

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Kasdi Merbah Ouargla University**

Faculty of Letters and Languages

Department of Letters and English Language



**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Master's Degree in field
of English language and literature**

Major: Literature and Civilisation

The Roaring Twenties between the Economic Prosperity and Social Inequality in the United States During the 1920s:

A Marxist Approach

Presented and publicly defended by

Younes KOLLI

Supervised by

Dr. Saifeddine GUENDOZ

Jury

Dr. Ali LEBOUZ	President	MCB	Kasdi Merbah Ouargla University
Dr. Hanane BOUKEMMOUCHE	Examiner	MCB	Kasdi Merbah Ouargla University
Dr. Saifeddine GUENDOZ	Supervisor	MCB	Kasdi Merbah Ouargla University

Academic Year:

2025 2026

Dedication

I dedicate this humble work to my beloved parents, whose patience, sacrifices, unconditional love, and endless support have always been the source of my strength and motivation throughout my academic journey.

To my family, for their encouragement, understanding, and constant belief in my abilities.

To my respected supervisor, Mr. and Dr. Sief Eddine, for his valuable guidance, advice, and continuous support during the completion of this dissertation.

To my dear brothers, Achref and Monsef, and to my beloved sister, Meryouma, for their encouragement and support.

To my respected teachers and friends, especially Mr. Abd Elkrim, and to everyone who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the accomplishment of this work.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my respected supervisor, Mr. and Dr. Sief Eddine, for his valuable guidance, patience, encouragement, and continuous support throughout the realization of this dissertation. His advice and academic assistance were essential to the completion of this work.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all my teachers and professors for their efforts, knowledge, and dedication during my years of study. Their guidance greatly contributed to my academic development.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to my beloved parents for their unconditional love, sacrifices, and constant support. Without them, this achievement would not have been possible.

Special thanks are also addressed to my brothers, Achref and Monsef, and to my dear sister, Meryouma, for their encouragement and moral support.

I would also like to thank my respected teacher and friend, Mr. Abd Elkrim, as well as all my friends and colleagues who supported me throughout this academic journey.

Finally, I express my gratitude to everyone who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the accomplishment of this dissertation.

Abstract

This dissertation examines the impact of Marxism and Capitalism on the Roaring Twenties, a remarkable decade in American history characterized by unprecedented economic growth, technological innovation, and profound social and cultural transformation. The decade witnessed significant developments in mass production, particularly in industries such as automobiles, radio broadcasting, consumer goods, and entertainment. It was also marked by important social changes, including the expansion of women's rights following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Furthermore, the study investigates the relationship between capitalism and Marxism and analyzes their influence on American society during the 1920s. Particular attention is given to the ways in which capitalist principles shaped economic structures, consumer behavior, social classes, and cultural values. Furthermore, the research explores public attitudes toward both theories and examines the factors that contributed to the widespread acceptance of capitalism and the limited appeal of Marxism within the American context.

Keywords: Roaring Twenties, Marxism, Capitalism, economic structures, American society.

Table of Contents

Dedication	3
Acknowledgements.....	4
Abstract	5
GENERAL INTRODUCTION.....	7
Background of the study	8
Statement of the problem.....	8
Research Questions.....	9
Methodology	9
Structure of the dissertation	10
CHAPTER ONE: THEORETICAL PART.....	11
The Roaring Twenties	12
The end of World War I.....	14
The Rise of the United States.....	15
The economic boom	16
Consumer culture.....	18
The Automobile Industry.....	20
The Role of Ford Motor Company	22
Urbanization	23
Jazz Music and Entertainment	26
SECOND CHAPTER: THE IMPACT OF CAPITALISM AND MARXISM ON THE ROARING TWENTIES ...	30
The Influence of the Roaring Twenties on Society	31
The Difference Between Capitalism and Marxism	34
The Relationship Between Marxism and Social Class	37
The interplay Between Capitalism and Social Class	40
How Jazz Music Shaped Society and Social Class.....	43
Society's Reaction to Capitalism and Marxism	46
To what extent did capitalism theory affect and shape the American societies during the 1920s period	48
GENERAL CONCLUSION	51
References.....	53
References	54
Résumé	56
Résumé.....	57
المستخلص	58

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Marxism, Classism, and Their Influence on Society

Marxism is a social, political, and economic theory developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels during the nineteenth century. It seeks to explain how societies are organized and how economic systems influence human relationships and social structures. According to Marxism, the foundation of every society lies in its economic organization, which determines the distribution of wealth, power, and resources. Marx argued that throughout history, societies have been characterized by conflicts between different social classes. These conflicts emerge because one group controls the means of production, such as factories, land, and capital, while another group provides labor. As a result, Marxism views class struggle as the driving force behind historical change and social development.

One of the central concepts of Marxism is classism, which refers to the unequal treatment and social divisions that arise from differences in economic status and social class. Marxists argue that capitalist societies naturally create class distinctions between the bourgeoisie, who own the means of production, and the proletariat, who sell their labor in exchange for wages. This division often leads to unequal access to wealth, education, healthcare, and political influence. Consequently, members of the working class may experience economic exploitation and social marginalization, while the upper classes enjoy greater privileges and opportunities. Marxism therefore considers classism not merely a social prejudice but a structural feature of capitalist societies.

Marxism also emphasizes the role of social institutions in maintaining class inequalities. Institutions such as schools, governments, religious organizations, and the media are believed to contribute to the preservation of the existing social order. According to Marxist theory, these institutions often promote ideas and values that support the interests of the dominant class. For example, education may encourage obedience and conformity, while the media may portray economic inequality as natural or unavoidable. Through these mechanisms, social institutions can reinforce class divisions and discourage challenges to the established economic system. As

a result, class inequalities become deeply embedded within society and are reproduced across generations.

The influence of class divisions extends beyond economics and affects culture, identity, and everyday life. Marxists argue that people's experiences, opportunities, and worldviews are often shaped by their class position. Individuals from wealthy backgrounds generally have access to better education, higher-quality healthcare, and stronger professional networks, which increase their chances of success. In contrast, those from lower-income backgrounds may face barriers that limit their social mobility and economic advancement. These inequalities can influence cultural practices, political participation, and even personal aspirations. Consequently, class becomes a significant factor in shaping both individual lives and broader social relationships.

In conclusion, Marxism provides a powerful framework for understanding the relationship between classism and society. By focusing on the unequal distribution of wealth and power, Marxist theory explains how social classes emerge and how they influence political, economic, and cultural institutions. It highlights the ways in which class divisions shape opportunities, identities, and social interactions while contributing to persistent inequalities. Although Marxism has been debated and criticized by various scholars, it remains one of the most influential approaches for analyzing social structures and understanding the impact of class on human societies. Its insights continue to be relevant in discussions of inequality, social justice, and economic development in the modern world.

Background of the study

The Roaring Twenties stands as one of the most influential decades in the history of the United States. Beginning after the end of WWI, the 1920s introduced a period of rapid economic growth and cultural transformation. Technological advancements and mass production revolutionized industries such as automobiles, radios, and electrical machines, making modern products more affordable and widely available. As a result, American society shifted toward a

consumer culture in which people bought more goods, embraced modern lifestyles, and enjoyed new forms of entertainment, including jazz music and cinema

In addition to economic change, the decade also brought important social progress. Women gained the right to vote in 1920 and began entering the workforce in greater numbers. This development provided women with new opportunities, independence, and social freedom that were not available in previous generations. Overall, the Roaring Twenties was a decade characterized by prosperity, innovation, cultural creativity, and major shifts in American social life.

