



## A Little History of the United States—Chapter 31—The Masses

In 1917, The United States of America entered World War One. Until this point the USA had become very rich in supplying weapons to the British and French but, by 1917, German attacks on her ships forced her into the war. President Woodrow Wilson said America was entering the War to 'make the world safe for democracy'.

With victory achieved in 1918 though, the American people made it clear that they no longer wanted anything to do with the rest of the world and wanted to go back to living their lives isolated from the rest of the world. Warren Harding won the next presidential election by saying:

*'America's present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums but normalcy'*

**Q. What do you think 'normalcy' meant?**

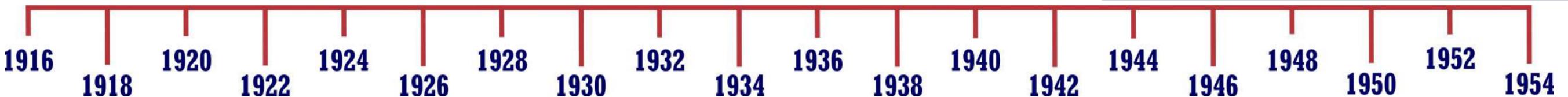
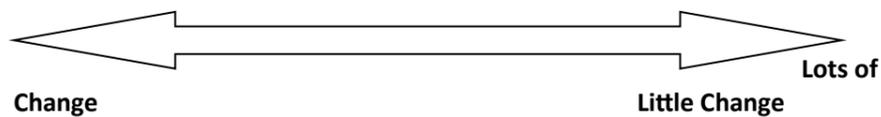
Since the start of the Twentieth Century America had been experiencing a lot of change. Massive immigration from Europe and Asia along with its own industrial revolution had gone along way to turn the USA from a rural to an urban country. Some people welcomed the change, whilst others resisted it. This would cause a lot of the events and lead to many decisions that would make the 1920's and 30's so interesting.

### Women

**Task—** How did the lives of women change (progress) and how did they stay the same (continuity) - **page 231**

Change	Continuity

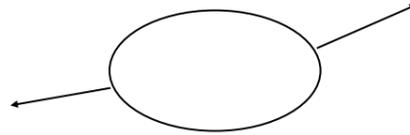
**Q.** Overall, how much change did women experience? Mark on your line and explain



'Because.....'

### Technology and its impact

**Task—**On your mind map below identify all inventions made in the USA during the period? Pages 231-234



**Task—**Can these be sorted into different categories? Please provide a key

**Q. What was Henry Ford's 'Assembly Line'?**

**Q. Why was it so significant?**

President	Term Dates	Important Events in their Presidency
W_____ W_____		
W_____ H_____		
C_____ C_____		
H_____ H_____		
F_____ R_____		

**Q. Which was the most significant invention of the period?**

'Because .....

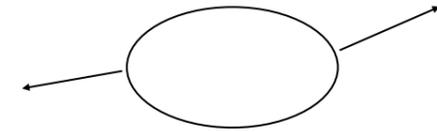
### The Economy

*'With millions of people making cars, building roads, and constructing skyscrapers, Americans experienced a higher standard of living than ever before'*

With the American economy growing so fast, many referred to the 1920's as the 'Boom Years'.

**Q. What factors helped the US economy grow? Please complete the mind map—page 231**

**Task—**Can these be sorted into different categories? Please provide a key



**Task—**Choose three of the factors that you think lead to the economy growing and explain how they made it happen. Then in the second part of the table explain how they could have contributed to the economy 'crashing' after 1929

Factor for the Boom—1919-29	Why?	Factor for the Crash—1929-33	Why?

# A Little History of the United States—Chapter 31—The Masses



Because the American economy was doing so well and people felt confident about their futures many Americans spent their money on items like cars, homes, washing machines and radios. This in turn kept the American factories busy and everyone thought the economy would keep on growing with everyone becoming wealthier. President Hoover was able today say in 1929:

*'In America today, we are nearer a final triumph over poverty than is any other land.'*

Americans even began to save some of their spare money, and like people today, thought about where their money was most likely to grow the most. Many Americans decided that the Stock Market was a better bet than the banks and invested their money there.

**Q. What is the Stock Market?**

**Q. Where in America is the Stock Market based?**

**Q. How would you feel if the price of your shares went up?**

**Q. How would you feel if the price of your shares went down?**

**Q. Do you think you would have bought RCA shares?**

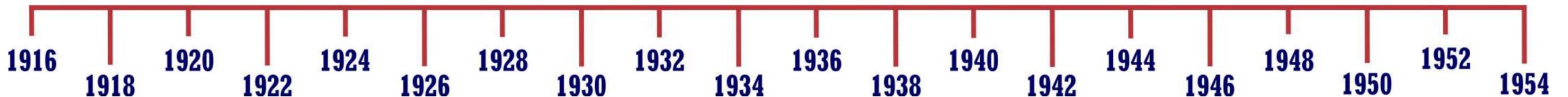
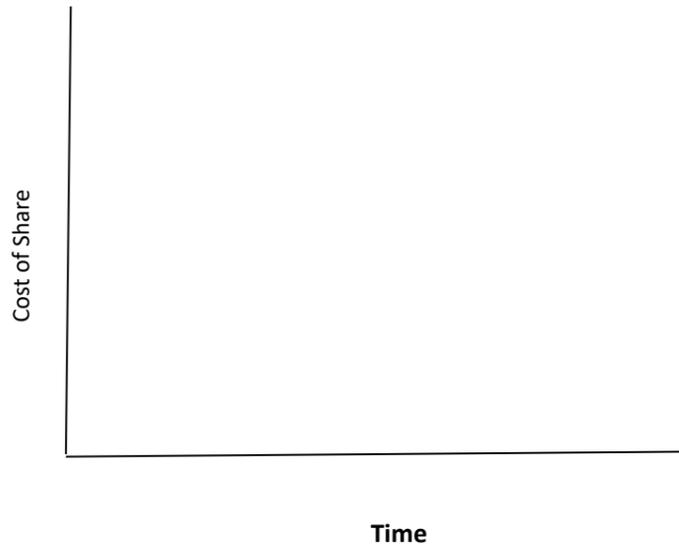
Yes/No

