

# I. Postwar Uncertainty

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# A. New Revolutions in Science

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1. Albert Einstein's theory of relativity said that time and space could change, showing that some laws of science were uncertain.
2. Sigmund Freud's findings portrayed humans as irrational and unpredictable beings driven by their own desires.

# B. Literature in the 1920s

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1. “Lost Generation”: expressed anxiety about the future as the brutality of WWI made people question new ideas. Includes Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, etc.

2. Existentialism: there is no universal meaning to life. Friedrich Nietzsche led the movement.

# C. Revolution in the Arts

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1. New movement in art, surrealism, expressed the inner world of emotion and imagination through symbols and dreamlike figures.

2. The 1920s was the Jazz Age. Jazz music used irregular rhythms and sounds, capturing the freedom and spirit of the decade.

# D. Society Challenges

## Convention

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1. Women's contributions in WWI helped earn them achieve suffrage (right to vote).
2. Women's fashion and lifestyles became less restrictive. Most women kept traditional societal roles, but others became flappers or had careers.

# E. Technological Advances

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1. The increased popularity and accessibility of the automobile transformed life for the average family.

2. After WWI, more airplanes were developed. At first, only the wealthy could afford air travel.

3. By the early 1920s, most families owned a radio. Radios were used for news and entertainment.

4. The motion picture industry flourished. Silent films were popular until sound was introduced in the late 1920s.

5. New labor-saving devices like the washing machine, vacuum, refrigerator, iron, and coffee pot came out in the 1920s-1930s.

# II. Worldwide Depression

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# A. Germany's Weimar Republic

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1. Germans blamed the Weimar Republic for WWI defeat

2. Inflation caused Germans to question the capability of the Republic

3. Dawes Plan: US banks gave a \$200 million loan to stabilize Germany's economy and set a more realistic payment plan for war reparations.

4. By 1929, Germany's economy slowly recovered and industrial production increased.

5. The Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) was signed by almost all countries to "renounce war." Germany joined the League of Nations, and countries promised to decrease their militaries.



# B. Long-Term Causes of the Great Depression

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1. World economies were connected. Europe relied on US loans and investments.

2. Many countries and huge war debts.

3. People were buying goods on credit, and investors bought stock on margin.

4. Wealth was unequally distributed.

# C. Short-Term Cause: Stock Market Crash

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1. The US stock market crashed on Black Tuesday - October 29, 1929.
2. People lost fortunes, the banking system collapsed, and farms and factories closed.
3. Global depression began as the US reduced foreign trade and loans to Europe.

# D. Immediate Effects of the Great Depression

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1. Businesses went bankrupt, and unemployment increased
2. People lost faith in capitalism and democracy.
3. Some nations turned to authoritarian leaders.

# **E. The World Confronts the Crisis**

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- 1. World gov'ts create jobs and welfare programs.**
- 2. In the US, Roosevelt (FDR) launched the New Deal in 1933, which had programs for public works, welfare, and regulations on the banking system and stock market.**