During this period, there were various forms of entertainment and cultural change, including new music, dance styles, bars, modern fashions, and a completely new lifestyle that many Americans began to enjoy. This was especially true for some members of the high and middle classes. However, for the lower class, particularly workers and African-Americans who suffered from low wages and long working hours, life remained difficult so they turned to jazz music as a tool to escape reality, to relieve stress, to express their emotions, and to find freedom in the middle of a hostile environment.

Statement of the problem

The present study sheds light on how African-Americans were economically treated in the Roaring Twenties, with emphasis on Marxist theory. That is to say, the theory will be

deployed to investigate how the economic structure of The Roaring Twenties fostered the emergence of Jazz music among African-Americans. Furthermore, the study explores how Marxist theory can also be a tool to defend oppressed minorities

Research Questions

This study aims to answer the following questions

1. To what extent did the economic situation in The Roaring Twenties foster the emergence of Jazz music?
2. In light of Marxist theory, what is the interplay between Jazz music and American economic institutions?

Methodology

A collection of texts from books of history, articles from newspapers, and documentary films will be collected. They should all cover issues about the economic situation in the Roaring Twenties. Subsequently, Marxist theory will be used to pin down the main factors that led to the persecution of African-Americans in the Roaring Twenties, and therefore, establishing direct links of how did African-Americans lean toward singing Jazz at the time.

It is worth mentioning that the framework of 'Base' and 'Superstructure' will be adopted. In other words, the base represents the African-Americans themselves (as members of the working-class). The superstructure, on the other hand, represents the American institutions (military academies, churches, government agencies, and financial institutions).

The superstructure, in this incident, will represent the 'oppressive side'. That is to say, the focus will be on how these institutions shape certain stereotyped identity among Africa

Americans, and how all these factors contribute to find a way out of this oppression, that will be represented in the form of the emergence of Jazz music.

Structure of the dissertation

This dissertation will be divided into two chapters, a theoretical part and a practical part. The first chapter will introduce main definitions about the Roaring twenties, its characteristics, main events, and the state of economic situation. Moreover, it will also cover main aspects about Marxist theory, its definition, and how it is utilized.

As for the second chapter, the collected data (texts, articles and videos) will be analyzed using base and superstructure framework. Results will also be mentioned, which will be the answers to this dissertation.

CHAPTER ONE: THEORETICAL PART

Introduction:

The Roaring Twenties was a period of economic prosperity, cultural change, and social transformation in the United States during the 1920s, especially from 1920 to 1929. After the end of World War I, the American economy grew rapidly, industries expanded, and consumer goods such as automobiles, radios, and household appliances became widely available. This decade also witnessed the rise of jazz music, the emergence of flappers as symbols of women's freedom, and significant changes in lifestyles and values. However, despite its prosperity, the period ended with the Wall Street Crash of 1929, which led to the beginning of the Great Depression.

The Roaring Twenties

The Roaring Twenties was a remarkable period known for its rapid economic growth, industrial expansion, and major cultural transformation. During this decade, the United States experienced significant progress in different fields, including the economy, technology, art, and entertainment. Factories increased their production, businesses expanded quickly, and consumer culture became more popular among Americans. Many people enjoyed a higher standard of living, especially in urban areas, where modern lifestyles and new forms of entertainment began to spread widely (Allan, 1931).

In addition, the 1920s witnessed important developments in music, cinema, literature, and fashion. Jazz music became one of the most influential cultural movements of the time, while Hollywood grew into a major center of the film industry. The decade also reflected social change, as women gained more freedom and became more active in public life after obtaining the right to vote in 1920. These cultural and social transformations made the Roaring Twenties one of the most memorable periods in modern American history (Allan, 1931).

The rise of the United States during this period was strongly connected to the aftermath of World War I. After the war ended, many European countries suffered from economic

destruction, political instability, and massive human losses. Several powerful empires, including the Russian Empire and the German Empire, were weakened or collapsed completely. As a result, the United States emerged as one of the strongest economic and political powers in the world. Its industries expanded rapidly, international influence increased, and American businesses gained greater control over global markets (Allan, 1931).

Furthermore, technological innovation played a major role in shaping this decade. New inventions such as automobiles, radios, and household electrical appliances changed people's daily lives and encouraged mass consumption. Companies used modern advertising techniques to attract consumers, which contributed to the growth of capitalism and the expansion of the

American economy. However, despite the prosperity and optimism of the Roaring Twenties, the period also contained economic inequalities and financial weaknesses that later contributed to the beginning of the Great Depression at the end of the decade (Allan, 1931).

The Roaring Twenties was a significant period in the 1920s, characterized by remarkable strength and rapid development in many fields, particularly in the economic and cultural sectors. These transformations made the Roaring Twenties one of the most important periods in the history of United States. In addition, one of the major factors that helped America improve its financial power was the period following World War I. During this time, the United States became more powerful than before because many other countries experienced economic collapse, political instability, and governmental difficulties. Countries such as Germany, Russia, and several other European nations faced serious economic and social challenges that weakened their influence in international markets and global affairs (Allan, 1931).

The economic system was one of the first fields in which America began to strengthen its power and expand its influence worldwide. The country experienced what became known as the “economic boom,” a period of rapid growth in industry, finance, and consumer culture. Major industries such as automobiles, radios, household electrical appliances, and mass production developed at an unprecedented rate. Technological innovation, industrial expansion, and increased consumer spending all contributed to this economic prosperity. Furthermore, the rise of capitalism and modern business practices encouraged investment, production, and the growth of large corporations (Allan, 1931).

During this period, America witnessed rapid progress in many sectors, which gradually increased its influence on the global stage. The economic success of the 1920s also helped shape a new American identity based on modernity, consumerism, industrial power, and cultural influence. As a result, the Roaring Twenties played a major role in creating the modern America that is recognized today, both as an economic superpower and as a country with strong

cultural and political influence around the world (Allan, 1931).

The end of World War I

The end of WWI in 1918 marked a turning point in modern history and strongly influenced the beginning of the 1920s. After four years of destruction and violence, many countries were left in a state of devastation, which weakened their economies, political systems, and influence over international markets. The war caused severe damage to industries, infrastructure, and financial institutions, leading several European countries to experience economic decline and political instability. As a result, nations such as Germany, France, and the United Kingdom faced major difficulties in rebuilding their economies and restoring their global power after the war (Denning, 1996).

In contrast, the United States emerged from the war in a much stronger position. Unlike many European countries, America did not suffer destruction on its own territory, which allowed it to strengthen its industries and economy during and after the war. One of the most important consequences of World War I was the shift of economic and political power from Europe to the United States. European countries struggled with war debts, reconstruction costs, inflation, and unemployment, while America used this situation as an opportunity to expand its global influence and increase its control over international markets (Denning, 1996).

Furthermore, the United States became one of the world's leading industrial and financial powers by supplying weapons, food, machinery, and other goods during and after the war. American industries grew rapidly, and the country experienced significant economic expansion. The end of the war also encouraged industrial growth and technological development during the 1920s, especially in fields such as automobiles, radios, and household electrical appliances. These developments contributed to the rise of the American economy and helped create the economic boom that characterized the Roaring Twenties (Denning, 1996)..

Overall, the end of World War I reshaped the balance of global power and allowed the

United States to become a dominant economic and political force. The postwar period marked the beginning of a new era in which America increased its influence worldwide, while many European nations continued to struggle with the long-lasting consequences of the war (Denning, 1996).

The Rise of the United States

The rise of the United States refers to the growth of its economic and political power during the 1920s, especially after the end of World War I. As a result of the war, many European countries suffered from serious economic problems, political instability, financial weakness, and industrial destruction. Countries such as France, the United Kingdom, and Germany faced major difficulties in rebuilding their economies and restoring their political influence. In contrast, the United States experienced rapid development in many fields, particularly in the economic sector and international trade. This situation allowed America to strengthen its global position and gradually transform from a developing industrial nation into a world power with strong economic and political authority (Fitzgerald, 1925).

