Unit 7 Outlines – Period 7 Part 2 - Roaring Twenties, Great Depression, and WWII

1920s America – Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age

I. Red fear- radical ideas – Russia – anti-union/pro business [FIRST RED SCARE] 1919
   1. Strikes & labor = Bolsheviks, Left wing = un-American (fear of liberals, labor, anarchists, etc.)
   2. Sacco/Vanzetti – executed for murder, Italian immigrants, atheists, anarchists, draft dodgers
   4. USS Buford “Soviet Ark” – 249 non citizens deported to Russia

II. Race & Immigration Issues
   A. KKK – anti Jew, foreign, Catholic, pacifist, bootlegger, birth control
      1. 1925 - 5 million member peak, march on Wash
   B. Racial pride – Marcus Garvey
      2. United Negro Improvement Association – support black communities
      3. “Black is beautiful”
   C. “Foreigners” – Nativism continues
      1. Emergency Quota Act 1921 – 3 % of 1910 numbers
      2. Immigration Act of 1924 – 2% of 1930 #s – no Japanese

III. Social Lives
   A. Prohibition – 1919 18th Amendment, Volstead Act enforces
      1. South likes (conservative), North Eastern cities not so much
      2. Enforcement was a joke – can’t legislate personal lives – speakeasies, home brew, crime, Al Capone
   B. Consumerism – war + Mellon’s nice taxes + machines + oil + assembly line + electricity + buy on credit/installment
      1. Car symbol of all – advertising, rubber, glass follows – 1930.20 mill.
      a. Freedom, roads, women free, death toll rises from “demon machine”
      b. Beginning of automotive age and transformation of American culture
   C. Entertainment
      2. Airplanes – “flying coffins”
         a. $100,000 salaries, Americanization – vulgar pop culture
   D. Battle of Morals – change, move to cities
      1. Feminism – Margaret Sanger – birth control, Alice Paul writes 1923 Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) …failed
      2. Religion – Modern twist – God as a nice guy (not fire and brimstone)
      3. Sexuality – flappers – dancing, more skin, darker movies, more unsupervised time for teens
      4. Scopes Monkey Trial – Tennesee – old William Jennings Bryan vs. young Clarence Darrow
   E. Music – jazz, blues – Big Bands
      Harlem Renaissance
      b. from New Orleans to Harlem (Great Migration in WWII) to “Black Music” being played across nation in cities (and speakeasies)
   F. Literature – not dominated by white Protestants anymore, a new energy – resented old ideals – challenged tradition
      – Lost Generation (disillusioned from WWII)
      1. H. L. Mencken – journalist – mocked old ideals – American Mercury Magazine
      2. Sinclair Lewis – ridiculed hypocrisy of American life - Main Street, Babbitt
      3. F. Scott Fitzgerald – jazz age – This Side of Paradise, Great Gatsby
      4. Ernest Hemingway – anti-progovt-propaganda – Farewell to Arms
      5. Poetry – T.S. Eliot – Wasteland… also Langston Hughes, ee cummings, etc. – dared to be diff.

IV. Politics...
   A. Return to Normalcy (Harding’s campaign slogan) Three Republicans – Warren Harding (died in office), Calvin Coolidge (“Silent Cal”), Herbert Hoover (WWI Food Administration fame; strong believer in “rugged individualism”)
      1. Harding-Scandal – Teapot Dome
      2. Proligion – “The business of America is business”–C.C.
   B. Isolationist foreign policy (didn’t sign Treaty of Versailles, didn’t join League of Nations) however… not completely cut off from world
      1. Washington Naval Conference – 4-Power, 5-Power, & 9-Power Treaties
      2. Kellogg-Briand Pact – hey… let’s make war illegal! That’ll work! (hey it worked with booze LOL)

V. Economics...
   A. Pre-Progressive fear of labor and pro-business “laissez-faire” made a comeback… no right to strike against the public safety
   B. Reduced income taxes & Return of the Protectionist Tariff – Fordney-McCumber then Hawley-Smoot
   C. Lax on Trusts
   D. Gap between rich and poor… top 10% had wealth that equaled bottom 42% in 1929… making lots of stuff (overproduction).… but not a lot of real wealth (credit)… that top 10% also had 1/3 of all savings… 75% of Americans had no savings at all… fragile
   E. Agriculture falling behind – shiny appearance of automotive age driven “boom” misleading… Great Depression began here…
   F. WWI debtor nations unable to pay… Dawes Plan helps… sort of
The Great Depression
Complaints: Left – didn’t go far enough to remake society, Right – created welfare state

I. Wall Street Crash – started business depression home/abroad unprecedented
A. 5000 banks collapse, 25% unemployed nationwide
B. Hoover’s reaction – “rugged individualism” – locals gov’t and indiv. Take care of selves
C. Depression Economy – Hoover actually pioneered New Deal – just didn’t market it properly
   1. Created public works projects - $2.25 billion – Hoover Dam
   2. Reconstruction Finance Corporation – gave loans to needy
   3. But... didn’t have help from Congress – couldn’t pass a lot
   4. Set important precedent that FDR would take further
D. Hawley Smoot Tariff – 38% to 60% - world responds with similarly high tariffs – out of control

II. Moods of Despair
A. Bonus Army – Bonus Expeditionary Force – demand payment of 1945 retirement money
   1. 20,000 march on Washington – set up Hoovervilles – 2 die

III. Franklin D. Roosevelt – 1921 paralyzed, wife Eleanor – “conscience of New Deal” –
A. Loved by liberals – golden speaking voice – “traitor to his class”
B. New Deal – for “forgotten man” – Brain Trust – relief, recovery, reform
C. 100 days – “alphabet agencies” – based on Progressive Movement
   1. unemployment insurance, old age insurance, minimum wage, conservation, child labor
   2. Created jobs – CCC, CWA, FERA
D. Critics – either too autocratic or not going far enough
   1. Father Charles Coughlin – Catholic Priest
   3. Court packing – Supreme Court sees practices as socialist – add 6 judges because tired
      a. Seen as dictator – destroying checks and balances – but courts start changing > liberal
   4. Some graft and abuses, depression still exists in 36 (hey that rhymes)
   5. Capitalists – thought they were being punished
      a. Many say his programs saved capitalism, just got rid of abusers
E. Rise of CIO – labor strikes – Roosevelt passes minimum wage, max hour work week
   1. CIO emerges – 4 million members by 1940s – 200,000 blacks
   2. Seemed like civil war between AFL and CIO
F. Recession of 1938 – eventually runs out of new programs – depression still exists
   2. National debt - $19 billion to $40 billion

IV. American People in the Depression
A. Social values, women, ethnic groups – start working together – everyone suffering
   1. Eleanor Roosevelt – women first time have influence – Mary Dewson (Women’s Democratic Committee)
      also. Frances Perkins – first cabinet – Secretary of Labor… influential in New Deal
   2. But women take jobs away job from male “breadwinners” (traditionalists)
   3. Birth rates drop, men’s #1 role in family diminishes, independence of women increases
B. South – 1938 – worst section of nation – economics, schools, housing, income
C. Indian Reorganization Act – slowed loss of Indian lands – encourages self-government
   1. Some thought it demeaning – “back to the blanket” – treated like museums
D. Mexican-American Deportation – 1-2 million deported to free up jobs for ‘real’ Americans
WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

Causes
1. Political and economic instability in Europe and Asia
2. Reparations and War Guilt clause -- Versailles Treaty
3. Woodrow Wilson's rejection of Racial Equality clause
4. Fascist aggression
5. Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
6. U.S. desire to help Great Britain in her "finest hour"

Results
1. Economic and political instability in Europe and Asia
2. Atomic age
3. Creation of the United Nations
4. Iron Curtain/Russian domination of Eastern Europe
5. Marshall Plan
6. Occupation of Japan and Germany
7. NATO
8. Emergence of Third World/Colonial independence movements

The Second World War

1. Organizing for war – Total War – Government controls everything, citizens willing to help
   1. Mobilizing production – massive military orders pulled US out of Depression
      1. War Production Board – government takes over manufacturing
         1. Stops production of nonessentials – cars
         2. Wartime rationing after supply of rubber cut off by Japan’s invasion of Malaya
   2. Full employment led to inflation
      1. Office of Price Administration – regulated prices
   3. Labor unions increase in size
      1. Women – Rosie the Riveter, African-Americans enter workforce in masse
      2. Some strikes led to Government taking over industry – Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Law
   4. Propaganda – buy war bonds, support rationing, work harder
      1. Posters, movies, demonize/de-humanizes Japanese and Hitler
   5. Roosevelt works with businesses – in capitalism "you have to let business make money"

6. Internment of Japanese Americans – Executive Order 9066
   1. Moved for protection, but mostly fear of spying or aiding invasion
   2. Constitutionality upheld by Korematsu vs. U.S. case – acceptable during wartime
   3. 1988 - $20,000 to each camp survivor

2. The war in Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean; D Day
   1. Strategy – take Africa > go through Italy to set up Southern Front – Russia holds Eastern Front > Create Massive Western Front > D-Day Normandy “Beginning of the End”

3. The war in the Pacific: Hiroshima, Nagasaki
   1. Priority take out Germany first
   2. Island hopping – take island at a time to provide landing bases – get closer to prepare for invasion
      1. Firebombing Tokyo and other cities
   3. Manhattan Project – secret plan to create Nuclear Bomb
      1. Hiroshima/Nagasaki Fat Man/Little Boy bombed
         1. Save Japanese civilians/American soldiers lives if invasion
         2. Warning to Russia – starts arms race
         3. Hiroshima and Nagasaki – first shots of Cold War – attempt to frighten Soviets unnecessary??

4. Diplomacy
   1. War aims – work with Russia – Russia holds off Germany until America/Britain can hold front – hesitant friends – realize communism will be problem after war
   2. Wartime conferences: Teheran, Yalta, Potsdam – Big Three – Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill
      1. Casablanca Conference. – invade Italy/unconditional surrender;
      2. Teheran – set up U.N.
      3. Yalta – divide Germany into four sections
      4. Potsdam – plan to govern Germany, attack Japan next

5. Postwar atmosphere; the United Nations
   1. America feels like king of the world, homeland relatively unhurt
   2. Russia takes over Germany’s Eastern holdings, promises to let them have free elections, but...
      1. Threat of WWII with Russia almost immediate
   3. Racial/gender inequality returns
   4. Economy falters at first – potentially huge unrest – would US return to Depression?
      1. What to do about returning men – industries drop output at first
      2. Massive inflation
      3. Organized labor has more power
      4. War industry buildings sold cheaply to private industries
      5. Eventually economy booms and the fabulous fifties begin.