

SHORT ANSWER

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1-2. Name the Attorney General who was so largely responsible for the Red Scare. What was his most famous and flagrant breach of American justice?

A. Mitchell Palmer, who was largely responsible for the Red Scare, misappropriated a war law and directed police agents to round up over 6,000 suspected communists and communist leaders on January 1, 1920. He had them jailed against a pending wholesale deportation from America to Russia without any specific warrants for arrest.

3. In which city did the policeman go on strike? What was the result?

The policemen went on strike in Boston. The result was rioting, looting, and destruction of property, which contributed to the national climate of fear and ultimately turned public opinion against the underpaid policemen.

4. What event, on which day, marked the beginning of the end of the Scare?

The mass assassinations and strikes supposedly planned for May Day, 1920, which did not in fact occur, marked the beginning of the end of the Scare.

5. Name three groups besides socialists/communists who were targeted during the wave of fear that swept the nation.

Blacks, Jews, and Catholics

6. Name one of the traditional pre-war views about women which was abolished during the 1920's.

Any one of the following is acceptable:

- *The natural sphere for almost all women was seen to be marriage and childbearing. Their domain was the domestic realm, while a man's place was out in the world earning a living and running the affairs of the world.*
- *By nature, women were believed to be more pure and moral than men; indeed, they had been entrusted with the guardianship of morality.*
- *While a well-brought up young man might be expected to have had sexual experiences before marriage (and excused for the same), young women were required to be sexually pure on their wedding night.*

7. Name two changes in women's fashion that were reflective of the changing morality.

Any two of the following are acceptable.

- *Dress hems rose to show first ankles, then shins, then knees!*
- *Petticoats and other bulky underclothes were eliminated or made of thinner materials.*
- *Flapper dresses were made of thin clothes and cut straight. They had short sleeves, or none.*
- *Women abandoned their corsets.*
- *Thick cotton stockings (colored black, typically) were replaced with thin, silk ones in flesh color.*
- *Women cut their hair short (called a bob cut).*
- *Many women chose to wear cosmetics openly and boldly.*

8-9. The argument is often made that "war is good for the economy." However, the word "economy" originally comes from the Greek *oiko-nomia*, meaning "the management of the household." From your reading, think of two ways in which the innovations brought by the war (or its aftermath) may *not* have been good for the *oiko-nomia* of American households and families.

Any two of the following are acceptable:

- *The outsourcing of housework to machines or service industries led to a growing lack of knowledge about basic household management skills, such as cooking, sewing, teaching, gardening, etc.*
- *Having women out in the workforce meant home duties began to be neglected.*
- *The immorality experienced and brought back from Europe would prove destructive to many an American home.*
- *Growing statism and proliferating government programs continued to whittle away at the family's sphere of authority and responsibility.*

10. True/False: The Eighteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote, which produced a moderating influence on the revolution of morality as women across the country voted for conservative, moral legislation (like Prohibition).
False. The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote; it increased female independence but did not push women towards greater morality.

ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions (60 points)

1. “The Big Red Scare was an event that made sense at the time, seems outrageous to us now, and can instruct us for the future.” Support this statement by explaining what triggered the Red Scare, describing the extreme reactions within it, and applying the lessons this teaches us about temptations to fear in modern American culture.

Points an Excellent Essay Might Include

Triggers

- Lenin’s Bolsheviks had taken control in Russia after a long and bloody civil war, leading to fears that Marx’s predicted worldwide communist revolution was beginning to take place.
- Unions, which had grown very powerful during the war, were being squeezed by business men looking to get back to pre-war profits. They responded by going on strike in all the major industries.
- Some labor leaders and intellectuals began to call for a new industrial order in socialism, while others began advocating government control of various industries, with labor having a voice in how these industries were run.
- A few hard-core socialists, often foreign-born, began publishing literature promoting a revolution in America similar to the Russian revolution. Although a tiny percentage of the American population, they gained a national audience.
- Some radical protesters tried to or succeeded in setting off bombs in government officials’ homes.
- Boston policemen, needing raises, went on strike, leading to widespread looting, violence, and property destruction. The public was so scared that they sided with city officials instead of the policemen.
- Big business leaders realized they could gain public and government support by associating strikers with Bolshevik revolutionaries, and they did this with great success.
- A. Mitchell Palmer, Wilson’s Attorney General, mounted a series of raids on “radicals” when he noted that this kind of action made him popular with the American press and public.