One of the main reasons behind America's rise was the rapid expansion of its industries through mass production, technological innovation, and increased consumer demand. Important sectors such as automobiles, steel, oil, banking, and electricity achieved remarkable growth during the 1920s. American companies expanded their production and introduced modern manufacturing methods, especially the assembly line system developed by Henry Ford. These industrial advancements increased productivity, created more employment opportunities, and strengthened the American economy and society. In addition, the spread of consumer goods such as radios, household appliances, and automobiles reflected the economic prosperity of the period (Fitzgerald, 1925).

Furthermore, the United States became a leading financial power during the postwar era. Many European countries depended heavily on American loans, investments, and financial

support to rebuild their economies and recover from the destruction caused by the war. This financial dependence increased American influence over international markets and global trade. As a result, the United States gained greater control over international economic activities and became one of the world's most influential nations in both politics and finance (Fitzgerald, 1925).

The rise of the United States also contributed to the expansion of its political and cultural influence worldwide. American businesses, banks, and industries spread their influence across global markets, while American culture became increasingly popular through cinema, jazz music, radio broadcasting, and advertising. This period marked the beginning of modern American dominance in many fields and helped establish the foundations of the United States as a global superpower (Fitzgerald, 1925).

Overall, the 1920s represented a major turning point in American history. The economic prosperity, industrial expansion, and financial strength of the United States allowed it to become one of the most powerful nations in the world. Although many European countries struggled with postwar difficulties, America used this opportunity to expand its influence and strengthen its position in international affairs, shaping the modern global order for decades to come (Fitzgerald, 1925).

The economic boom

The term "Economic Boom" refers to the period of rapid economic growth and prosperity during the 1920s, especially in the United States. One of the most important characteristics of this period was the rapid expansion of American industries such as automobiles, steel, electricity, oil, and household appliances. These industries became major sources of economic strength and played a significant role in creating the prosperity that characterized the Roaring Twenties. In addition, the increasing production of consumer goods allowed many Americans to buy modern products that had previously been considered expensive or inaccessible, which

contributed to the development of a new modern lifestyle and consumer culture (Galbraith, 1955).

Another important factor behind the economic boom was the rise of mass production, which became a major turning point in American factories and industries. Companies began manufacturing large quantities of goods at lower costs through modern production methods, especially the assembly line system developed by Henry Ford. This method increased industrial productivity and made products more affordable for different social classes. As a result, consumer spending increased rapidly, and the American economy continued to expand throughout the decade (Galbraith, 1955).

Technological innovation also played a central role in the economic boom of the 1920s. New inventions such as radios, telephones, automobiles, and electrical appliances transformed the daily lives of Americans and made life more comfortable and efficient. These innovations changed communication, transportation, entertainment, and household activities, creating a modern society strongly connected to technology and industrial progress. The spread of these products also reflected the increasing economic power of the United States during this period (Galbraith, 1955).

Furthermore, industrial and technological expansion created many employment opportunities and improved living standards for a large part of the population. Businesses and banks encouraged people to invest, spend money, and purchase goods through credit systems and financial support. This economic growth led many individuals to move from rural areas to cities in search of work, contributing to urbanization and the growth of entertainment industries such as cinemas, music, and nightlife. As a result, American cities became symbols of modernization and economic prosperity during the Roaring Twenties (Galbraith, 1955).

Despite this prosperity and economic success, the economic boom also contained several weaknesses and hidden problems. Economic inequality, overproduction, excessive consumer

spending, and stock market speculation created an unstable financial environment. Many people invested heavily in shares hoping to become wealthy quickly, which caused the stock market to expand rapidly without strong economic foundations. These weaknesses eventually contributed to the Great Depression, which marked the end of the economic boom and brought a severe economic crisis to the United States and much of the world (Galbraith, 1955).

Consumer culture

During the Roaring Twenties, United States experienced the rapid growth of consumer culture, as Americans began spending more money on goods and modern products than ever before. This period was characterized by a major transformation in people's lifestyles and economic behavior. Rising incomes, industrial expansion, and economic prosperity encouraged individuals to purchase a variety of products that symbolized comfort, modernity, and social success. Consumer culture became one of the defining characteristics of the 1920s and reflected the economic strength of American society during that period (Galbraith, 1958).

One of the main reasons behind the rise of consumer culture was the development of mass production. American factories began producing large quantities of goods at lower costs through modern manufacturing methods, especially the assembly line system introduced by Henry Ford. This industrial method increased productivity and made products more affordable for all social classes. Goods such as automobiles, radios, refrigerators, telephones, and household appliances became widely available to ordinary Americans. As a result, people were able to improve their living conditions and enjoy a more comfortable and modern lifestyle than before (Galbraith, 1958).

Advertising also played a major role in the expansion of consumer culture during the 1920s. Companies used newspapers, magazines, billboards, cinemas, and radio broadcasts to promote their products and influence public opinion. Advertising encouraged individuals to buy more goods by connecting products with ideas of happiness, beauty, luxury, and social status.

Businesses competed to attract consumers through modern marketing strategies, which increased the demand for fashionable clothes, cosmetics, automobiles, and technological products. This rise in advertising helped shape a society strongly influenced by consumption and material success (Galbraith, 1958).

Another important factor was the growth of credit systems and installment buying. Many Americans purchased products through loans and installment plans, allowing them to obtain expensive goods without paying the full price immediately. Banks and companies encouraged consumers to spend money more freely by offering easy payment methods. As a result, many families were able to buy cars, furniture, electrical appliances, and other modern products. Although this system increased consumer spending and economic activity, it also created financial risks because many people accumulated debts that they could not easily repay (Galbraith, 1958).

Consumer culture also contributed to major cultural and social changes in American society. Technological innovations improved communication, transportation, and entertainment, making daily life easier and more connected to modern technology. Urban areas became centers of entertainment, cinemas, jazz music, nightlife, and shopping. Fashion trends and popular culture spread rapidly, especially among young people and women, who gained greater social freedom during the decade. Consumerism became associated with modern identity, personal success, and social progress, particularly in growing American cities (Galbraith, 1958).

Despite the prosperity and modernization created by consumer culture, several negative effects appeared during the late 1920s. Excessive spending, dependence on credit, materialism, and overproduction created economic instability within the American economy. Many people invested heavily in goods and the stock market while relying on borrowed money. These financial weaknesses gradually weakened the economy and contributed to the Great Depression. Therefore, although consumer culture represented economic progress and modern

living, it also revealed the hidden economic problems that later led to one of the most serious financial crises in modern history (Galbraith, 1958).

The Automobile Industry

During the Roaring Twenties, United States experienced the rapid growth of consumer culture, as Americans began spending more money on goods and modern products than ever before. This period was characterized by a major transformation in people's lifestyles and economic behavior. Rising incomes, industrial expansion, and economic prosperity encouraged individuals to purchase a variety of products that symbolized comfort, modernity, and social success. Consumer culture became one of the defining characteristics of the 1920s and reflected the economic strength of American society during that period (Hobsbawm, 1994).

One of the main reasons behind the rise of consumer culture was the development of mass production. American factories began producing large quantities of goods at lower costs through modern manufacturing methods, especially the assembly line system introduced by Henry Ford. This industrial method increased productivity and made products more affordable for all social classes. Goods such as automobiles, radios, refrigerators, telephones, and household appliances became widely available to ordinary Americans. As a result, people were able to improve their living conditions and enjoy a more comfortable and modern lifestyle than before (Hobsbawm, 1994).

