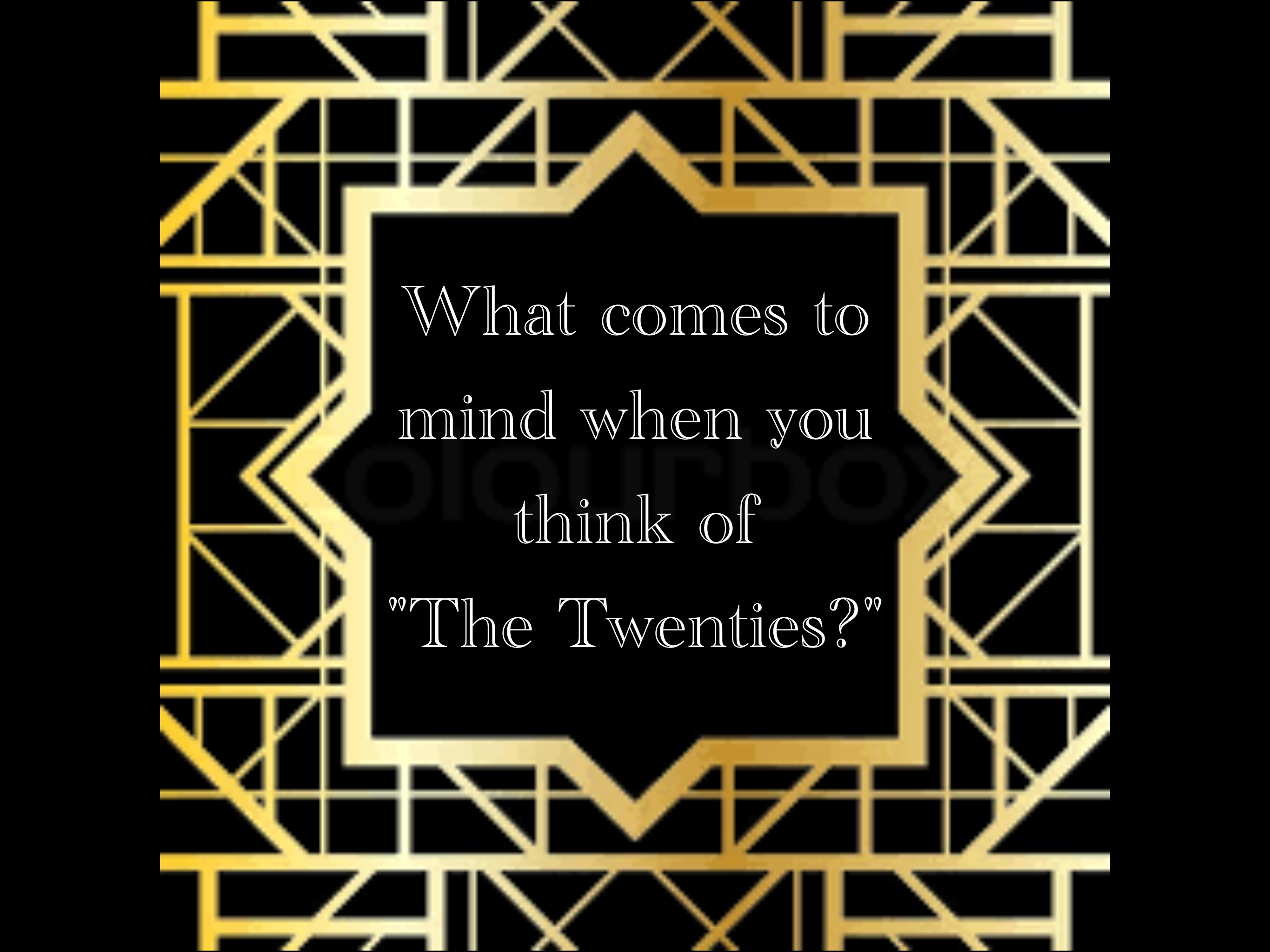




The Roaring
Twenties:
Changing
Ways of Life



What comes to
mind when you
think of
"The Twenties?"

Changing Ways of Life

- During the 1920s, urbanization continued to accelerate
- For the first time, more Americans lived in cities than in rural areas
- New York City was home to over 5 million people in 1920
- Chicago had nearly 3 million



Urban versus Rural

- Throughout the 1920s, Americans found themselves caught between urban and rural cultures



- **Urban life** was considered a world of anonymous crowds, strangers, moneymakers, and pleasure seekers



- **Rural life** was considered to be safe, with close personal ties, hard work, and morals

Prohibition

- One example of the clash between city and farm was the passage of the 18th Amendment in 1920
- This amendment launched an era known as **Prohibition.**

- Prohibition: the new law that made it illegal to make, sell, or transport liquor



Prohibition lasted from 1920 until its repeal in 1933

Support for Prohibition



- Reformers had long believed alcohol led to crime, child and wife abuse, and accidents
- Supporters were largely from the rural South and West
- The church affiliated Anti-Saloon League and the Women's Christian Temperance Union helped push the 18th Amendment through

HELP ME to keep Him **PURE**



**PLEASE
VOTE**

**“AGAINST THE SALE
OF LIQUORS”**



Prohibition

- Many Americans did not believe drinking was a sin
- **speakeasies:** underground, hidden saloons where drinkers went to illegally consume alcohol
- **bootleggers:** people who smuggled in alcohol from Canada, Cuba, and the West Indies; supplied it to drinkers in U.S.



