

COMPARING PRESIDENTIAL POLICY

POLITICS OF THE TWENTIES



DOCUMENT A

President Harding speaking on the Capitol steps on March 4, 1921

DIRECTIONS: Use each of the documents provided to analyze the stance of President Harding and President Coolidge during the 1920s.

“The business world reflects the disturbance of war's reaction. Herein flows the lifeblood of material existence. The economic mechanism is intricate and its parts interdependent, and has suffered the shocks and jars incident to abnormal demands, credit inflations, and price upheavals.

The normal balances have been impaired, the channels of distribution have been clogged, the relations of labour and management have been strained. We must seek the readjustment with care and courage. Our people must give and take. Prices must reflect the receding fever of war activities. Perhaps we never shall know the old levels of wages again, because war invariably readjusts compensations, and the necessities of life will show their inseparable relationship, but we must strive for normalcy to reach stability.

The forward course of the business cycle is unmistakable. Peoples are turning from destruction to production. Industry has sensed the changed order and our own people are turning to resume their normal, onward way. The call is for productive America to go on. I know that Congress and the Administration will favor every wise Government policy to aid the resumption and encourage continued progress.

I speak for administrative efficiency, for lightened tax burdens, for sound commercial practices, for adequate credit facilities, for sympathetic concern for all agricultural problems, for the omission of unnecessary interference of Government with business, for an end to Government's experiment in business, and for more efficient business in Government administration.

Source: Excerpt from President Warren G. Harding's Inaugural Address, March 4, 1921.

ACCORDING TO HARDING, WHAT HAS WORLD WAR I DONE TO THE ECONOMY IN THE UNITED STATES?

WHAT DOES HARDING SAY IS OCCURRING IN THE ECONOMY IN 1921 NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER?

WHAT SPECIFIC POLICIES DOES HARDING SUPPORT IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY?

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DOCUMENT B

Senator Harding (R-OH) speaking on the campaign trail, 1920

DIRECTIONS: Use each of the documents provided to analyze the stance of President Harding and President Coolidge during the 1920s.

“It would be a sorry day for this republic if we allowed our activities in seeking for peace in the Old World to blind us to the essentials of peace at home. We want a free America again. We want America free at home, and free in the world. We want to silence the outcry of nation against nation, in the fullness of understanding. And we wish to silence the cry of class against class, and stifle the party appeal to class, so that we may ensure tranquility in our own freedom. If I could choose but one, I had rather have industrial and social peace at home, than command the international peace of all the world.”

Source: Excerpt from Senator Warren G. Harding’s “Nationalism and Americanism” Speech, 1920.

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL CAMPAIGN PROMISE THAT CANDIDATE **H**ARDING IS MAKING IN THIS SPEECH?

WARREN **G.** **H**ARDING WAS A SENATOR WHEN THE **T**REATY OF **V**ERSAILLES WAS PUT TO A VOTE. **W**OULD HE HAVE SUPPORTED IT? **U**SE THE SPEECH ABOVE TO SUPPORT YOUR CLAIM.

WHAT ARE THE **THREE** AIMS THAT **H**ARDING WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH AS PRESIDENT LISTED IN THIS SPEECH?

WHY WOULD **H**ARDING MAKE THE CLAIM “**I**F I COULD CHOOSE BUT ONE, I HAD RATHER HAVE INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL PEACE AT HOME, THAN COMMAND THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE OF ALL THE WORLD”?

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DOCUMENT C

President Calvin Coolidge, speaking in the House of Representatives on December 7, 1926

DIRECTIONS: Use each of the documents provided to analyze the stance of President Harding and President Coolidge during the 1920s.

“Our present state of prosperity has been greatly promoted by three important causes, one of which is economy, resulting in reduction and reform in national taxation. Another is the elimination of many kinds of waste. The third is a general raising of the standards of efficiency. This combination has brought the perfectly astonishing result of a reduction in the index price of commodities and an increase in the index rate of wages. We have secured a lowering of the cost to produce and a raising of the ability to consume. Prosperity resulting from these causes rests on the securest of all foundations. It gathers strength from its own progress.”

Source: Excerpt from President Calvin Coolidge’s “State of the Union” Address, 1926.

ACCORDING TO COOLIDGE, WHAT ARE THE **THREE** CAUSES OF THE PROSPEROUS ECONOMY OF THE **1920s**?

HOW ARE THESE POLICIES SIMILAR OR DIFFERENT TO THOSE OF **PRESIDENT HARDING**?

