

Prohibition

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Prohibition

It's 1826 and we are a nation of drunkards. American's enjoyed their alcohol at least as much as apple pie. Citizens had a drink at every meal, including breakfast. At work men had "graug time", which meant drinking alcohol during a break time. Americans would ferment fruits and grains and then turn it into whiskey. The average American adult male was likely to drink 88 bottles of whiskey per year, which was three times as much as their for fathers. Women and children started to become victims. Men would come home from a night of drinking and do whatever they wanted. Divorce didn't exist. The feeling among some American's was that life in general would be better without alcohol.

IN THE BEGINNING

The period between 1860 and 1900 groups such as The Women's Temperance Union and the Anti-saloon League were established, and a wave of prohibitions at the state and local levels were enacted. The results of the legislation during those years were less than satisfying to temperance advocates. The government received tax revenue from the alcohol sales. They weren't going to get rid of it completely. But in 1913 the unthinkable happened. The 16th amendment passes, which means imposing income taxes. The government no longer depended on alcohol.

NO MORE BOOZE

January 16, 1919 the 18th amendment is ratified also known as **Prohibition**, which banned the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol. This new law offered a promise that the government could make the world better. It wasn't an easy transformation, but 100 years later, America was expected to be officially dry. The amendment worked at first. Many American's tried to obey. They watched others obey the law and they felt that it was their duty to do the same. Many obeyed because they were afraid of getting caught. Many couldn't afford it, the price for illegal alcohol rose higher than the average working man could afford. Alcohol related arrests went down, alcohol related deaths were down as well. Alcohol consumption dropped by 30 percent. These statements don't reflect the unlawfulness of some citizens.

Some defied the law; they felt it was no business of the government to interfere. Citizens became clever with how they could obtain their drink. The illegal production and distribution of liquor, or bootlegging, became rampant. The national government didn't have the means or desire to patrol every border, lake and river in America.

The Volstead Act was introduced in October 1919 with the intent to give effect to the 18th amendment. Drinking was still legal, but as long as it stayed under one half of 1 percent of alcohol. Alcohol was okay for medicinal purposes, if it could be afforded. Sacramental wine was permitted, but orders went way up. Between 1920 and 1921, church going families went from 80 to 900. As long as you were a member, you could have wine.

HEALTH TOLL

The Prohibition also had major effects on the health of citizens.

- ☞ Deaths caused by cirrhosis of the liver in men dropped men per 100,000 from 29.5 per 100,000 from 1911-1929.
- ☞ Liquor was contaminated with toxic chemicals to make the drink go further. This contributed to 50,000 deaths and many cases of blindness or paralysis. This wouldn't have happened in a country where liquor production was monitored and regulated.
- ☞ Alcohol consumption during the Prohibition declined 30 and 50 percent. On the other hand by the end of the 1920's there were more alcoholics and illegal drinking establishments than before Prohibition.

THE ECONOMY

Not only did the Prohibition affect the people, but it also affected the economy. (Novick)

1. Instead of decreasing crime, it increased crime dramatically.

The amount spent on law enforcement more than doubled. Prohibition made life in America more violent, with open rebellion against the law.

2. It created a huge illegal market for the production, trafficking and sale of alcohol.

There was lost tax revenue. Many citizens lost their jobs legally producing, distributing or serving alcohol.



3. It almost ruined the country's brewing industry.

Anheuser-Busch survived by turning to other products, such as ice cream, root beer, malt extract, and corn syrup.



4. Organized crime stemmed from bootlegging.

Al Capone was well known by 1926. He wasn't the first bootlegger or gangster, but he was the first who enjoyed being in the media. Gangs started the "beer wars".

They competed for districts. Murder was happening in broad daylight. Innocent bystanders were killed. Judges, jurors and prosecutors were paid off. The killers were never arrested because the law was afraid of them. (West's Encyclopedia of American Law)



5. The liberation of women drinking started after the Prohibition.

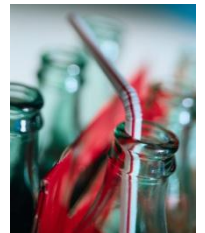
Before then, men and women didn't drink together, but in the 1920's drinking together becomes the trend. Not only drinking together, but having more fun together. Women started being more conspicuous and men enjoyed it. Mothers everywhere were appalled at this new sexual revolution.



6. Saloons closed, but Speakeasy's opened up all over the place. Nobody knows the exact number of speakeasy's that existed just in New York, but one official guessed 32,000. Many welcomed blacks. Whites and blacks danced and entertained together. They were finally speaking each other's language.



7. Coca Cola had never done so well. Their stock doubled because so many people were suddenly in need of some serious caffeine.



States Individual Stands			
Followed Prohibition	More than 50% of the state was w/o saloons	Less than 50% of the state was w/o saloons	Booze States
AL, AZ,AR,ID,GA,KS,KY, LA,MS, MO,MT,NE,OH,OK,TN, TX, UT,VT,VA,WI,WY	CA,IL,IN,IA,MA,NV,NH NC, ND,RI,SC,SD,	DE, FL,MI, MN,NJ	CO, CT,ME,MD,NM, NY,OR, PA,WA,WV,

THE REPEAL

In 1932 both parties called for the 18th amendment to be repealed. Some that battled to get Prohibition to pass in the first place were battling every bit as hard for repeal. Congress answered by passing a resolution proposing the repeal. Once three-fourths of the states had ratified the resolution, the 21st Amendment was passed and alcohol_began to flow again legally in the United States. In the over 200 years of the U.S. Constitution the 18th Amendment remains the only Amendment to ever have been repealed. ("Great Depression." The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition)

By Dec. 5, 1933, when the amendment was ratified, even people who had vocally supported Prohibition had changed their tune dramatically. Their opinions about the evils of alcohol remained, but they had realized the effects of Prohibition to be far-reaching and perhaps worse than alcohol itself. (Okrent)

It had been enacted to alcoholism; to safe and reestablish the moral In the end it helped fuel champion feared. It classes; the wet, the dry



stall change and put an end guard the American family supremacy of small towns. the very transformation its created a nation of three and the hypocrites.

Prohibition Cocktails

Mary Pickford	Rum	Named for an actress loved by all
Colony Cocktail	Gin	Named for New York
Bacardi Cocktail	Rum	Named in the hopes of being able to get real Bacardi again one day.
Barbary Coast	Gin/Scotch	Named for the abnormal mixture of gin and scotch, but surprisingly good.

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