**The 1920s**

The year is 1920. World War I has ended. As Americans struggle to rebuild broken lives, the voices of angry workers can be silenced no longer. Despite public criticism, many risk their jobs to strike and join unions. The streets become a battleground for fair pay and better working conditions.

Life in Postwar America

1. Economic:
   1. Superficial (false) prosperity ensued
   2. Increased production of consumer goods
   3. Buying on credit/Installment plan
   4. Increased standard of living & consumer spending/Urban sprawl
2. Societal/Social:
   1. Perceived threat of communism/The Red Scare/Palmer Raids
   2. Fear & distrust of immigrants/Sacco & Vanzetti Trial/Nativism/Rise of KKK
   3. Fear of the labor movement & faith in business/free market capitalism
   4. Strikes & worker unrest/police, steel workers, coal miners
3. Governmental:
   1. Election of pro-business presidents Harding & Coolidge “Chief business of the American people is business.”
   2. Return to isolationism
   3. Immigration quotas/Emergency Quota Act of 1921
   4. Tariffs on imports to discourage foreign business competition/Fordney-McCumber Tariff 60%
   5. Corruption in Harding administration/Ohio Gang/Teapot Dome scandal
4. Technology/Industry
   1. Growth of auto industry/ Ford, Model T 1908-1927, assembly line/Changes landscape/Route 66
   2. Introduction of airline transportation
   3. Widespread use of electricity
   4. Advertising gains in popularity

**The 1920s**

The year is 1920. The Great War has just ended. Boosted by the growth of the wartime industry, the U.S. economy is flourishing. Americans live life to the fullest as new social and cultural trends sweep the nation.

Roaring Life of the 1920s

1. Problems of urbanization:
   1. Industrialization leads to growth of big cities/More people in cities than rural America
   2. African-Americans continue to move North into big cities/Great Migration/Marcus Garvey & UNIA
   3. Cities struggle with Prohibition/18th Amendment/organized crime, Capone, bootleggers, speakeasies
2. New attitudes & fashions:
   1. Changing attitudes toward women allow women more freedom/The double standard
   2. Americans adopt radical new fashion & style/Flappers
   3. Traditional & modern ideals collide/18th Amned./Scopes Trial
3. New forms of entertainment:
   1. Movies (talkies) become national pastime
      1. The Jazz Singer
      2. Steamboat Willie
   2. Radio is the prime source of news & entertainment
   3. Americans embrace sports heroes/Babe Ruth/Charles Lindberg/Amelia Earhart
4. New movements in the arts (The Jazz Age):
   1. Composers create distinctly American music/Jazz, The Cotton Club, Armstrong, Gershwin
   2. Writers explore new topics/Lost Generation/Fitzgerald & *Gatsby*/Hemmingway & *Farewell to Arms*
   3. Artists depict life in the 1920s
   4. Harlem Renaissance flourishes/Langston Hughes