

## The Rise and Fall of Prohibition SMART Board Activity



American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition  
is created by the  
National Constitution Center – Philadelphia, PA  
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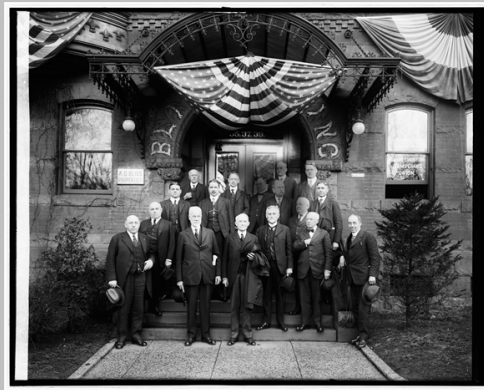
American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of  
Prohibition is developed in partnership with  
the Bill of Rights Institute  
([www.BillofRightsInstitute.org](http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org))

## Background on Prohibition



- Prohibition was the nationwide ban on the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcohol from 1920-1933.
- It was enacted through the 18th Amendment, codified by the National Prohibition Act, also known as the Volstead Act, and repealed by the 21st Amendment.
- Though noble in aim, Prohibition limited personal freedom, gave rise to widespread lawlessness, and encouraged the growth of organized crime.

## How Did the Prohibition Movement Begin? Religion and Temperance



- In the early 19th century, many Baptists and Methodists took part in revivals. The revivals were held, in part, to convert new followers to Christ and overcome the worldly evil of drinking.
- Temperance was the effort to persuade individuals limit use of alcohol or not to drink alcohol at all.
- Temperance organizations included the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.
- The Anti-Saloon League (ASL) advocated temperance and believed that saloons and other sellers of liquor should be forced to close their businesses.

## The Progressive Movement



- Many Progressives believed that alcohol was harmful and the government had to intervene.
- This was a significant shift away from the traditional American understanding of the purpose of government to that point.

## Contrasting Views

The Founders believed citizens could best pursue happiness if government was limited to protecting the life, liberty, and property of individuals.



Many early 20th century reformers and believed that government should provide citizens with the environment and the means to improve themselves through government-sponsored programs and policies.

## The Road to the 18th Amendment

- By 1917, 26 of the 48 states had passed prohibition measures with help from the Anti-Saloon League.
- Congress approved the 18th Amendment in 1917 prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating beverages.
- It was ratified by three-fourths of the states and added to the Constitution on January 16, 1919.



## What Happened to Prohibition?



- Enforcement of Prohibition failed.
  - Smugglers brought liquor into the United States through port cities
  - Speakeasies opened across the country.
  - People throughout the country made their own illegal liquor.
- Federal agents charged with enforcing the law were not prepared to deal with the large numbers of bootleggers and speakeasies.
  - Corruption was a problem in many law enforcement agencies.
- Chicago, New York, Detroit, and Seattle were hubs for crime bosses who attempted to transport alcohol across the country.
- Gangs across the country began consolidating into national crime organizations.
- Gangs began fighting for power leading to an increase in violent crime that turned public opinion against Prohibition.

## Reasons for Repealing Prohibition

- Prohibition had clearly not met the goal of improving society.
- The Great Depression struck a major blow to the nation's economy, and some lawmakers believed that bringing back a tax on alcohol could help increase federal revenue to aid the struggling country.
- Citizens were concerned about the upsurge in crime and violence.





## The 21st Amendment



- Groups like the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment began organizing repeal efforts.
- After 13 years under Prohibition, the United States ended the ban with the ratification of the 21st Amendment - the first and only time in American history an amendment to the Constitution has been repealed.
- The 21st Amendment reaffirmed the power of states to make laws concerning the sale and transport of alcohol, just as they had before national Prohibition.
- Many states began tightly controlling liquor usage through licensing requirements or direct control of alcohol sales, drinking age limits, and specific hours of operation for liquor sellers. Many of these regulations are still in force today.

## What Are the Steps in the Amendment Process?

The amendment is approved by two-thirds of each house of Congress.

The amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

Congress debates the amendment.

The amendment is proposed by Congress or a convention of state legislatures.

The amendment is ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures or conventions of three-fourths of the states.

