

The Politics of the 1920s

Chapter 8 Section 1
USH Honors

Lesson Objectives:

01

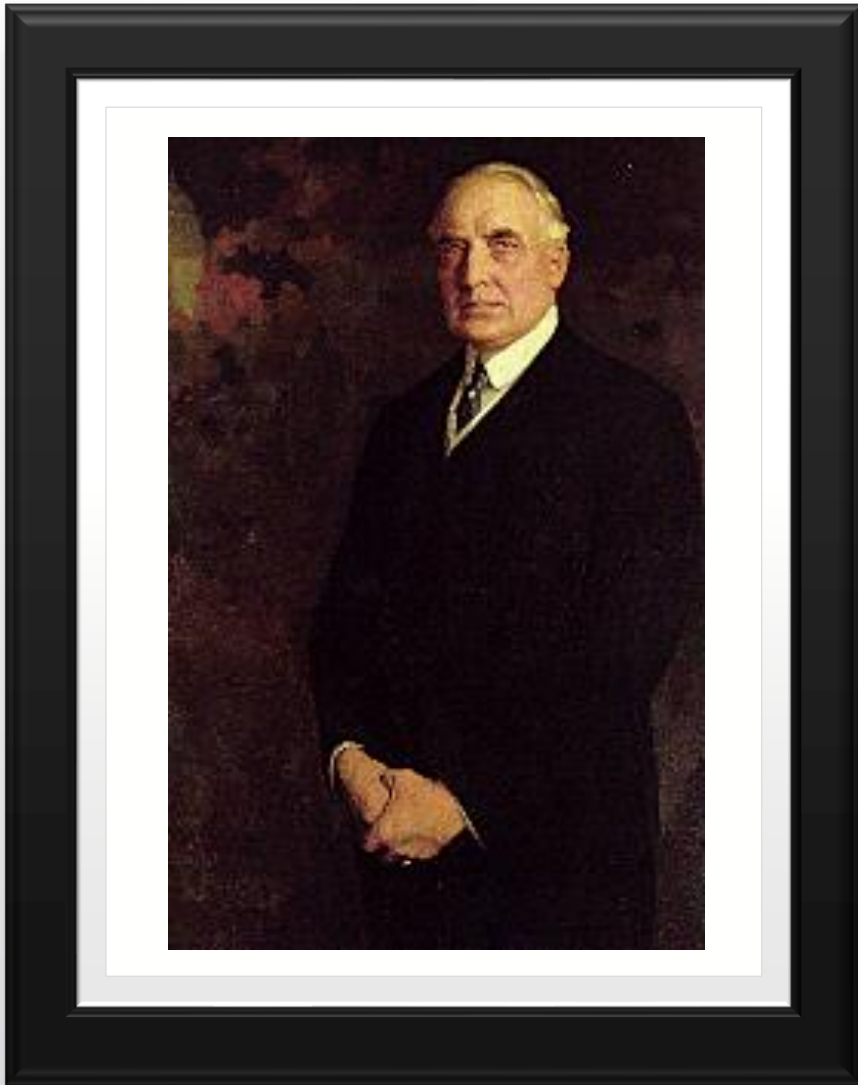
Students will be able to explain how social and economic life changed from previous eras.

02

Students will be able to describe the cultural identity of the United States during this era.