Advertising also played a major role in the expansion of consumer culture during the 1920s. Companies used newspapers, magazines, billboards, cinemas, and radio broadcasts to promote their products and influence public opinion. Advertising encouraged individuals to buy more goods by connecting products with ideas of happiness, beauty, luxury, and social status. Businesses competed to attract consumers through modern marketing strategies, which increased the demand for fashionable clothes, cosmetics, automobiles, and technological products. This rise in advertising helped shape a society strongly influenced by consumption

and material success (Hobsbawm, 1994).

Another important factor was the growth of credit systems and installment buying. Many Americans purchased products through loans and installment plans, allowing them to obtain expensive goods without paying the full price immediately. Banks and companies encouraged consumers to spend money more freely by offering easy payment methods. As a result, many families were able to buy cars, furniture, electrical appliances, and other modern products. Although this system increased consumer spending and economic activity, it also created financial risks because many people accumulated debts that they could not easily repay (Hobsbawm, 1994).

Consumer culture also contributed to major cultural and social changes in American society. Technological innovations improved communication, transportation, and entertainment, making daily life easier and more connected to modern technology. Urban areas became centers of entertainment, cinemas, jazz music, nightlife, and shopping. Fashion trends and popular culture spread rapidly, especially among young people and women, who gained greater social freedom during the decade. Consumerism became associated with modern identity, personal success, and social progress, particularly in growing American cities (Hobsbawm, 1994).

Despite the prosperity and modernization created by consumer culture, several negative effects appeared during the late 1920s. Excessive spending, dependence on credit, materialism, and overproduction created economic instability within the American economy. Many people invested heavily in goods and the stock market while relying on borrowed money. These financial weaknesses gradually weakened the economy and contributed to the Great Depression. Therefore, although consumer culture represented economic progress and modern living, it also revealed the hidden economic problems that later led to one of the most serious financial crises in modern history (Hobsbawm, 1994).

The Role of Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company played a major role in the industrial and economic transformation of the United States during the Roaring Twenties. Founded by Henry Ford, the company became one of the most successful automobile manufacturers in the world and helped shape modern industrial production. Ford Motor Company was not only important for producing automobiles, but also for revolutionizing manufacturing methods and contributing to the rapid economic growth of the American economy during the 1920s (Hofstadter, 1948).

One of the company's greatest achievements was the introduction of the assembly-line production system. Before this innovation, manufacturing automobiles was slow, expensive, and required a large amount of labor. Henry Ford transformed the production process by introducing moving assembly lines, where workers performed specialized tasks repeatedly while products moved through the factory. This method significantly increased productivity, reduced production time, and lowered manufacturing costs. As a result, automobiles could be produced more quickly and sold at affordable prices to ordinary Americans (Hofstadter, 1948).

The success of the Ford Model T became a symbol of industrial progress and modern transportation. The Model T was affordable, durable, and easy to maintain, which made car ownership possible for millions of middle-class Americans. The popularity of Ford automobiles transformed transportation and daily life across the country. People gained greater mobility, and businesses benefited from improved transportation systems. Ford's industrial success also encouraged other companies to adopt mass production methods in different industries (Hofstadter, 1948)..

Furthermore, Ford Motor Company had a major impact on employment and workers' conditions. Henry Ford introduced higher wages for factory workers, including the famous five-dollar workday, which was considered revolutionary at the time. Higher wages improved workers' living standards and allowed many employees to purchase the products they

manufactured. This policy strengthened consumer culture and contributed to the growth of the American middle class. The company also created thousands of jobs directly and indirectly through industries connected to automobile production, such as steel, oil, rubber, and road construction (Hofstadter, 1948).

The influence of Ford Motor Company extended beyond economics and industry into American culture and society. The company represented innovation, efficiency, and modernization during the 1920s. Assembly-line production became a model for industrial development worldwide and changed the nature of factory work in many countries. Ford's success demonstrated how technological innovation and mass production could transform society and increase economic prosperity. Consequently, Ford Motor Company became one of the most important symbols of industrial success and economic progress during the Roaring Twenties (Hofstadter, 1948).

Urbanization

Urbanization was one of the most important social and economic changes that occurred during the Roaring Twenties in the United States. During this period, millions of Americans moved from rural areas and small towns to large cities in search of better employment opportunities, higher wages, and improved living conditions. The rapid growth of industries and factories in urban areas attracted workers from different parts of the country, making cities the center of economic activity and modernization. As a result, urbanization became a defining characteristic of American society during the 1920s (Johnson, 1997).

One of the main causes of urbanization was industrial expansion. Factories, automobile companies, construction industries, and large businesses created thousands of jobs in cities, encouraging people to leave agricultural life behind. Technological developments and the growth of mass production increased the demand for industrial labor, especially in sectors such as automobiles, steel, electricity, and manufacturing. Cities offered more economic

opportunities and modern facilities compared to rural areas, which motivated many individuals and families to relocate (Johnson, 1997).

The growth of cities also led to major improvements in infrastructure and transportation. Urban areas expanded rapidly through the construction of roads, bridges, skyscrapers, electricity networks, public transportation systems, and communication services. Modern technologies such as automobiles, telephones, radios, and electrical appliances became more common in cities than in rural regions. These developments transformed American cities into symbols of progress, industrialization, and modern living during the 1920s (Johnson, 1997).

Urbanization strongly influenced American culture and social life. Cities became centers of entertainment, cinemas, jazz music, nightlife, sports, and consumer culture. Young people and women especially experienced greater social freedom and new lifestyle opportunities in urban environments. Fashion, advertising, and modern cultural trends spread quickly throughout cities, creating a more dynamic and modern society. In addition, urbanization contributed to the rise of cultural diversity because many immigrants and rural populations settled in growing industrial cities (Johnson, 1997).

Despite its positive effects, urbanization also created several social and economic problems. Rapid population growth caused overcrowding, pollution, housing shortages, poverty, and increased crime rates in some urban areas. The gap between wealthy and poor social classes also became more visible in cities. Furthermore, the movement away from rural life weakened some traditional social values and increased cultural tensions between urban and rural communities. Nevertheless, urbanization remained one of the most significant developments of the Roaring Twenties because it transformed the structure of American society and helped shape the modern industrial nation (Johnson, 1997).

Urbanization also changed the demographic structure of the United States during the 1920s. For the first time in American history, a larger percentage of the population lived in cities rather

than rural areas. This demographic transformation reflected the growing importance of industrial and urban life in the country. Large cities such as New York City, Chicago, and Detroit experienced rapid population growth because of migration from rural regions and immigration from abroad. As cities expanded, they became major centers of business, finance, culture, and technological innovation (Johnson, 1997).

Another important consequence of urbanization was the development of modern housing and architecture. The rapid increase in urban populations encouraged the construction of apartment buildings, skyscrapers, hotels, and modern residential neighborhoods. Advances in engineering and construction technologies allowed cities to grow vertically through tall buildings and modern urban planning. Skyscrapers became symbols of economic prosperity and industrial success, especially in major cities like New York. Urban development reflected the confidence and optimism that characterized the Roaring Twenties (Johnson, 1997).

Urbanization also contributed to the growth of transportation systems and communication networks. The increasing number of automobiles encouraged the construction of highways, roads, and bridges connecting urban and suburban areas. Public transportation systems such as buses, trains, and subways expanded rapidly to meet the needs of growing populations. At the same time, communication technologies such as telephones and radios became more common in urban households, helping people stay connected and informed. These improvements increased mobility and strengthened economic and social interactions within cities (Johnson, 1997).