Extreme Reactions

- Palmer rounded up over 6,000 suspected communists, arresting them without warrants and threatening them with deportation to Russia.
- Everyone began turning on everyone else, suspecting that anyone was a potential communist.
- Various groups dedicated to the improvement of American society were publicly accused of having revolutionary associations or intentions.
- Artists and writers came under strict scrutiny, as either promoting socialism or agitating for revolution.
- Oppressive conformity to a narrow set of Americanized ideals became imperative in virtually every walk of American life.
- Minorities, especially blacks, Jews, and Roman Catholics, were linked with the Bolsheviks or at least with the disruption of American order and were met with hostility.
- The Ku Klux Klan became newly popular, persecuting those who challenged their white Protestant view of America in general and blacks in particular.

Points an Excellent Essay Might Include (cont'd)**Modern Culture**

- As Christians, we need to be careful about responding in fear to people or events we don't understand. Often leaders will attempt to stir up fear in order to achieve their purposes, and we need resist that urge.
- We should never respond to people with cruelty, oppression, or hatred, but instead should befriend and help to save those who are oppressed or downtrodden.

Sample Essay

The Big Red Scare swept America after World War I, turning every misunderstood person into a suspected communist and causing much social discord. Although to modern observers it appears outrageous and nonsensical, at the time it made perfect sense, and the extreme reactions to the Scare can instruct us on the wrong ways to handle fear in modern American culture.

The events which triggered the Red Scare were complex. Lenin's Bolsheviks had succeeded in taking control in Russia after a long and bloody civil war, leading to fears that Marx's predicted worldwide communist revolution was beginning to take place. At the same time, in America there were many labor disputes between unions and employers. Several union leaders and other intellectuals put forth socialist ideas, and many began associating them with Russian revolutionaries. Big business leaders learned through a police strike in Boston that the only thing they needed to do to gain support against the unions was to associate the strikers with socialists, stirring up even more fear. By the time Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer announced a series of raids on "radicals" in order to gain popularity with the press and public, things were at a fever pitch.

During the Scare, there were many extreme reactions. Palmer rounded up over 6,000 suspected communists and threatened them with deportation to Russia without ever gaining a warrant for any of their arrests. People began suspecting everyone, including teachers, artists, writers, and anyone who disturbed the status quo in any way. Jews and Roman Catholics, never popular in American society, became associated with the communists, and blacks were accused of disrupting American order. The Ku Klux Klan was resurrected in force, proclaiming the virtues of white Protestants and threatening everyone else with violence. The turmoil in American society was pervasive.

The irrational and extreme reactions during the Scare can be instructive for us today. As Christians, we need to be careful about responding in fear and panic to people or events that we do not understand. Often, these misunderstood people are harmless, but people can try to manipulate fears in order to achieve their own purposes, much as the business leaders manipulated fears of communism to put down strikes. In addition, we should never respond to people with cruelty, oppression, or hatred, but instead should befriend and help those who are oppressed or downtrodden.

The Red Scare shows that mass hysteria can seem perfectly rational at the time, but look ridiculous in hindsight. Fear altered the shape of American society and led to oppression and persecution of different members of society. We need to resist the urge to panic like the Americans in the past, and instead respond with Christ's love to people that we do not understand.

2. "In the 1920's, Americans took a sharp turn away from traditional and biblical values." Discuss the changes in morals and manners, especially among youths and women, during the early 1920's, then summarize the apparent reasons why many Americans took this sudden, sharp turn.