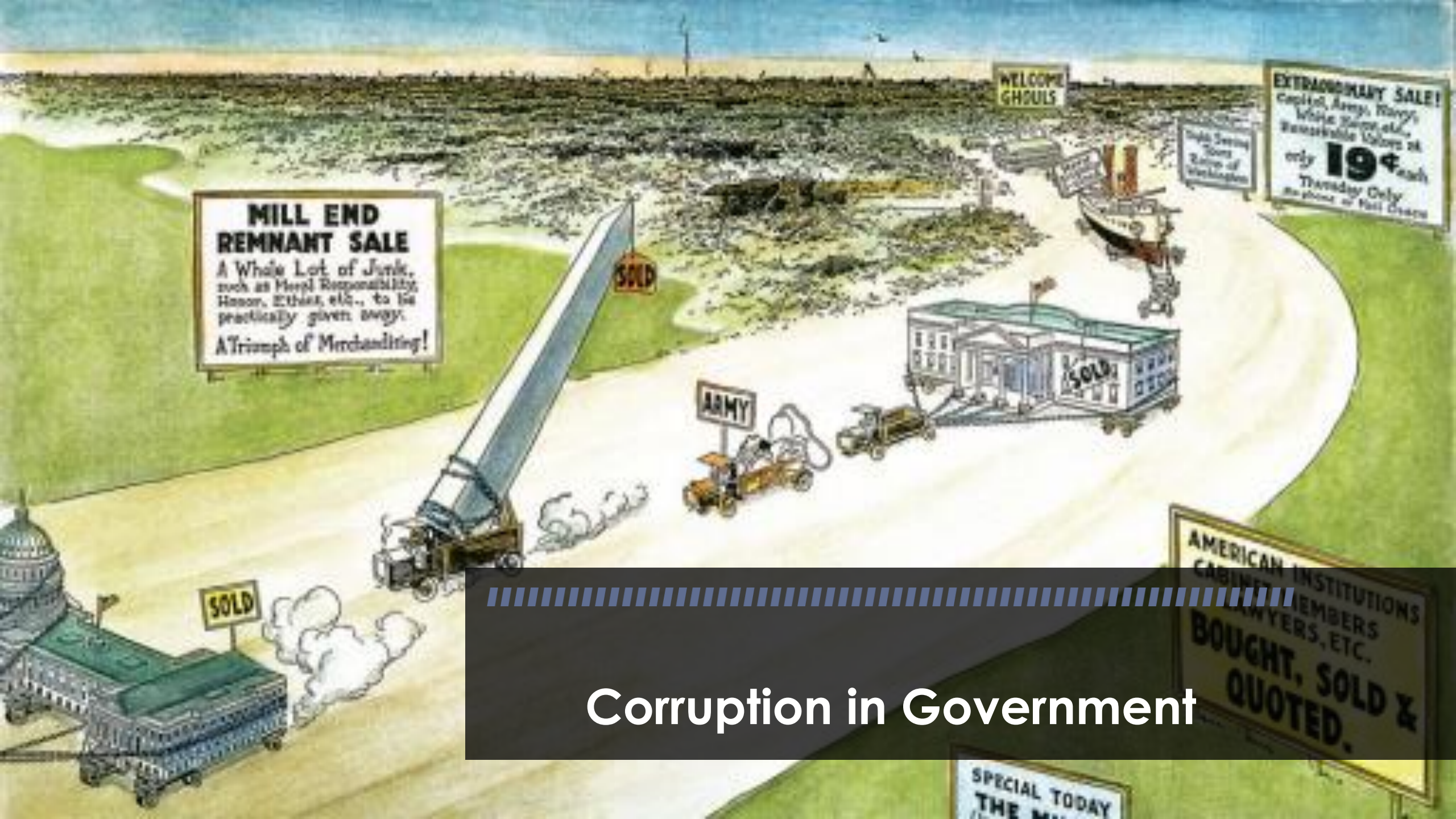
03

Students will be able to evaluate how American culture changed from earlier periods.

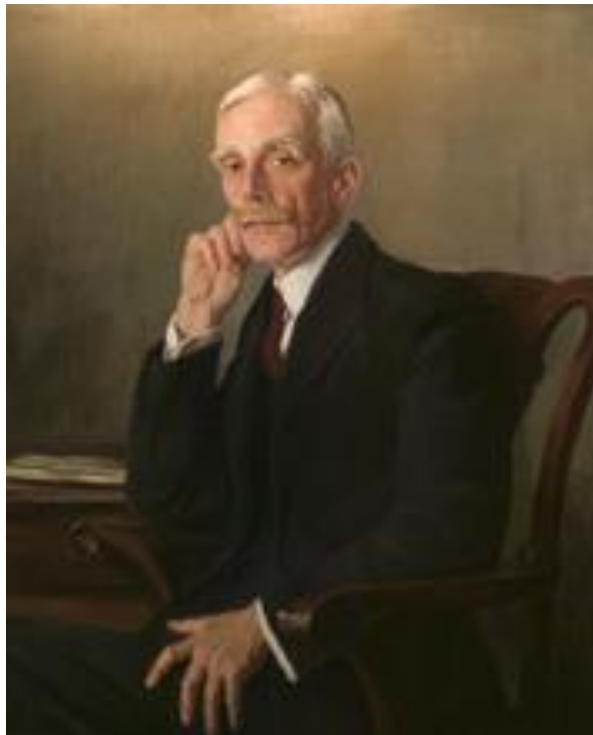


The Harding Administration

- **Republicans nominated Warren G. Harding as president in 1920:**
 - Ohio Senator
 - Known for drinking, gambling, & affairs (at least 1)
 - Considered “bland” in comparison to Wilson
- **Who served in his cabinet?**
 - Charles Evans Hughes, Andrew Mellon & Herbert Hoover
 - The Ohio Gang – his poker playing buddies ☹️
- **What SCANDAL?**
 - The Ohio Gang presented ethical problems for Harding
 - Teapot Dome: leasing government oil reserves...NO!



