

Harding

- Fought against the League of Nations
- Fought against entanglement with Europe
- Owed his success to America's exhaustion with the war years, with progressivism, and with the turbulence of 1919.

Harding

•"America's present need is not heroics, but healing, not nostrums, but normalcy; not revolution, but restoration; not agitation, but adjustment; not surgery, but serenity."

TEAPOT DOME AFFAIR

Harding's Scandal and Sudden Death

- Harding compensated for his poor governing skills by hiring highly skilled cabinet members.
- U.S. Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon reformed the tax system.
- Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes and Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were also incredibly successful cabinet members.
- Some cabinet members, however, were old friends from Ohio, called the Ohio Gang, who were later convicted of taking bribes.
- Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was convicted and jailed for accepting bribes to allow oil companies to drill federal reserves on government land called the **Teapot Dome** in Wyoming.
- Harding, distressed by rumors, took a trip to Alaska, and collapsed giving a speech in Seattle and died not too long after.

Harding's Presidency

- Harding's answer to the postwar economic troubles was "less government in business and more business in government."
- He sought to cut the federal budget and reduce taxes for wealthy Americans, believing that the wealthy would start businesses and pull America out of hard times.
- Harding offered little to farmers, though he signed the Fordney-McCumber Tariff, which raised the cost of foreign farm products.
- The tariff also raised prices for American farm products, helping U.S. farmers in the short term but making it even harder for European nations to pay back their war debts.
- The tariff was the only measure Harding took to help American agriculture.

Calvin Coolidge

- Vice President Calvin Coolidge took the office of president in the early hours following Harding's death.

Coolidge in Office

- As president, he got rid of officials suspected of corruption under Harding.
- Thought business helped society, and government should be limited
- Lowered taxes, reduced federal spending, would not help farmers or war veterans

Coolidge the Man

- Serious and straightforward, known as "Silent Cal"
- He liked playing practical jokes on White House staff but hated small talk.
- He was popular at the time but did not run for re-election in 1928.

Coolidge

- Appointed business people to regulatory commissions (Soon began to overlook violations of anti-trust laws)
- Selected supreme court justices that ruled against progressive legislation (Judges ruled that 12 progressive laws unconstitutional) child labor/minimum wage
- Named conservatives to powerful cabinet positions (Andrew Mellon)