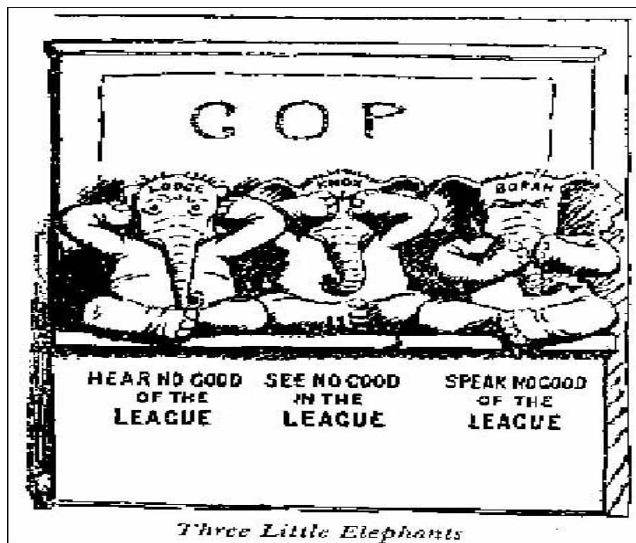


A4: The United States 1917-29

Source A



A political cartoon, 1919. The GOP (Grand Old Party) was a nickname for the Republican Party. Lodge, Knox and Borah were Republican Senators.

Source B

Don't think of this treaty so much as merely a settlement with Germany. The treaty is so much more than that. It is a readjustment of those great injustices which underlay the whole structure of European and Asiatic societies. But at the front of this great treaty is put the Covenant of the League of Nations. All the nations that have power that can be mobilized are going to be members of the League, including the United States. And what do they unite for? They enter into solemn promise to one another that they will never use their power against one another for aggression they will never resort to war without first having done one or other of two things – either submitting the matter of controversy to arbitration or to the consideration of the Council of the League of Nations. In other words, they consent, no matter what happens, to submit every matter of difference between them to the judgment of mankind.

(Woodrow Wilson addressing an audience in Colorado, September 1919, during a nationwide speaking tour to mobilise support for the League)

Source C

What is the result of all this? We are in the midst of all of the affairs of Europe. We have entangled ourselves with all European concerns. We have joined in alliance with all the European nations which have thus far joined the league. We are sitting there dabbling in their affairs. In other words, Mr. President – and this comes to the question which is fundamental with me – we have forfeited and surrendered, once and for all, the great policy of "no entangling alliances" upon which the strength of this Republic has been founded for 150 years. My friends of reservations, tell me where is the reservation in these articles which protects us against entangling alliances with Europe?

(Senator William Borah speaking to the Senate during a debate on American membership of the League, November 1919)

A4: The United States 1917-29

Source D

For much of its history the United States had stayed out of the affairs of Europe. The Monroe Doctrine (1823), articulated by President James Monroe, undertook not to interfere in Europe in return for the old colonial powers of Europe not meddling in the Americas or the Caribbean – areas Americans saw as their own backyard.

The Fordney-McCumber Act (1922) imposed high duties on imports of foreign wheat, corn, beef, wool and sugar among other products. This was protectionism in action and a return to the high tariffs on foreign goods operating at the end of the nineteenth century.

Attitudes to immigrants had been changing for some time. By 1900 there was not as much land available and as industry became more mechanised, the need for workers declined. Americans also believed that the quality of immigrants was declining. Many of the more recent immigrants were poor and had had little formal education.

Anti-immigrant feeling had increased during the war, especially against Germans. In 1917 a literacy test was introduced. Immigrants had to prove they could read a short passage in English before being admitted to the United States.

(Adapted from a history textbook)

QUESTIONS

(a) What can we infer from Source A about American attitudes towards the League of Nations in 1919? [3]

(b) How far does Source C support Source B about the advantages of US membership of the League of Nations? [7]

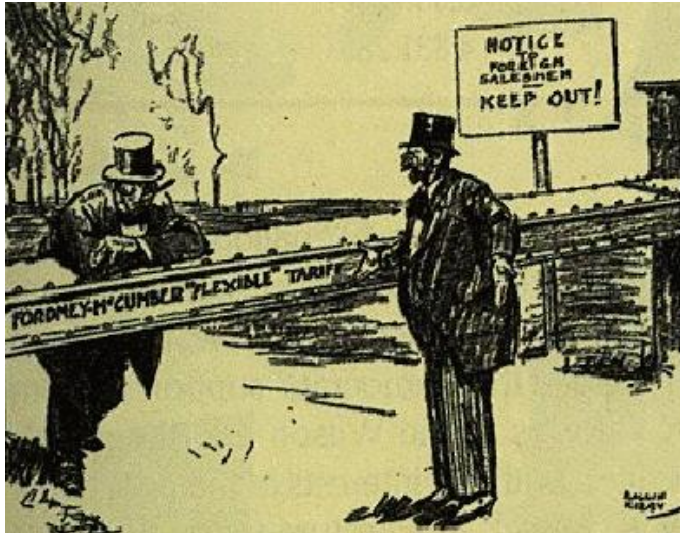
c) 'The onset of isolationism in the early 1920s was the result of the First World War.'

Use the sources and your own knowledge to explain whether you agree with this view. [15]

Total: 25

A4: The United States 1917-29

Source A



A cartoon on the tariff issue, 1921

Source B

Don't think of this treaty so much as merely a settlement with Germany. The treaty is so much more than that. It is a readjustment of those great injustices which underlay the whole structure of European and Asiatic societies. But at the front of this great treaty is put the Covenant of the League of Nations. All the nations that have power that can be mobilized are going to be members of the League, including the United States. And what do they unite for? They enter into solemn promise to one another that they will never use their power against one another for aggression they will never resort to war without first having done one or other of two things – either submitting the matter of controversy to arbitration or to the consideration of the Council of the League of Nations. In other words, they consent, no matter what happens, to submit every matter of difference between them to the judgment of mankind.

(Woodrow Wilson addressing an audience in Colorado, September 1919, during a nationwide speaking tour to mobilise support for the League)

Source C

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Anti-immigrant feeling had increased during the war, especially against Germans. In 1917 a literacy test was introduced. Immigrants had to prove they could read a short passage in English before being admitted to the United States.

(Adapted from a history textbook)

QUESTIONS

(a) What can we learn from Source A about American attitudes towards tariffs in the early 1920s? [3]

(b) How far does Source C support Source B about the advantages of US membership of the League of Nations? [7]

(c) 'The onset of isolationism in the early 1920s was the result of the First World War.'

Use the sources and your own knowledge to explain whether you agree with this view. [15]

Total: 25

A4: The United States 1917-29

This question is all about the position of Black Americans in the 1920s. Study Sources A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow.

Source A: a march in Washington, DC, in 1925



Source B: Ida Wells (1862-1931), an African American journalist, writing in 1925

In the ten years succeeded the Civil War thousands of Negroes were murdered for voting. As a consequence no Negroes vote throughout the entire South. The laws of the Southern states make it a crime for whites and Negroes to inter-marry or even ride in the same railway carriage. Both crimes are punishable by fine and imprisonment. The doors of churches, hotels, concert halls and reading rooms are alike closed against the Negro as a man, but every place is open to him as a servant.

A4: The United States 1917-29

Source C: From a book by James Wheldon Thompson, *Black Manhattan*, written in 1929

More than two hundred thousand Negroes live in New York, nearly a hundred thousand more than live in any Southern city, and do so without race friction. They have achieved political independence and without fear vote for whoever they want. The Negro in New York still meets with discriminations and disadvantages. But New York guarantees her Negro citizens the fundamental rights of citizenship and protects them in the exercise of those rights. Possessing the basic rights, the Negro in New York ought to be able to work through the discriminations and disadvantages.

Source D: From a history textbook, written in 2009

The position of black people in the south was intolerable: the Ku Klux Klan, reaching a peak in 1925 when it had over 5 million members, saw blacks facing vicious intimidation and even lynchings. Most lived in chronic poverty, while the segregation saw blacks face discrimination in every sphere of life. The early years of the 20th century saw thousands go north in what is known as the Great Migration. Many many blacks found poverty, discrimination and violence in the north too, but they also had greater rights and economic opportunities, and a flourishing black culture too.

Study Source A

What can you learn from source A about the role of the Ku Klux Klan in America in the 1920s

(3)

Study Sources B and C.

How far does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the position of black people in America in the 1920s

(7)

Study Sources A, B, C and D and use your own knowledge.

“In the 1920s, the main reason for the problems of Black Americans was the rise of the Ku Klux Klan.”

Use the sources and your own knowledge to explain whether you agree with this view.