

## **INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM THREE**

### **PROGRAM THREE 1919 -1928**

America in the 20's underwent a financial orgy built on the backs of the newly emerging lower classes. While the Ku Klux Klan rose once more to prominence, beating down Blacks with hatred and lynchings; while immigrants suffered the indignations of poor wages and squalid housing; while workers lost earlier gains in labor organizing, the rest of the country scrambled after the possibility of enormous wealth which lay in the stock market. It was not only the stolid middle class and the wealthy that chased after riches. Journalists and politicians laid aside the progressive mantle of the first two decades. Reformers and the socialists also were caught up in the giddiness of riches showered upon a speculating public by an over inflated stock market.

The country, which had attacked big business and the trusts, embraced them once more. When James W. Gerard published his list of the men who rule the country, not one politician was on it. Instead it included the likes of John D. Rockefeller, DuPont, J.P. Morgan and Andrew Mellon. Gerard declaimed, "These men rule by virtue of their ability. They are too busy to hold public office but they determine who shall hold such office." But the moral disarray of the country was not limited to chasing after wealth. The divorce rate climbed, extramarital affairs increased, and lawlessness overwhelmed the country's law enforcement agencies as people and bootleggers ignored Prohibition.

The Roaring Twenties spawned excesses: organized crime, raccoon coats, flappers, rampant speculation in the stock market and easy riches. Prohibition gave the United States the Speakeasy, mob violence and cops on the take. One young woman captured the attitude of the age with these words, "We're not out to benefit society or to make industry safe. We're not going to suffer over how the other half lives." Progressivism was dead and once more the almighty dollar was king in its place. But at the same time as the country raced for wealth, the 'can do' spirit of the nation soared. People believed that nothing was impossible. Byrd went to the North Pole; Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic; women gained the right to vote.

The third program covers the recklessness and growth of this tumultuous decade, beginning with prohibition in 1919 and the right of women to vote in 1920. It goes on to tell about the Teapot Dome Scandal that rocked the nation's government yet never curbed the impetuosity of the country, and J. Edgar Hoover professionalization of the FBI, turning it into the nation's police force. The age old debate between Jefferson's agrarian utopia and Hamilton's industrial system would undergo another chapter in the celebrated Scopes Monkey Trial, which pitted the complexities of the machine age against the agrarian ideals of the heartland. Finally, the program covers a few of the many firsts that happened in this period: Goddard launching the first missile, Lindbergh's historic crossing of the Atlantic and David Sarnoff founding NBC.

#### **Turning Point #1**

#### **1919 - Prohibition Begins – 3:15 min.**

**STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- Temperance and prohibition have a long history in the United States, beginning with many women's rights groups in the 19th century.
- Through the end of the 19th century, sanitary drinking water was not easy to come by.
- Alcohol and tea took the place of water since they were pure enough not to give the drinker typhoid or cholera.
- In response to the evils of alcoholism grew the idea of Prohibition--outlawing the making, sale and consumption of alcohol.
- The Volstead Act, passed in 1919, enforced Prohibition.
- Instead of heaven on earth, Prohibition gave rise to the speakeasy, illegal bars that were the cradle of America's organized crime that has haunted the U.S. ever since.

**Points for Teachers:**

- The Anti Saloon League, founded in 1893, and the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) had been crusading since the last quarter of the 19th century to compel Prohibition
- Saloons were rampant in the United States--as many as one saloon for every 150 Americans.
- The mood against alcohol that swept the country in the 1900's was not unlike the religious revivals led by George Whitefield in the 18th century that affected tens of thousands.
- Chicago was perhaps the best known of the cities whose mobsters ran the illegal alcohol industry, and Al Capone was the best known of the bosses. He built up a \$60 million dollar empire, with 1000 gangsters protecting his organization.
- Turf wars rivaled today's battles by drug gangs in the inner cities of L.A. , New York and Detroit and generated such legendary hits as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Capone was responsible for most of the 130 murders from 1926-27.

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1789 - James Madison Proposes the Bill of Rights
- 1869 - Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad
- 1913 - 16th Amendment Allows Progressive Income Tax
- 1913 - 17th Amendment Caps a Period of Election Reforms
- 1920 - Women Gain the Right to Vote

**Turning Point #Two**

**1920 - Women Gain the Right to Vote**

**STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- Susan B. Anthony had drafted the call for the right to vote in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention.
- The first amendment giving women the right to vote was introduced in Congress in 1878 and defeated.
- Throughout the early 1900's, women pushed for equal rights with men, but nothing more symbolized that equality than the right to vote.
- A second women's rights movement began in the Sixties: Women demanded equality in education, in professional jobs such as doctors and lawyers, and in the business world. They demanded parity in athletics too and in 1969, Title IX was passed

**Points for Teachers:**

- Agitation on behalf of Women's right to vote began as early as Andrew Jackson's administration.
- Strategies for achieving the right to vote varied from passing suffrage acts in each state--nine western states adopted woman suffrage legislation by 1906.
- From 1878 to 1920, tactics became more militant and suffragettes organized parades, silent vigils, hunger strikes and in some cases violence.
- Women often encountered fierce resistance as opponents heckled, jailed, and sometimes physically abused them.
- Perhaps the greatest significance lay not in the right to vote but in what it engendered in the psychology of women.
- Women began to demand equal rights to jobs, income, liquor, and sexual satisfaction within marriage. Divorce rates climbed as women began to exercise a right to be free from an abusive marriage.

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1789 - James Madison Proposes the Bill of Rights
- 1872 - Susan B. Anthony is Arrested for Voting
- 1913 - 16th Amendment Allows Progressive Income Tax
- 1913 - 17th Amendment Caps a Period of Election Reforms

**Turning Point #3**

**1923 - Teapot Dome Scandal Typifies the Roaring 20's**

**STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- By the 1920's, the rural images of the 19th century had been replaced by the industrialization of the 20th.
- Mass culture, spread through a mass media of radio and newspapers, began to replace the diverse American traditions founded on immigrant ethnicity.
- The '20's Republican slogan, "A Return to Normalcy," replaced Roosevelt's and Wilson's idealism.
- Warren G. Harding's administration became involved in scandal when Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall arranged for the lease of federally owned oil fields at Teapot Dome near Casper, Wyoming, to private developers.
- By 1929 the high-octane decade was about to implode. After three ineffectual presidencies, it would take Franklin Delano Roosevelt to restore the White House to the people.

**Points for Teachers:**

- The U.S. Presidency has a long history of corrupt behavior, including Nixon, Reagan and Clinton.
- Teapot Dome has been a mere footnote in history because of the times in which it occurred. The Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age were just names that lent a cachet to a new age of business that would not be repeated until the end of the century with the Internet bubble.
- Harding's administration was mired in corruption from the beginning. But the depth of its crookedness would not be exposed until 1923. In that year several scandals came to light.

- Charles Forbes, appointed by Harding to head the Veterans Bureau pocketed a fair hunk of the \$250 million his agency spent on hospitals and supplies. Ultimately, Forbes was convicted and sentenced to prison.
- Jesse Smith, a friend and counselor of Harding’s Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty, killed himself when it was learned he was selling influence at the Justice Department.
- Harding, no wallflower when it came to personal peccadilloes such as an illegitimate daughter, nonetheless, found the transgressions of his advisors daunting. Harding unburdened himself to newspaperman William Allen White, “My God this is a hell of a job. I have no trouble with my enemies, but my damned friends, my God-damned friends, they’re the ones that keep me walking the floor nights!”

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1868 - President Johnson is Impeached
- 1972 - Watergate
- 1994 - Whitewater leads to the impeachment of President Clinton

**Turning Point #4**

**1924 - J. Edgar Hoover Named Head of the FBI – 2:50 min.**

**STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- Changes in the fabric of American society from the 19th to the 20th centuries spawned changes in law enforcement
- In the 1920’s a wave of lawlessness swept the country and the nation needed a better-equipped agency to deal with it.
- The country got that agency from the zeal of single dedicated lawman: J. Edgar Hoover.
- Hoover sought publicity for the FBI and made it into the nation’s premier law enforcement agency by going after high profile criminals.

**Points for Teachers:**

- Unlike England with its Scotland Yard and Europe with its Interpol, the United States’ investigation bureau was a slipshod, much disparaged organization at the beginning of the century.
- The FBI emerged from a group of Special Agents appointed during Teddy Roosevelt’s administration by Attorney General Charles Bonaparte.
- In 1908 Bonaparte created a team of Special Agents to work for the Justice Department.
- J. Edgar Hoover began his career in the U.S. Department of Justice in 1917 and in 1924 was named director of the much-disparaged Bureau of Investigation, which became the FBI in 1935.

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1954 – Senator Joseph McCarthy is Condemned by the Senate

**Turning Point #5**

**1925 - The Scopes Monkey Trial – 2:50 min.**

**STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- Darwin published “On the Origin of Species” in 1859 and his evolutionary theories antagonized organized religions.
- In 1925, Tennessee’s law barring the teaching of Evolution in the classroom was challenged by the town of Dayton, Tennessee as a business stunt.
- The Scopes Trial, or the ‘Celebrated Monkey Trial,’ brought onto the national stage for the first time a battle between science and Christianity--a titanic struggle between good and evil, truth and ignorance.
- William Jennings Bryan led the prosecution, and Clarence Darrow represented the defense. The issue was the right of biology teacher John Scopes to teach Evolution in the classroom. The defense lost and Scopes was fined for his ‘blasphemy.’
- It was a media trial that made Clarence Darrow for the defense and H.L. Mencken the first media darlings of the age.

### **Points for Teachers:**

- The Scopes Trial was set up by the city fathers to put Dayton, Tennessee on the map.
- For the most part people accepted technical advances in the first quarter of the 20th century as a necessary part of progress.
- But for many in the heartland of rural America, technology and the progress it represented were much too complex to understand. The machine culture with its destructive as well as constructive power made them anxious, and they retreated into fundamentalist doctrines outlined in the Bible.
- No one concept underscored this anxiety more than the concept of Evolution. It cut to the very basic beliefs of religious men and women who saw humanity as created directly by the hand of God and not as a product of natural selection.
- For another two generations, the blind passion of the fundamentalists combined with the vicious zealotry of the Ku Klux Klan would drive a barrier between northern intellectuals and southern whites, between underprivileged Jews and Catholics and underprivileged Protestants, between the haves whose money bought them the fruits of progress and the have nots whose poverty denied them even the fundamental truths of science.

### **Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1739 - The Great Awakening Begins
- 1777 - The United States Constitution is Created.
- 1789 - Alexander Hamilton Becomes Secretary of the Treasury and Shapes America's Modern Industrial Economy
- 1923 - Teapot Dome Scandal

### **Turning Point #6**

#### **1926 - Goddard Initiates the Space Age**

#### **STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- Dr. Robert Goddard, the father of modern rocket propulsion, did for rocketry what the Wright Brothers did for the airplane.
- Born in 1882 at a time when science was revolutionizing itself and the world that was advancing technologically at a rapid pace.

- Goddard delved into the physics of rocketry to the exclusion of all else and devoted his life to understanding how a missile could be launched and flown.
- Goddard incorporated creative science with practical engineering but never received the recognition that other inventors did in his lifetime.
- Without Goddard's pioneering efforts, Neil Armstrong would never have landed on the moon; the international space station would never have been realized; world annihilation at the hands of thousands of ICBM's would not be a stark reality.

**Points for Teachers:**

- Edison's inventions from the light bulb to the phonograph, Marconi's wireless communications and the Wright brothers' aircraft heralded an age of technological leaps that stunned the imagination.
- Goddard in 1930 shifted his research from the East Coast to Roswell, New Mexico. Armed with a grant from the financier Harry Guggenheim, he worked diligently on his missiles.
- Steadily his rockets improved. They became longer and flew even more impressive distances--2,000 to 9,000 feet; they flew faster than the speed of sound.
- Goddard invented fin stabilized steering and he filed patents for everything from gyroscopic guidance systems to multi stage rockets.
- While Americans ignored Goddard and his success, Germany's scientists followed his work closely until 1939 when they stopped corresponding with him.
- In 1945 Germany launched its V1 and V2 missiles against London. German scientists used Goddard's work which anticipated gimbal steering and power driven fuel pumps.
- Supposedly at war's end, Werner Von Braun was asked how the German scientists developed the murderous rockets. He replied, "Why don't you ask your own Dr. Goddard? He knows better than any of us."

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1713 - Capt. Robinson Designs and Constructs a Schooner
- 1750 - The Flatboat and Conestoga Wagon Make their Appearance in Pennsylvania
- 1807 - Robert Fulton Awakens the World to the Steamboat
- 1831 - Cyrus McCormick Demonstrates his Mechanical Reaper
- 1893 - First Gas Powered Automobile is Demonstrated
- 1903 - The Wright Brothers Fly at Kitty Hawk.
- 1962 - Astronaut John Glenn is the First American to Orbit the Earth.

**Turning Point #7**

**1926 - David Sarnoff Founds NBC – 3:35 min.**

**STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- In the 19th century America's interconnectedness increased with railroads, telegraph and telephone.
- Radio entered in the 20th century with Marconi's invention.
- David Sarnoff took radio to the next step as a household utility.
- Eventually, Sarnoff made the giant leap of forming NBC, the National Broadcasting Corporation.
- In 1939, Sarnoff repeated his success with television.

**Points for Teachers:**

- In the last half of the twentieth century, the most influential medium in the world is television. But it wasn't always so. In the first half of the century, that appellation belonged to radio.
- Commercial radio and later television's impact on U.S. society can be seen in the way these businesses changed reporting of wars, presidential campaigns and natural disasters. Though at the time some termed radio and later TV a fad, their influence grew steadily.
- Sarnoff saw the potential of TV as early as 1923 with a proto-television patented by Vladimir Zworykin in 1923.
- Within five years Sarnoff had set up a special NBC station called W2XBS to experiment with this new fangled invention television. Thirteen years later, NBC started commercial telecasting from station WNBT in New York City.

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1876 - Alexander Graham Bell Demonstrates the Telephone
- 1951 - Alan Freed Introduces Rock and Roll
- 1960 - Nixon/Kennedy Televised Debates

**Turning Point #8****1927 - Charles Lindbergh Flies Across the Atlantic –2:45 min.****STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:**

- America's first instantaneous media celebrity was Charles Lindbergh after he flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Lindbergh was a young barnstormer who took up a financier's challenge of a prize for the first person to fly alone across the Atlantic.
- On May 20, 1927, Lindbergh took off from the U.S. and 33 and 1/2 hours later, after a remarkable feat of engineering and human endurance, landed in Paris to throngs of cheering Frenchmen.
- For a generation of Americans Lindbergh was a larger-than-life heroic figure--the folk hero that every American believed lingered somewhere deep within.
- Other Americans also established famous firsts--Chuck Yeager, Amelia Earhart, Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager, and Neil Armstrong.

**Points for Teachers:**

- No feat of aviation in the early part of the 20th century captured the American imagination more than Lindbergh's flight. Up until this time, planes were considered little more than toys for the rich and a military craft for the Army.
- He brought the excitement of flying into every household.
- Backed by St. Louis businessmen, Lindbergh ordered a plane he named 'The Spirit of St. Louis', from the Ryan Airlines in San Diego, California.
- Lindbergh supervised the construction. He wrote, "Day and night, seven days a week, the structure grew from a few lengths of steel tubing to one of the most efficient planes that has ever taken the air."

- Unselfconsciously, Lindbergh always referred to the plane and himself as ‘We,’ which was the title of his instantaneous best seller written three weeks after his flight.
- No feat of aviation in the early part of the 20th century captured the American, indeed the world’s imagination more than Lindbergh’s flight. In his triumphant return to Washington D.C., he was greeted by the President and ambassadors from nearly every country.
- But Lindbergh’s feat also underscored a more villainous aspect of American life. The 20’s were a time when gangsters flourished; the Ku Klux Klan, rising yet again, drew a line of hatred against Blacks, Jews and Catholics; and average Americans eschewed challenges in their quest for the easy, good life.
- On a scientific and technological level, his flight was the culmination of American aviation and represented twenty years of advancements and research.

**Related Segments from other Turning Points include:**

- 1903 - Wright Brothers Fly at Kitty Hawk
- 1926 - David Sarnoff Founds NBC:
- 1932 - Amelia Earhart Shows Women Can Achieve Too
- 1951 - Alan Freed Introduces Rock and Roll
- 1962 - Astronaut John Glenn is the First American to Orbit the Earth

**RESOURCES Internet Sites**

**Turning Point #1**

**1919 Prohibition Begins**

1. Notes on the Amendments - The US Constitution Online  
<http://www.usconstitution.net/constamnotes.html>
2. FindLaw: US Constitution: Eighteenth Amendment  
<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendment18/>
3. History of the Prohibition Act of 1920 in America  
[http://id.essortment.com/historyprohibit\\_pmh.htm](http://id.essortment.com/historyprohibit_pmh.htm)

**Turning Point #2**

**1920 Women Gain the Right to Vote**

1. Signing the 19th Amendment - Pictures of Women's Suffrage  
[http://womenshistory.about.com/library/pic/bl\\_p\\_signing\\_suffrage.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/pic/bl_p_signing_suffrage.htm)
2. NARA | Digital Classroom | Teaching With Documents: Woman Suffrage and the 19th Amendment.  
<http://www.nara.gov/education/teaching/woman/home.html>
3. Picture History - Governor Edwin Morrow Signing the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
<http://www.picturehistory.com/find/p/2490/mcms.html>
4. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership History of Women's Suffrage-History of Women's Suffrage <http://www.rochester.edu/SBA/history.html>
5. WRAL.com - Womens History - 19th Amendment To The US Constitution Women’s History. <http://www.wral.com/womenshistory/1989369/detail.html>
6. Today in History: March 8 August 26, 1920, the states ratified it as the Nineteenth Amendment <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/mar08.html>

### **Turning Point #3**

#### **1923 Teapot Dome Scandal Typifies the Roaring 20's**

1. The Teapot Dome Scandal: Juggernaut. This 1924 cartoon shows the dimensions of the Teapot Dome scandal <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/tindall/timelinf/teapot.htm>
2. US Senate: Art & History Home: Historical Minutes, 1921-1940. April 15, 1922 Senate Investigates the "Teapot Dome" Scandal.  
[http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Senate\\_Investigates\\_the\\_Teapot\\_Dome\\_Scandal.htm](http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Senate_Investigates_the_Teapot_Dome_Scandal.htm)
3. Teapot Dome Scandal <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAteapot.htm>
4. Teapot Dome Scandal: Political cartoon depicting the Teapot Dome Scandal. Corbis-Bettmann. <http://search.eb.com/elections/micro/584/91.html>
5. The Tea Pot Dome Scandal <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/lesson-plans/lesson-2851.html>

### **Turning Point #4**

#### **1924 J. Edgar Hoover Named Head of FBI**

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation: The FBI Web site. <http://www.fbi.gov/>
2. History of the FBI: The Birth of the FBI Historical Documents from the Bureau's Founding <http://www.fbi.gov/libref/historic/history/historymain.htm>

### **Turning Point #5**

#### **1925 The Scopes Monkey Trial**

1. Scopes Trial Home Page - UMKC School of Law: Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan during the trial Photo Credit  
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/scopes.htm>
2. The Scopes "Monkey Trial," or "A 1925 Media Circus"  
<http://www.dimensional.com/~randl/scopes.htm>
3. Inherit/1925: Reporter's Memo on the Beginnings of the Scopes Trial  
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~UG97/inherit/1925home.html>
4. The Scopes Trial - The Twentieth Century - Divining America:  
<http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us:8080/tserve/twenty/tkeyinfo/tscopes.htm>

### **Turning Point #6**

#### **1926 Goddard Initiates the Space Age**

1. TIME 100: Robert Goddard unlike most of his colleagues, Goddard believed rocketry was a viable technology <http://www.time.com/time/time100/scientist/profile/goddard.html>
2. Charles A. Lindbergh & Robert Goddard Biography <http://www.charleslindbergh.com/rocket/>
3. Space history: Aviation, rocketry and pre-manned spaceflight ...  
<http://www.thespaceplace.com/history/rocket2.html>
4. Robert Goddard: Rocketry Pioneer - EnchantedLearning.com Go to a cloze (fill-in-the-blank) activity on Goddard or go to the answers.  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/page/g/goddard.shtml>
5. Robert H. Goddard: Funding arranged by Lindbergh, largely from the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation <http://www.roswellcvb.com/goddard.html>
6. Spaceline: History of Rocketry <http://www.spaceline.org/history/22.html>

### **Turning Point #7**

### **1926 David Sarnoff Founds NBC**

1. NBC: The official NBC Web site. <http://www.nbc.com/>
2. NBC, RCA & GE: Overview <http://www.ketupa.net/nbc.htm>
3. NBC, GE & RCA: History <http://www.ketupa.net/nbc2.htm>
4. Sarnoff Corporation: History <http://www.sarnoff.com/about/history/index.asp>

### **Turning Point #8**

#### **1927 Charles Lindbergh Flies Across the Atlantic**

1. Charles Augustus Lindbergh Home Page <http://www.charleslindbergh.com/>
2. TIME 100: Charles Lindbergh: Charles Lindbergh poses with his plane, The Spirit of St. Louis, in 1927 <http://www.time.com/time/time100/heroes/profile/lindbergh01.html>
3. The American Experience: Lindbergh, Visit Your Local PBS Station  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lindbergh/>
4. Charles Lindbergh Web Resources for Students Biographical Sites: The Flyer Charles Lindbergh He was the century's first hero and unwittingly pioneered the age of mass-media celebrity <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/lindy.htm>

### **SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 3A – TEST QUESTIONS**

#### **ANSWERS TO TEST QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAM THREE**

**Answers: 1-a, 2-c, 3-a, 4-d, 5-b, 6-?, 7-b, 8-e, 9-a, 10-a, 11-c, 12-a, 13-d, 14-a, 15-d, 16-Yeager-b, Rutan and Jeanna Yeager-a, Armstrong-d, Earhart-c.**

### **SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 3B - TIMELINE**