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# **Nativism**

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Nativism in the US in the 1920's can be defined as the policies put in place to protect the rights and interests of natives or established inhabitants against immigrants. In the 1920's, nativism is seen through the Red Scare, Quota Laws, Sacco and Vanzetti and the KKK.

## Red Scare

Communists were often referred to as "reds" because of their allegiance to the red soviet flag

After the red scare federal employees were analyzed to make sure they were loyal to the government, the house of un-american activities committee, and president Joseph R. McCarthy

The Red scare finally started to cool down by the 1950's

The first red scare happened from 1917-1920 which occurred during the wake of WWI

The Russian Revolution of 1917 saw the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin

- Removed the Romanov dynasty

- This took off the rise of the Communist party which would inspire international fear between bolsheviks and anarchists

In the United States labor strikes were on the rise and the press sensationalized them blaming it all on immigrants which were bring down the "American way of life"

The Sedition act- targeted people who would criticize the government (deportation was a common threat)

## Quota Laws

The Quota laws of the 1920's limited the number of immigrants that could enter the US. Only 3% of the total number of people from each nationality were allowed to come to the US. This allowed only 350,000 immigrants to enter the US each year. In a speech given by Senator Ellison DuRant Smith of SC, he mentions that "shutting the door" is the only way to preserve American resources. He felt this would benefit the lives of Americans as they could "breed pure Americans and American resources."



# Relation



All of these historical topics fall under Nativism. This is because all four of these instances/examples were in the best interest of the established inhabitants of the United States. These policies and practices were in no way good for the people who had different cultures than the United States. All of these topics show the discrimination that people faced if they exercised beliefs different from the "American" beliefs. These four topics show that the 1920s had some underlying problems especially for people with different beliefs because they were discriminated against and generally hated.

## Sacco and Vanzetti

The trial resulted from the murders in South Braintree, Massachusetts, on April 15, 1920, of F.A. Parmenter, paymaster of a shoe factory, and Alessandro Berardelli, the guard accompanying him, in order to secure the payroll that they were carrying. On May 5 Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian anarchists who had immigrated to the United States in 1908, one a shoemaker and the other a fish peddler, were arrested for the crime. Many people felt that the trial had been less than fair and that the defendants had been convicted for their radical anarchist beliefs rather than for the crime for which they had been tried.



## KKK

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was created after the civil war as a black hate group. During the 1920's, however, it struck again but broaden its hate towards catholics, jews, and foreigners as well. This organization gained a lot of popularity in the 20s. Many people began joining. One of the main goals of the KKK was to get people who supported their ideals into local and state political offices because they wanted to spread their ideas. This organization impacted the lives of many people living in the United States because a large bunch of people were discriminated against and hated.

