• Movie Stars- Rudolph Valentino, Charlie Chaplin, Clara Bow, and Mary Pickford.

The Jazz Age

• The Jazz Age adopted more open attitudes towards sex, and adopted jazz music
• There were Flappers
• This revolution was greatly aided by the invention of the car (that allowed kids to get away from the watch of their parents).
• 19th Amendment gave women the rights to vote.
• Divorce rates increased
• More women worked
• Women seldom received the same pay as men for the same work and hardly promoted to manager roles.

The Rise of Radio and Motion Pictures

• In 1927, The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson became the first “talking” film.

The Lost Generation

• Many novels written that supported the business culture of the decade.
• Most famous novelists of the era wrote of deep feelings of alienation from mainstream American culture.
  • The Lost Generation turned their backs on the business culture and the Republican political culture of the era.
    • Main Street and Babbit, Sinclair Lewis attacked materialism and narrow thinking
    • Sherwood Anderson’s Winsburge, Ohio was another novel of alienation in small-town America
• F. Scott Fitzgerald was both a celebrant of the Jazz Age and a brilliant commentator on it- The Great Gatsby
• Ernest Hemingway – A Farwell to Arms – expressed a deep disaffection with American values, especially with war.
• Black culture expression in the 1920s was being celebrated in a cultural movement called the Harlem Renaissance.
moved the Allied lines back into Belgium, but reinforcement led by General George S. Patton again forced the Germans to retreat.

- Concentration camps were the integral parts of Nazi Germany’s Final Solution to the “Jewish problem.”
  - Between 1941 and 1945, over 6 million Jews were killed in the event now referred to as the Holocaust.

- In March 1945, Allied troops crossed the Rhine River, and met up with advancing Russian troops at the Elbe River on April 25. After a fierce battle, the Russians took Berlin. Deep in his bunker, Hitler committed suicide on May 1, and Germany unconditionally surrendered one week later.

- In February of 1945, Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill met at the Yalta Conference. Roosevelt had been elected to a fourth term in 1944.
  - It was agreed that Germany would be split into 4 zones of occupation (administered by England, France, the US, and the Soviet Union)
  - Berlin, located in the Soviet zone, would also be partitioned.
  - Stalin promised to allow free elections in the Eastern European nations he had freed from Nazi control, and said that the Soviets would join the war against the Japs.

The Role of the Middle East in World War 2

- The Americans and the British both thought it absolutely crucial that oil resources in the region not fall into German hands, and that these resources continue to be available for the Allied war effort.

The War Against Japan

- In the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan advanced against British controlled islands and territories in the Pacific.
  - By April of 1942, Hong Kong and Singapore were both in Jap hands.
  - General Douglas MacArthur controlled a large American and Filipino force in the Philippines. A large Jap force landed there, and in March MacArthur was forced to abandon his troops and go to Australia.
  - On May 6, 1942, Americans holding out on the Bataan Peninsula were forced to surrender. Bataan Death March.

- May 8, 1943, the Americans won their first decisive victory at the Battle of the Coral Sea.
  - American airplanes launched from aircraft carriers were able to stop the advance of several large Jap troop transports. Troops on these ships were to be used for an attack on Australia.
  - After this defeat, the Japs could never again mount a planned attack there.

- American airplanes also played a crucial role in the Battle of Midway. This battle took place in early July; in it, the Japs lost 4 aircraft carriers and over 200 planes. Many
• Tax policies encouraged American oil companies to do business with the Saudis, and the Americans pledged to assist Saudi Arabia if it was attacked by the Soviets.
• Americans pledged to assist Saudi if it was attacked by the Soviets.

- American planners and decision makers wanted to: (1) ensure that the region would not be vulnerable to potential attacks by the Soviets and (2) utilize the region as a staging point for the potential military advances against the Soviet Union.

The Role of the US in the Creation of Israel
- The entire dynamic of the Middle East was changed by the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.
- Fighting began between Jews and Arabs living in Palestine. Countless Arabs were forced to flee the Jewish-controlled regions.
- In 1948, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed and was immediately recognized by the US.
- The Arab states surrounding Palestine immediately attacked the new state of Israel, but were defeated.
- Israel’s strongest backer in virtually every crisis has been the US.

The US and the Shah of Iran
- When Dwight Eisenhower became president in 1953, he faced a new and potentially more volatile force in the Middle East: Arab nationalism.
- In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadeq of Iran announced a plan to nationalize the British oil facilities in the country.
- The British imposed an oil embargo on Iranian oil and proposed military action against Mossadeq.
- With Eisenhower’s approval, the CIA went to Iran and financed anti-Mossadeq demonstrations, which eventually led to his downfall.
- Mossadeq was replaced by a prime minister who was loyal to the Shah and not opposed to American influence in the country.
- When the American embassy in Tehran was occupied by Islamic militants in 1979, the actions by the CIA in Iran in 1953 were long-forgotten by virtually everyone in the US; to many Iranians, the effects of American actions in Iran in 1953 were still very much alive.

The Cold War At Home
• During 1949 and 1950, many Americans felt a sense that the tides of the Cold War were somehow shifting over in favor of the Soviet Union.
• Under President Truman and later President Eisenhower, there was a tremendous effort made to rid the US of a perceived internal “communist menace.”
• The Truman administration began by jailing the leaders of the American Communist party under the provision of the 1940 Smith Act.
• When some Republicans claimed that the Truman administration was “soft on communism,” Truman ordered the creation of a Loyalty Review Board, which eventually had the legal jurisdiction to investigate both new and federal workers.
• Congress decided to investigate communists in the government and in the entertainment industry.
  o The congressional committee overseeing these investigations was HUAC.
  o As a result of the pressure from HUAC, Hollywood movies became much tamer.
  o A blacklist was made of actors, directors, and writers.
• The McCarran Internal Security Act was enacted in 1950; under this bill, all communist or communist-front organizations could not work in any job related to the national defense.
  o The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 greatly limited immigration form Asia and Eastern Europe; this would hopefully limit the influx of communism” into the US.
  o Truman vetoed both these bills, but Congress passed both of them over the president’s veto.

Where There Spied in America?
• In 1950, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were charged with passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.
  o Both found guilty of espionage in 1952 and executed.

The Heating of the Cold War: Korea

• After WW2, Korea was divided into a communist North Korea and a noncommunist and pro-American South Korea, divided along the 38th parallel.
• In late June of 1950, North Korea invaded the south.
• Douglas MacArthur was appointed to lead the UN forces, and the Korean War began.

The Rise of McCarthyism
Those participating received tremendous verbal and physical harassment from other whites, yet the tactics of the sit-in helped to integrate dozens of Southern establishments in the early 1960s.

- In May 1961, the Congress for Racial Equality sponsored the Freedom Rides.
  - During the previous year, the Supreme Court had ruled that bus stations and waiting rooms in these stations had to be integrated.
  - On the Freedom Rides, both black and white volunteers started in Washington and were determined to ride through the South to see if cities had complied with the Supreme Court legislation.
  - Introduced an important influence into the civil rights struggle in the South.
  - By the end of the summer, the marshals from the Justice Department were in every city the Freedom Ride buses passed through to ensure a lack of violence.

- President JFK went very slowly on civil issues, but in the summer of 1963, he presented to Congress a wide-ranging civil rights bill that would have withheld large amounts of federal funding from states that continued to practice segregation.
  - To muster support for this bill, civil rights leaders organized the August 28, 1963, March on Washington. “I had a dream…” speech.

- In 1964, Johnson presented to Congress the most wide-spread bill since Reconstruction.
  - The Civil Rights Act of 1964 stated that the same standards had to be used to register white and black voters, that racial discrimination could not be used by employers to hire workers, that discrimination was illegal in all public sections, and that an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission would be created.

- Many blacks who lived in Northern cities believed that the civil rights movement was doing little for them.
  - In August 1965, riots broke out in the Watts section of LA; Chicago, Newark, and Detroit soon experienced similar riots.
    - The Kerner Commission was authorized to investigate the cause of these riots, and stated that black poverty and the lack of hope in black communities were the major cause of the disturbances.
  - The Nation of Islam (also called the Black Muslims) preached that is was to the benefit of white society to keep blacks poor and in ghettos, and that for blacks to improve their position they would have to do it themselves.
    - Malcolm X would become the most famous representative of this group, preaching Black Nationalism.
    - Eventually Malcolm X rejected the more extreme concepts of the Nation of Islam, and he was killed in February 1965.
  - The ideas of Black Nationalism exerted a great deal of influence on many of the younger members of SNCC. Stokely Carmichael began to urge blacks to take up arms to defend themselves against whites and orchestrated the removal of all whites from SNCC.
    - Carmichael began to urge SNCC members to support heritage, and that blacks should create their own society apart from the all-controlling white society.
• The policy of deregulation was intensified; industries such as the energy industry and the transport industry were freed from “cumbersome” regulations imposed by previous administrations.
• Funding for the Environmental Protection Agency was greatly reduced during the Regan presidency.
• In 1981, the government actively destroyed the union for the air traffic controllers, and striking controllers were fired.
• On a small scale, the American army successfully invaded the island of Grenada in 1983.
• On a large scale, Reagan ended the friendlier relations with the SU of the detente era.
  o He put a new cruise missiles in Europe and referred to the SU as the “evil empire.”
• The Tax Reform Act of 1986 dramatically reduced federal tax rates; the wealthiest American had to pay on their income/
• In 1986 and 1987, both unemployment and inflation declined.
• The Supreme Court also became more conservative.
• On October 19, 1987, known as “black Monday,” the average price for a share of stock fell nearly 20%.
• During his 2ed term, federal gov’t deficits grew drastically; this occurred because less income was coming into the gov’t because of the previously enacted tax cuts, but because of a large increase in defense spending.
• For the first time since WW1, the US was importing more than exporting.
• Reagan’s foreign policy remained popular.
• In April 1986, the US bombed Libyan air bases. In 1986, Muammar al-Gadhadi, the leader of Libya, ordered Libyan gunboats to challenge American ships sailing close to Libya.
• Reagan and the new leader of the SU, Mikhail Gorbachev, established a close personal relationship and held meaningful negotiations on the reduction of nuclear weapons.
  o Also supported anti-communist forces fighting in Nicaragua and El Salvador.
• The Iran-Contra Affair
  o Without the knowledge of the president, National Security Advisor John Poindexter and several others devised an “arms for hostages plan.”
  o By this plan, the US sold arms to Iran, hoping that it could use Iran influence to help free American hostages held in Lebanon.
• Many supporters felt he restored pride to America, stood up to our enemies abroad, restored the economy of America, and reasserted “traditional” American values.
• Critics of Reagan maintain that the economic policies to the administration only benefited the wealthiest Americans; they point out that the gap between rich and poor increased.
  o State that the Iran-Contra Affair proved the fact that Reagan was dangerously out of touch on many policy decisions.