

**Post-WWI**

**On the Home Front**

# Post WWI/ 1920s

## ECONOMIC IMPACT:

- People race to buy goods that had been rationed...companies raise prices = rapid inflation
  - Wages are still kept low...don't keep up with how much things now cost!
- Inflation leads to strikes

## RACIAL UNREST:

- Soldiers return to States...competing for jobs and housing with many African Americans who had moved up from South
- Led to race riots (over 20 in just one summer 1919!)

# Post WWI (cont.)

- Legacy of Red Scare...Red Scare technically ended in 1920, but the 20's continued to be a time of intolerance  
#thisisamerica
- Nativism resurges and anti-immigration sentiment...
  - Fear of Germans and Communists transfers to all immigrants
  - **Sacco and Vanzetti Trial** (demonstration of these biases)
    - 2 Italian anarchists were arrested for robbery and murder. The evidence was SUPER SKETCHY and many felt their trial was extremely unfair but they were executed in 1927
  - “Keep America American”
  - KKK membership exploded—at its peak in 1924 it had 4 million members.
  - President Harding creates National Origin Act in 1924
    - severely restricted immigration by setting quotas and limited the number of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe (favoring immigrants from Northwest Europe)

# More in the 1920s...

- ❑ Fundamentalist Movement (Bible is literally true w/o error)
  - ❑ Scopes Trial
    - ❑ Evolutionists v. Creationists
- ❑ Prohibition
- ❑ Cultural Innovations
  - ❑ Art, Hollywood, spectator sports, club culture
- ❑ Harlem Renaissance
  - ❑ Great Migration (hundreds of thousands of African Americans moved from South to industrial cities in North) \*6 million between 1916-1970!\*
  - ❑ Harlem neighborhood in NY: heart of ART---writers, Jazz, Blues, theater,
- ❑ Rise of New Industries (consumer goods, airlines, radio, EASY CREDIT...buying on the margin...)

**So how did we go from the ROARING 1920S  
to the Great Depression in the 1930s?**