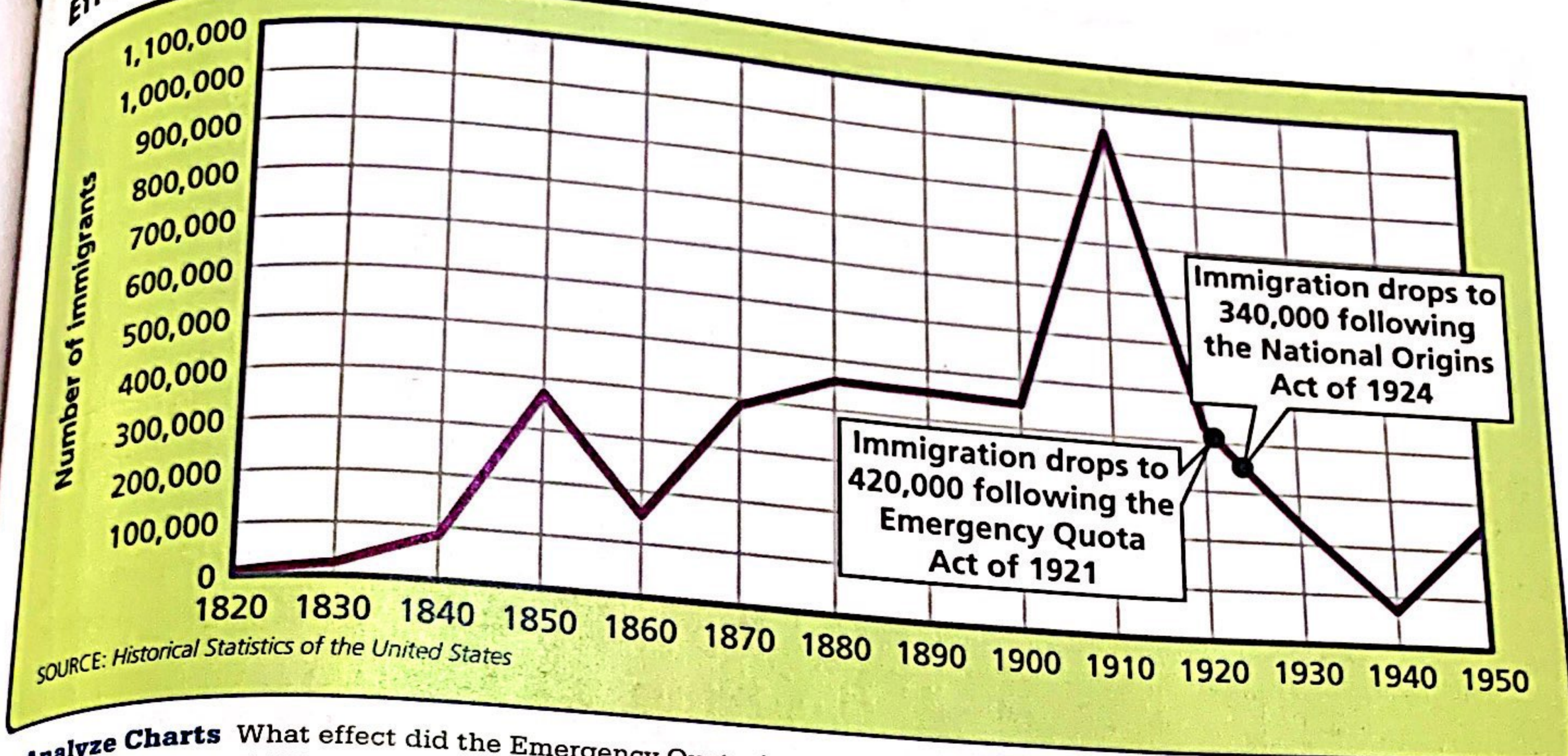
Many nativists who believed in eugenics thought the human race could be improved by controlling which people had children. Therefore, they thought it best to restrict immigration to those whom they deemed to have desirable traits that would in turn be passed on to future generations of Americans.

Congressional Legislation Restricts Immigration

In addition to eugenics and Social Darwinism, other events such as World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the Red Scare strengthened the nativist position and affected congressional legislation. Two subsequent laws—the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the National Origins Act of 1924—established a **quota system** to govern immigration from specific countries.

The National Origins Act set up a simple formula. The number of immigrants of a given nationality each year could not exceed 2 percent of the number of people of that nationality living in the United States in 1890. The year 1890 was chosen because it was before the great wave of immigration from southern and eastern Europe. For example, the act permitted about 65,721 immigrants from England and Northern Ireland to come to America every year, but it allowed only about 5,802 immigrants from Italy. The act also continued to

Effects of Quotas on Immigration



Analyze Charts What effect did the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the National Origins Act of 1924 have on immigration to the United States?

Interactive Timeline

exclude most Asian immigrants. The effect of eugenics, Social Darwinism, and nativist sentiment in general was that America closed its "golden door" to many of the people trying to enter.

More Mexicans Arrive for Economic Opportunity

The quota system did not apply to Mexico, which was still reeling from the 1910 revolution. Settling in sparsely populated regions of the Southwest, Mexican immigrants made significant contributions to local economies. Many found work harvesting crops in California and Texas. A smaller number sought jobs in the factories and farms of the North or Midwest.

Many Mexican immigrants faced discrimination and hostility in their new homes. They often competed with native-born Americans for jobs and were frequently subjected to brutality and violence.

2 RECALL What was the purpose of the National Origins Act?

The Ku Klux Klan in the Early 1900s

Immigration restriction was an attempt to turn back the clock to what many saw as a simpler, better time. Many lashed out against symbols of change. Some even turned to organizations that supported doctrines

of hate and employed violence and terror to achieve their ends.

The Klan Reorganizes In 1915, on Stone Mountain in Georgia, a revived **Ku Klux Klan** was formally organized. The original Klan had been formed in the South during Reconstruction largely to terrorize African Americans who sought to vote. Although the new Klan continued to promote hatred of African Americans, it was also aimed at the new America taking shape in the cities. It targeted Jews, Catholics, and immigrants. In the wake of postwar labor unrest, the Klan opposed labor unions—especially because many union members were immigrants or political radicals. The Klan also claimed to stand against lawbreaking and immorality.

At its height, the Klan's "Invisible Empire" had perhaps 4 to 5 million members. Most were in the South, but there were also branches in the Midwest, Northeast, and West—in both rural areas and in small industrial cities. One center of Klan strength was Indiana, where Klan leader David Stephenson ruled with an iron fist and controlled numerous politicians. There were special women's branches of the Klan as well. However, some male Klan leaders were strongly opposed to women taking an active role in politics.

Klan members boycotted businesses owned by anyone who was Jewish, Catholic, or African American. The Klan terrorized citizens in the night, often by