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Chapter 15: From Flappers to World War II

Quick Notes

CHAPTER 15

FROM FLAPPERS TO WORLD WAR II

Section 1 [The Roaring Twenties](#)

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SECTION 1

The Roaring Twenties

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Life in the Roaring Twenties

After World War I, life was good.

Certain foods, like milk, butter, ice,
and fresh vegetables, were
delivered to private homes.

Convenience food—quick-cooking rolled oats, pancake mix, canned goods and pre-sliced bread—became available.

Electricity became more available
and electric appliances became
more common.



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New Conveniences Result in More Leisure Time

People had more free time and used that time to...

-listen to the radio



-go to movies



-frequent speakeasies



-listen and dance to music

Big Changes for Women in the 1920s

Women had a newly found freedom of expression in the 1920s.

They bobbed their hair.

They wore clothing that exposed their legs and arms.

They began to use makeup.

They began to drink and smoke.

Their behavior caused them to be called flappers, a term that was used to describe a somewhat foolish girl who was inclined to revolt against the norms of society.



Women Enter Politics

Women were given the right to vote in 1920 and they began to enter politics.

Seven women served in the West Virginia House of Delegates in the 1920s. They included...

Anna Johnson Gates
(Kanawha County)

Minnie Buckingham Harper
(McDowell County)



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Renewed Discrimination

There was renewed discrimination against immigrants after World War I.

Congress passed the National Origins Act in 1924. The act set quotas to control the number of immigrants that could come to the United States from different countries.

The Ku Klux Klan returned after World War I. This time it targeted blacks, immigrants, Jews, and Catholics with its hate and violence.



Labor Unrest

After World War I, there was a new movement to organize non-union mines, especially those in Logan and Mingo counties.

In 1920, John L. Lewis, the new president of the UMWA, announced a campaign to unionize mines in Appalachia.



Coal operators in Logan County paid Sheriff Don Chafin and a number of his deputies to keep the union organizers out of the county.

Matewan Massacre

Mine owners in Mingo County announced they would start operating their mines nonunion.

They hired guards to protect the mines and intimidate and evict union miners from their homes.

After the guards finished their task, they attempted to leave Matewan.

A group of union members tried to stop the guards from leaving.

Police Chief Sid Hatfield tried to arrest one of the guards for illegally evicting the miners.

A confrontation followed that resulted in the deaths of...

- 7 guards
- 2 miners
- Matewan Mayor Caleb Testerman



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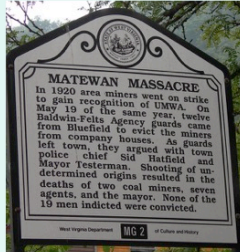
Aftermath of Matewan Massacre

The violent confrontations between miners and mine owners resulted in the county being called "**Bloody Mingo.**"

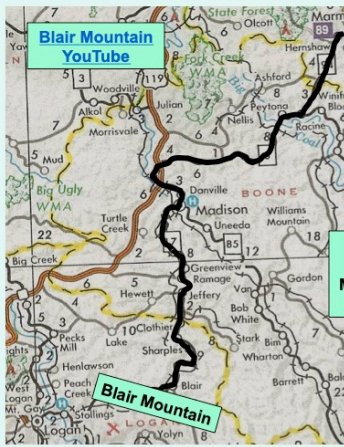
Eventually, the West Virginia Supreme Court declared that the government misused martial law. This was a victory for the miners.

A little over a year after the Matewan Massacre, Sid Hatfield and a Matewan police officer, Ed Chambers, were standing on the courthouse steps in Welch (McDowell County) awaiting trial on different charges when they were killed.

Baldwin-Felts gunmen allegedly committed the murders, but they were not charged with the crime.



Blair Mountain



Within a week of the murders of Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers miners held a rally in Charleston and prepared to march to Mingo County.

To get to Mingo County, the marchers had to travel through Logan County, crossing a ten-mile long mountain ridge called Blair Mountain.

On August 24, 1921, some 3,000 miners set out on a march from Marmet to Mingo County. They wore red bandannas around their necks.

Governor Ephraim Morgan called on the state militia for help. He also contacted President Warren Harding and asked for support from federal troops.

Conflict Is Inevitable

Logan County Sheriff Don Chafin gathered a force of about 500, including mine guards, townspeople, and some store owners, to push the marchers out of the county.



On September 1, President Harding sent federal troops to Charleston. Many of the miners, who had fought in World War I, refused to fight against the troops because they considered such an action unpatriotic.

