

The World between the Wars

As taught by Mrs. Diane Mannion, 2017-18 Term

US History II Lecture Notes

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I Russian revolutions

- A 1917—Czar Nicholas II seized and executed by revolutionaries
- B Union of Soviet Socialist Republics established
Communist government under dictator Vladimir Lenin (see Table 1)

II Labor riots

- A The wartime armistice between labor and management ends
Labor tries to maintain gains that they negotiated during the war
- B Boston Police Strike
- C US Steel Strike—18 killed

III Red scare—communists

- A Precipitated by:
 - 1 Russian revolution
 - 2 Labor riots
- B Bombings
 - 1 Anarchists sent bombs through mail, etc. to prominent American businessmen and politicians
 - 2 Bombing of Wall Street Sept. 16, 1920—38 dead
- C Attorney General Palmer—convinced that communists were taking over America
 - 1 Led series of investigations
 - 2 Ended in hundreds of illegal arrests and deportation of 556
- D National Origins Act 1921-4—established immigration quotas reducing the amount of immigrants allowed into this country
Aimed at various European and Asian countries
- E Sacco and Vanzetti trial—Italian immigrants arrested without solid evidence; found guilty and executed

IV Emergence of the new Ku Klux Klan

- A Precipitated by great influx of immigrants before WWI and by Red Scare
- B Directed against blacks, Jews, Catholics, and all foreigners

V 18th amendment

- A Passed Jan. 1919—prohibited sale of beer, wine, and liquor by Jan. 1920
- B Illegal importation became the business of gangsters

VI 19th amendment (1920): women receive right to vote

VII Election of Harding—“return to normalcy”

- A Foreign affairs
 - 1 Ignore Treaty of Versailles and Wilson’s League of Nations
US makes separate peace agreement with Germany
 - 2 Washington Conference—first successful disarmament conference
 - a US and England 500,000 tons

- b Japan 300,000 tons
- c France and Italy 175,000 tons
- 3 Settlement of foreign war debt (see Fig. 1)
 - a Installment plan—England, France, and other allied nations pay US back in installements
 - b England and France receive money from Germany (Versailles Treaty reparations agreement) to repay US debt
 - c US loans to Germany

B Domestic affairs—Harding scandals

- 1 Head of Veterans Bureau, Charles Forbes, stole \$250 million
- 2 Justice Dept. aide sold influence
- 3 Alien Property Custodian, Thomas Miller, sold German property confiscated during war for his own profit
- 4 Tea Pot Dome—Albert Fall leased government oil fields to private concerns for his own profit
- 5 Harding suddenly dies before exposure of Tea Pot Dome scandal

VIII Calvin Coolidge, 1923-9

A Domestic affairs

- 1 Economics and business: Coolidge believed in “laissez faire”—no government intervention in business
- 2 Manufacturing
 - a 1918: 7 million cars on the road
 - b 1920: first radio broadcasting

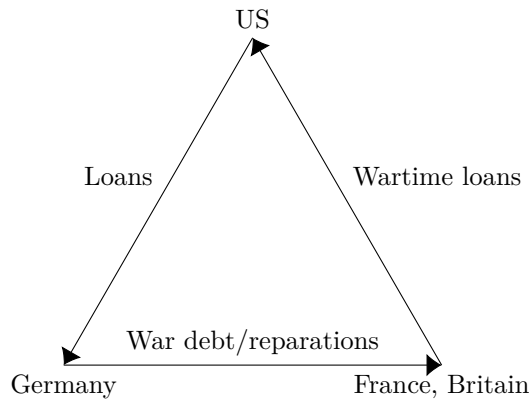


Figure 1: *The Dawes Plan for payment of WWI debts and reparations. Everyone is interdependent, so when the US Great Depression starts...RIP everyone.*

Table 1: *Comparison of economic systems*

System	Means of Production	Means of Distribution
Capitalism	Private sector	Private sector
Socialism	Private and public sectors (government)	Private and public sectors
Communism	State (collective people)	State
Fascism	Private sector	State