Corruption in Government



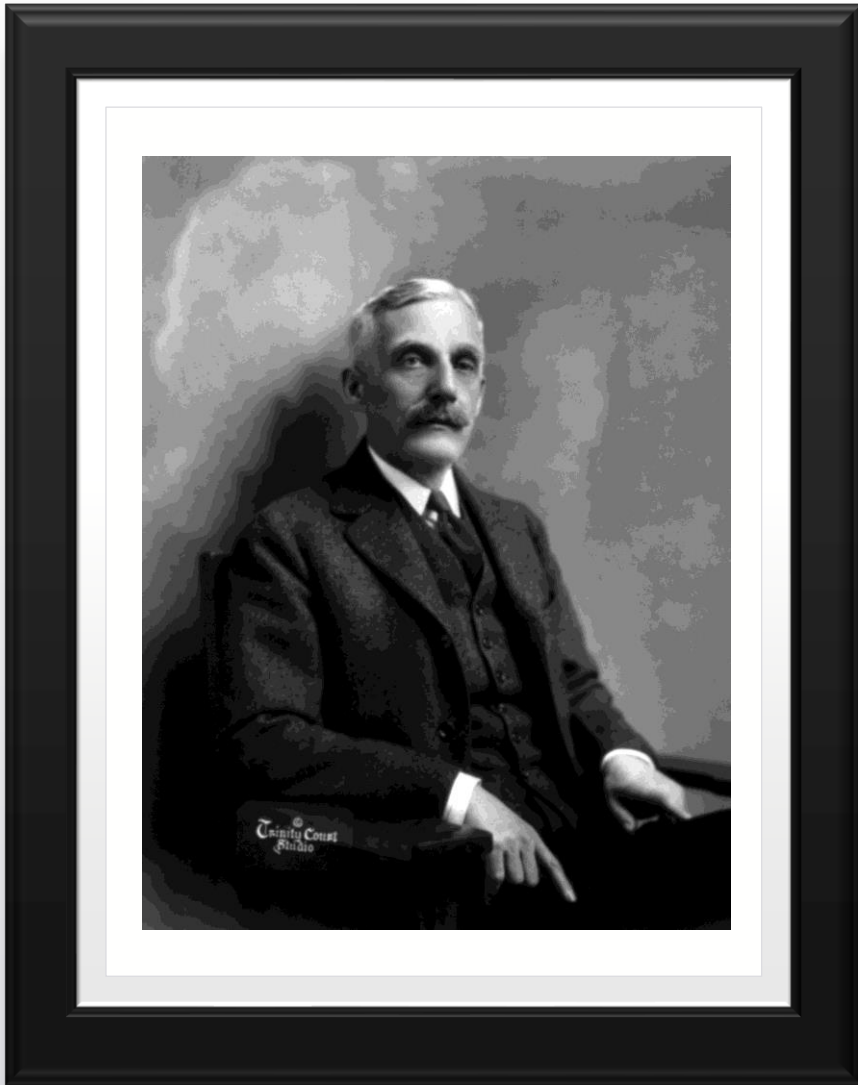
“Silent Cal” Takes Over

- Harding died of a heart attack in 1923.
- **Who became president?**
 - Vice President Calvin Coolidge (“Silent Cal”)
- **Coolidge is VERY different from Harding:**
 - Old-fashioned virtues
 - Kept Hughes, Mellon, and Hoover in Cabinet
 - Prosperity = business leadership & laissez-faire
- **Coolidge avoided any crisis possible**
- **Used/Adopted policies to keep America prosperous.**
- **Coolidge won re-election in 1924!**



Policies of Prosperity

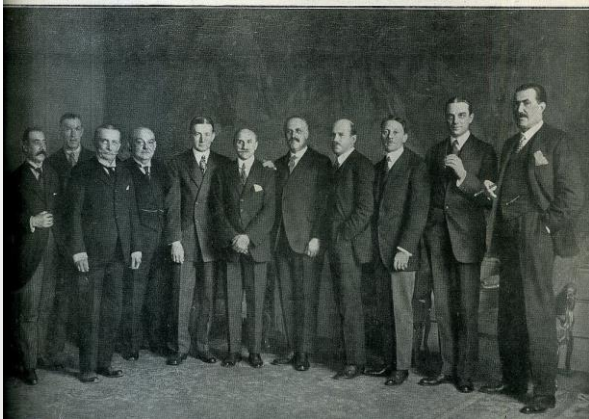
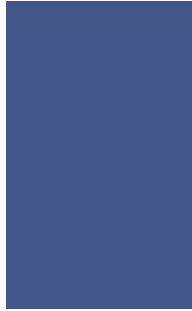
- **Who is Andrew Mellon? A successful banker and industrialist**
 - Served as Secretary of the Treasury
- **How did Mellon impact the American economy? 3 Goals for Prosperity**
 1. Balance the budget
 2. Reduce the government's debt
 3. Cut taxes
- **“Supply-side” economic theory:** an economic theory that lower taxes will boost the economy as businesses and individuals invest their money – creating higher tax revenue.
- **Did his ideas work?**
 - Federal debt dropped from \$6.4 billion to less than \$3 billion!