The educational and cultural opportunities available in cities were another major factor that attracted people to urban areas. Cities contained universities, schools, libraries, theaters, museums, and cinemas that offered individuals greater access to education and entertainment. Urbanization helped spread new cultural ideas, artistic movements, and social values throughout American society. Jazz music, literature, sports, and cinema became central

elements of urban culture during the 1920s. As a result, cities became the driving force behind cultural modernization in America (Johnson, 1997).

Finally, urbanization intensified the contrast between modern urban life and traditional rural values. While cities represented progress, freedom, and industrial growth, many rural communities remained attached to conservative traditions and agricultural lifestyles. This cultural division created tensions in American society during the 1920s, especially regarding religion, social behavior, fashion, and modern ideas. Nevertheless, urbanization played a crucial role in transforming the United States into a modern industrial society and laid the foundations for future economic and technological development (Johnson, 1997).

Jazz Music and Entertainment

Jazz music became one of the most popular cultural symbols of the Roaring Twenties in the United States. During the 1920s, jazz rapidly expanded across the country and became strongly connected to the modern lifestyle that characterized the decade. This musical movement represented energy, freedom, creativity, and social change. For many Americans, jazz music was more than simple entertainment; it became a reflection of the new mentality that emerged after World War I. After years of war, destruction, and social difficulties, people wanted to enjoy life, escape stress, and experience new forms of entertainment and freedom (Jung, 1933).

Jazz music played a major role in transforming American society and changing people's perspectives toward life. It opened the door to new cultural experiences and encouraged individuals to become more open-minded toward modern ideas and lifestyles. The spread of jazz contributed to the growth of bars, nightclubs, dance halls, and entertainment centers throughout American cities. People began spending more time enjoying music, dancing, and social activities, which created a more dynamic and modern urban culture. Jazz culture encouraged individuals to seek pleasure, freedom, and self-expression in ways that were less common before the 1920s (Jung, 1933).

In addition, jazz music became a form of emotional escape from social difficulties, economic pressures, and class divisions. Many Americans used music and entertainment as a way to forget the hardships of daily life and the tensions that existed in society. Jazz represented freedom and individuality, especially for young people who wanted to rebel against traditional social values and conservative attitudes. The music created an atmosphere of excitement and emotional expression that attracted millions of people from different social classes and cultural backgrounds (Jung, 1933).

Jazz music originally developed within African American communities, especially in New Orleans, before spreading to other parts of the country. African American musicians played a central role in creating and developing jazz music through their creativity, musical talent, and cultural traditions. The origins of jazz were deeply connected to the experiences of African Americans, including racial discrimination, difficult working conditions, and social inequality. Through music, African American communities expressed their emotions, struggles, hopes, and cultural identity. As jazz became more popular, it also increased the cultural influence of African Americans within American society (Jung, 1933).

The spread of jazz music also contributed to the popularity of modern dance culture during the 1920s. New dances such as the Charleston became fashionable among young people and symbolized freedom, energy, and modern life. Dance halls and jazz clubs became important social spaces where people gathered to enjoy music and entertainment. These cultural developments reflected the modernization of American society and the growing influence of youth culture during the Roaring Twenties. Jazz music therefore became one of the strongest symbols of cultural transformation, social freedom, and artistic creativity during the decade (Jung, 1933).

Jazz music became widely accessible due to the rapid development of mass media, especially the radio industry in the United States. Radio broadcasting allowed jazz to reach

millions of listeners across cities and rural areas, making it one of the first truly national music styles. This technological expansion helped unify popular culture and allowed artists to gain national recognition. As a result, jazz became a shared cultural experience that connected different regions and social groups through entertainment (Jung, 1933).

The 1920s also witnessed the rise of famous jazz musicians who shaped the identity of this musical movement. Artists such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington played a crucial role in developing jazz into a sophisticated and influential art form. Their performances introduced new musical techniques, improvisation styles, and emotional expression that defined modern jazz. These musicians became cultural icons and contributed significantly to the global recognition of American music (Jung, 1933).

Jazz culture had a strong impact on youth behavior and social values during the Roaring Twenties. Young people embraced jazz as a symbol of independence, freedom, and rebellion against traditional norms and conservative attitudes. This shift reflected a broader cultural transformation in American society, where modern ideas began to replace older social restrictions. Jazz clubs and dance halls became spaces where youth could express themselves freely and explore new forms of identity (Jung, 1933).

In addition to its cultural influence, jazz music contributed to the economic growth of the entertainment industry. The popularity of jazz increased demand for concerts, recordings, radio programs, and nightlife activities. This expansion created new job opportunities for musicians, producers, club owners, and media workers. The entertainment industry became an important part of the American economy, supporting the growth of urban centers and modern consumer culture (Jung, 1933).

However, jazz culture also faced criticism from conservative groups within American society. Some people believed that jazz music promoted immoral behavior, excessive freedom, and the weakening of traditional values. They associated jazz clubs and nightlife with social

disorder and cultural decline. Despite these criticisms, jazz continued to grow in popularity and remained a defining feature of the 1920s cultural revolution, symbolizing both innovation and social tension within American society (Jung, 1933).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Roaring Twenties was a remarkable decade marked by economic growth, technological innovation, and major social and cultural changes in the United States. It transformed American lifestyles through increased consumerism, the popularity of jazz music, and greater social freedom. Despite its achievements and prosperity, the decade ended with economic instability that culminated in the Wall Street Crash of 1929, paving the way for the Great Depression. Therefore, the Roaring Twenties remains one of the most influential and transformative periods in American history.

**SECOND CHAPTER: THE IMPACT OF
CAPITALISM AND MARXISM ON THE
ROARING TWENTIES**

Introduction

This practical part examines some of the most significant social and cultural developments of the Roaring Twenties in the United States. It focuses on the rise of jazz music, the advancement of women's rights, and the emergence of flappers as symbols of a new modern lifestyle. Through the analysis of these phenomena, this chapter explores how economic prosperity and social change reshaped American society during the 1920s. By studying these events, it becomes possible to understand the relationship between economic growth, cultural transformation, and changing social values. The chapter also highlights the impact of these developments on American identity and their lasting influence on future generations.

The Influence of the Roaring Twenties on Society

The Roaring Twenties had a major influence on American society and represented one of the most transformative periods in the history of the United States. During this decade, the country experienced rapid economic growth, industrial expansion, technological innovation, and cultural modernization. These developments changed the way people lived, worked, communicated, and viewed society. The prosperity of the 1920s created new opportunities for millions of Americans and introduced a modern lifestyle based on consumerism, entertainment, and technological progress. As a result, the Roaring Twenties became a symbol of freedom, social change, and economic success (Keynes, 1936).

One of the most important influences of the Roaring Twenties was the transformation of the American economy and industrial system. Factories expanded rapidly through mass production methods, especially with the assembly line system introduced by Henry Ford. Industries such as automobiles, steel, oil, electricity, and household appliances achieved remarkable growth. These industrial developments created more employment opportunities, improved living standards, and increased consumer spending. Americans gained greater access to modern products such as cars, radios, telephones, and electrical appliances, which made daily life easier

and more comfortable (Keynes, 1936).

The Roaring Twenties also strongly influenced social and cultural life. Urbanization increased as millions of people moved from rural areas to cities in search of jobs and modern lifestyles. Cities became centers of entertainment, cinemas, jazz music, nightlife, and cultural diversity. Jazz music, especially, became one of the most important cultural symbols of the decade and reflected freedom, creativity, and social transformation. Young people adopted modern fashion, dance styles, and new social behaviors that challenged traditional values and conservative attitudes. Women also experienced greater freedom and independence during this period, especially after gaining the right to vote through the Nineteenth Amendment to the

United States Constitution (Keynes, 1936).

