- "traumatic coming of age" between
  world wars
- agrarian to urban nation
- modernism embraced nontraditional syntax
  and forms, challenged tradition, emancipation
- roots of modernism were English Symbolist
  writers, prose poetry, free verse
- modernist writers: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott
  Fitzgerald
- characteristics - open form, juxtaposition, free verse,
  discontinuous narrative, intertextuality (classical)
- allusions, borrowing from languages and
  art - juxtaposition - two images that are similar, otherwise
- alienation - the writer seeks identity, a lost
  generation
- valorization of the individual - characters are
  heroic in the face of a future they
  can't control
- urban scopes - writers begin to explore city
  life, conflicts start to center on society
- imagism - direct treatment of the "thing," whether
  subjective or objective