**Issues for U.S Entry in WW1:** At the start of the conflict in Europe, Wilson claimed that America would remain neutral, but this did not remain true. There were several reasons the United States became involved in the fighting and war in Europe. One issue was German submarines sinking commercial ships that were used for trade. They sunk the British ship Lusitania killing 120 American citizens. America was upset with the German blockade of international waters, contributing to their involvement in WW1.

**Zimmerman Telegram:** In 1917 a telegram from a German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann was sent to Mexico. The telegram was intercepted by British forces and decoded stating that Germany would offer Mexico land taken by the US back to Mexico if they joined the German cause. Mexico kindly declined out of pure logic.

**Fourteen Points:** This was a statement given on January 8, 1918 by United States President Woodrow Wilson declaring that World War I was being fought for a moral cause and calling for postwar peace in Europe. Wilson’s points for peace were shrugged off and proven useless due to the fact that war and conflict is inevitable.

**Treaty of Versailles:** Simply, the treaty of Versailles took out all of the issues of the war on Germany, sufficiently limiting their capability to strive as a nation. This “peace treaty” put economic and militaristic limits on Germany throwing them into national crisis, ultimately setting up the country for totalitarian control (Adolf Hitler).

**Red Scare:** This time was marked by the fear of bolshevism and anarchism. American citizens were afraid the US government would be overthrown and replaced by one of these forms of government. It is called a scare because it is very unlikely, and there was no true threat to American ideals.

**Sacco and Vanzetti:** Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian immigrants who came to America. Along with being Italian born citizens, they practiced anarchism. They were convicted of murdering a security guard at a store they robbed. Although insufficient evidence was used to prove them guilty, prejudice and discontent with their belief in anarchism, Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted.

**KKK re-emergent:** As the KKK re-emerged in the 20s, they widened their membership to other Americans. It was no longer filled with southern rural racist citizens. They instituted Jewish membership, along with the middle class, and even doctors and lawyers.

**Scopes trial:** This is referred to the Scopes Monkey trial. In this case a science teacher by the name of John Scopes was teaching the youth and his students the idea of evolution. There was conflict between scopes and the parents of the children because they were supporters of creationism. This case exemplifies the generation gap between the youth and the adults of the roaring twenties. Science and city life became relevant in the youth of the 20s.

**Harlem Renaissance:** The Harlem Renaissance was a movement included African American peoples across the Urban Areas of the Northeast. Also known as the New Negro Movement, it was a cultural reawakening of African American traditions and expressions. It was centered in the Harlem borough of New York City and encompassed many aspects of society including music, fashion, and literature. It spawned many notable figures including poet Langston Hughes, intellectual W.E.B. Dubois, and Musician Louis Armstrong. The Renaissance is considered to have lasted from 1918 until the mid-1930s and gave African Americans a place in society.

**Herbert Hoover:** Herbert Hoover was the Republican President who was in office at the beginning of the Great Depression. Hoover was criticized as a president for his lack of creation of large scale economic reforms and repairs for the damaged U.S. economy. He also failed to authorize the use of federal dollars to stimulate the economy and failed to recognize how all-encompassing the depression really was. Hoover was also the president behind the Bonus March, and the name sake for “Hooverville”, a shantytown for poor people affected by the depression. Hoover was crushed by FDR in the 1932 election, losing 42 of the 48 states.

**Prohibition:** Prohibition, or the 18th Amendment, was the outlawing of all alcoholic beverages across the entire U.S. While meant to be a progressive reform, the 18th Amendment was meant to help families whose husbands spent their time and money drinking at bars. Implementation however was poor and ineffective, and it actually made the drinking problems worse, and increased bootlegging and organized crime for sales of alcohol across the country. Prohibition was incredibly ineffective and eventually repealed a few years later.

**Causes of the Great Depression:** The Great Depression was caused by a massive amount of speculation and buying on margin. A post war economic boom and the age of commercialism caused people to continue buying and buying, creating a massive speculative bubble that ultimately burst when people began to pull their stocks out causing a huge crash. Banks also experienced runs and when they ran out of money, many people were left with nothing.

**Bonus Army:** The bonus Army was a group of World War 1 veterans who marched on the White House in 1932. Congress had passed the Soldiers' Bonus Act, which granted veterans Adjusted Compensation Certificates, payable in 1945. In May 1932, the "Bonus Army" converged on the capitol to urge early redemption for the certificates. However, Herbert Hoover felt that he had already made generous provisions for the veterans, and that the bill wouldn’t help the country’s most needy. Provisions were given to the protesters to send them home, but the remaining protesters were dispersed by police. Violence erupted however resulting in four deaths. Two policemen and two veterans.

**FDR’s Response to the Banking Crisis:** FDR’s first step in solving the Banking Crisis began with his declaration of a bank holiday. The holiday closed all banks for several days until an extraordinary session of Congress was held. At this session, Congress passed the Emergency Banking Act, which gave the government time to reorganize the banking system. At the end of the holiday, the banks were reopened and confidence in the banks was restored.