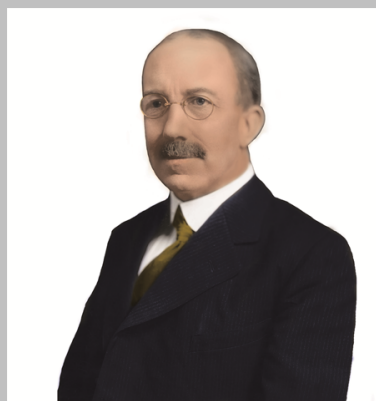
Click and drag the steps of the amendment process to put them in order below.

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## Critical Thinking Questions

- What is the historical relationship between the Temperance Movement and Prohibition?
- How did the Founders' view of government differ from the Progressives' view in terms of:
  - the nature of mankind
  - the purpose of government
  - the types of powers government should be given
  - the types of things it is possible for government to do
- Why did Prohibition lead to crime and violence? What were other effects of Prohibition?
- How did the 18th Amendment differ from most constitutional amendments in history?
- Why do you think that Prohibition, which had been approved by representatives elected by the people, failed so dramatically?

## Who Said It? Quote Game Directions



Directions: Read the quotes that follow. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

1. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. - That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

Click here to find the answer.

2. "Personal liberty' is at last an uncrowned, dethroned king, with no one to do him reverence. We are no longer frightened by that ancient boggy - paternalism in government.' We affirm boldly, it is the business of government to be just that-paternal...Nothing human can be foreign to a true government."

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

3. "Can the liberties of a nation be sure when we remove their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people, that these liberties are a gift from God?"

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

4. "Better occasional faults of a government that lives in a spirit of charity than the consistent omissions of a government frozen in the ice of its own indifference."

[Click here to find the answer.](#)



## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

5. "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

Click here to find the answer.

6. “[N]atural liberty is a gift of the beneficent Creator, to the whole human race; and ... civil liberty is founded in that; and cannot be wrested from any people, without the most manifest violation of justice. Civil liberty is only natural liberty, modified and secured by the sanctions of civil society.”

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

7. "This is not a contest between persons. The humblest citizen in all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error."

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

Click here to find the answer.

8. "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

9. "As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights. Where an excess of power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions."

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

Click here to find the answer.

10. "For it is very clear that in fundamental theory socialism and democracy are almost if not quite one and the same. They both rest at bottom upon the absolute right of the community to determine its own destiny and that of its members. Men as communities are supreme over men as individuals."

## Who Said It? Quote Game

Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

11. "Our country has deliberately undertaken a great social and economic experiment, noble in motive and far-reaching in purpose."

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

## Who Said It? Quote Game

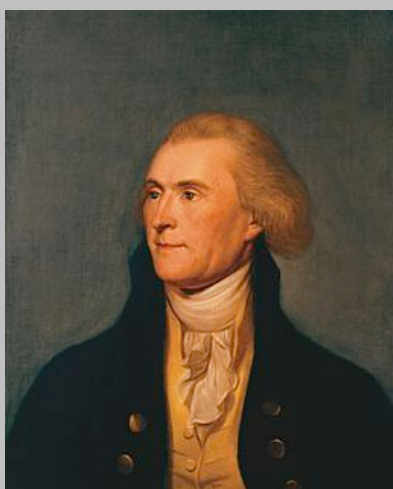
Directions: Read the quote below. Think about the type and purpose of government they are describing, and then determine if a Founder or Early Twentieth Century Reformer is quoted.

12. "The doctrine of 'personal liberty' as applied to the use of liquor has been over-worked by the liquor men. As a matter of fact, there is no such thing as an absolute individual right to do any one particular thing, or to eat or drink any particular thing, or to enjoy the association of one's own family, or even to live, if that thing is in conflict with 'the law of public necessity.'"

[Click here to find the answer.](#)



# Who Said It?



Answer 1.  
Founder, Thomas  
Jefferson, The  
Declaration of  
Independence, 1776

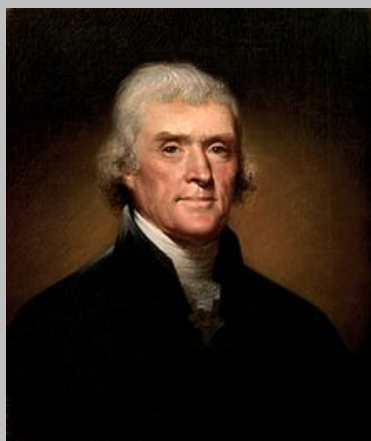
[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?

