GUIDED READING  
Americans Struggle with Postwar Issues

Section 1

A. As you read this section, take notes to answer questions about postwar conditions in America and the fear of communism.

After World War I, many Americans feared that Communists would take over the country.

1. How did the Justice Department under A. Mitchell Palmer respond to this fear?

2. Why did Palmer eventually lose his standing with the American public?

3. How did the Ku Klux Klan respond to this fear?

4. Why did the Klan eventually lose popularity and membership?

Public opinion turned against labor unions as many Americans came to believe that unions encouraged communism.

5. Why was the strike by Boston police unpopular with the public?

6. Why did Massachusetts governor Calvin Coolidge become so popular?

7. Why was the strike at U.S. Steel unpopular?

8. How did President Wilson respond to the steel strike?

The American labor union movement suffered setbacks as union membership dropped.

B. On the back of this paper, briefly describe how Sacco and Vanzetti became victims of the Red Scare. Then explain how John L. Lewis improved the lives of coal miners.
A. On the back of this page, note four measures taken by the Harding administration to maintain world peace.

B. Complete this description of how the Fordney-McCumber Tariff worked against Harding's efforts to maintain world peace. On each blank, write B for Britain, F for France, G for Germany, or U for the United States.

(1) __ adopted the Fordney-McCumber Tariff to protect businesses in (2) __ from foreign competition. This tariff made it difficult for (3) __ and (4) __ to sell goods in (5) __ and, therefore, difficult to repay their war debts to (6) __. To get money to pay those debts, they demanded reparations from (7) __, and troops from (8) __ invaded the Ruhr, an industrial region of (9) __. To avoid a new war, (10) __ adopted the Dawes Plan. Under this program, investors from (11) __ made loans to (12) __. It used the money to repay war debts to (13) __ and (14) __. Then they used the same money to repay war debts to banks in (15) __. In effect, (16) __ was repaid with its own money. This arrangement caused bad feelings on both sides of the Atlantic.

C. In the blank boxes below, write one or two words that describe how each nation, person, or group felt about the issues listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Americans ➔ Kellogg-Briand Pact</th>
<th>2. Britain and ➔ Dawes Plan, France</th>
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<tr>
<td>3. Americans ➔ Immigrants</td>
<td>4. Ohio gang ➔ Public service</td>
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<td>5. Harding ➔ Administration scandals</td>
<td>6. Americans ➔ Harding</td>
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D. On the back of this page, note how the actions of Charles Evans Hughes and Albert B. Fall affected the reputation of the Harding administration.
The automobile industry has been the single most important industry in the United States since the 1920s. The value of its products exceeds that of any other industry, and a prolonged decline in car sales is usually a sign that the entire U.S. economy is headed for rough times.

So many other industries—such as those producing oil, steel, rubber, plate glass, machine tools, plastics, and aluminum—are dependent on automobile production that cars are vital to the nation’s economic health. For example, a very high percentage of the steel, rubber, and plate glass produced in the United States winds up in cars. Businesses such as road construction and car-insurance firms, filling stations, and car-repair shops owe their existence entirely to the automobile. The lodging industry would be much less widespread today without motels. (The word motel was created around 1925 as a blend of motor and hotel.)

The 1920s were a period of dramatic economic growth. Prices for cars actually fell during the decade, as assembly-line techniques permitted faster production. Early in the decade, 90 percent of all the world’s cars were made in the United States. By 1930, about 23 million cars were registered in the United States, nearly three times the number registered just a decade earlier. The production of automobiles in 1929 was not surpassed in any single year until 1949.

Municipal governments scrambled to provide roads for the growing numbers of cars. To pay for the aggressive road-building campaign, property-tax revenue was soon supplemented by heavy borrowing and by the use of state funds. In the 1930s, the idea of tolls as a source for highway revenue had caught on.

Though the number of automobile registrations reveals the general health of the U.S. economy, a graph of automobile production reveals the fine points—the smaller ups and downs within boom-and-bust cycles. For purposes of contrast, the following graph shows automobile production for the decade of the 1930s as well as for the 1920s.
Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. Characterize the general economic conditions in the United States during the decades of the 1920s and 1930s.

2. In what year was automobile production the highest? ______________________
   About how many cars were produced in that year? ______________________
   How many years did it take for annual sales to surpass that total? ________

3. What were the years of greatest economic decline between 1921 and 1939? ______

4. Describe the production of cars in 1932, in comparison to other years. ________

5. Between 1921 and 1929, there were two 13-month periods of economic downturn. During what years do you think they occurred? ______________________


    Compare this period with the periods of 1923–1924, 1926–1927, and 1929–1932.

7. What might have spurred car production again after 1932? (Hint: Think about the durability of the average automobile.) ______________________

   ______________________

   ______________________

   ______________________

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A. Matching  Match the description in the second column with the term or name in the first column. Write the appropriate letter next to the word.

1. installment plan  a. leader of United Mine Workers
2. Fordney-McCumber Tariff  b. spread of cities
3. isolationism  c. prejudice against foreign-born people
4. urban sprawl  d. raised import taxes to highest level ever
5. John L. Lewis  e. a policy of retreating from foreign affairs
6. nativism  f. allowed people to buy goods over time

B. Evaluating  Write T in the blank if the statement is true. If the statement is false, write F in the blank and then write the corrected statement on the line below.

1. Calvin Coolidge was a pro-business president.

2. Anarchists were those who only opposed socialism.

3. As secretary of state, Charles Evans Hughes urged the major powers of the West to build up their arms.

4. Communism is an economic and political system based on a single-party government ruled by a dictatorship.

5. The trial and conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti was an example of the hysteria caused by the Red Scare of the 1920s.

C. Writing  Write a paragraph describing the scandals of the administration of Warren G. Harding using the following terms.

Ohio gang  Teapot Dome scandal  Albert B. Fall

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