

AMERICAN LITERATURE ~ 2ND SEMESTER

ANTI-NATURALISTS • PART 2 AND ERA OF PESSIMISM

LECTURE NOTES

FINISH **O. HENRY** (WILLIAM SIDNEY PORTER)

The Ransom of Red Chief
A Retrieved Reformation



FINISH **FANNY CROSBY**

DVD - maybe

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

HIS LIFE

A sickly child

- Accepted his father's advice to make himself stronger through exercise – he lived the **Strenuous Life**

After first wife died, he became a **Rancher in Dakota Territory**

He married his childhood sweetheart & they had five children

Served as New York City Police Commissioner

Served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Recruited & Led the **Rough Riders** in the Spanish American War 1898

Governor of New York State in 1898

Vice President of the United States under President William McKinley - 1901

President of the United States 1901-1909

- Became President when McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo, NY
- Re-elected in the 1904 election
- Did not seek re-election in 1908

Safari to Africa collecting specimens for the Smithsonian Institute

Ran for president again in 1912, unhappy with what his successor Taft was doing

- Did not get the Republican Party nomination so he started his own party – the **Bull Moose Party**
- **Shot in Milwaukee** while he was campaigning – He gave the speech anyway! :-D

Expedition to South America

- Charted a 625 mile river
- Contracted malaria – weakened his health severely

TR was a strong advocate of entering WWI

- During WWI, his son Quentin was killed in 1918

Died in 1919



HIS WRITINGS

Prolific writer of more than 18 books and countless articles and speeches

- As editor of the Outlook magazine, he wrote weekly editorials on a wide range of topics
- He wrote his first book – *The Naval War of 1812* – while he was in college!
- His works cover a wide variety of topics – history, politics, conservation, wildlife, explorations, and war.
- Four Volume *The Winning of the West* tells the story of the westward expansion of the United States from the Allegheny Mountains to the Pacific Ocean in the late 18th century.
- He even wrote a biography of *Oliver Cromwell* – the Lord Protector of England 1653-1658
- The Rough Riders – about his experiences in Spanish America War
- He wrote *Hero Tales from American History* with friend Henry Cabot Lodge for young people with short bios on famous men who positively impacted America

ERA OF PESSIMISM

World War One

WWI marks the beginning of the modern literary era

A group of writers went to France to participate in the war, got disillusioned, & became “The Lost Generation” Writers

The 1920's and 1930's were the most important decades in shaping the spirit of modernism!

Roaring Twenties

Era of Prosperity after World War I

America became the financial leader of the world after WWI due to massive loans to war-torn nations of Europe

- The world's economy was dependent upon American capital

In America, easy credit put people into debt while artificially boosting the economy

- Risky investments – people *borrowed* money to buy stock in companies!

Fads in the 1920's:

- Dancing – the Charleston, the Foxtrot, the Shimmy
- Flappers -Young women rebelled against traditional norms
- Dance Marathons
- Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches
- Socialism & Progressivism were “in”
- The Radio!



During the 1920's:

- 1920 - First Radio broadcast / President Warren Harding elected / women get to vote for President for the 1st time
- 1921 - First Miss America pageant held in Atlantic City
- 1922 - November 26: Archaeologist Howard Carter finds **tomb of Tutankhamen** (“King Tut”) near Luxor, Egypt
- 1923 - August 2: President Harding dies & Vice President Calvin Coolidge is sworn into office
- 1924 - November 4: Calvin Coolidge is elected President
- 1925 - **The Scopes Trial** of July 1925 in Dayton, TN
- 1925 - Scottish inventor John Baird invents the **first form of a television**
- 1927 - Charles Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris - May 20-21, 1927 - in **Spirit of St. Louis**
- 1927 - **First talking movie** - *The Jazz Singer* – is released
- 1928 - **First Mickey Mouse talking film** - *Steamboat Willie* - is released by Walt Disney
- 1928 - November 6: Herbert Hoover elected President



Great Depression – the 1930's

October 29, 1929 - Black Tuesday – the Stock Market crashes

Franklin Delano Roosevelt & the New Deal

- Government intervention deepened the depression and made it last much longer
- **Re-interpretation of role of government under FDR** - not only should government promote the conditions for happiness & prosperity, but now fed. gov't should actually create happiness & prosperity by providing jobs, housing, income, & old-age pensions (*Socialistic principles in government*)

World War Two

WWII reinforced the Era of Pessimism

- The horrors of the concentration camps
- The dropping of the Atomic Bomb at the end of war created a nuclear fear



IDEOLOGY OF THE MODERN AGE

Two distortions existed simultaneously:

- **Debasement of man – Man is an animal**
Man is simply an animal driven by animalistic urges that should be considered “normal”
- **Deification of man – Man is god**
Since man directs the world, he has no need of god



Humanist Manifesto I (1933) and Humanist Manifesto II (1973)

- A list of declarations that reinforced unbiblical ideas like: evolution, socialism, social engineering, world government, atheism, etc...
- Made these ideas seem like “progressive” ideas
- Signed by the who's who of important people at the times they were written
- Became the basis of the public education system in order to influence the next generation