

How far did all Americans share in the prosperity of the 1920's?

In the 1920s the USA went into a period of prosperity. The economy did very well, money wise; in the 1920's everyone seemed to be having fun and enjoying the prosperity. A few features that came because of the prosperity were the Jazz Age, Flappers and Speakeasies.

The 1920's were called the 'Jazz Age' because jazz music was the most popular music; the young people enjoyed this music because it was new and exciting. Along with the music came new dances. There were some people who disliked the jazz music, this was because they thought the music was sensuous and embarrassing, and then they thought that the dancing was absolutely indecent especially for the young ladies to be doing. Many other people disliked the 'jazz age' because the artists of the music were mostly coloured or black.

During the 'Jazz Age' flappers came about. They were young ladies who would shock older people by doing things that they opposed. Flappers liked to wear short skirts, backless gowns and silk stockings rolled just above their knees. Smoking cigarettes in public, holding their partners hand without gloves, some had even had sex before they were married; they also would get their hair cut by men's barbers all these things had shocked the older people and their parents because they were very unladylike.

While most people were enjoying the prosperity there were a few who were not; some of which were the Farmers and the Blacks and Immigrants. The farmers did not enjoy prosperity because there were new machines being built to help farmers like tractors and combine harvesters. This was meant to be a good thing but instead of helping the farmers it brought them down, this is because they were now producing too much food than the Americans had wanted, causing the food prices to drop. The small farmers had suffered from the lowered incomes because they had found it hard to pay their mortgages so some of them were evicted while some of them had to sell their land. Farm labourers found themselves out of work so they drifted to towns and areas in California where fruit farms had promised work.

Blacks and immigrants did not enjoy the prosperity because of the 'Ku Klux Klan'. The KKK were a group of people whose aim was to stir up religious hatred in what they believed was a moral crusade to save the USA from immigrants and blacks. The KKK tortured these two groups of people; they were whipped, beaten, tarred and feathered and even hung at times. As more immigrants had entered USA more people entered the KKK. The only people who were not troubled by the KKK were the people who were considered to be WASP which means that they had to be White Anglo-Saxon, Protestants. These were also the only people who were allowed to join the KKK. The Klansmen often didn't get punished because people were scared of what they would do to them after.