Regional and Historical Context

1890-1920 in the US: changes
- growing industrialization
- immigration
- unpaid migration
- UWW

- Westward expansion 1870-1880
- transcontinental railroad → cheap farmland in West/Plains - completed in 1869
- changes in agriculture: concept of states
- farmers became dependent on RR to ship grain
- growth of the "middlemen" (grain traders, bankers)
- introduction of global market/Ag market
- 1870s: rising costs, drought, falling prices
- 1880s: huge farm crisis
- beginnings of POPULIST PARTY

Populist Party - largest third party
- William Jennings Bryan was primary Populist candidate through 1890s.

Bryan - Nebraska, "Champion of Farmer;" "the Commoner"
- farmer's root of civilization

Populist Demands: graduated income tax, direct rep. of senators
1890's - consolidation of industrial order
- mergers + trusts

1898 - 1902 1,600 firms vanish

- horizontal integration - one railroad bought out all competitors => monopoly
- vertical integration - consolidate every component of production. Eliminates "middlemen" of production

Consequence - reduced competition

**The Gilded Age**

1670 417. 0. Am pop Self-employed
1930 37%

= poor increased 1900 - 40%. Poor
= increased labor unrest
1881 - 1905 - 7 million workers part in strikes
Employers began to encourage immigration to undermine labor organization

1830 - 1840 - 14 - 18 hrs a day
1845 - 12 hrs a day

May 3
Haymarket Square, Chicago
Rally - 7 policemen killed
Poetic kill 4
8 organizers arrested and tried
For being anarchists
4 executed, 1 suicide, Socialist pardons 3
Clarence Darrow defends the accused in the Haymarket Riots.

-Darrow from Chicago

Urban Expansion:

1910 - 40% live in cities
1920 - majority live in cities for first time

City becomes symbol of progress

Control over mature threat to Victorianism

Introduction of mass transit

Concentration of new immigrants in urban areas

1890s-1810s - New Immigration

- High % of Jewish Catholic
- Poorer
- Less families

Rise of expert culture

Reform Era:

Sought to reform conditions:
- Child labor
- Mandatory schooling
- Age of sexual consent

New social science methods of studies / tools for reform
investigative reporting - media used to present reform case

social science -
  use statistics
  ex. height and weight charts of schools to study availability of food
  new idea that you can measure people

Census data - categories reveal what new social issues of the time

Also notion that you could change the numbers - improve things

Scientific biology - notion you can change human life

WW1:
  "Progressive era" - endpoint WW1

causes of war -
  struggle around national identities
  system of alliances
  Archduke Ferdinand assassinated by Serbian nationalist

type of war -
  modern weaponry
  "total war" - new scale of destruction
  trench warfare
WWI - led to issue of anti-Germanism in the United States
- US entered in 1917
  - Profoundly changed the country

Sgt. Alvin York
- Born in TN
- 1915 saved by local evangelist
- 1917 registration for draft notice
  - Wrote didn't want to fight
  - But ended up going
- France 1918 - responsible for killing 82 Germans rounded up hundreds of other Germans
- Hailed as hero post war
  - Farmer
  - Religious
  - Yeoman - farmer, citizen/warrior model

1920s: Harding "Return to Normalcy"
  - Return to isolationism

Conservative mulls make claims to how to control change - prohibition mulls.
  - Fundamentalist mulls.
- Regional Historical Context, How to think of the 1920's
- 1890-1920: in U.S. population growing industrialization, immigration, WWI
- Westward Expansion 1870-1880
- 1869 Transcontinental Railroad complete; changes the "nature" of the country
- Farmers became dependent on R's; Railroad started the "middletown"
- Most product from West was shipped East to sell
- 1870's: Drought, rising price of transportation
- 1880-1890: Populist Party rose as largest third party challenge
  - AKA People's Party
  - William Jennings Bryan: Primary candidate for Populist Party
  - Thought farmers were the most important
- Populist's demanded many things: standard of money, mass transport
- 1890's: consolidation of industrial order
  - Horizontal Integration: absorbed all competitors (monopoly)
  - Vertical Integration: Integrated every process of production
- The Gilded Age: time of Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, Carnegies...
  - 1870's: 60% of pop. was self-employed. 1910: 37% self-employed
  - 1900: 40% of pop. was poor
- Result of consolidation - huge worker response. 1891-1905: 7 million workers went on strike.
- Haymarket Square in Chicago turned deadly (Bomb thrown)
  - 4 of 8 executed, 1 committed suicide; 1893 Governor pardoned remaining 3.
  - Key to thinking of strikes; lead defense attorney defended the accused (Darwin)
- Urban Expansion: 1910 - 40% live in cities. 1920 - majority live in cities for 1st time
  - City changes from walking city in 1870 to mass movement & transit
  - Immigrants concentrated in cities
- Reform Era: child labor, mandatory schooling, age of consent (14-15ish)
  - Redefined social science ways, media (to present ways of reform)
  - Height, weight charts; Census data, Surveys
- World War I: causes: nationalist identity 1st major turning point in Modern War.
- Post traumatic stress disorder, new scale of destruction
- C. home in U.S. -> Anti-Germanization
- U.S. enters war in 1917 - Profoundly changed U.S.
- Alvin York -> claims he was saved by evangelist, when registered he used religion to attempt to dodge draft. -> Did fight in war. One of the most celebrated recipients of Medal of Honor, considered a hero.
- 1920's. considered Return to Normalcy under Harding.