

A Republican Decade



- What events fueled the Red Scare of the early 1920s?
- What conflicts led to the major labor strikes of 1919?
- How did Republican leadership during the Harding and Coolidge presidencies shape the 1920s?
- What issues influenced the presidential election of 1928?

The Red Scare



- Issues of concern in the presidential election of 1920:
 - Emerging from the shadow of World War I
 - Putting the economy back on track
- Republican Warren G. Harding called for a return to "normalcy."
- Many Americans hoped that Harding's "normalcy" would protect them from the spread of Russia's **communism**, an ideology openly hostile to capitalism and First Amendment freedoms.
- Some Americans were concerned that the European immigrants entering the United States were Communists or other radicals.
- Events at home and abroad brought about a **Red Scare**, an intense fear of communism and other radical ideas.

Red Scare Events



Schenck v. U.S.

Charles Schenck mailed letters urging men to avoid military service.

Schenck was convicted of breaking the Espionage Act. In his appeals, Schenck said he was exercising his freedom of speech.

The Supreme Court said that the government is justified in silencing free speech when there is a “clear and present danger.”

Gitlow v. New York

Socialist Bernard Gitlow published calls for the violent overthrow of the government. He was convicted of criminal anarchy. The Supreme Court upheld his conviction, stating that he had urged people to engage in violent revolution.

The Palmer Raids

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer ordered the arrest of thousands of suspected “subversives” (people trying to overthrow the government) without evidence. Many were innocent, yet more than 500 were deported.

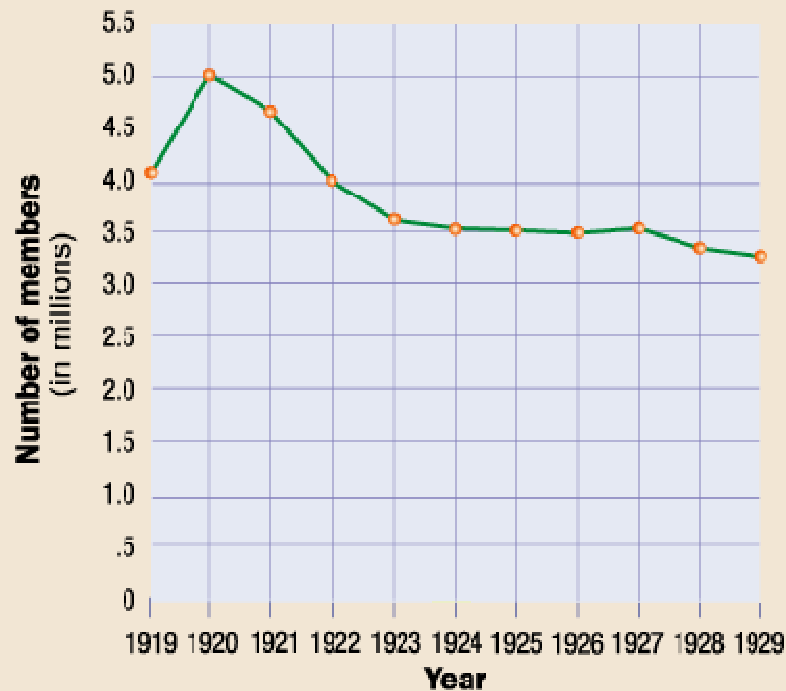
Sacco and Vanzetti

Two anarchists were accused of a robbery and murder. Many people believed that they were singled out because they were both radicals and immigrants. After a trial that many believed was unfair, the jury found them guilty and sentenced them to death.



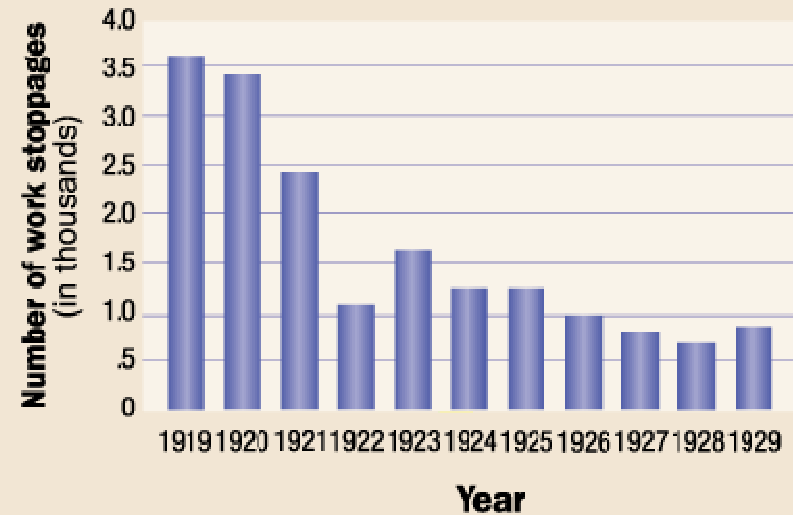
Labor Strikes

Union Membership, 1919–1929



SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*

Work Stoppages, 1919–1929



SOURCE: *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970*

The Harding Presidency



Foreign Policy

Harding and many Americans wanted a policy of **isolationism**, avoiding political or economic alliances with foreign countries. Harding called for international **disarmament**, a program in which nations voluntarily give up their weapons. He promoted the expansion of trade and acted to protect business at home.

Domestic Issues

As Americans became more isolationist during the Red Scare, they also became more nativist. Nativism is a movement favoring native-born Americans over immigrants. In 1921, Congress passed a law restricting immigration. The law included a **quota**, or a numerical limit imposed on immigrants.

The Teapot Dome Scandal

In 1923, corruption scandals rocked Harding's administration. The worst was the **Teapot Dome Scandal**. Harding's Secretary of the Interior secretly gave drilling rights on government land to two private oil companies in return for illegal payments. There was no evidence that Harding was involved in the scandals. He died while still in office.

The Coolidge Presidency



- Coolidge assumed the presidency after Harding died.
- He summed up a major theme of the Republican decade: "The chief business of the American people is business."
- Coolidge supported a laissez-faire approach to business. His economic policies helped fuel the economic boom of the 1920s.
- Coolidge wanted peace and stability without without getting the United States too deeply involved in other nations.
- Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg worked with the French foreign minister to create the [Kellogg-Briand Pact](#). Under this pact more than 60 nations agreed not to threaten each other with war. Unfortunately, there were no provisions for enforcement, and many of the countries that had signed the pact would be at war with each other by 1941.

A Republican Decade - Assessment



How did the Red Scare contribute to America's policy of isolationism in the 1920s?

- (A) It made Americans more nativist.
- (B) It caused a significant American military increase.
- (C) It helped Americans form stronger relationships with non-Communist countries.
- (D) It decreased U.S. involvement in Latin America.

What was the Kellogg-Briand Pact?

- (A) A treaty outlawing war
- (B) A treaty outlawing trade with Communist countries
- (C) A treaty supporting war against Communist countries
- (D) A treaty supporting international civil liberties

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