*'Because.....'*

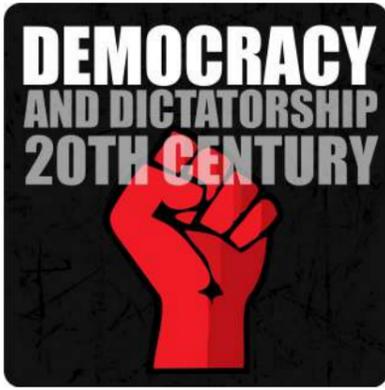
*'and then in the great market crashed. Panic set in on October 24th, 1929, as investors worried that stocks were headed for a fall. Millions of orders came into brokers (people who buy and sell shares) offices: sell, sell!. Almost nobody wanted to buy, so share prices plummeted.....Anxious crowds gathered while trader bellowed on the floor of the stock exchange.'*

*'The whole place is falling apart'*

**Task—Use the example of the RCA - The Radio Corporation of America . What happened to its share price? Plot it on a graph**



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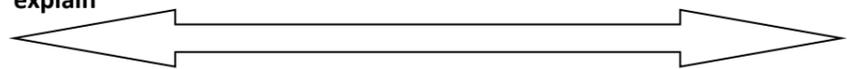
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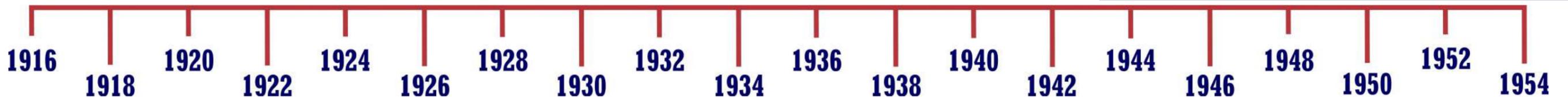
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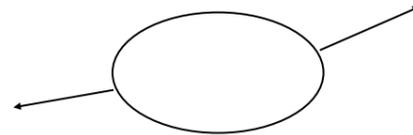
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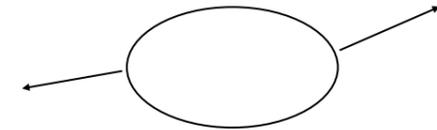
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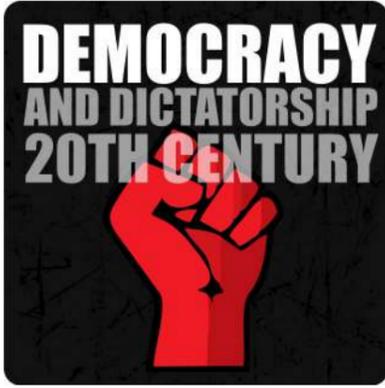
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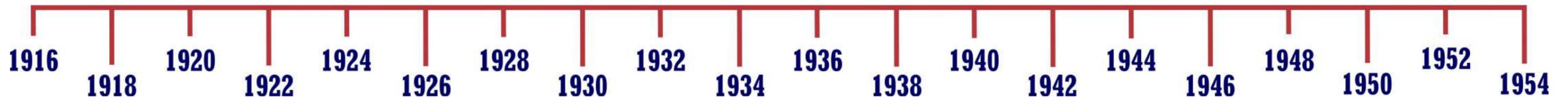
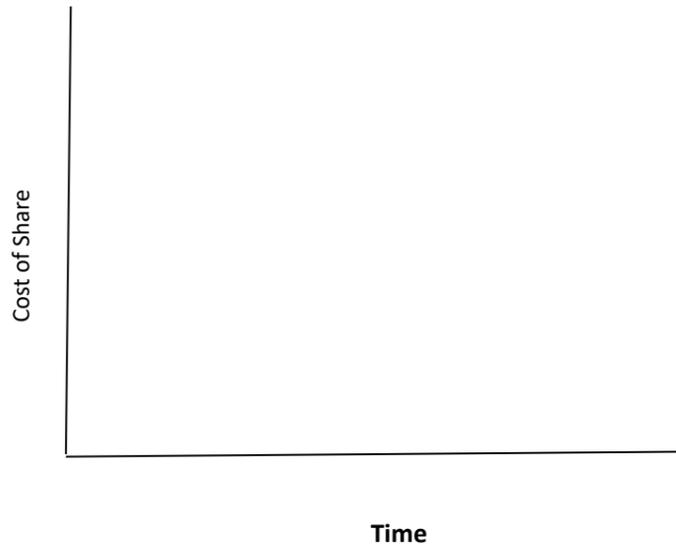
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