The 1920s: Culture and the Harlem Renaissance
D. Challenges at Home and Abroad (ca. 1914-1945)

b. Describe and evaluate the impact of scientific and technological innovations of the 1920s

c. Identify and evaluate the impact of new cultural movements on American society in the 1920s

d. Identify the characteristics of social conflict and social change that took place in the early 1920s
Mass Culture

- By the 1920s, the number of Americans attending high school greatly increased.

- Also in this decade, the more educated population heavily consumed newspapers and magazines.

- Radio was the most dominant form of media in the 1920s. The shared experience of exposure to national news helped create common cultural bonds across the nation.
With a more educated, literate population, magazines became very prominent in the 1920s. *Time Magazine* debuted in 1923.

On this cover is President Calvin Coolidge.
Radio was the dominant way that Americans got news and entertainment in the 1920s.
Entertainment in the 1920s

-The economy was strong in the early 1920s and many used their money for entertainment.

-Jazz music and dance marathons were common.

-Also in this era, sports became very popular. Baseball in particular drew large crowds with famous athletes like New York Yankees player Babe Ruth.
Sports stars like Babe Ruth made baseball incredibly popular in the 1920s.
Dance marathons were popular in the 1920s. Participants would see who could dance the longest without falling asleep!
The Movies and Literature

-In the late 1920s, motion pictures began to be released with sound.

-Even animated movies, like those released by Walt Disney, added sound. Millions of viewers attended the movies each week.

-F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote *The Great Gatsby* whose main character, Jay Gatsby, illegally sold alcohol. Like many authors in this era, the book critiqued the materialistic culture prevalent in the 1920s.
The Jazz Singer was the first major motion picture with sound dialog. It was released in 1927.
The Harlem Renaissance

-During the Great Migration, from around 1916 to 1930, many African Americans fled the racism of the South and migrated North.

-In the neighborhood of Harlem, in New York, a massive expression of African American culture and art resulted in the Harlem Renaissance.

-Poets, musicians, artists, and others contributed to the movement.
Jazz and the Harlem Renaissance

-In New Orleans, musicians combined Ragtime with Blues music and made Jazz.

-One of the most famous Jazz musicians was trumpet player Louis Armstrong.

-While starting off in New Orleans, Armstrong relocated to New York and gained stardom in the world of Jazz.
Louis Armstrong gained fame by being a famous trumpet player in the world of Jazz in the 1920s.
Other Artists in the Harlem Renaissance

-Zora Neale Hurston was an influential writer in the movement. Her most famous novel was *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

-Langston Hughes was the most well known poet of the Harlem Renaissance. His poems displayed the obstacles that many African Americans faced in the 1920s.

-Claude McKay, writer and poet, also contributed to the movement. He urged African Americans to stand against racism and discrimination.
Zora Neale Hurston rose to become a prominent author during the Harlem Renaissance.
Langston Hughes and Claude McKay each used poetry to point out the injustice of racism and discrimination in the USA.
THE
END