

Roaring Twenties

Jazz Age

- a period of enormous economic prosperity, in North America and Europe
- everything seemed feasible through modern technology
- 1920 Census: a majority of Americans living in cities.
- leading metropolitan centers: Chicago, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Paris and London

mass-consumption economy



model T

Henry Ford

- 1900: 8.000 cars
- 1920: 8.000.000 cars
- 1940: 32.000.000 cars

cars



- radios
- „talking“ motion pictures
- refrigerators
- telephones
- vacuum cleaners
- apartment building elevators



Lilian Gish



Prohibition (1920-1933)

- Congress ratifies the Eighteenth Amendment, prohibiting the sale of alcohol anywhere in the United States (Jan 29, 1919)
- rise of organized crime (Al Capone)
- speakeasy = establishment that illegally sells alcohol

bootleggers



Flappers



bob haircut



- 1929: New York Stock Exchange collapsed
- Great Depression: 1929 – the early 1940s
- Industrial production fell
- Banks closed
- Unemployment: 30%

Breadline in New York City during the Great Depression



During the Great Depression, "soup kitchens" provided the only meals some unemployed Americans had. This particular soup kitchen was sponsored by Al Capone.



Men sleeping in the Beacon Light Mission in New York City during the Great Depression



Shack, built of loose boards and parts of boxes, in New York City during the Great Depression



Unemployed men vying for jobs at the American Legion Employment Bureau in Los Angeles during the Great Depression