Points an Excellent Essay Might Include**Changes**

- Women's fashion and clothing changed dramatically, as dress hems rose, corsets were abandoned, petticoats were mostly eliminated, flesh-colored stockings became popular, women cut their hair short, and cosmetics became common.
- Women also began smoking, drinking, dancing closely with men, and talking openly about sex.
- Unchaperoned "petting parties" became common occurrences.

Points an Excellent Essay Might Include (continued)

- More and more housework was either outsourced to places like bakeries and laundromats or taken over by electrical appliances.
- Many women joined the workforce, taking advantage of the new liberality concerning women in jobs that sprang up during the war.
- Closed automobiles allowed young people to be more independent of adult supervision, treating it as a portable living room in which to engage in various behaviors (sex, drinking, smoking, petting, etc.).
- Sex magazines, confession magazines, and motion pictures with illicit content became popular.

Reasons

- The war affected the state of mind of many young people:
 - Fatalism: “eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die”
 - Numerous sudden war marriages during war years
 - Hurried fornication before shipping out to war—in case he never came back
 - Prostitution was rampant during trench warfare far from home and safety, and many young men developed a taste for it.
 - American girls who went overseas as nurses and aides were introduced to European manners and standards but without their safeguards.
 - Many youths who traveled overseas in the war years acquired a taste for danger and zesty life that was hard to domesticate once they returned home.
 - Many of the younger generation felt that the older one had made a mess of the world and then handed it to them. This left them feeling hopeless, overwhelmed, and helpless, as well as disillusioned. It also led to a mindset that questioned the reasons behind all traditional ways.
 - Returning men and women wanted to forget their European experiences and have a good time.
- The victory of the women’s suffrage movement in 1920, marked by the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, gave women the impetus to push for even greater freedoms.
- The ideas of Sigmund Freud became very influential, linking every human behavior to sexual desires. This led to an obsession with the topic of sex and with sexual experimentation.
- Prohibition helped blur the distinctions between sexes, as drinking illegally was done by both men and women, and the experience would often lead to inappropriate conversations and sexual temptations.
- The closed automobile gave more freedom to engage in sinful acts without others knowing.

Sample Essay

The 1920’s in America were a time of rebellion against both the established norms of society and biblical values. Rebellion was especially evident in women, whose changing fashions and mannerisms marked the redefining of gender roles in American society. These radical changes were partly a result of disenchantment from the war and the theories of Sigmund Freud, among other things.

Many of the most radical societal changes were in the role of women. Women’s fashion changed dramatically during these years, as hemlines rose, corsets disappeared, cosmetics became common, and women abandoned long hair for short “bobs.” Many engaged in stereotypically “male” activities like smoking and drinking, and spoke openly of sex in a way unimaginable even ten years before. Traditional female roles in the household were outsourced, either to special shops like bakeries and laundromats, or to electrical appliances. Women entered the workforce in large numbers, taking advantage of the jobs opened to them by the war.

Other changes took place among the youth. Unchaperoned “petting parties” were common, and the rise of the closed automobile gave young people more independence from their parents’ supervision. The car was often treated as a portable living room in which to engage in various behaviors like sex, drinking, smoking, or petting. Sex magazines and movies with illicit content became very popular as well. In other words, the 1920’s marked a revolution in morals

in American society.

What were the reasons that America changed so much during these times? One was that the war had deeply affected the young people. They became fatalistic, thinking, “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” Hasty marriages and even hastier fornication as soldiers were leaving displayed a change in the way many of them viewed sex, and prostitution encountered in France gave men more of a taste for sex without limits. The younger generation looked at the war and believed that the older generation had made a mess of the world, leading them to question everything that the older generation stood for. Many of the soldiers really wanted to forget what they had seen during the war, and so became committed to pleasure in order to wipe out bad memories. Yet another reason was the influence of Sigmund Freud’s ideas, which linked every human action to sexual desires, leading to an obsession with the topic of sex and with sexual experimentation. There were many more reasons, but these are some of the most prominent.

