

Prohibition

An Infographic on the Sober Era

The Prohibition Era of the 1920s began when the 18th Amendment was passed. Encouraged by religious revivalism, it forbade the production and sale of alcohol in an attempt to reduce crime and corruption, solve social problems, and improve the overall health and hygiene of America. Ultimately, however, it failed.

Religious revivalism spread across the U.S in the 19th century, resulting in Maine passing a state prohibition law in 1846. During WWI, Congress passed the 18th amendment to save grain for the war efforts, reduce crime, and remove an immoral part of society.

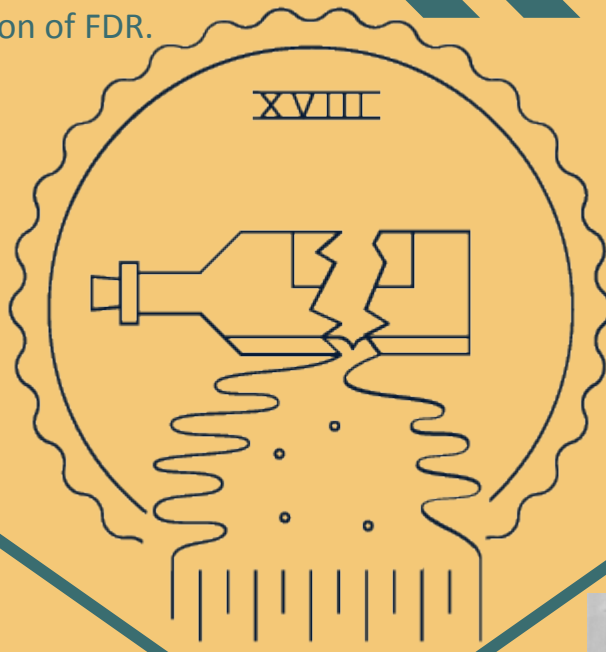
The 18th Amendment to the US Constitution banned the manufacturing and sale of alcoholic beverages. To enforce the amendment, the Volstead Act was passed as well.

The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment, allowing for the sale of alcoholic beverages again.

Prohibition allowed for organized crime and gang violence to prosper too, creating a huge underground economy and turf war based on the sale of alcohol. Crime organizations used their profits from bootlegging to get more power, such as with Al Capone in Chicago, among others.

Prohibition was difficult to enforce because of bootlegging, where smugglers brought alcohol illegally to speakeasies, which were well-known drinking spots around cities. The Prohibition Bureau, made to enforce the Volstead Act, had little success in cities, where even politicians continued to consume alcohol.

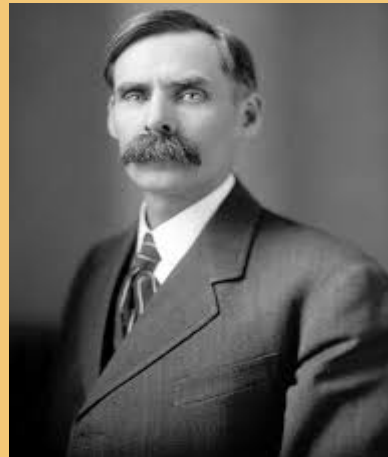
Prohibition lost much of its support by 1932. The Great Depression made the jobs created by the alcohol industry even more important, and the inefficiency and costs of Prohibition resulted in the end of the era with the election of FDR.



Key Terms and



Al Capone
Crime Boss



Andrew Volstead
Volstead Act



Eliot Ness
Prohibition Agent



Franklin D. Roosevelt
Repealed Prohibition

Bootleggers

Temperance

Dry/Wet

Speakeasy

Sources:

U.S. Constitution. (n.d.). Retrieved October 14, 2020, from <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution>