

US History
Social & Political History of the 1920s

Learning Target:

I can identify and examine four main problems facing post-war America, nativism & isolationism, the Red Scare, labor unrest, and race relations.

1. Postwar Issues – Nativism & Isolationism

Postwar America left stressed and exhausted –

- Debate over League of Nations left America divided
- Progressive era was changing America
- Economy struggling to adapt to postwar production levels - Demobilization

Americans reacted to these stressful times with nativism and isolationism –

Nativism – Prejudice against foreign-born people

Isolationism – A policy of pulling away from involvement in world affairs

Text Question:

What is xenophobia?

Unreasoned fear of things or people seen as foreign or strange

Anti-Immigration (Keep America for Americans) –

- Anti-immigrant attitudes had been growing since the 1880s
- Immigrants willing to work for lower wages in unskilled labor positions
- Due to demobilization after WWI fewer unskilled jobs available
- Nativists felt that immigration should be limited due to lack of jobs

Text Question:

Why did anti-immigrant attitudes start to grow in the United States at this time?

Immigrant willing to work for lower wages and the need for unskilled labor had decreased; Also many thought they were communists and anarchists

Text Question:

How did Madison Grant's quote feed nativist attitudes?

Made Americans believe immigration was changing America and immigrants were inferior to native born Americans

The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 –

- 1919 – 1921 the number of immigrants grew from 141,000 to 805,000 (600%)
- Set up to limit immigrants from southern and eastern Europe
- Law also limited Japanese immigration which angered Japan

Text Question:

Who was the Emergency Quota Act a compromise between?
Congress and nativists