

## The New Morality

- π Soldiers returning from WWI came home to a nation enthusiastic from victory
  - π A party mood prevailed
    - π Life in the cities was fun and interesting
      - π **Morals much more relaxed than in country towns**
        - π **Country folks more conservative and traditional**
    - π Drinking, gambling, less restrictions on dating in cities
      - π **Moral decay or personal freedom?** Depended on personal views
    - π Cities offered more cultural experiences (museums, theater, etc.)
      - π Very appealing to young men and women
- π Traditional vs. "modern" views clashed in several ways
  - π **Creationism vs. Evolution**
    - π **Scopes "monkey trial" (1925)**
      - π Religious fundamentalists objected to teaching **Darwin's theory of evolution** in public schools
        - π **John T. Scopes** violated Tennessee law by teaching Darwin in biology class
          - π **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)** filed suit on behalf of Scopes - represented by famous lawyer **Clarence Darrow**
          - π **William Jennings Bryan** prosecuted the case
            - π The press made the trial a circus
              - π Scopes found guilty - TN Supreme Court overturned it
  - π **Eighteenth Amendment (Prohibition)**
    - π **Amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale, or transportation of alcoholic beverages - went into effect 1/16/20**
      - π Women progressive reformers believed alcohol was responsible for many social problems
        - π **Women's Christian Temperance Union** thought drinking was a sin
    - π Alcohol was still available at **speakeasies** and from bootleggers
      - π **Bootleggers = smugglers of illegal alcohol**
        - π Largest operations controlled by organized crime
          - π **Al Capone**
  - π The fact that alcohol was illegal made it worth more to criminals
    - π There was \$ to be made - police & politicians paid off to ignore
      - π **Mob became so big & enforcement impossible - 18<sup>th</sup> Amend repealed in 1933 by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment**
        - π Only amendment ever overturned by another amendment