The total casualties at Blair Mountain are unknown.

Over 1,000 people were indicted and charged with murder or treason.

Eventually all of those who received jail time were pardoned.



Between August 28 and August 30, there were a number of skirmishes on Blair Mountain.

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The End of the Roaring Twenties

In 1929, a number of incidents hinted of an economic downturn.

For some time the stock exchange experienced a series of "mini crashes."

Then, on October 29, 1929, the market started a slide downward from which it did not recover. This day has been called "Black Tuesday" because millions of Americans lost everything they had.

West Virginia, along with the rest of the country, sank into a deep depression that would affect the lives of the people throughout the next decade.



Crowd outside Stock Exchange

SECTION 2

The Great Depression

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The Great Depression

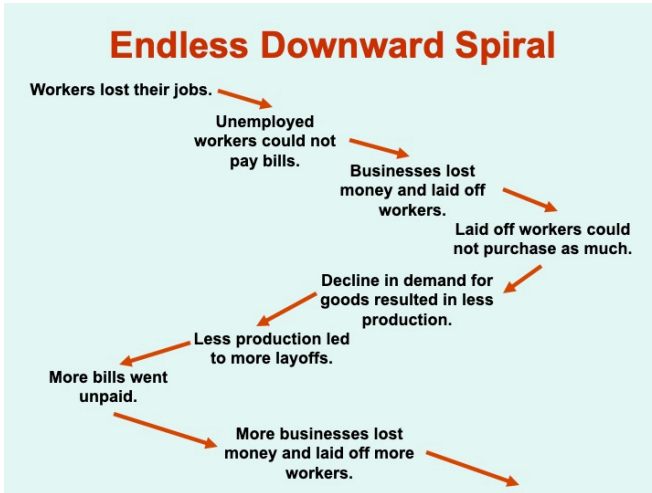
Causes of the Great Depression included...

- too much buying on credit
- overproduction of farm products
- the passage of high tariffs on foreign goods
- speculation in the stock market
- unsound banking practices
- laissez-faire attitude

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Life During the Great Depression

People worked at any type of job just to earn some money.
 People were forced out of their homes—some lived in shacks.



Soup kitchens provided meals for those with no food.
 Many children had no clothes or shoes.



Schools were forced to close or shorten schedules.


President Hoover's Recovery Plan

President Herbert Hoover was the first president to use the power of the federal government to aid economic recovery.

The government bought large amounts of crops from farmers in an effort to raise prices.
 The government loaned federal money to needy businesses.
 The government supported public works projects.

Local Agencies Provide Relief

Provided free lunches for the needy.
 Paid low wages for men to work on local projects, e.g., street cleaning, planting trees.



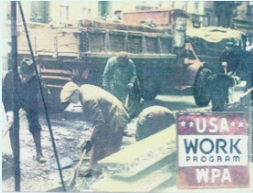
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New Deal Programs to Help the Unemployed

Public Works Administration (PSA)
Civil Works Administration (CWA)
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
Works Progress Administration (WPA)
National Youth Administration (NYA)



"CCC Boys at Work"



New Deal Programs to Correct Weaknesses That May Have Contributed to the Depression

Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

Federal Housing Administration (FHA)

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

New Deal Programs to Improve People's Lives.

National Recovery Administration (NRA)

Social Security Administration (SSA)

National Labor Relations Act

Fair Labor Standards Act

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The New Deal in West Virginia

The Subsistence Homestead Fund

The fund was established to provide housing and employment for the unemployed.

The fund was responsible for the building of three communities in West Virginia.

Arthurdale (Reedsville)
Tygart Valley Homestead
Red House Farms (Eleanor)



The WPA in West Virginia

The WPA employed people to repair roads and build or repair bridges. The agency also employed writers, musicians, and artists who painted murals, wrote manuscripts, and preserved government records.

Projects that were completed included...

- the publication of *West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State*
- the compilation of a *Historical Records Survey*
- sealing off abandoned mines in the state
- the commission of art work in a number of post offices
- the construction of a number of permanent structures



The CCC in West Virginia

This program hired young men to build cabins, lodges, trails, and towers; stock fish hatcheries; plant trees; and fight forest fires within the state and national parks.

Sixty-six camps were built in West Virginia.

Projects included building...

- recreational facilities at Kanawha State Forest and protecting the forest from fires
- roads, bridges, trails, telephone lines, public areas and several buildings at forest headquarters
- the Old Inn at Cacapon State Park



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The NIRA in West Virginia

This program was designed to help workers by setting standards for wages and hours, including a minimum wage. The act also gave workers the right to join unions and bargain collectively.

This legislation mostly affected the mining industry.

The NIRA was declared unconstitutional, but the government passed the Wagner Act to support the right of workers to join the union.

Within two years, almost 100% of West Virginia mines were unionized.

The West Virginia Legislature...

- ✓ ended the mine guard system.
- ✓ established an insurance program for workers who became disabled or suffered from a job-related illness.
- ✓ passed a child labor law that prevented the employment of anyone under 16 years of age in the mines.



SECTION 3

World War II

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The Rise of Dictators

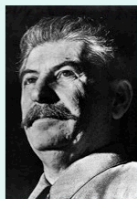
Because of the depression, dictators came to power in a number of countries.



Adolf Hitler
Germany



Benito Mussolini
Italy



Joseph Stalin
Russia



Hideki Tojo
Japan

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World War II Breaks Out

For a number of years, most countries watched the leading dictators take land, mistreat certain groups of people, and build military strength.

When Hitler invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, World War II began.

As hostilities heated up in Europe, similar incidents occurred in Asia.

Japan aggressively took parts of China.



A Chinese machine gun nest in the [Battle of Shanghai](#), 1937



A German [Heinkel He 111](#) bombing [Warsaw in 1939](#)

The United State Enters World War II

The United States wanted to remain neutral in World War II, but it did sell arms to the Allies if they paid cash and transported the materials in their own ships.

Later, the Lend-Lease Act gave President Roosevelt the authority to lend war materials to any nation he considered important to America's economy.

The U.S. Navy escorted ships carrying lend-lease materials to assure them safe passage. However, a German submarine sank the U.S. carrier, the *Reuben James*, killing 100 sailors.

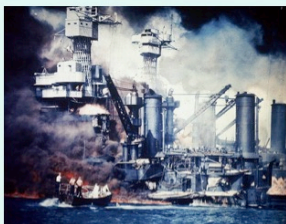


The sinking of the *Reuben James* gave the United States reason to declare war on Germany, but Roosevelt hesitated.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Eight battleships and three destroyers were sunk, more than 150 planes were destroyed, and 2,400 hundred people were killed.



Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.



The U.S.S. *West Virginia* was among the battleships that were sunk.

President Roosevelt declared December 7 as a "date which will live in infamy."

On December 8, the United States Congress declared war on Japan.

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West Virginians in the War

Statistics

233,985 served, including 66,716 volunteers
4,691 died (estimated)
11,777 wounded
11 received the Medal of Honor

Several West Virginians achieved high military positions

General Delos C. Emmons
Lt. General Richard K. Sutherland
Lt. Commander Frederick R. Warder
Admiral Felix Stump

The Home Front

West Virginians at home supported the war by...

- rationing scarce items like sugar, butter, gasoline, and tires
- gathering scrap metal and paper for recycling
- purchasing war bonds





The Greenbrier in World War II

The Greenbrier was used to house certain diplomats and foreign citizens who were expelled from Washington, D.C.

The resort hosted 1,697 persons from five different countries, including Japan.



After the "guests" left the Greenbrier, the United States government "condemned" the resort under the War Powers Act and used it as a hospital and recuperation center. The government renamed the facility Ashford General Hospital.

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West Virginia Used as a Training Ground for World War II

Northeastern West Virginia is similar to Northern Italy. Therefore, 2,000,000 acres of rugged mountainous terrain was used to train troops headed to Italy.

Training took place in Grant, Pendleton, Randolph and Tucker counties.

Seneca Rocks and Blackwater Canyon were used to teach assault climbing.

New explosive devices were tested at Bear Rock Range in the Alleghenies.

World War II Comes to an End

World War II was fought on two fronts—in Europe and in the Pacific.

The war ended in Europe when it was freed from Hitler's control in April 1945. Hitler committed suicide on April 30 and the German forces surrendered to the Allies in May.



On May 9, 1945, Wilhelm Keitel signed the surrender terms for the German Army in Berlin.

In the Pacific, President Harry Truman authorized the use of an atomic bomb. The first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. On August 15, Japan surrendered, bringing World War II to an end.



Effects of World War II on West Virginia

World War II...

- ended the Great Depression
- established the world's largest rubber plant in Institute (Kanawha County)
- produced ocean-going vessels in the Point Pleasant shipyards (Mason County)
- manufactured gun barrels at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Plant in South Charleston (Kanawha County)



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