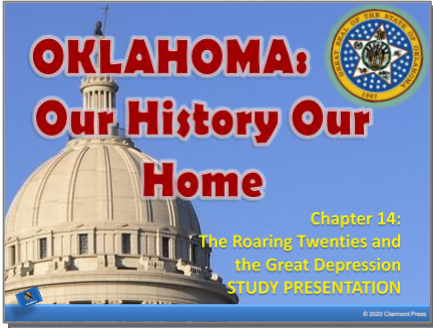




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Oklahoma: Our History Our Home

Chapter 14: The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression QuickNotes



Section 1: The Roaring Twenties

➤ Essential Question:

- How did Oklahoma's society change during the 1920s?

Section 1: The Roaring Twenties

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- inflation
- martial law
- Ku Klux Klan
- petrochemicals
- barnstormer
- partisan
- indict

The Roaring Twenties

Year	Population	% urban
1910	1,657,155	19
1920	2,028,283	27
1930	2,396,040	34



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Social Unrest

- > After WWI, demand for manufactured goods, minerals and agricultural products declined.
- > Soldiers came home and needed jobs.
- > High demand for goods caused prices to increase.
- > Workers demanded more money; some organized into unions who called for strikes.
- > Eastern Oklahoma was put under martial law in November 1919 due to miners' strikes.
- > A "red scare," or fear of communism, occurred after the war.
- > The Ku Klux Klan reorganized (1915) and wanted to ensure supremacy of white, native-born Protestants.
- > An estimated 100,000 members were in Oklahoma in 1920.
- > The KKK would terrorize people with beatings, warnings, whippings, lynching, and burning crosses.

The Tulsa Race Riot

- > Greenwood was a prosperous African American city near Tulsa.
- > May 30, 1921: One of the worst race riots in America was in Tulsa.
- > Whites (many with guns) gathered in town demanding punishment for a young black man who was accused of assaulting a young white girl.
- > Tensions grew during the evening and white crowds began to harass and chase blacks.
- > The National Guard was called in. Panicked black citizens sought escape from the city.
- > White mobs began burning homes and businesses in Greenwood and kept firefighters away at gunpoint.
- > Twenty-six blacks and thirteen whites were killed, hundreds were injured, and 35 square blocks of Greenwood were burned.

Growth of the Oil Industry

- > After the war, oil prices fell.
- > A glut of oil caused further price drops until producers cut production.
- > 1931: Fields in Texas and the Oklahoma panhandle and southwest Kansas were connected by pipeline to Chicago.
- > Derricks surrounded Oklahoma City which had one of the country's richest oil fields.
- > The petrochemical industry began in 1926 creating formaldehyde and alcohols; later it made solvents, photographic chemicals, medicines and refrigerants.

Other Industries

- > Coal production peaked in 1920 at 5 million tons.
- > Most industries grew during this time, but overproduction on farms caused prices to fall.
- > Machinery was not a part of most farms until the 1940s.



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Aviation Takes Off

- Early runways were flat fields or grasslands.
- Fort Sill had army airfield before the war.
- Some WWI pilots did stunt shows and gave rides for a fee (barnstormers).
- 1930: 70,000 people through the Tulsa airport.
- Curtiss-Southwest Airplane Company, Spartan School of Aeronautics, and Braniff started during this time.
- Wiley Post, famous aviator, flew solo around the world in 7 days.



"Motoring"

- The moving assembly line helped reduce the cost of automobiles.
- Sales rose quickly; by 1929 there were 23,000,000 cars.
- Congress wanted a highway to connect Virginia to California.
- Cyrus Avery worked to get this road routed through Tulsa and Oklahoma City. It was known as Route 66 (U.S. 66) "The Main Street of America."



Life Was Good

- Many fashion fads (raccoon coats and flappers), motion pictures (silent and talkies), jazz music, and increased use of home appliances showed that life was good for many.
- Most towns had vaudeville and movie theaters.
- The invention of radio changed lives by connecting people to information and entertainment even in rural areas.
- "Fibber McGee and Molly" was a famous radio show.
- Will Rogers was famous for wild west shows and witty radio and newspaper comedy.