Organized Crime

- Prohibition contributed to the growth of organized crime in every major city
- Chicago became notorious as the home of Al Capone— a famous bootlegger
- **Al Capone:** bootlegger who took control of the Chicago liquor business by killing off his competition



Government Fails to Control Liquor



- Eventually, prohibition's fate was sealed by the government which failed to budget enough money to enforce the law
- The task of enforcing prohibition fell to 1,500 poorly paid federal agents— clearly an impossible task

Support Fades, Prohibition Repealed



- By the mid-1920s, only 19% of Americans support prohibition
- Many felt prohibition caused more problems than it solved

- The 18th Amendment implemented prohibition in 1920
- The 21st Amendment finally repealed prohibition in 1933



Science and Religion Clash



- Another battleground during the 1920s was between fundamentalist religious groups and secular thinkers over the truths of science
- **Fundamentalism:** the Protestant movement grounded in the literal interpretation of the Bible; skeptical of scientific theories such as evolution
- Fundamentalists found all truth in the Bible— including science and evolution

Scopes Trial



John Scopes, a biology teacher who dared to teach his students that humans derived from a lower species

- In March 1925, the Tennessee passed the nation's first law that made it a crime to teach evolution
- The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) promised to defend any teacher willing to challenge the law—**John Scopes did**

Scopes Trial

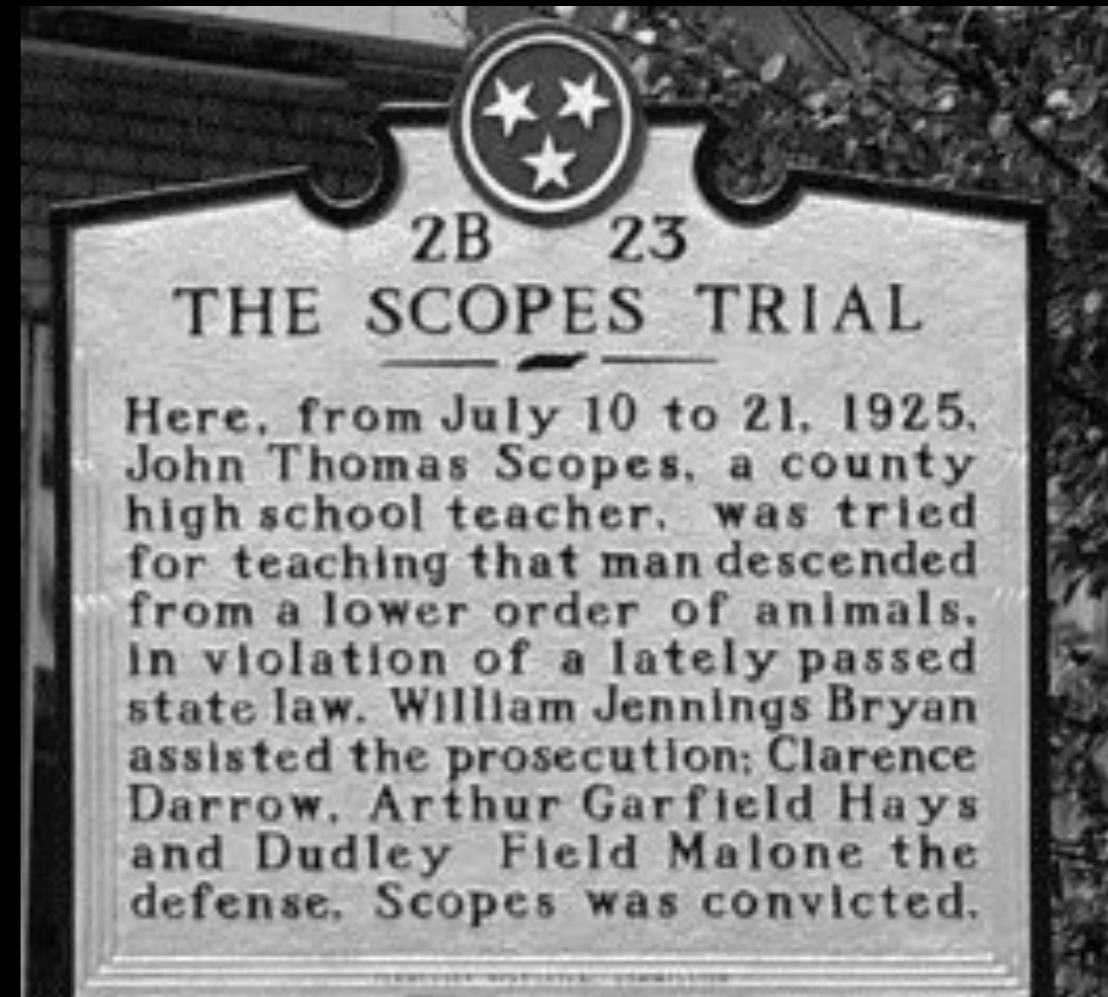


Clarence Darrow and
William Jennings Bryan

- The ACLU hired Clarence Darrow, the most famous trial lawyer of the era, to defend Scopes
- The prosecution countered with William Jennings Bryan, the three-time Democratic presidential nominee

Scopes Trial

- Trial opened on July 10, 1925 and became a national sensation
- In an unusual move, Darrow called Bryan to the stand as an expert on the Bible— key question: *Should the Bible be interpreted literally?*
- Under intense questioning, Darrow got Bryan to admit the Bible can be interpreted different ways
- Nonetheless, Scopes was found guilty and fined \$100



defense. Scopes was convicted, and Dudley Field Malone the



Despite the guilty verdict,
Darrow got the upperhand
during his questioning of
Bryan

[13] "There Ain't No Santy Claus!" (Ward in Judge.)

[13] "There Ain't No Santy Claus!" (Ward in Judge.)