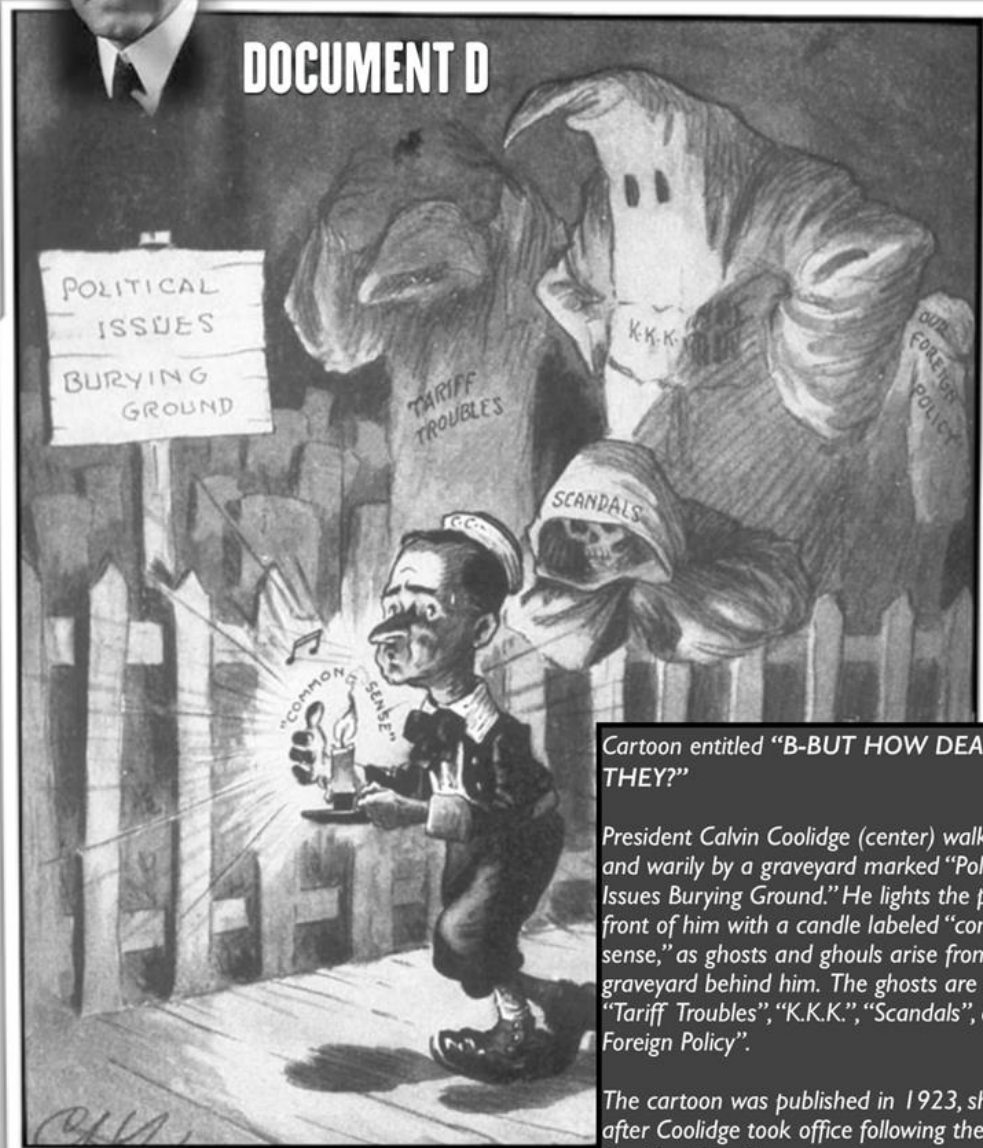
ACCORDING TO COOLIDGE, WHAT HAS THESE POLICIES DONE FOR THE **AMERICAN ECONOMY**?

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DOCUMENT D



Cartoon entitled "B-BUT HOW DEAD ARE THEY?"

President Calvin Coolidge (center) walks slowly and warily by a graveyard marked "Political Issues Burying Ground." He lights the path in front of him with a candle labeled "common sense," as ghosts and ghouls arise from the graveyard behind him. The ghosts are labeled "Tariff Troubles," "K.K.K.," "Scandals", and "Our Foreign Policy".

The cartoon was published in 1923, shortly after Coolidge took office following the death of President Harding.

DIRECTIONS: Use each of the documents provided to analyze the stance of President Harding and President Coolidge during the 1920s.

WHO CREATED THE GHOSTS THAT LOOM OVER COOLIDGE? WHY WOULD THEY BE IN A BURIAL GROUND?

DESCRIBE SPECIFIC POLICIES THAT WOULD FALL INTO THE CATEGORIES LABELED ON EACH GHOST.

WHAT SCANDAL WOULD LOOM OVER COOLIDGE? HOW COULD IT HARM HIS PRESIDENCY?

WHAT MIGHT THE CARTOONIST BE TRYING TO TELL THE NEW PRESIDENT BY HAVING HIM WALK ON A PATH PAST THE GRAVEYARD LIT BY "COMMON SENSE"?