Technological progress was another major influence of the Roaring Twenties on society. Innovations such as automobiles, radios, telephones, cinema, and electrical appliances transformed communication, transportation, and entertainment. Radio broadcasting connected millions of Americans and helped spread music, news, and advertising throughout the country. Automobiles changed transportation and allowed people greater mobility and independence. These technological developments contributed to the rise of a modern consumer society strongly connected to industrial and scientific progress (Keynes, 1936).

Despite its prosperity and modernization, the Roaring Twenties also created several social and economic problems. Economic inequality increased, and many people depended heavily on credit and installment buying to maintain modern lifestyles. Excessive consumerism, stock market speculation, and overproduction created financial instability within the economy. In addition, cultural conflicts emerged between traditional rural values and modern urban lifestyles. These weaknesses eventually contributed to the Great Depression, which brought an end to the prosperity of the Roaring Twenties. Nevertheless, the decade remained one of the most influential periods in shaping modern American society and culture (Keynes, 1936).

Another major influence of the Roaring Twenties was the development of consumer culture and modern economic behavior in the United States. Americans began spending more money on goods, entertainment, and technological products than ever before. Advertising expanded rapidly through newspapers, magazines, radios, and billboards, encouraging people to buy modern products and follow new lifestyles. Consumerism became associated with social success, comfort, and modernity. As a result, shopping, fashion, and material possessions became central aspects of daily American life during the 1920s (Marx, 1867).

The entertainment industry also experienced significant growth and became one of the defining features of the decade. Cinemas, theaters, dance halls, sports events, and nightclubs

attracted millions of people seeking leisure and enjoyment after the hardships of World War I. Hollywood emerged as the center of the film industry and played a major role in shaping popular culture both nationally and internationally. Movies, jazz music, and radio programs influenced people's attitudes, fashion, language, and social behavior, helping create a shared modern culture across the country (Miller, 1979).

The Roaring Twenties also influenced the position of women in society. Women gained greater social freedom and independence compared to previous decades. After achieving voting rights through the Nineteenth Amendment, many women became more active in education, employment, and public life. Modern women, often referred to as "flappers," adopted new fashions, hairstyles, and lifestyles that symbolized freedom and rebellion against traditional expectations. These social changes challenged conservative values and reflected the broader cultural transformation taking place during the decade (Miller, 1979).

Furthermore, the decade contributed to the growth of cultural diversity and artistic expression. African American culture gained greater recognition through the popularity of jazz music, literature, and artistic movements such as the Harlem Renaissance. Writers, musicians, and artists used creative expression to discuss identity, freedom, racism, and social change. This cultural development enriched American society and increased the influence of minority communities on national culture. The arts became powerful tools for expressing modern ideas and challenging traditional social structures (Miller, 1979).

Overall, the Roaring Twenties transformed American society economically, socially, culturally, and technologically. The decade introduced new lifestyles, modern values, and industrial progress that shaped the future of the United States. Although the period ended with economic collapse and the Great Depression, its influence continued to affect American culture and society for many decades. The Roaring Twenties therefore remains one of the most important periods in understanding the rise of modern America and the transformation of

twentieth-century society (Miller, 1979).

The Difference Between Capitalism and Marxism

Capitalism and Marxism are two of the most influential economic and political theories in modern history, and both present very different views about society, wealth, and social organization. Capitalism is based on private ownership, free markets, competition, and individual profit. In a capitalist system, businesses and industries are usually owned by private individuals or companies, and people are free to invest, trade, and create their own economic activities. On the other hand, Marxism, developed by Karl Marx, is based on the idea that wealth and production should be controlled collectively by society rather than by private individuals. Marxism focuses on equality between social classes and aims to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor (Smith, 2004).

One of the main differences between the two theories is their view of social classes and wealth distribution. Capitalism encourages competition and allows individuals to achieve financial success through hard work, investment, and innovation. Supporters of capitalism believe that competition motivates people to develop new ideas, improve technology, and create economic growth. However, critics argue that capitalism can create inequality because wealth often becomes concentrated in the hands of a small group of people. In contrast, Marxism argues that capitalism exploits workers by giving most profits to business owners while laborers receive lower wages. Marxism therefore supports collective ownership and equal distribution of resources in order to create a fairer society (Smith, 2004).

Another important difference concerns the role of government in the economy. In capitalist systems, governments usually allow markets and businesses to operate with a high degree of freedom, although some regulations may exist to protect consumers and workers. Economic decisions are mainly controlled by supply, demand, and private investment. In Marxist theory, however, the government or the community plays a much larger role in controlling industries,

resources, and production. Marxists believe that state control can prevent economic exploitation and ensure that wealth is shared more equally among citizens (Smith, 2004).

The two theories also differ in their understanding of individual freedom and motivation. Capitalism emphasizes personal ambition, private property, and the freedom to create businesses and generate profit. Many people consider this system effective because it encourages innovation, technological progress, and economic development. Marxism, on the other hand, focuses more on collective welfare and social equality than on individual profit. Supporters of Marxism believe that society should prioritize cooperation and social justice instead of competition and material success. Both theories therefore represent different visions of how human society should function economically and socially (Smith, 2004).

Overall, capitalism and Marxism have had a major influence on world history and political thought. Capitalism became the dominant economic system in many countries, especially in the United States and Western Europe, while Marxism influenced socialist and communist movements around the world, particularly in countries such as the Soviet Union and China. Although both theories have strengths and weaknesses, the debate between capitalism and Marxism continues to shape discussions about equality, freedom, economic growth, and social justice in the modern world (Smith, 2004).

The debate between capitalism and Marxism has always been connected to the question of how society should organize wealth, power, and human labor. Capitalism is built on the idea of private ownership and free economic activity, where individuals have the right to own businesses, invest money, and compete in the market in order to achieve profit and personal success. In contrast, Marxism, developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, argues that the economy should serve all members of society equally rather than benefiting only wealthy business owners. Marxism criticizes capitalism for creating social inequality and dividing society into social classes (Smith, 2004).

Capitalism is often associated with innovation, industrial development, and economic freedom. In many capitalist countries, individuals are encouraged to create companies, develop technology, and compete with others in the market. This competition can lead to economic growth, scientific progress, and the creation of new job opportunities. Countries such as the United States became major economic powers largely because of capitalist systems that supported private investment and industrial expansion. However, capitalism can also create economic inequality, as some individuals and corporations accumulate enormous wealth while others struggle with poverty and unemployment (Smith, 2004).

Marxism presents a different vision of society by focusing on equality and collective ownership. According to Marxist theory, factories, industries, and natural resources should belong to society as a whole rather than to private individuals. Marxists believe that workers are the true source of production and should therefore receive a fair share of wealth and economic power. This theory emerged as a reaction to the difficult working conditions and exploitation experienced by laborers during the Industrial Revolution. Marxism aimed to create a society without strong class divisions, where resources and opportunities would be distributed more equally among citizens (Smith, 2004).

Another important difference between the two theories lies in their social and political consequences. Capitalist societies generally value individual freedom, personal achievement, and private property. People are often motivated by profit, ambition, and competition. Marxist systems, on the other hand, place greater emphasis on collective interests and social cooperation. Supporters of Marxism argue that society should prioritize social welfare, workers' rights, education, and equality instead of focusing mainly on profit. Nevertheless, critics of Marxism claim that excessive government control can limit personal freedom and reduce economic efficiency and innovation (Smith, 2004).

Overall, both capitalism and Marxism have influenced the modern world in significant ways.