**Hundred Days:** In Roosevelt’s first hundred days in office, he pushed 15 major bills through Congress. The bills would reshape every aspect of the economy, from banking and industry to agriculture and social welfare. The Federal Emergency Relief Act pumped $500 million into state-run welfare programs. The Homeowners Loan Act provided the first federal mortgage financing and loan guarantees. By the end of Roosevelt's first term, the Homeowners Loan Act provided more than 1 million loans totaling $3 billion. The Glass-Steagall Act provided a federal guarantee of all bank deposits under $5,000, separated commercial and investment banking, and strengthened the Federal Reserve's ability to stabilize the economy. In addition, Roosevelt took the nation off the gold standard, devalued the dollar, and ordered the Federal Reserve System to ease credit. Other important laws passed during the 100 days included the Agricultural Adjustment Act--the nation's first system of agricultural price and production supports; the National Industrial Recovery Act--the first major attempt to plan and regulate the economy; and the Tennessee Valley Authority Act--the first direct government involvement in energy production.

**Social Security Act:** The Social Security Act was drafted under FDR's first term, passed Congress as part of the New Deal, and was signed by FDR on August 14, 1935. This progressive, democratic legislation provided benefits to retirees and the unemployed. This assisted the elderly and those who had no source of income and is still an essential act in society today.

**Opposition to the New Deal:** Many members of congress saw the new deal as an overreach of executive power. In particular many republicans began to divide among party lines in order to block some of the powers the Roosevelt had bestowed upon himself. The main goal was to make sure that the New Deal didn’t begin to usurp power from congress, and when overreaching acts were proposed, congress saw it necessary to shut them down, like Roosevelt’s judicial appointment amendment.

**Court Parking:** Due to Roosevelt’s dislike of the Supreme court justices that were in office at the time of his presidency, he filed a law that would allow a president to appoint judges to the supreme court when a judge aged past 75 years. This was seen as an extreme overreach of executive power, basically undermining the laws laid forth in the constitution. This divided congress even further, and even among party lines in the Democratic Party. Many began to see Roosevelt as a dictatorial leader, who was more vested in his own actions than following the laws of the land.

**Arsenal of Democracy:** During the Second World War, Great Britain was running out of money to purchase goods under the previous acts of neutrality, mainly the cash and carry act. Due to the Nazi’s gaining control of most of Europe, Roosevelt declared that the US had to become and arsenal of democracy in order to help keep the world safe, and to provide weapons to nations that were warring against dictatorial powers.

**Lend-Lease Act:** For many of the reasons listed above, Roosevelt saw it in the best interest of the USA to start to lend weapons to any and all nations that were fighting the Nazi’s in Europe. The wording was not explicit to the Nazi’s as it gave the US the directive to lend weapons to all countries that were vital to the US’s security. The fact was that this enabled the arsenal of democracy to begin, and all countries would begin to take out weapon loans from the US in order to attempt to gain the upper hand of the Nazi’s

**Atlantic Charter:** During the months leading up to Pearl Harbor, many nations got together and signed a pact saying that they would keep the oceans of the world (specifically the Atlantic) free, and that they would remain that way for the foreseeable future. The only problem was that all of these nations were at war with Germany…except for the USA. The only signer of the pact that had remained neutral was the US, and that was seen as many as an escalation of involvement, that the US would do whatever it needed to do to keep the oceans free…and low and behold, the US would.

**Japanese Internment Camps:** In a nation where there was so much distrust of the races, this seemed logical. It was a part of our history that we largely ignore, because it is shameful. On the west coast, many families were uprooted and placed in internment camps for the duration of the war effort merely because they were of a nationality that we were at war against. It was done under an executive order and there were many who were against it, but none who were so strong as to impeach Roosevelt on it.

**Pearl Harbor Attack:** The attack on American soil that stirred us into action and brought us into the fight, making it a truly world war. December 7th, a Sunday that would live in infamy, the US was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the Empire of Japan at the military base in Pearl Harbor, on the island of Hawaii. American lives were lost, and the Pacific fleet almost crippled. Thankfully, the aircraft carriers were saved, which enabled the US to keep the fight going without depleting the entirety of the Atlantic Fleet.

**Atomic Bomb:** There isn’t a way to truly define the impact that the Atomic Bomb had on warfare. It changed everything. The US bears the burden of being the only nation on this earth to ever deploy on in war. We dropped 2, one on the town of Hiroshima, and one on the town of Nagasaki, forcing the surrender of the Japanese and saving the US the casualties of invading the mainland of Japan. Many lives were instantly taken, and the horror of the victims has been told in many books. Whether or not the correct call was made will continue to be debated, but in a race as to whether or not it was the right thing to do, it saved American lives, and that’s all that President Truman was concerned about.

