

PROHIBITION AND ORGANIZED CRIME

By: Kate



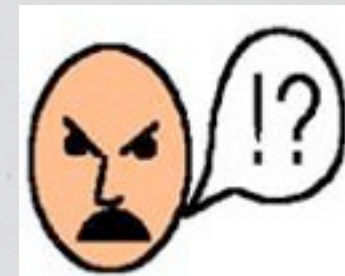
Why Was Alcohol Prohibited?



- * Alcohol was thought to be the main cause of crime, wife and child abuse, accidents on the job, and other serious social problems.
- * People from the south and west supported prohibition. Mostly Christians believed in Prohibition because they considered drinking to be a sin and something that was not essential to Americans.

People Get Angry!

- * After World War One, people just wanted to enjoy life and drink, but it wasn't possible because it was illegal.
- * People were starting to illegally obtain liquor and hiding it places. These places were called speakeasies because people inside them would speak quietly or "easy" to lower suspicion. In order to enter a speakeasy, you needed to say a password or show a card.
- * The demand for alcohol became more popular and smuggling started coming from Canada, Cuba, and the West Indies.



Prohibition Leads To Organized Crime



- * Prohibition made people think it was entertaining in a way, to disrespect the law.
- * Al Capone became notorious for bootlegging in Chicago. He killed off his competition to stay in control of his business. Around 600 gang killings were committed during the 1920's because of this.



Eliot Ness and the Untouchables



- * Eliot Ness was out to get Al Capone and his gang. He hand picked nine men to join his group to capture Al Capone and stop his madness. Eliot Ness intended to have thirty men in his group, but only nine of them met his requirements.
- * Ness shut down nineteen breweries in his first six weeks in order to get to Capone. Capone's men tried to bribe Ness's group into leaving them alone, but they were "untouchable".
- * Eliot Ness got enough dirt on Capone to take him to court for tax evasions. Capone pled guilty and was sentenced to eleven years in jail, \$50,000 in fines, and \$30,000 in court costs.



St. Valentine's Day Massacre

- * St. Valentine's Day Massacre took place on February 14th, 1929. Capone had a rivalry with a gang on the North Side of Chicago, led by George "Bugs" Moran. Capone wanted to get rid of this tough competition, so he sent his leading man to prepare a "surprise" for "Bugs" and his gang.



- * Capone's gang members disguised themselves as policemen and decided to conduct a regular routine raid. When they got there, they ordered the seven men that were present to stand and face the wall. They opened fire and killed them all. Capone's members thought that they killed "Bugs", but ended up killing someone that looked like him.

- * Al Capone and his gang were never prosecuted for the crimes committed in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.



Texas Guinan



- * Mary Louise Cecilia Guinan (Texas Guinan) always dreamed of being a performer. Texas starred in many movies that portrayed her to be a strong, independent woman who reeked confidence. During Prohibition, she opened a speakeasy called the 300 Club in New York City. The club became famous for Guinan's forty fan dancers. She also became known for saying, "Hello suckers!" when patrons entered the club. She ended up dying one month before prohibition was repealed.



Izzy and Moe



This is one of their disguises

- * Izzy Einstein and Moe Smith were known for being Prohibition agents. Izzy was capable of speaking eight languages! He was also a very sly man with a lot of nerve. Although they looked like the average men, they took their work seriously and made about one fifth of the Prohibition arrests just in Manhattan by disguising themselves. They were very clever at keeping themselves confidential and took pride in all of their disguises.



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