The revolution of American morals during the 1920’s has had lasting effects, being a precursor of the present-day obsession with sex and redefined gender roles. In fact, many of the “revolts” from the 1920’s now seem tame to modern observers. Yet all these changes, ultimately, stemmed from giving in to sinful desires and becoming ruled by them.

SHORT ANSWER

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

- Name one reason why Harding was a desirable choice for the Republican nomination.
Any one of the following is acceptable:
 - He was—unlike Wilson—genial and friendly.*
 - He was—unlike Wilson—not an intellectual or a loner.*
 - He delivered speeches well.*
- Name one reason why he was a poor choice.
Any one of the following is acceptable:
 - He was a poor thinker and writer.*
 - Since he was not an intellectual, he did not have Wilson's insight into certain issues.*
 - He had relatively little political experience and had not taken his time in the Senate seriously.*
- Name Harding's main mistake during his time in office.
He appointed friends irrespective of their talents, many of whom were given to scandal and graft.
- Name and describe one of the scandals that blighted Harding's administration (2 points for naming, 6 points for describing).
Any of the following is acceptable:
 - In the Teapot Dome scandal, Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall accepted a bribe for leasing government-owned oil reserves to private companies.*
 - Attorney General Harry Daugherty was charged with crimes related to his administration of the Alien Property Custodian's Office. Two juries failed to agree on a verdict, and Daugherty was freed.*
 - Jesse W. Smith committed suicide in the midst of arranging settlements between criminals and the Department of Justice.*
 - Charles F. Cramer, legal adviser of the Veterans' Bureau, and Charles R. Forbes, its director, were implicated in misuse of funds. Cramer committed suicide; Forbes was jailed.*
- After he won the Russian civil war, what was Lenin's next priority, and why?
Lenin's next priority after winning the civil war was to invade Poland. This was the first step that he envisioned on the way to invading Eastern Europe, which would in turn be a stepping stone for a worldwide communist revolution.
- What was Lenin's (and Stalin's) strategy towards Germany during the period after World War I?
Their strategy was to foil any attempts at reconciliation between Germany and the Allies, thus leading to another world war. This was accomplished through diplomatic sabotage of the Genoa Conference, and (later) Stalin's allowing Germany to re-arm on Russian soil, in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Which bureaucratic role did Stalin use to cement his power in preparation for Lenin's death?
General Secretary of the Communist Party
- Briefly describe the final events surrounding Lenin's death which led to Stalin's ascendancy.
Answers should include much of the following information:
Stalin had many loyal followers that he had carefully hand picked within the party. He had effectively undermined and marginalized Trotsky, so he was no longer capable of overcoming Stalin. Lenin was disabled by strokes and too weak to stop Stalin's course. Stalin visited Lenin every day when he was sick from his first stroke and allayed Lenin's suspicions, and later honored him highly at his funeral, thereby winning the hearts of loyal communists with his displays of grief and affection. A picture of Stalin and Lenin together (which Stalin manufactured) gave the impression that Stalin was Lenin's choice for a successor. By the time Lenin's warning against Stalin (which was ambiguously worded) came to light, it was discounted.
- True/False: Lenin cut down the bloated Russian tsarist bureaucracy into a leaner government ruled by a small corps of loyal Communists—Stalin, Trotsky, and other members of his inner circle.
False. Lenin's totalitarian regime necessitated a greatly expanded bureaucracy.

ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions (60 points)

1. “What he promised was normalcy; what he delivered was sub-par.” Assess this statement with regard to the election, administration, and scandals of the Harding presidency.