***REVIEW QUESTIONS:*  
  
Why was America’s neutrality in WW1 an outdated foreign policy?:**

This policy was outdated by the time the war struck in Europe. War was inevitable at the time, and even though American claimed neutrality, they were still affected by the conflict. Plus true neutrality is illogical because there is not a possible way of receiving and trading necessary goods.

**Why was Wilson unable to achieve a “peace without victors” at Versailles?:**

Wilson was unable to achieve peace without victors because of complete vengeance. The desires of the Allied nations put the cause and blame of the war on one sole country: Germany. The allies wanted to expand territory and put full blame on Germany.

**How could of Woodrow won his battle with the senate over the treaty and the League of Nations?:**

I believe it was impossible to win the battle over the senate. They did not favor the League of Nations, and up to that point the conflict was a war of attrition. The United States was not present in most of the war and did not have much authority in the treaty.

**How did the Lives of Americans change…:**

The 1920s were a period of change in American history. Dubbed the “roaring twenties” American culture changed from conservative traditional and religious to young wild and free. Although it sounds cliché, American found itself and a new identity within its youth. Shorts became shorter, alcohol became essential, and flappers partied through the cities. These changes allowed for women and African Americans to build up a culture. For example the Harlem renaissance showed that African Americans were just as talented as the rest of americans.

**How were the passage of the 18th amendment and the Scopes Trial part of the large societal struggle in the 1920’s?:** Both the 18th Amendment and the Scopes Monkey trial were both symbols of the changing ideals and modernization of the progressive United States. The Scopes Trial was a symbol of the movement away from the traditional religious values of the past, and the 18th Amendment was the swan song for the progressive movement. Although the 18th Amendment was a failure, it indicated the movement into a more modern society.

**Why did the “Noble Experiment” of Prohibition fail in the 1920’s?:** Prohibition failed because it outlawed a product that was already so popular and so widespread that it simply couldn’t be contained or controlled. It didn’t stop anyone from purchasing or consuming alcohol and it escalated organized crime rates across the country as people began to bootleg alcohol as a way to get around the 18th amendment. Alcohol consumption actually increased with prohibition legislation and overall it was a huge failure of the progressive movement.

**Why did the Supreme court oppose the New Deal from 1933-1936? What did Roosevelt do about it?:**. The Supreme Court was made up of mainly republicans, and they were extremely opposed to the radically democratic New Deal. FDR couldn’t get anything proposed with the Supreme Court turning down the legislation, so FDR proposed an act allowing for more justices, which he would choose so that he could even out the Supreme Court with republicans and democrats.

**How did Roosevelt’s actions as President reinforce the charge that he sought dictatorial powers?:** FDR’s democratic actions in order to save the economy could have been seen as dictator like, as he called for extremely centralized legislation. His actions were always centered around the Executive Branch and his third term also may have been cause for alarm for some people.

**How was the New Deal both a Success and a Failure?:** Since the nation was suffering, and no other president had to deal with suffering this bad, it’s hard to look at the New Deal like it was good or bad, it was just what happened. That being said, the New Deal helped establish the government as something that should be responsible for the wellbeing of its governed, in more than just establishing laws and making sure that people don’t go and commit atrocities. It was also now responsible for the social wellbeing of its people, and their financial stability should they reach rock bottom or attempt to climb to the top fully uncheck, and whether or not that s a good or bad thing is whole heartedly up to the eyes of the beholder. A welfare state was created and has lived on to this day, which says that this wasn’t terrible, but perhaps its only lived on because we’ve let it…again, all in the eyes of the beholder.

**How did WW2 change the American Home front?:** Suddenly, America was not divided by race or by party, gender or pay margin. We were a country. Women were working in factories to make planes and make things that America needed. All classes of people were rationing the same goods, and they were all getting the same rationing books, seeming closing the gap that had so long existed between the high and low class. All men were entered into the drafts that were under the same circumstances, so that evened out the playing field as well. All that was done was done in the name of helping the war effort, but it profoundly shaped America into a more equal and united place.

**Why was the alliance among Great Britain, The United States and, The Soviet Union a fragile one?:** To put it simply, one of these is not like the other. The United States and GB were both symbols of strong democracies, and they both operated under a system of capitalism, which the USSR couldn’t have been more against. They were so ideologically different, the only reason that they were able to come together was a common enemy. The Nazi’s were the only uniting thing about that alliance, which would split up less than 6 months after the war had ended.

**How did the Atomic Bomb change America’s place in the community of nations?:** America had use the single most deadly weapon ever seen. No empire or communist structure had ever done something on this scale before. American was now *the* force to be reckoned with. Not only did they have the technology, but they wouldn’t hesitate to use it when they felt they needed too. That profoundly changed everything. America might not be the oldest nation, or have the richest history, but we had power that no other nation did, and that made nations both fear and respect us in ways that had never before been seen.