

In Search of the American Dream: the USA, c.1917-96
Topic 3: Society and culture in change

Key Term	Meaning
Middletown	In the early 1920s, a research team conducted a survey of smalltown life in Muncie, Indiana. In the published research the town was called 'Middletown.'
Suffragist	Campaigner for the vote for women.
Speakeasies	Clubs selling alcohol during Prohibition.
Flapper	'Modern' young women in the 1920s usually identifiable through bobbed hair, short skirts and frequent defiance of social conventions.
Political machines	Early twentieth century cities were often dominated by a political 'boss' whose organisation, invariably Democrat, would welcome and help immigrants to gain their votes.
Melting pot	Term used to describe the way in which the United States became a cohesive nation forged out of numerous immigrants willing to assimilate into American society.
Anglos	Hispanic term for white, English speaking Americans of whatever ancestry.
Popular culture	The culture of the masses as seen in their beliefs and the literature they read, the movies and television they watch and the music to which they listen.
Censorship	Censorship is the suppression of speech, public communication, or other information. This may be done on the basis that such material is considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, or "inconvenient". Censorship can be conducted by governments, private institutions and other controlling bodies.
Carpooling	Sharing rides in order to save time and/or money
Sitcoms	Situation comedies on television.
Agribusiness	Large-scale commercial farming operations rather than smaller family-owned ones.
Feminist	Advocate of equal political, social, economic and legal rights for women.
Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)	The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was initially proposed in Congress in 1923 in an effort to secure full equality for women. It seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in terms of divorce, property, employment, and other matters
The Feminine Mystique	The Feminine Mystique, a landmark book by feminist Betty Friedan published in 1963 that described the pervasive dissatisfaction among women in mainstream American society in the post-World War II period. She coined the term <i>feminine mystique</i> to describe the societal assumption that women could

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	find fulfillment through housework, marriage, sexual passivity, and child rearing alone.
Title VII	The anti-sex discrimination section of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
Reproductive Rights	A woman's right to know about and have access to contraception and abortion.
Consciousness-raising	Procedure adopted by pressure groups, for example feminists to raise awareness of specific issues.
Nativism	The favouring of residents of a country as opposed to immigrants.
Ms.	A title used before the surname or full name of any woman regardless of her marital status (a neutral alternative to Mrs or Miss).
Deportation	Making someone leave the country they are living in and banning them from returning.
'Illegal'	An illegal immigrant who entered the country without passing through the immigration process; such people had no visas and the immigration services had no record.
The Hays Code	Passed in 1927, a list of 'dos' and 'don'ts' for the movie industry, including no swearing or nudity.

Expectation: You need to learn the spelling and definition of these key terms off by heart!

Key Individual/ Group	Role, dates, importance etc
Eleanor Roosevelt	
J. Edgar Hoover	
Frances Perkins	
Betty Friedan	
National Organisation of Women (NOW)	
National Black Feminist Organisation	
Coalition of Labour Union Women (CLUW)	
Gloria Steinem	
Phyllis Schlafly	