

# Events & Controversies



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*Red Scare: In 1919 a panic in the United States broke out because of communism. "After revolutionaries in Russia overthrew the czarist regime, Vladimir Lenin and his followers they established a new communist state." (The Americans pg. 619). After a communist party formed in the U.S., and several dozen bombs were mailed to government leaders, people were scared that communists were taking over.*



*Sacco-Vanzetti: Although the red scare was not long-lasting hatred toward immigrants, especially anarchist immigrants, was still a problem. In 1920 Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested and charged for the robbery and murder of a factory pay master and his guard. Witnesses said that the criminals appeared to be Italian. Although both men provided alibis, and the evidence against them was circumstantial, the jury found them guilty and sentenced them to death. protests rang out in the U.S., but in 1961 new evidence showed the gun found on Sacco was in fact the gun used for the murder, however, there was no proof that Sacco had actually pulled the trigger.*

## *Sacco-Vanzetti Trial Red Scare*

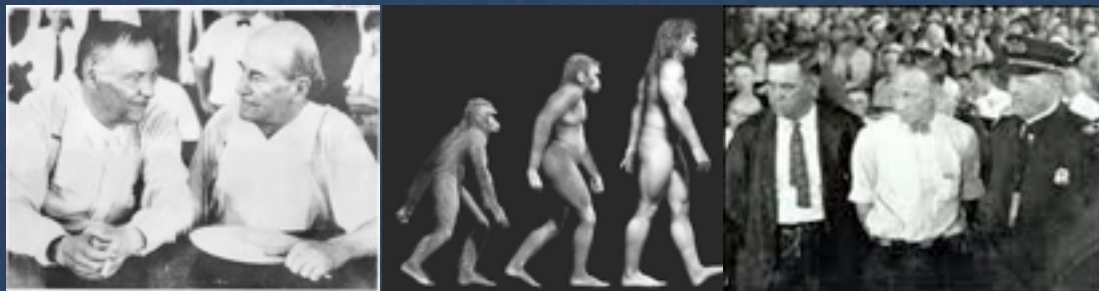
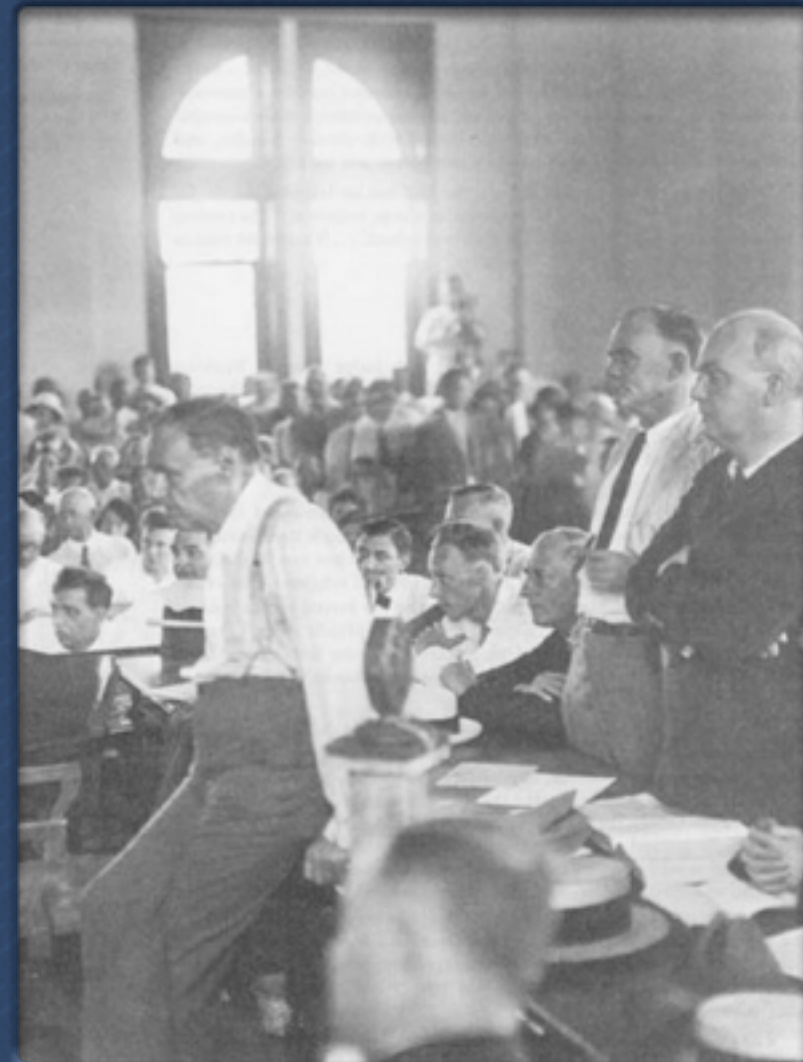




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*In 1925, Tennessee passed a law that stated it now was a crime to teach the theory of evolution. The American Civil Liberties Union promised that they would defend any teacher who decided to challenge this new law; and that is exactly what John T Scopes did. Scopes was a biology teacher in Tennessee and made a statement that was clearly against the new law. He was quickly arrested and his trial was set for July. The ACLU hired Clarence Darrow who was the most famous lawyer at the time to represent Scopes, and a man, William Jennings Bryan served as a special prosecutor. The Scopes "Monkey" Trial wasn't about being innocent and guilty, it was about over science and religion in public schools. The trial opened on July 10 and overnight became a national sensation. Bryan was known as an expert on the bible, but when faced with the question, "Do you think the Earth was created in 6 days?" He replied, "Not 6 days of 24 hours." People sitting in on the trial gasped. Bryan admitted that the bible could be interpreted in different ways. Despite all of this Scopes was found guilty and fined \$100. The court later changed the verdict on a technicality, but the law against evolution still remained in tact.*

## Scopes "Monkey" Trial





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## *Rise of the KKK*



*A misconception about the Ku Klux Klan was that they were a racist group of whites who really despised the black man. The KKK had their own beliefs that Protestantism should rule, and didn't accept anything other than that. They believed in order to understand the clan, you had to understand the mind of old-stock Americans. What they wanted was pure Americans and pure loyalty to America. It was not only blacks, but many other different races and religions. They despised the new Immigrants, and thought that they were trying to take over America, and make it worse for the "true" Americans. In the 1920's the KKK really reached its peak, especially in 1924. In 1924 the KKK marched through New Jersey in its full white robe and pointed hood uniform. There was 10,000 marching strong, and suddenly the KKK was no longer a group to laugh at; they were serious about what they wanted. "Native, white, Protestant supremacy" was the Klans slogan.*