Points an Excellent Essay Might Include

Election

- Harding promised a “return to normalcy” after the high-minded idealism and foreign involvement of the Wilson administration, meaning a return to the simplicity and isolationism of a past era.
- In the election, he provided exactly what was expected: the exact opposite of everything Wilson and the Democrats stood for.
 - He was genial and genuinely friendly, as opposed to the cool intellectual Wilson.
 - He was not a man of high ideals and a bit of a fuzzy thinker, as opposed to Wilson, the scholar and intellectual.
 - He did not call Americans to their highest ideals, like Wilson did, but instead promoted a withdrawal from the world in his “return to normalcy.”

Administration

- He was a good public speaker and considered very handsome and distinguished, but he could not write grammatically and still insisted on writing all of his own speeches.
- He was a poor judge of character, handing out government jobs to all of his old friends from Ohio, many of whom were either inept or corrupt.
- Under his watch, the U.S. did negotiate and sign a significant naval treaty that limited arms in the Pacific.
- Overall, his administration did little that was productive (although it kept itself busy with corruption).

Corruptions

- Many of his political appointees were merely seeking their own advancement and profit in their new government jobs.
- When Harding died, some suspected he may have been poisoned by his wife for committing adultery or may have found out about the corruption of his friends and committed suicide. These speculations were never proven, and the official cause of death was a heart attack following food poisoning and pneumonia.
- In the months after his death, the truth about the different scandals began to come to the surface.
- The most prominent scandal was the Teapot Dome scandal, in which Albert Fall, Harding’s Secretary of the Interior, had been secretly leasing naval oil reserves to private oil companies in return for large bribes.

Sample Essay

Warren Harding talked his way into the presidency by promising a “return to normalcy”— a word he coined on accident while describing a return to the way things were before the presidency of Woodrow Wilson. What the country got instead was a return to corruption and political cronyism not seen in the executive branch for decades. His “normalcy” was merely a period of administrative non-interference while his officials made as much money as they could.

Harding did supply everything people expected during his election. He was picked as the Republican candidate for one very simple reason: he was the opposite of Woodrow Wilson. Whereas Wilson was cold and intellectual, Harding was warm, genial, and great with people. He was not a very clear thinker, whereas Wilson was the consummate scholar. Wilson called on Americans to follow their ideals regardless of personal cost, but Harding wanted Americans to withdraw from the world and focus on themselves and their own country again. In a country exhausted from World War I and the lengthy peace treaty process, Harding was exactly what the people wanted.

Once he got into office, however, things began to go downhill. He wanted to share his joy of winning the presidency with his friends. He handed out political appointments left and right, but showed himself to be a poor judge of character, giving the positions to many friends who were either inept or completely corrupt. He was a good speaker but had very poor grammar, and yet he insisted on writing his own speeches. This resulted in many malapropisms and gaffes that kept him from being taken seriously. One of the only significant actions taken by the executive during his two years in office was an international naval treaty limiting arms in the Pacific. In other words, his administration did almost nothing.

Harding's death two years after entering office revealed how his officials had been keeping themselves busy. Scandal after scandal came to light as government officials were either caught or came clean (or killed themselves). Most prominent was the Teapot Dome scandal, in which Harding's Secretary of the Interior, Albert Fall, had been secretly leasing naval oil reserves to private oil companies in return for large bribes. This, along with many other scandals, showed that Harding's presidency was a failure.

When Harding promised a "return to normalcy," he meant a return to the peaceful, prosperous life that American had grown accustomed to, but what he delivered was far below this standard. Rather than peace, he brought a return to the days of corruption and political cronies, and America, expecting a lessening of drama now that the war was over, merely got more of it striking closer to home.

2. "Stalin's rise to power was inevitable, especially given Stalin's energetic pursuit of power." Support this statement from your readings this week. Note Lenin's mistakes, Stalin's maneuvers behind the scenes, and the events of his actual take-over of the Communist Party.

