The 1920s: Prohibition and Change for Women
D. Challenges at Home and Abroad (ca. 1914-1945)
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
The Progressive Movement & Alcohol

-Since the late 1800s, many Progressives taught that improved morality was vital to reforming society.

-In this time period, many viewed alcohol as radically harmful to the moral life of the USA.

-Many Progressives wanted Prohibition to be enacted by the government, which is the banning of alcohol.
Protest Against Alcohol

- **The Women’s Christian Temperance Union** formed in 1874. The goal was to ban alcohol in society.

- **Frances Willard** led the effort for women’s rights and taught alcohol abuse greatly hurt women.

- Many times, these movements clashed with European culture. Numerous immigrants stood against the Prohibition Movement and did not view alcohol this way.
Many argued alcohol was to blame for many of society’s problems, such as poverty.
Many women urged the government to prohibit alcohol to prevent spouse abuse and ensure men were not given over to alcoholism.
LIPS THAT TOUCH LIQUOR SHALL NOT TOUCH OURS
The USA and Alcohol

-At the start of 1920, the 18th Amendment went into effect and Prohibition became law. This law made it illegal to sell alcohol.

-Even though it was against the law, speakeasies were clubs that sold alcohol in defiance of the law.

-Bootleggers were individuals who illegally sold alcohol through brewing their own alcohol or smuggling the alcohol of others.
Due to the 18th Amendment, large amounts of alcohol were destroyed at the start of the 1920s.
Despite Prohibition, many still illegally sold alcohol, such as bootleggers and the owners of speakeasies.
Prohibition and Gangsters

-Al Capone and others sold alcohol on the black market in Chicago and other places.

-Capone murdered his competitors to ensure that he could dominate the black market for alcohol.

-Capone was able to get away with many of his crimes. Yet, he eventually was arrested for tax fraud on a legitimate business he owned.
Al Capone built a million dollar gangster empire illegally selling alcohol.
Capone, ironically, actually went to jail for tax fraud on legitimate business.
JURY CONVICTS CAPONE

Thomas A. Edison Dies in Sleep at 84

Death Painless for Man Who Lit the World

Family at Bedside When End Comes

INJUN SUMMER

Gang Monarch Guilty on 5 Tax Fraud Counts

Faces Possibility of 17 Years in Cell
The Flapper

- WW I experiences left women more independent as they worked in factories and proved they were just as capable as men.

- In the 1920s, young women who embraced new fashions and broke with societal expectations for women were called Flappers.

- Smoking, drinking, conversations about explicit topics, and other types of behavior broke the norms of the past and were common in the Flapper movement.
Dancing and Jazz music became widely popular with America’s youth in the 1920s. Often, women in the Flapper movement would dance to Jazz music.
Women in the Flapper movement broke the social norms of the 1920s for what society had traditionally expected of women.
THE END