**Learning Objective:**

Explain the causes and effects of international and internal migration patterns over time.

**Thematic Focus:**

*Push and pull factors shape immigration to and migration within America, and the demographic change as a result of these moves shapes the migrants, society, and the environment.*

1. The United States continued its transition from a rural, agricultural economy to an urban, industrial economy led by large companies.
2. By 1920, a majority of the U.S. population lived in urban centers, which offered new economic opportunities for women, international migrants, and internal migrants.
   1. Increases in the Standard of Living
      1. During the 1920s, the standard of living rose, and more and more people moved to urban centers. For the first time in U.S. history, over 50% of the population lived in cities.
      2. The main reason for the prosperity of the 1920s was improved industrial efficiency, which resulted in lower prices for goods.
   2. Opportunities for Women
      1. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the majority of female workers employed outside the home were young and unmarried. Women who worked outside the home were most likely to be employed as domestic servants, garment workers, teachers, or cigar workers.
      2. Although new jobs became available in offices and stores, the percentage of single women in the labor force actually declined between 1920 and 1930. Women did not receive equal pay and continued to face discrimination in the professions. Most married women did not seek employment outside the home.
      3. Passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote reduced the desire for some women to continue fighting for equal pay, etc.
      4. When it became apparent that women did not vote as a block, political leaders gave little additional attention to the special concerns of women. The inability of women’s groups to agree on goals prevented a united effort to continue fighting for feminist reforms. Additionally, the decline of the progressive reform movement hindered widespread support for the movement.
3. During and after World War I, nativist campaigns against some ethnic groups led to the passage of quotas that restricted immigration, particularly from southern and eastern Europe, and increased barriers to Asian immigration.

**Learning Objective:**

Explain the causes and effects of developments in popular culture in the United States over time.

**Thematic Focus:**

*Creative expression, demographic change, philosophy, religious beliefs, scientific ideas, social mores, and technology shape national, regional, and group cultures in America, and these varying cultures often play a role in shaping government policy and developing economic systems.*

1. Popular culture grew in influence in U.S. society, even as debates increased over the effects of culture on public values, morals, and American national identity.
2. Migration gave rise to new forms of art and literature that expressed ethnic and regional identities, such the Harlem Renaissance movement.
   1. The Harlem Renaissance, an outpouring of black artistic and literary creativity, thrived during the 1920s. Harlem Renaissance writers and artists expressed pride in their African American culture. They supported full social and political equality for Blacks. Key figures included James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, and Josephine Baker.
   2. Black musicians such as King Oliver, W.C. Handy, and Jelly Roll Morton helped create jazz. Jazz was especially popular among the youth because it symbolized a desire to break with tradition.
   3. Marcus Garvey was the charismatic leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Garvey was identified with Black pride, Black economic development, Black Nationalism, and Pan-Africanism. Garvey was committed to the idea that Black Americans should return to Africa. Garvey was ultimately convicted of fraud for his steamship line (which would take migrants to Africa) and was deported back to his native Jamaica.
3. In the 1920s, cultural and political controversies emerged as Americans debated gender roles, modernism, science, religion, and issues related to race and immigration.
   1. Changing Gender Roles
      1. Flappers symbolized the new freedom by challenging traditional American attitudes about women. Flappers favored short bobbed hair, smoked cigarettes, and even wore the new one-piece bathing suits.
      2. In reality, few women actually lived the flapper lifestyle. Nonetheless, the look was very fashionable among college coeds, office workers, and store clerks.
      3. Margaret Sanger was an outspoken reformer who openly championed birth control for women. She formed Planned Parenthood. Sanger was a proponent for eugenics, although she disapproved with euthanasia for “unfit” people.
   2. Sexuality
      1. Traditional American moral standards regarding premarital sex and marital fidelity were widely questioned for the first time during the 1920s.
      2. There was a popular misconception that Sigmund Freud had advocated sexual promiscuity.
      3. Movies, novels, and magazine stories were more sexual explicit and sensational.
   3. Religion
      1. Fundamentalist Protestants, under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan, began a campaign in 1921 to prohibit the teaching of evolution in schools, and thus protect belief in the literal Biblical account of creation.
      2. The Scopes Trial illustrates the cultural conflict in the 1920s between fundamentalism and modernism. John T. Scopes was a high school biology teacher in Tennessee who was indicted for teaching evolution. Bryan assisted the prosecution while Chicago trial lawyer Clarence Darrow defended Scopes.
   4. Literature
      1. “Lost Generation” writers who were alienated with American society in the 1920s included Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.
      2. Writers criticized middle-class materialism and conformity. For example, Sinclair Lewis criticized middle-class life in novels such as *Babbitt* and *Main Street*.
   5. Prohibition
      1. Bootlegging and speakeasies made it difficult for the federal government to enforce Prohibition. Al Capone was the most notorious of all the bootlegging gangsters.
      2. Elected leaders often spoke out against Prohibition, as many of their constituents disagreed with it.
      3. Continued enforcement problems and an increase in organized crime led Congress to repeal Prohibition and the 18th Amendment in 1933 with the 21st Amendment.