Trade and Arms Control

- **How did the U.S. economy change from World War I to the 1920s?**
 - Before World War I: the U.S. OWED countries money.
 - After World War I: countries OWED the U.S. almost \$10 billion
 - By the 1920s, America is the **DOMINANT** economic power in the world
- **Why did America become more isolationist after World War I?**
 - America was tired of “tangling alliances” – something Pres. Washington told us to avoid.
 - America felt that if we avoid the world we would be more safe – FALSE!
- **Where do we see this idea of isolationism?**
 - America refused to join the League of Nations
 - America refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles
- **Was it even possible for America to break away from the world? NO!** America was too powerful



- **The Dawes Plan:**

- Britain and France were struggling with war debt
- Both demanded Germany make huge reparation payments to them
- Germany has NO money – its economy was crippled by the war.
- Dawes advocates LOANING Germany millions to make payments to Britain and France.
- Britain and France would then make a payment to the U.S. for their loans.

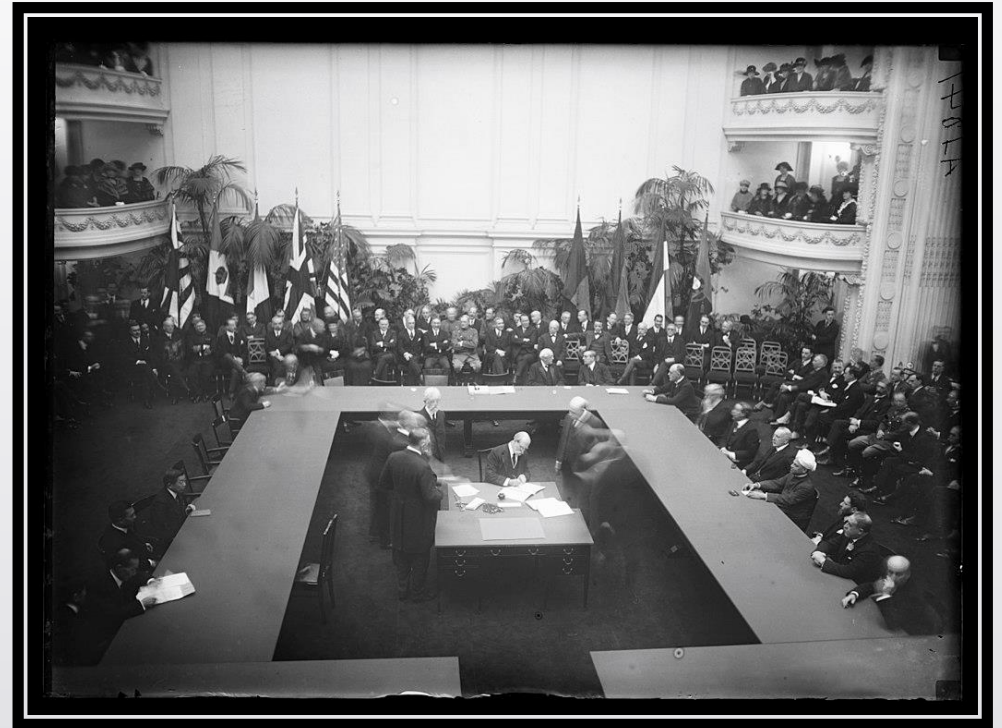
- **Did America lower the debt owed by Britain and France? YES!**

- **The Washington Conference:**

- 1921: US and 8 major nations met to treaty to STOP warship production for 10 years
- 3 agreements would develop:
 - Five Power Naval Limitations Treaty
 - Four Power Treaty
 - Nine Power Treaty

- **What are the long-term effects of this treaty?**

- There were NO limits to land forces
- Japan was angry – required to have a small navy
- Americans looked forward to a period of peace, recovery & prosperity



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- **The Kellogg-Briand Pact:**
 - Outlaws war (altogether)
 - Signed by 14 nations
 - Disputes would be settled peacefully!


- **The London Naval Treaties:**
 - April 1930 = 5 nations extend the Washington Conference
 - War ships further limited
 - NO arms races through 1936!





What Stuck?

On your sticky note, write 3 things that you remember (or found interesting) from today's lesson.



Place your sticky note in the space under "What Stuck With You Today?"

