

# **PPT: POST-WWI SOCIAL TENSIONS**



**October 1917**

**The Bolsheviks  
Revolution brings a  
Communist gov't to  
power in Russia**



## **KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN:**

**Capitalism**

**Communism**

Communists want private property abolished,  
want collective ownership of property.

**Why were so many Americans afraid of the spread of  
communism after WWI?**

Bolsheviks called on workers of the world to overthrow capitalist  
gov't, who they said served the interest of businesses.



# Summer 1919

Eight bombs went off simultaneously in 8 cities.

Authorities discovered 36 bombs and blamed them on radicalism



Attorney General Mitchell Palmer home after bombing







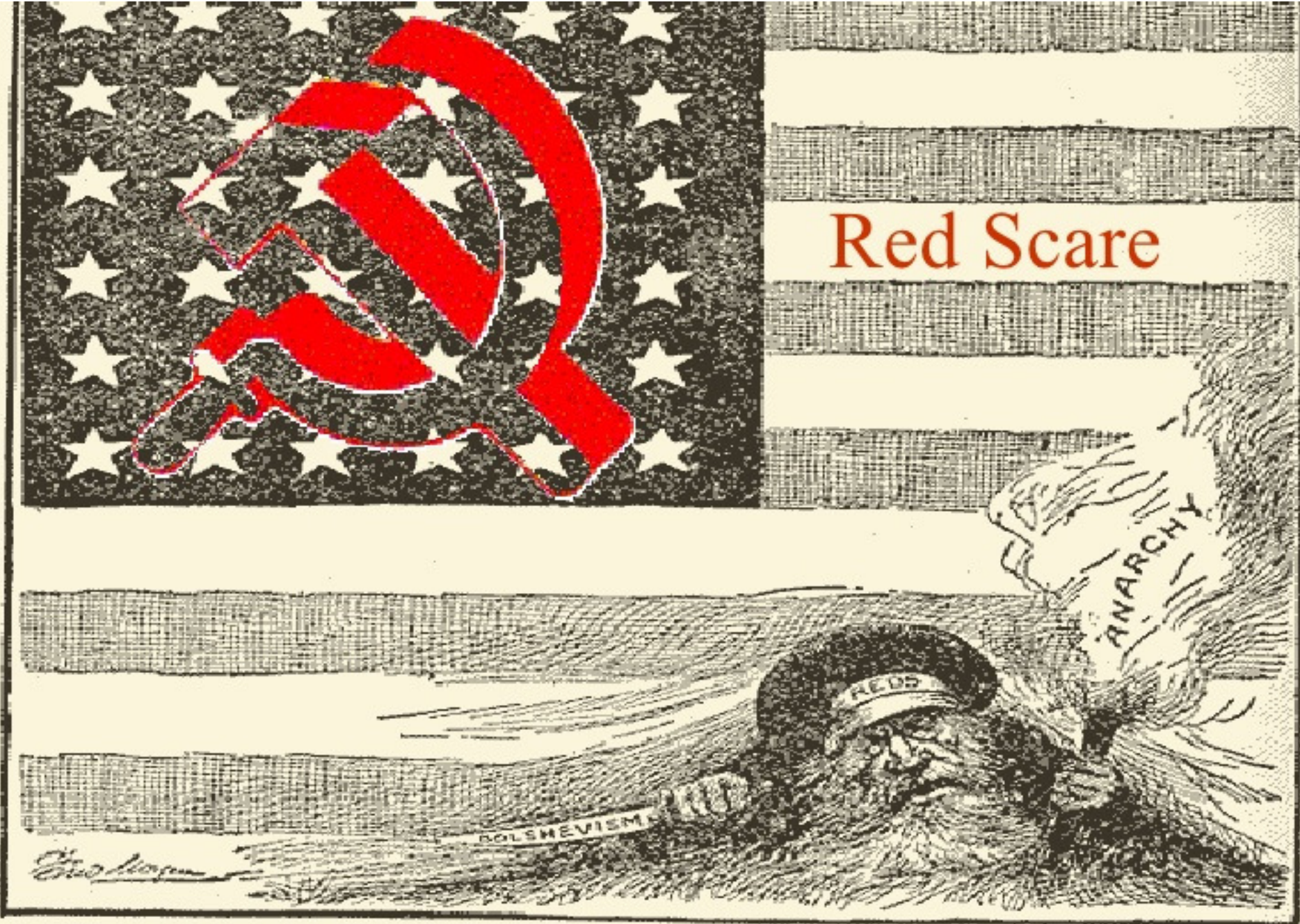
A. Mitchell Palmer

- Palmer got an appropriation of \$500,000 from Congress to launch a campaign to “tear out the radical seeds that have been entangled American ideas in their poisonous theories.”

