

Questions for Ken Burns' Prohibition

AMENDMENT XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Disc #2: A Nation of Drunkards/Chapter #2: This Law Will Be Obeyed

1. Who actually wrote the first draft of the Volstead Act?
2. What major assumption did many Prohibition supporters have when they voted for the 18th amendment?
3. What were the major features of the Volstead Act?
4. What exceptions to the total ban on alcohol existed in the Act? How could people legally get whiskey?

5. How were Jews impacted by Prohibition?

6. What were President Harding's views on Prohibition?

7. Who enforced the Volstead Act in the Federal Government?

8. How was the government impacted by the Prohibition?

9. What major obstacle did Prohibition enforcement face?

10. What problems existed with "concurrent enforcement?"

11. How was American culture impacted by Prohibition?

Disc #3: A Nation of Hypocrites/Chapter 5: A Genuine American

12. Who was Mabel Walker Willebrandt? Why did she order a series of raids on speakeasies the day before Al Smith was nominated for President?

13. What were Smith's views on Prohibition?

14. What were Herbert Hoover's views on Prohibition?

15. After Smith received the Democratic nomination, how did Willebrandt expand her enforcement of the law? What was the impact of her actions?

16. What was the "major strike" Al Smith faced as he ran for President?

17. What major action did the Anti-Saloon League take to "protect" Prohibition once it had been passed?

18. What groups of people in American society wanted to keep Congressional Representation of urban areas down?

19. Describe how James Cannon Jr.—the leader of the Anti-Saloon League by 1928—tried to discredit Al Smith and his campaign. What examples of hatred came out during the campaign?

20. How did Mabel Walker Willebrandt get involved in the 1928 Presidential campaign?

21. How did Smith respond to the religious bigotry that he faced?

22. Why was Smith's campaign always hopeless?

23. Who won the 1928 election?

24. What was the impact of Smith's campaign on Prohibition?

25. After the election, what happened to

A. James Cannon Jr.

B. Mabel Walker Willebrandt:

Primary Sources & TAAP Analysis

On the next page, you will see a letter. After you read it, please identify the topic, author, audience and purpose as well as 2-3 details about how the letter reflects 1920s society.