Social and Cultural Tensions

City and Country
• For the first time in the US, more people lived in urban rather than rural regions.
• Urban areas enjoyed new consumer products and a variety of leisure activities.
• Modernism- growing trend to emphasize science and secular values over traditional ideas.
• Rural America missed out on the new era of consumerism and leisure activities.
• People in the country continued to embrace traditional views on religion, science, and culture.

Clashes Occur Over Religion
• “monkey trial”- 1925 Dayton, TN
• John T. Scopes, a biology teacher, used a textbook outlining Darwin’s Theory of Evolution.
• Though it was excepted by many scientists, fundamentalists were shocked over this concept.
• They did not want this theory taught in schools.
• Tennessee had previously passed a law that forbade the teaching of evolution.
• Scopes went to trial; The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had Clarence Darrow for the defense.
• The prosecuting lawyer was William Jennings Bryant

The Scopes Trial
• There was no question about guilt.
• The trial became more about the clash between a more modernist view and traditional view of religion.
• Scopes was eventually found guilty and fined; late the State Supreme Court throw out the verdict.

Education Becomes Important
• American education became a growth industry during the twenties.
• 8th grade had been the end of formal education for most; High School- even though was free- was a financial sacrifice.
• In 1914, only a ½ million American were in high school.
• By 1926, 4 millions students were attending
• School costs doubled from 1913 to 1920 and then again in 1926.
• This led to an increase in taxes.
• In 1927 American spent 2.7 million on education, more then every other country combined.
• Modern High School was created- more course offerings, and extra-curricular activities.

Age of Ballyhoo
• News coverage began to expand in the twenties.
• *Time* magazine appeared in 1923.
• Radio stations and weekly newspaper expanded as well as advertisements.
• Tabloids were created- they specialized in news of murders, kidnappings, and gangsters. (similar to Yellow Press)
• *The Daily News* & *The Daily Mirror* were two NY based tabloids.
• Thanks to tabloids, the twenties had their own “media hype”
• Insignificant events were blown out of proportion. --- called “ballyhoo”
• Ex. Charles Lindbergh

**A Noble Experiment**
• On January 16th, 1920, the 18th Amendment - prohibiting the manufacturing, sale, and transportation of alcohol - went into effect. (Volstead Act)
• Progressive reformers saw alcohol as the basis of all corruption.
• The Anti-Saloon League and the Women’s Christian Temperance Movement pushed this law through.

**Use of Alcohol Declines**
• The myth that drinking increased under Prohibition is not true.
• In some sophisticated circles, serving illegal alcohol was a sign of being modern.
• People made homemade alcohol; bootleggers sold it illegally.
• Often times, police and politician “looked the other way”.
• Gangsters like Al Capone became very wealthy and powerful through the illegal sale of alcohol.

**Prohibition is Repealed**
• Not until 1933, was the 21st Amendment passed, repealing prohibition.
• Many felt the costs were not worth the benefits.
• And as the country needed money, it did not seem necessary.

**Women Enjoy New Life Styles**
• During WWI, women served their country in almost every possible capacity.
• As the war progressed, men and women alike saw the absurdity of fighting for freedom in Europe, but limiting people’s rights at home.
• In 1914, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns started the National Women’s Party.
• Jan. 10, 1917- they took a stand outside the White House and for almost a year they carried purple and gold banners urging the passage of constitutional amendments that gave women the right to vote.

**Women’s Suffrage**
• August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified.
• Many people did not worry about women in politics; they feared moral decay with such matters as short skirts, cutting hair (the bob), painting faces, and smoking & drinking in public.
• Much of the new fashion was sensible, healthy, and neat- yet, the subject of a loud public outcry.

**Flappers**
• Young women who adopted all or most of the new styles were called Flappers.
• Women were much more than that—educated, socially aware, economically independent.
• Margaret Sanger was one of the more active women of the time period. (arrested for distributing birth control)
• Florence Kelley (amendment against child rearing)
• Jeannette Rankin was first elected Congresswomen

Women in the Workforce
• By 1930, 20% of workforce was made up by women.
• More options: cooks, dressmakers, servants and farmhands were not longer the only jobs available—doctors, lawyers, bankers, social workers.
• Still women did not earn the same wages. Teachers who married often lost their jobs
• “Women’s place is in the home”

A Black Renaissance Emerges
• Between 1910 and 1920, 1 million African-Americans migrated north to cities like Chicago, NY, Philadelphia and another 800,000 migrated during the 20’s. (Great Migration)
• Black migrants faced considerable prejudice in their new surroundings.
• Blacks competed with whites over jobs (strikebreakers)
• Race Riots in Chicago (1919) 10,000 people were involved, 38 killed (23 blacks), 520 were injured, and 1,000 were left homeless.

“We Return Fighting”
• W.E.B. Du Bois helped to find the Niagara Movement---the first organized attempt to protest the treatment of African Americans.
• In 1909, he founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
• Du Bois disagreed with Booker T. Washington- He wanted blacks to strive for the best.
• Marcus Garvey began UNIA- had two ideas:
  1. Blacks should go back to Africa.
  2. “Black is Beautiful”

To found his colonization plan, Garvey started *The Negro World.* Movement failed because many no longer felt a connection to Africa—wanted equality in their country.

African Americans turn to Congress
• The NAACP attempted to change the ways blacks were treated through the courts.
• James Weldon Johnson had an anti-lynching law introduced in Congress.
• Ida B. Wells led a crusade against lynching, she was a writer and later became a lecturer and community organizer.
Despite the push from the NAACP, blacks were still kept from voting, which allowed for many laws and movements to die out.

Harlem Renaissance Begins
- Living conditions in the black ghettos of Northern cities were appalling.
- Despite the conditions and oppression, in NY’s Harlem a release of creative energy came out.
- Harlem became the center of the nation’s black intellectual and cultural life.
- Achievements in literature, music, drama, dance, and painting