**5th Period**

**Age of Convergence: Social and Economic Behaviors**

1. **Women:** The 19th Amendment ushered in an era of independence, sexual, and social freedom and political and labor power for women during the 1920s.
2. **Sex**: Changing social norms, medical advances, and an industrialized economy led Americans to engage in sexual activity for pleasure as the birth rate and family size declined.
3. **Time and Money**: The 1920s chararcterized by improvements in work hours and wages, as well as innovations in goods and distribution facilitated a consumer society that could obtain luxury necessitates.
4. **Advertising**: Advertising was the driving force behind an emerging consumer culture in the U.S. as people felt any product was attainable.

**Age of Wonders: Technological Advances**

1. Automobile: At the turn of the 20th century, the automobile’s revolutionized production made it very affordable for the average American. As a result, it became a necessity that made everyday transportation easier and more efficient.
2. **Film**: As Americans had leisure time, film brought a way to contravene old normality, while also focusing on new, perhaps taboo topics that would unify a national culture.
3. **Radio**: The growing radio industry of the 1920s introduced communication to the masses and ultimately resulted in the diversification of American culture.

**Republican Presidents**

1. Return to Normalcy – Harding: While President Harding embodied the public’s want for a care-free or ‘normal’ society, his hands-off approach to the economy led to political scandals and indirect support of big businesses.
2. Silent Cal – Coolidge: Throughout his presidency, Coolidge successfully lowered taxes and limited the power of the executive branch.
3. The Engineer – Hoover: Hoover placed great stress on the success of business and labor; however, his theory of letting the economy take its course was ineffective in resolving the American depression

**Culture Wars: Tradition vs. Modern**

1. **Fundamentalism vs. Science**: While the scopes “Monkey Trial” dealt a temporary blow to fundamental ideals, Conservatives in the years to come would slowly organize to become a movement more powerful than any liberals could have imagined.
2. **KKK**: The KKK was representative of the contradiction and transition of the age with their antiquated ideals in modern practice.
3. **Prohibition**: The Prohibition movement was an attempt by traditionalists to cure social ills, it ultimately failed because its attempt to institute archaic values could not keep up with evolving ideologies.

**End of an Era**: Despite the economic boom, cultural explosion, technological advances, and political leadership of the 1920s set the stage for the worst economic depression in American history. Therefore the root and cause of the Great Depression laid in the economic, social, and political behaviors and decisions of the Roaring Twenties.

1. **The Crash**: Although the roaring twenties was a time of great prosperity, the economy was fundamentally weak. The economy was dependent on mass consumption and when the demand for this was no longer present, the stock market crashed and the economy was in ruins.

**6th Period**

**Age of Convergence: Social and Economic Behaviors**

1. **Women:** The growing presence of the women in the workforce and increasing independence from Victorian traditions led to the women’s right to vote in 1920.
2. **Sex**: Sex changed from a procreation only activity to a pleasure based activity with the introduction of birth control to keep family sizes down because large amount of kids were no longer needed around the house.
3. **Time and Money**: Economic prosperity and greater industrial efficiency led to more money and time for the American worker to focus on leisure activities
4. **Advertising**: In the 1920’s it was discovered that the best way to sell to luxury consumers was to sell what a product could do for them.

**Age of Wonders: Technological Advances**

1. **Automobile**: Automobiles became a widespread mode of transportation due to technological advances and grew into an integral aspect of American society.
2. **Film**: Films rose in popularity because these new movies showed exciting and risqué content that people had never seen before
3. **Radio**: The radio transformed communication as it provided instantaneous information (such as presidential elections) to very large audiences (exceeding 12 million by 1929).

**Republican Presidents**

1. **Return to Normalcy – Harding**: Harding embodied the carefree attitude of the nation yet his laid-back approach led to political scandal and a hands-off support of capitalism.
2. **Silent Cal – Coolidge**: While saying and doing little, Coolidge continued to support conservative beliefs by lowering taxes and reducing the scope of the federal budget.
3. **The Engineer – Hoover**: Although enthusiastic and well-qualified for the presidency, Hoover’s reliance on volunteerism simply could not cope with the depression that hit the nation months into his first term.

**Culture Wars: Tradition vs. Modern**

1. **Fundamentalism vs. Science**: The conflict between liberal science and conservative fundamentalism, exemplified by the court battle of Darrow vs Bryan, eventually resulted in the short-term victory for science
2. **KKK**: The KKK resurged in the 1920’s as a reaction to the changing social makeup, injustice and inequality, in an attempt to preserve past pre-Anglo-Saxon white supremacy
3. **Prohibition**: Prohibition was intended to be a successful amendment which restricted the use of alcohol, although moonshine and other home-made alcohols were still made. The law was ignored by most, bur state-wide alcohol consumption plummeted.

**End of an Era**: Despite the economic boom, cultural explosion, technological advances, and political leadership of the 1920s set the stage for the worst economic depression in American history. Therefore the root and cause of the Great Depression laid in the economic, social, and political behaviors and decisions of the Roaring Twenties.

1. **The Crash**: Wage disparities in the 1920 resulted in a weak national economy, leaving it unable to function.