

POLITICS OF THE ROARING 20'S



AMERICAN POSTWAR ISSUES

The American public was exhausted from World War I

Public debate over the League of Nations had divided America

An economic downturn meant many faced **unemployment**

A wave of nativism swept the nation



ISOLATIONISM

Many Americans adopted a belief in isolationism

Isolationism meant pulling away from involvement in world affairs



U.S. foreign
policy has
reverted to
unilateral
isolationism

FEAR OF COMMUNISM

One perceived threat to American life was the spread of **Communism**

Communism is an economic and political system based on a single-governmental party, equal distribution of resources, no private property and rule by a dictatorship



SOVIET UNION COMMUNISM



Russia was transformed into the Soviet Union in 1917, a Communist state
Vladimir Lenin led the Bolsheviks and overthrew the Czarist regime

He was a follower of the Marxist doctrine of social equality

A Communist party was formed in America, too

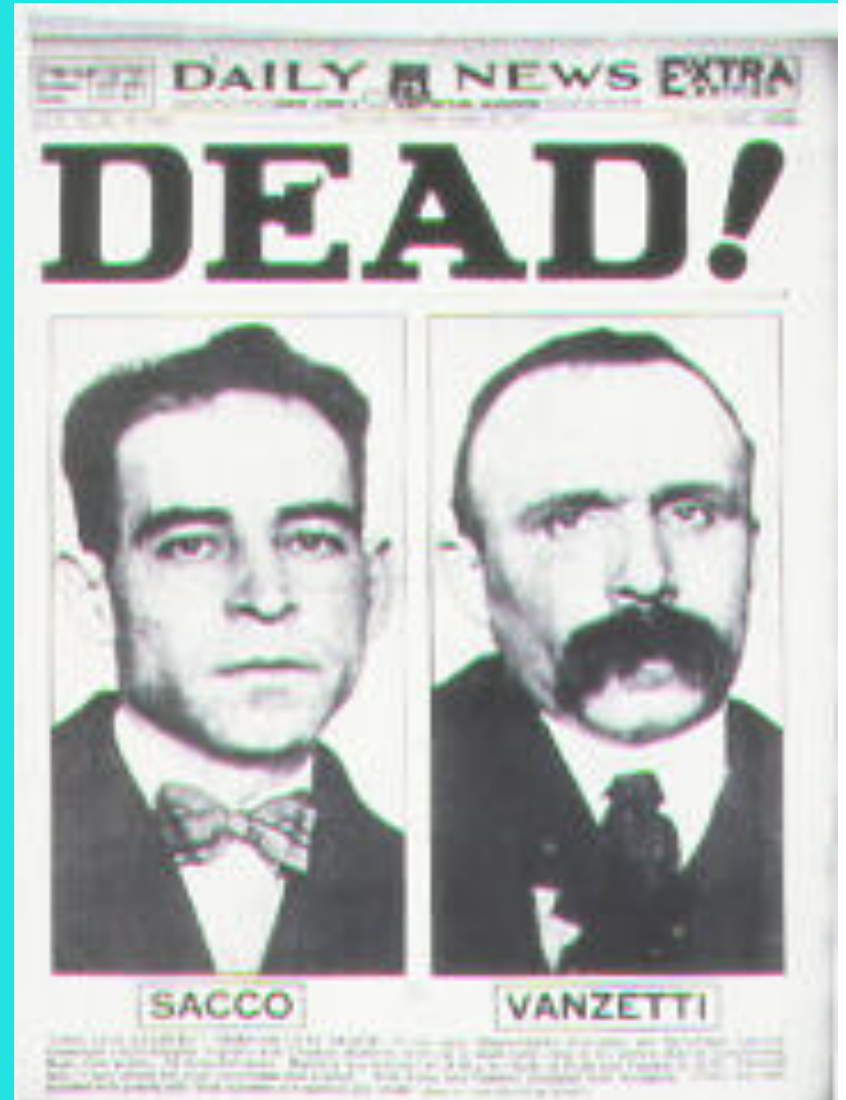


SACCO & VANZETTI

The Red Scare fed
nativism in America

Italian anarchists Sacco & Vanzetti were a shoemaker
and a fish peddler

Convicted of robbery and
murder despite flimsy
evidence, their execution
was symbolic of
discrimination against
radical beliefs during the
Red Scare



THE KLAN RISES AGAIN



As the Red Scare and anti-immigrant attitudes reached a peak, the KKK was more popular than ever

By 1924, the Klan had **4.5 million** members

CONGRESS LIMITS IMMIGRATION



Congress, in response to nativist pressure, decided to limit immigration from southern and eastern Europe

The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 set up a quota system to control and restrict immigration

America changed its formally permissive immigration policy



Xenophobia

- Americans were afraid of a communist uprising
- People were frightened that immigrants arriving in America (particularly those from Russia) might try to start a communist revolution
- This fear towards immigrants becomes known as xenophobia
 - Xenophobia = an unreasonable fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers