

- "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 styles
- juxtaposition - two images that are otherwise not brought together
- alienation - "the character belongs to 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