**Chapter 21 – The Twenties**

“The Day Wall Street Exploded,” Backstory Radio podcast, 11 September 2015.

< http://backstoryradio.org/shows/fear-tactics-2015/ >

Date:

Place:

What happened?

Why did it this even seem “inevitable and predictable” to people at the time?

Who did it? (and are we sure?)

What was the backdrop / historical context?

What two historical forces came together in this event?

Who were the “(stereo)typical terrorists” in 1920?

What were the responses afterwards?

* From Wall Street and the city of New York?
* From the U.S. government?

What are some of the important legacies of this event?

**Two Americas: The 1924 Democratic National Convention (Ken Burns, PBS *Prohibition*)**

A language note: the clip opens with a clip from Baltimore journalist H. L. Mencken and he refers to the “wets” (i.e. people who supported ending Prohibition, who wanted alcohol to be legal, like the Anti-Saloon League) and “drys” (i.e. people who supported Prohibition, who wanted alcohol to stay illegal).

Where was the Democratic National Convention held in June 1924?

Who were the “two Americas”?

If Prohibition wasn’t even the biggest issue in the campaign, why is the split between wets and drys important to understanding cultural divisions in the 1920s?

Who was the rural, Protestant, conservative, “dry” candidate?

Who was the urban, Catholic, Progressive, “wet” candidate?

Why did the “drys” dislike him?

What was the “bitter battle” over at the convention?

How / where / why had the Klan grown since 1915? What was their vision of America?

How did the two leading candidates respond to the presence of the Klan in the convention?

Who eventually won the nomination for the Democrats for the election of 1924? Why?

Who won the presidential election of 1924?

**The Harlem Renaissance (History Channel)**

For which group of Americans was the 1920s a “decade of rebirth”?

What was the Harlem Renaissance? What was its goal?

How did World War I change American migration patterns?

What are some examples of African American literature, art and music that achieved mainstream acclaim at the time?

What happened to the Harlem Renaissance during the Great Depression? What legacies did it leave?