

social revolution

A change in the way a large number of members of a society live



Related Words: *upheaval of social norms, massive change*

Example Usage:

Flappers symbolized one of the **social revolutions** of the 1920s.

A growing list of universities and colleges now offer social media courses, responding to the **social revolution** caused by social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

Examples: *Social media, the civil rights movement, feminism*

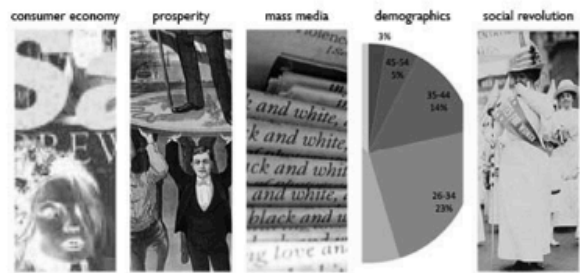
Nonexamples: *“The Hunger Games” book series, skinny jeans*

Turn and Talk: Choose one of the following:

1. How has social media caused a **social revolution**?
2. How is a **social revolution** different from a political revolution (for example, the American Revolution)?

Essential Word Log

As you go through the unit, note the people, events, ideas, and places that connect to these five concepts:



consumer economy

An economy that depends on a large amount of spending by individuals

Related words: purchaser-driven economic system



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prosperity

financial success or wealth

Related words: richness, fortune, affluence



mass media

that reach large numbers of people in a short time, such as radio, movies, newspapers, and the internet

Related words: broadcasting, electronic media, information technology



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demographics

human population, including gender, age, race, location, education level, and employment

Related words: population statistics



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large number of members of a society live

Related words: upheaval of social norms, massive change



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Originally from rural Florida, Zora Neale Hurston became one of the most successful and important black women writers of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. The following excerpt is from her autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*.

On account of a short story which I wrote for *The Stylus*, Charles S. Johnson, who was just then founding *Opportunity Magazine*, wrote to me for material. He explained that he was writing to all of the Negro colleges with the idea of introducing new writers and new material to the public.

Being out of school for lack of funds, and wanting to be in New York, I decided to go there and try to get back in school in that city. So the first week of January, 1925, found me in New York with \$1.50, no job, no friends, and a lot of hope ... I won a prize for a short story at the first Award dinner, May 1, 1925, and [I was offered a job and a scholarship]... to Barnard (an all-white college) ... graduating in 1928.

Based on the excerpt, list two ways that Hurston's life is an example of the **social revolution** of the 1920s.

- 1.
- 2.

Return to Normalcy

(1)

During his presidential campaign, Warren Harding accurately sensed the mood of the American public and proposed a return to life as it was, leaving behind the war and all that went with it to go back to a time of "normal" life. Harding's presidency, which saw unemployment in America reaching 12% in 1921, began one of the greatest periods of economic **prosperity** in U.S. history, with unemployment dropping to less than 3% by the time he died in 1923. He delivered the following speech on May 14, 1920.

(2)

There isn't anything the matter with world civilization, except that humanity is viewing it through a vision impaired in a horrible war. Poise has been disturbed, and nerves have been racked, and fever has rendered men irrational ... but the human procession still marches in the right direction.

(3)

America's present need is not heroics, but healing ... not revolution, but restoration; not agitation, but adjustment; not surgery, but serenity; not the dramatic, but the dispassionate; not ... internationality, but ... triumphant nationality.

(4)

It is one thing to battle successfully against world domination by military dictators, because the infinite God never intended such a program, but it is quite another thing to revise human nature and suspend the fundamental laws of life and all of life's acquirements ...

What's going on?

(5)

This republic has its ample tasks. If we put an end to false economics which lure humanity to utter chaos, ours will be the commanding example of world leadership today. If we can prove a representative popular government under which a citizenship seeks what it may do for the government rather than what the government may do for individuals, we shall do more to make democracy safe for the world than all armed conflict ever recorded.

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(6)

The world needs to be reminded that all human ills are not curable by legislation, and that quantity of laws and excess of government offer no substitute for quality of citizenship.

(7)

The problems of maintained civilization are not to be solved by a transfer of responsibility from citizenship to government, and no important page in history was ever drafted by the standards of mediocrity. More, no government is worthy of the name which is directed by influence on the one hand, or moved by intimidation on the other...

What's going on?

How does this relate to what you have read already?

(8)

My best judgment of America's needs is to steady down, to get squarely on our feet, to make sure of the right path. Let's get out of the fevered delirium of war; with the delusion that all the money in the world is to be made in the madness of war and the wildness of its aftermath. Let us stop to consider that peace at home is more precious than peace abroad, and that both our good fortune and our eminence are dependent on the normal forward stride of all the American people ...

Adapted from Schortemeier, F.E. (Ed.). (1920). *Rededicating America: Life and recent speeches of Warren G. Harding*. Indianapolis, IA: Bobbs-Merrill.

What's going on?

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Step Two

In the 1920s, the United States saw vast political, economic, and social change. Imagine that your team is on the editorial board of a monthly magazine to be published in January 1929. This month's edition will focus on the 1920s and the three excerpts you just read.

You have been assigned to write an introduction to the essays that explains how they capture the spirit of the 1920s. Using your information from step one, plus any other texts or notes for this unit, write a paragraph that highlights the political, economic, and social changes that took place during the 1920s.

Twenties

TBL Knowledge Application

DATE _____ CLASS PERIOD _____

TEAM MEMBERS

Step One

Find the following readings in your materials book:

- Page 68: "Address Before the Chamber of Commerce of New York"
- Page 59: "Record Prosperity Predicted for 1928"
- Page 63: "A Flapper's Appeal to Parents"

For the additional text, read and respond to questions in the boxes, as you have done with previous readings.

Next, using your notes, analyze each text's perspective on the changes in politics, the economy, and culture that occurred in the 1920s.

With your team, discuss the different perspectives provided in these readings. Fill out the charts with your team's ideas.



"Address Before the Chamber of Commerce of New York"

Perspective	General Argument	Supporting Evidence
Author's occupation or social position	What was important to this author about the 1920s	Rephrase and cite paragraph number

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"Record Prosperity Predicted for 1928"

Perspective	General Argument	Supporting Evidence
Author's occupation or social position	What was important to this author about the 1920s	Rephrase and cite paragraph number

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"A Flapper's Appeal to Parents"

Perspective	General Argument	Supporting Evidence
Author's occupation or social position	What was important to this author about the 1920s	Rephrase and cite paragraph number

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