

1920s Nativism

Maizie C., Kevin R., Abigail B.

What is Nativism?

When President Coolidge signed it into law, he declared, "America must be kept American."

Nativism: The policy of protecting the interests of native inhabitants rather than those of immigrants

Nativism in the 1920s looked like...

- Immigration was at its highest
- The emergence of many modern technologies
 - Those in populated areas embraced these changes
 - Those in rural areas opposed these changes

Important Ideas of Nativism

First Red Scare

- Anti-communist movement
- People were scared that after World War I, communism might become popular because of Russia's influence
- This fear was triggered by the massive influx of people from Europe
- Governmental actions of removing/attacking suspected communists violated many civil liberties
- Ultimately led to a decrease in support for the government

Quota Laws

- In the 1920s, senator Dillingham created a bill that limited the number of visas given out annually to 350,000, President Harding passed it.
- The 1924 Immigration Act created stricter quotas that increased the number of visas for British and Western Europeans, while decreasing the number for Southern and Eastern Europe.
- It also made immigration from Asia, excluding the Philippines, impossible



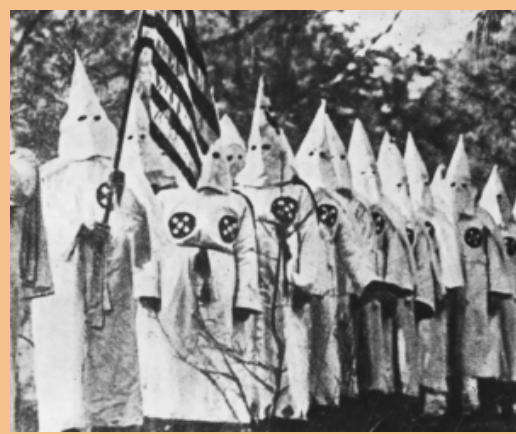
A 1938 political cartoon from *Social Justice*. Refers to Nazism as the spawn of communism and suggests that Jews brought about Nazism by being Communists and suggested the risk of allowing European Jews to immigrate to America.



An 1889 political cartoon from *Puck*. It shows Lady Liberty attempting to stir the mortar of assimilation, but one element- Irish Americans- refuses to mix.

Sacco & Vanzetti

- Two Italian immigrant anarchists that were convicted of murder in 1920
- They were sentenced to the electric chair
- The trial was influenced by anti-Italianism, anti-immigrant, and anti-anarchist bias
- Led to protests around the world



KKK

- The Ku Klux Klan existed in the nineteenth century until 1870, when they were effectively shut down
- A new organization started in the 1910s with more emphasis on discrimination against black people, Jews, Roman Catholics, foreigners and organized labor.

Impact on Life in the US

Nativism led to increased harassment of immigrants, both by official governmental bodies and by individual groups. It also led to increased political oppression of people with certain political ideologies like anarchism or communism. There was a lot of fear in the United States and this was pushed by the media who used that fear to sell newspapers.



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[https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/First Red Scare](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/First_Red_Scare)

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