Capitalism contributed to technological advancement, industrial success, and global economic growth, while Marxism inspired movements that demanded social justice, workers' rights, and economic equality. The conflict between these two theories shaped many political events and international tensions during the twentieth century, especially during the Cold War. Even today, discussions about inequality, social justice, economic freedom, and the role of government continue to reflect the influence of both capitalist and Marxist ideas on modern society (Smith, 2004).

The Relationship Between Marxism and Social Class

The relationship between Marxism and social class is one of the central ideas of Marxist theory. According to Karl Marx, society has always been divided into different social classes based on wealth, property ownership, and economic power. Marx believed that history is mainly shaped by the conflict between these social classes, especially between the ruling class and the working class. In capitalist societies, the ruling class owns factories, industries, and resources, while the working class sells its labor in exchange for wages. Marx argued that this unequal relationship creates social injustice and economic exploitation (Orwell, 1937).

Marxism explains that the capitalist system increases the gap between rich and poor people over time. Business owners and industrial leaders accumulate wealth and control production, while workers often receive low wages despite their hard labor. Marx believed that workers produce the real value in society, but most profits remain in the hands of capitalists. This situation creates class struggle, which refers to the continuous conflict between social classes over wealth, rights, and power. According to Marxism, social inequality is therefore not accidental but rather a direct result of the capitalist economic system (Orwell, 1937).

Another important aspect of Marxism is its criticism of class domination and social oppression. Marx argued that the upper class uses its economic power to influence politics, laws, education, and even culture in order to maintain control over society. In this system,

workers may remain trapped in poverty and difficult living conditions while wealthy classes continue to benefit from economic growth. Marxism therefore aimed to create social equality by removing private ownership of major industries and replacing it with collective ownership controlled by society as a whole (Orwell, 1937).

Marxist theory also influenced the development of labor movements and workers' rights around the world. Workers began demanding fair wages, shorter working hours, safer working conditions, and social protection. Trade unions and socialist movements were strongly influenced by Marxist ideas about class struggle and economic justice. In many countries, Marxism encouraged political debates about inequality, poverty, and the treatment of the working class during industrialization. As a result, Marxism became one of the most influential theories concerning social classes and economic inequality in modern history (Orwell, 1937).

Overall, Marxism views social class as the main source of conflict within society and argues that capitalism creates unequal relationships between people. The theory believes that true social justice can only be achieved when economic resources and production are shared more equally among all members of society. Although Marxist ideas have been criticized and debated for many years, they continue to influence discussions about social inequality, workers' rights, poverty, and economic systems in the modern world (Orwell, 1937).

Marxism also explains that social classes are not only economic categories but also social groups with different levels of power, influence, and opportunities. According to Karl Marx, capitalist societies are mainly divided into two important classes: the bourgeoisie, who own factories, businesses, and wealth, and the proletariat, who work for wages in order to survive. Marx believed that the bourgeoisie benefit from the labor of workers while controlling most economic and political institutions. This unequal relationship creates tension and conflict between the two classes because their interests are completely different (Zinn, 1980).

Another important idea in Marxism is the concept of alienation. Marx argued that workers

in capitalist societies often become disconnected from their work because they do not control the products they create or the profits generated from their labor. Factory workers repeat the same tasks every day while receiving limited financial rewards, which can make them feel powerless and emotionally disconnected from society. Marx believed that capitalism transforms human labor into a tool for profit rather than a source of personal satisfaction and creativity. As a result, many workers experience frustration, inequality, and lack of social recognition (Zinn, 1980).

Marxism also influenced political revolutions and socialist movements in different parts of the world. Countries such as the Soviet Union and China adopted Marxist ideas in attempts to reduce class inequality and create socialist systems based on collective ownership. These movements aimed to remove the dominance of wealthy classes and give workers greater economic and political power. Although the results differed from one country to another, Marxism became strongly associated with social revolution and resistance against economic exploitation (Zinn, 1980).

In addition, Marxism had a major influence on sociology, political science, and modern discussions about inequality. Many scholars and social thinkers used Marxist theory to study poverty, labor exploitation, unemployment, and class differences within industrial societies. Even in capitalist countries, Marxist ideas encouraged governments to improve workers' rights, introduce labor laws, and provide social welfare programs in order to reduce social tensions. Therefore, the influence of Marxism extended far beyond politics and economics into education, culture, and social thought (Zinn, 1980).

Overall, Marxism views social class as the foundation of social inequality and political conflict in society. The theory argues that capitalist systems naturally create divisions between wealthy owners and working populations, leading to exploitation and unequal distribution of wealth. Marxism therefore seeks to create a society based on equality, collective ownership,

and social justice. Although many debates continue about the effectiveness of Marxist systems, the theory remains one of the most influential approaches for understanding class struggle and social inequality in the modern world (Zinn, 1980).

The Interplay Between Capitalism and Social Class

The relationship between capitalism and social class is one of the most important topics in modern economic and social discussions. Capitalism is an economic system based on private ownership, free markets, competition, and profit-making. In capitalist societies, individuals and companies have the right to own businesses, industries, and property. This system strongly influences the structure of social classes because wealth and economic success become major factors in determining a person's social position. As a result, capitalist societies are often divided into different social classes based on income, property ownership, education, and economic opportunities (Zinn, 1980).

One of the main effects of capitalism on social class is the creation of economic inequality between rich and poor groups. In capitalist systems, people who own businesses, factories, and investments usually gain more wealth and economic power than ordinary workers. The upper class often controls major industries, banks, and financial institutions, while the middle and lower classes depend mainly on wages and employment for survival. Supporters of capitalism argue that this inequality is a natural result of competition, hard work, innovation, and individual effort. They believe that capitalism rewards ambition and encourages people to improve their economic conditions through education, investment, and entrepreneurship (Zinn, 1980).

Capitalism also contributed to the growth of the middle class, especially during periods of industrial expansion such as the Roaring Twenties in the United States. Industrialization created millions of jobs in factories, businesses, transportation, and banking, allowing many individuals to improve their living standards. The rise of consumer culture enabled middle-

class families to purchase automobiles, household appliances, fashionable clothes, and modern technological products. In this way, capitalism not only created wealthy elites but also expanded economic opportunities for parts of society (Zinn, 1980).

Another important effect of capitalism on social class is social mobility. In capitalist societies, individuals may improve their social position through education, business success, innovation, or professional achievement. This possibility of upward mobility is often presented as one of the strengths of capitalism because people are not permanently limited to the social class into which they were born. However, critics argue that social mobility is not equally available to everyone because poor communities may face limited educational opportunities, unemployment, and economic barriers that make success more difficult. Therefore, capitalism can both create opportunities and maintain inequalities at the same time (Zinn, 1980).

Overall, capitalism deeply influences social class by shaping wealth distribution, economic opportunities, and social status within society. While the system encourages competition, innovation, and economic growth, it can also increase the gap between social classes and create unequal access to resources and power. For this reason, capitalism remains one of the most debated economic systems in discussions about social inequality, poverty, and economic development in the modern world (Zinn, 1980).

Capitalism also affects social class through the relationship between employers and workers within industrial and economic systems. In capitalist societies, business owners and large companies control production, investment, and economic resources, while workers provide labor in exchange for wages. This relationship creates different levels of economic power and social influence between classes. Wealthy business owners often possess greater political and financial influence, whereas lower social classes may struggle with low incomes, unemployment, or difficult working conditions. As a result, capitalism can strengthen class divisions within society (Zinn, 1980).

Another important effect of capitalism is the development of consumer culture and material competition between social classes. During periods of economic prosperity, such as the Roaring Twenties in the United States, people became more connected to luxury goods, fashion, modern technology, and entertainment. Social status increasingly became linked to wealth, consumption, and lifestyle. Individuals from different classes attempted to improve their social image through material possessions such as automobiles, expensive clothing, and modern houses. This consumer culture influenced social behavior and increased the visibility of class differences in everyday life (Zinn, 1980).