Answer 2:  
Early 20th Century  
Reformers, Josiah Strong  
and W.D.P. Bliss, The  
Gospel of the Kingdom  
magazine editors, 1914

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

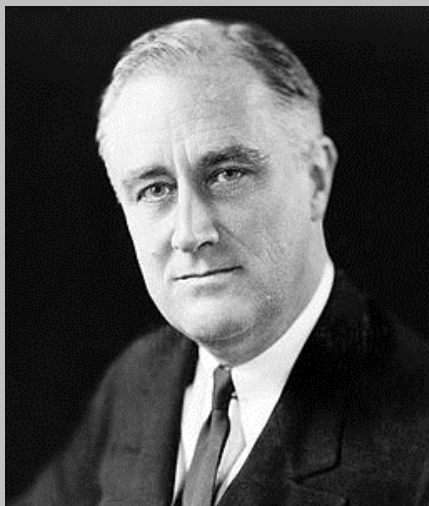
# Who Said It?



Answer 3:  
Founder, Thomas  
Jefferson, Notes on the  
State of Virginia, 1785

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?



Answer 4.  
Early 20th Century  
Reformer, Franklin D.  
Roosevelt, Speech to the  
Democratic National  
Convention, 1936

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?



Answer 5:  
Founder, Patrick Henry,  
Speech to the Virginia  
Convention, 1775

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

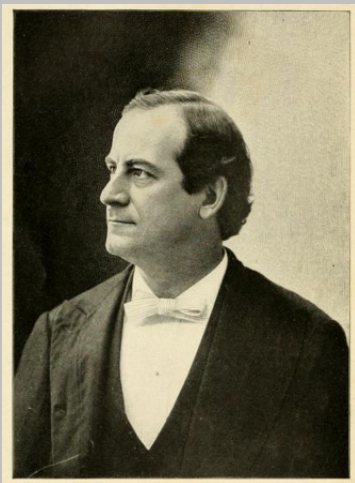
# Who Said It?



Answer 6:  
Founder, Alexander  
Hamilton, The Farmer  
Refuted, 1775

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

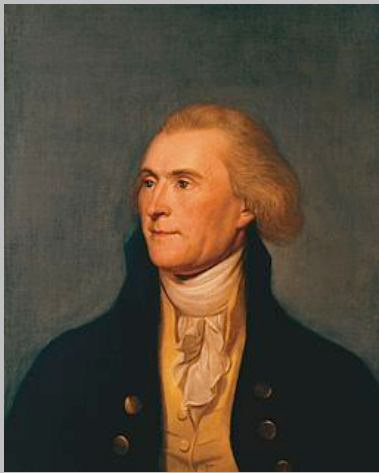
# Who Said It?



Answer 7:  
Early 20th Century  
Reformer, William  
Jennings Bryan, "Cross of  
Gold" Speech at the  
Democratic National  
Convention, 1896

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?

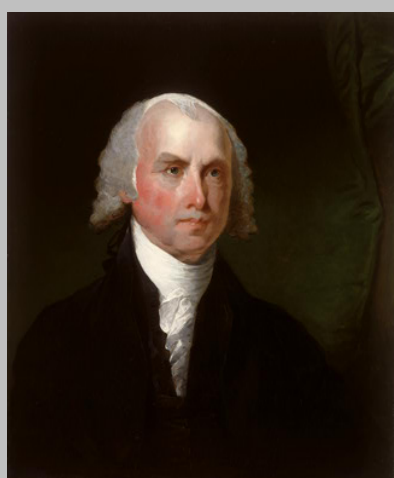


Answer 8:  
Founder, Thomas  
Jefferson, Resolutions  
Relative to the Alien and  
Sedition Act, 1798

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)



# Who Said It?



Answer 9:  
Founder, James Madison,  
The National Gazette,  
1792

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?



Answer 10:  
Early 20th Century  
Reformer, Woodrow  
Wilson, "Socialism and  
Democracy," 1887

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?



Answer 11:  
Early 20th Century  
Reformer, Herbert  
Hoover, Letter on the  
Passage of the 18th  
Amendment to an Idaho  
Senator, 1928

[Click here to go to the next quotation.](#)

# Who Said It?

Answer 12:  
Early 20th Century  
Reformer, Charles Stelze,  
Why Prohibition!, 1918

You're finished!

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