## PALMER RAIDS

- Nov 1919 to Jan 1920
- 249 deported to Russia
- arrested more than 4,000 people
- Seized without warrants, many of the prisoners were denied attorneys and deprived of food, water, heat, and even bathroom facilities.
- 600 radicals were expelled





# Red Scare

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PUT THEM OUT AND KEEP THEM OUT



## AFTER WWI (1918-1920)



- As the boys came home after WWI, the United States would **demobilize**, and develop many problems
  - 4 million veterans now needed jobs; unemployment is an issue
  - The economy will go into a recession
  - Growing unions will go on strike (AFL, IWW)



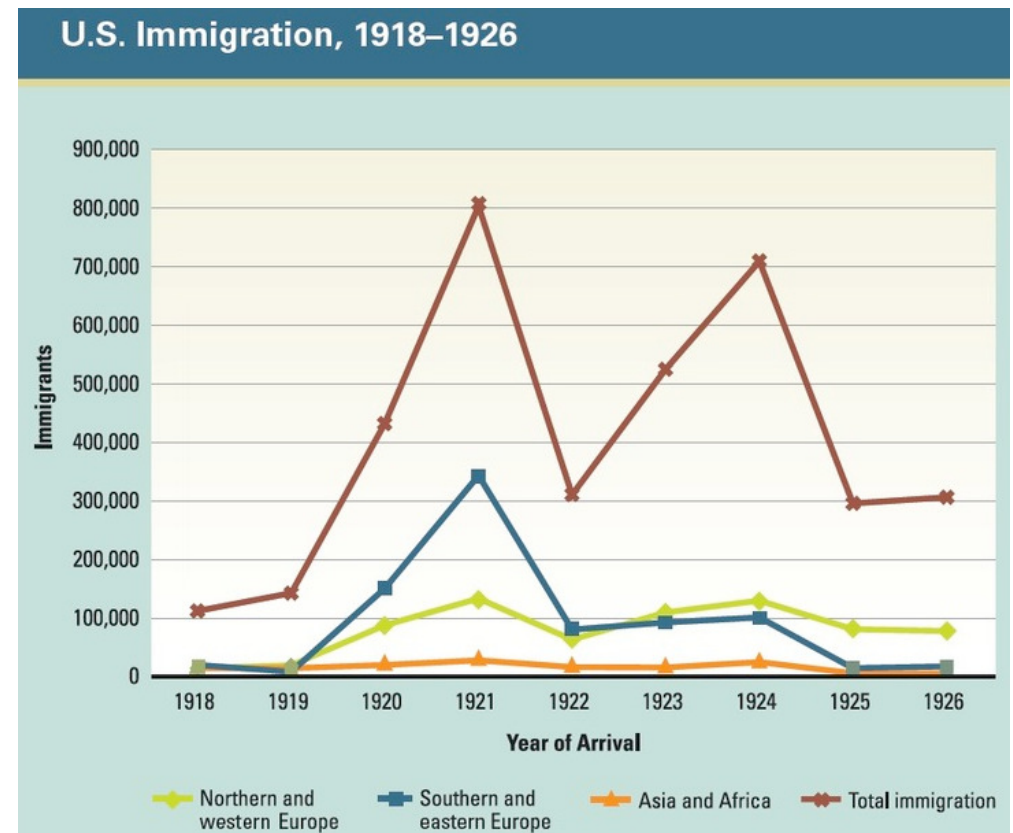
# SEATTLE STEEL STRIKE

- 350,000 steel workers went on strike in Sept worked a 12-hour 7 day week.
- 3600 strikes occurred in 1919



- As the Red Scare heightens more people become Nativists.
- This leads to a quota system which restricts the number of immigrants that can come from each country
- By 1924 the quotas % are lowered and all immigrants from Asia are banned.
- By 1929 only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the immigrants enter the US as did in 1921

## NATIVISM REVIVED





# SACCO AND VANZETTI



**Had the Sacco and Vanzetti trial been fair?**



# WHAT HAPPENED?

- On April 15, 1920, Fredrick Parmenter, paymaster of the Slater and Morill Company (shoe manufacturers) and his guard were robbed of \$16,000 and murdered in South Braintree, MA. by two bandits with hand guns who “looked Italian.”
- Three weeks later Sacco & Vanzetti, known to the police as radicals, were arrested by the police. Both were carrying hand guns with ammunition.



Frederick Albert Parmenter

*Photo courtesy his granddaughter, 'Jane' Parmenter Reed*



## ***WHO:***

- Nicola Sacco, 29, worked in a shoe factory
- Bartolomeo Vanzetti, 32, had numerous low paying jobs
- Both men
  - were Italian immigrants
  - were apart of unions
  - open members of the East Boston Anarchists' group
- Neither had a criminal record.





# VANZETTI TESTIMONY



**Well, I have already say that I not only am not guilty of these two crimes, but I never committed a crime in my life-- I have never stolen and I have never killed and I have never spilt blood, and I have fought against crime, and I have fought and I have sacrificed myself even to eliminate the crimes that the law and the church legitimate and sanctify.**

**This is what I say: I would not wish to a dog or to a snake, to the most low and misfortunate creature of the earth-- I would not wish to any of them what I have had to suffer for things that I am not guilty of. I am suffering because I am a radical and indeed I am a radical; I have suffered because I was an Italian, and indeed I am an Italian; I have suffered more for my family and for my beloved than for myself, but I am so convinced to be right that you can only kill me once but if you could execute me two times, and if I could be reborn two other times, I would live again to do what I have done already.**



# ACTIVITY – TRIAL ROLE-PLAY

7 members of the Lowell Committee will run a clemency hearing.

6 witnesses will testify

- Are Sacco and Vanzetti guilty?
- Did they have a fair trial?