Points an Excellent Essay Might Include

Lenin's Mistakes

- In his attempt to start a worldwide communist revolution by invading Poland, Lenin miscalculated the working classes, not realizing that they respected private property, had benefitted from many reform movements in the late 1800's, and would refuse to be directed by foreign communist leaders.
- The invasion failed due to Lenin's overconfidence and due to political posturing by Stalin and Trotsky.
- The failure of the invasion rocked Lenin's confidence and psyche, since he had had such great faith in his revolutionary intuition and experience.
- He decided to create a bureaucracy to run the government and let Stalin be appointed general secretary.

Stalin's Maneuvers

- Stalin was good at bureaucratic work and used his position to replace men who were loyal to other leaders with men who owed their positions of power or honor to him alone.
- Lenin gave him the power to stomp out all factionalism, and Stalin took this to mean any opposition to him personally. Thus, he was able to use this new position to consolidate his own power, all in the name of serving the party.
- Working men of the Communist Party demanded that their leader to be "one of their own" and not a merely intellectual leader. Stalin, the son of a peasant, was perfectly suited to the role.
- Stalin posed as a genial, self-effacing Georgian team player while in the role of the general secretary.

Stalin's Final Rise

- Once Lenin realized what Stalin was doing, it was too late to stop him.
- Stalin had a great number of loyal followers within the party that backed his every move.
- He had effectively undermined and marginalized Trotsky, his primary rival.
- Lenin was disabled by strokes and too weak to stop Stalin's course.
- Stalin manufactured an image of himself as a close friend to Lenin by visiting him every day when he fell ill from a stroke and by making a big deal of Lenin at his funeral.
- He won the hearts of loyal communists through his grief and affection for Lenin at his funeral.

Sample Essay

Some say that Stalin's rise to power was inevitable, but this depends on the meaning of inevitable. If it means that there was no other alternative, then that is certainly not true, but if it means that Stalin shrewdly worked his way through Lenin's bureaucracy so that, when the time came, he was the natural choice for a successor, his rise might be called inevitable. This rise was a combination of his own hard work, skilled maneuvering, and Lenin's mistakes.

Lenin's first goal after solidifying his power following the Bolshevik Revolution was to work to bring about the worldwide communist revolution that he believed in so earnestly. His first step was to invade Poland. However, he was far too overconfident, and with Stalin and Trotsky politically maneuvering behind the scenes, the invasion was a disaster. This failure caused Lenin to refocus on long-term goals, eventually leading him to begin constructing a bureaucracy to govern until the revolution could be spread. Stalin's skill at desk-type activities made him a natural choice to be the head of the bureaucracy, the general secretary, and he received Lenin's appointment. This was a mistake because it gave Stalin the authority to begin forming his own political network.

As general secretary, Stalin used his position to solidify his power. He filled political positions with men who owed him their jobs, thus establishing a network of supporters. He had the power to stamp out "factionalism," which Lenin saw as a starting point for democracy, but Stalin used this language to mean anybody that opposed him personally, thus removing many political rivals. He posed as a humble, self-effacing Georgian in order to make those around him not think of him as a threat. However, he was shrewdly maneuvering his way into position to take power.

As Lenin came to the end of his life, he began to realize that Stalin was grabbing for power, but it was too late. Stalin's network of supporters was far too large to oppose, and through effective internal diplomacy and propaganda, Stalin had completely undermined Trotsky's ability to counter him. Lenin himself was disabled by strokes and unable to oppose him. Stalin managed to carefully manufacture an image of himself as a close friend and advisor to Lenin by visiting him every day. When Lenin finally died, he gave a stirring oration at the funeral that demonstrated his great grief and affection. When the people began clamoring for a peasant, not an intellectual, to lead the Communist Party, Stalin, as the son of a peasant, was the logical choice. Thus, he swept into power.

Stalin's rise to power was only inevitable because he manipulated his circumstances so that he was the only real choice to succeed Lenin. Because of the ways he maneuvered, he gained the power he truly wanted.