Politics

- Mary Alice Robertson was the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Democrats won a majority of seats in the state legislature and John C. Walton was elected governor in 1922.
- Walton was impeached and charged with 22 counts, convicted of 11, and removed from office after only 10 months.
- Walton provided free textbooks to students; the state prohibited teaching evolution.
- 1925: Tennessee's similar law was challenged in the famous Scopes Trial in which a teacher was charged with teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.





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Section 2: The Great Depression

➤ Essential Question

- How did the Great Depression affect lives in Oklahoma?

Section 2: The Great Depression

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- Great Depression
- credit
- stock market
- New Deal
- collective bargaining
- shelterbelt

Trouble Brews

➤ Factors contributing to the Great Depression:

- consumers rushed to purchase the latest household items; spending on credit increased
- international trade decreased because of tariffs (taxes on imports)
- growth of stock market increased wealth of many; stocks were purchased with the expectation that they could be sold at a higher price
- October 1929: stockholders began to lose confidence in their purchases; many began to sell at any price; this caused stock market prices to tumble, eventually creating a panic
- Tuesday, October 29, 1929: "Black Tuesday" – panic selling caused many Americans to lose all their money, many were so far in debt, they would never be able to recover
- Due to lack of money, purchasing slowed – factories had to slow or stop production because there were no buyers for their goods
- People withdrew savings from banks, but some banks had no money to give due failed loans – 5,000 banks closed by 1933

Oklahoma's Plight

➤ Low and falling prices for oil and farm crops hurt the economy of Oklahoma.

➤ Cotton cost more to grow than it could be sold for.

➤ Unemployment was at an all-time high.



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"Alfalfa Bill"

- 1930: William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray (D) was elected governor.
- Emergency food and free seed were provided by the state.
- The Oklahoma Tax Commission worked to reduce state debt.
- The National Guard was called out to close oil wells until prices rose by controlled production.

The New Deal

- 1932: Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president. He worked to create jobs and improve the economy; laws passed were called a "New Deal" for America.
- Example New Deal Projects:
 - CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps): camps where young men could get a job constructing buildings, trails, parks, bridges, and planting trees
 - PWA (Public Works Administration): built roads, buildings and other public works
 - FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration): federal money for state and local assistance for citizens
 - FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation): insured people's money deposited in banks
 - AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Act): worked to help farmers
 - REA (Rural Electrification Administration): brought electric power to rural homes and farms
 - SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission): regulated stocks and the stock market to avoid another crash
 - FHA (Federal Housing Administration): helped to provide low-income housing
- The Indian Reorganization Act restored common tribal land and tribal self-government rights.

The Second New Deal

- By 1935, labor unions were stronger with collective bargaining laws.
- The Social Security Act provided for retirement and old-age benefits.
- WPA (Works Progress Administration): largest program of the New Deal with many construction projects along with public art and writing.

The Dust Bowl

- In the early 1930s, drought occurred in southeastern U.S. The worst areas were Western Kansas, southeast Oklahoma and the panhandle.
- Native grasses had been removed to make way for plowing for farms.
- Strong winds blew away topsoil in great dust storms.
- April 14, 1935: "Black Sunday" – Dark clouds of dust covered much of the state.
- 1936-1940: Over 309,000 people left the state.
- John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* was written about conditions in the state.
- Woody Guthrie wrote many songs and poems about life in the region.





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Life Goes On

- 1934: E.W. Marland was elected governor. He started the Highway Patrol.
- 1938: Leon Phillips was elected governor. He worked to get the state out of debt and mobilized for WWII.
- Will Rogers and Wiley Post were killed in an air crash in Alaska.
- Shelterbelts were built to block winds and efforts were made to conserve soils.
- The Denison and Grand River Dams were constructed.
- Crime increased with poverty. Pretty Boy Floyd, Bonnie and Clyde, and Ma Barker, were famous outlaws.
- Jazz grew in popularity. The Count Basie Orchestra was among those with Oklahoma roots.
- Weather problems continued: drought, floods, very cold weather and violent tornadoes.