Capitalism also encourages competition between individuals and businesses, which can produce both positive and negative consequences for social classes. On one hand, competition motivates innovation, industrial growth, technological development, and economic expansion. Many people can improve their financial conditions by creating businesses, developing new ideas, or gaining professional success. On the other hand, intense competition can place economic pressure on workers and small businesses, especially during financial crises or periods of unemployment. Therefore, capitalism can create opportunities for success while also increasing economic insecurity for certain groups within society (Zinn, 1980).

In addition, capitalist systems often influence education and access to opportunities. Wealthier social classes generally have greater access to quality education, healthcare, investments, and professional networks, which helps them maintain or improve their social position. Meanwhile, poorer social classes may face difficulties in obtaining the same opportunities because of financial limitations and social inequality. Critics of capitalism argue that these unequal opportunities allow social classes to reproduce themselves across generations, making it difficult for lower classes to achieve full economic equality.

Overall, capitalism has a powerful influence on social class because it shapes economic relationships, wealth distribution, social mobility, and individual opportunities. The system

encourages productivity, competition, and innovation, but it can also create significant differences between rich and poor populations. For this reason, capitalism remains one of the most debated systems in discussions about class inequality, economic justice, and social development. Its influence on social classes continues to shape modern societies around the world today (Zinn, 1980).

How Jazz Music Shaped Society and Social Class

Jazz music had a powerful influence on American society during the Roaring Twenties and became one of the most important cultural symbols of the decade. In the United States, jazz represented freedom, creativity, and modernity after the difficult years of World War I. People wanted to escape stress, social restrictions, and traditional lifestyles, and jazz provided a new form of entertainment and emotional expression. The rapid spread of jazz music transformed nightlife, dance culture, fashion, and social behavior, especially in large urban cities. As a result, jazz became more than music; it became a social movement that reflected the changing mentality of American society during the 1920s (Jung, 1933).

One of the most important ways jazz music shaped society was through its influence on social freedom and modern lifestyles. Jazz clubs, dance halls, and entertainment centers became popular places where people gathered to enjoy music and social interaction. Young people especially embraced jazz culture because it represented independence and rebellion against conservative traditions. New dances such as the Charleston symbolized energy, freedom, and modern youth culture. Women also experienced greater social freedom during this period, as jazz culture encouraged more open social participation and challenged traditional expectations concerning behavior and fashion (Jung, 1933).

Jazz music also played a significant role in reducing certain social barriers between classes and racial groups. Jazz originated mainly within African American communities, especially in New Orleans, before spreading throughout the country. As jazz became more popular, people

from different social classes and cultural backgrounds gathered in clubs and entertainment venues to enjoy the music together. Wealthy individuals, middle-class citizens, and working-class populations all became connected to jazz culture in different ways. This cultural interaction helped create a more dynamic and socially mixed urban society, although racial discrimination and class inequality still remained important problems in America (Jung, 1933).

At the same time, jazz music highlighted the struggles and experiences of African Americans and working-class communities. Many jazz musicians used music to express emotions connected to poverty, racism, difficult labor conditions, and social inequality. Artists such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington became important cultural figures who helped increase the visibility and influence of African American culture in mainstream American society. Jazz therefore became both a form of entertainment and a cultural voice for marginalized communities (Jung, 1933).

Furthermore, jazz music strongly influenced the entertainment industry and consumer culture. Radios, theaters, cinemas, and record companies helped spread jazz across the nation and made musicians into celebrities. The popularity of jazz created employment opportunities in music, nightlife, tourism, and media industries, contributing to the economic growth of the Roaring Twenties. However, some conservative groups criticized jazz culture because they believed it encouraged immoral behavior, excessive freedom, and the weakening of traditional social values. Despite these criticisms, jazz remained one of the most influential cultural forces of the twentieth century and played a major role in shaping modern American society and class relations (Jung, 1933).

Jazz music had a deep influence on both society and social classes during the Roaring Twenties in the United States. It emerged during a period of rapid cultural and economic transformation and became one of the strongest symbols of modern American life. Jazz changed the atmosphere of society by introducing new forms of entertainment, artistic

expression, and social interaction. For many people, jazz represented freedom from traditional restrictions and offered a more exciting and expressive way of life. As a result, the music became closely connected to urban culture, nightlife, and the social modernization that characterized the 1920s (Jung, 1933).

One of the most significant effects of jazz music was its influence on social classes and class relationships. Before the spread of jazz culture, social classes in America were often separated in their lifestyles, entertainment, and cultural activities. However, jazz clubs, dance halls, and music theaters brought together people from different economic and social backgrounds. Wealthy individuals, middle-class citizens, and working-class populations all participated in the growing jazz movement. This interaction helped reduce certain cultural barriers between classes and created a shared urban entertainment culture, especially in large cities such as Chicago and New York City (Jung, 1933).

Jazz music also influenced the mentality and behavior of young people. The younger generation viewed jazz as a symbol of independence, freedom, and rebellion against conservative traditions. Young men and women adopted modern fashion, energetic dances, and more open social behavior associated with jazz culture. This cultural transformation challenged older generations who believed that jazz weakened traditional moral values and social discipline. Consequently, jazz became connected to a broader social conflict between traditional rural culture and modern urban lifestyles during the Roaring Twenties (Jung, 1933).

Another important aspect of jazz was its connection to African American culture and social struggles. Jazz originated mainly within African American communities, where music became a powerful form of emotional and cultural expression. African American musicians used jazz to express experiences related to racism, poverty, labor difficulties, and inequality. The popularity of jazz increased the visibility of African American artists and contributed to the spread of Black culture within mainstream American society. This cultural influence became

especially important during the Harlem Renaissance, which celebrated African American literature, music, and artistic creativity (Jung, 1933).

In addition, jazz music contributed significantly to economic and cultural development. The expansion of the entertainment industry created jobs for musicians, performers, club owners, radio stations, and recording companies. Radios and record production allowed jazz to spread rapidly across the country and even internationally. Jazz therefore became both a cultural and economic force that shaped modern society during the 1920s. Despite criticism from conservative groups, jazz remained one of the most influential movements in modern American history because it transformed entertainment, social interaction, youth culture, and class relationships in profound ways (Jung, 1933).

Society's Reaction to Capitalism and Marxism

Society reacted differently to capitalism and Marxism because each theory offered a completely different vision of how people should live, work, and share wealth. Capitalism was generally supported by business owners, industrial leaders, and many middle-class citizens because it encouraged private ownership, competition, and individual success. Many people believed that capitalism created opportunities for innovation, economic growth, and personal freedom. During periods such as the Roaring Twenties in the United States, capitalism was associated with prosperity, industrial expansion, and modern lifestyles. As a result, large parts of society viewed capitalism as a system that could improve living standards and increase economic opportunities (Jung, 1933).

However, not all social groups reacted positively to capitalism. Workers, poor communities, and labor movements often criticized the system because they believed it created social inequality and economic exploitation. Many factory workers faced long working hours, low wages, and difficult working conditions while wealthy business owners accumulated large profits. This situation created social tensions between the upper and lower classes. Trade unions

and workers' organizations therefore demanded labor rights, fair salaries, and better working conditions. Critics argued that capitalism mainly benefited wealthy classes while many ordinary people continued to struggle economically (Jung, 1933).

Marxism, on the other hand, attracted support from workers, intellectuals, and socialist movements who wanted greater equality and social justice. Karl Marx presented Marxism as a theory that aimed to reduce class inequality and end the exploitation of workers by capitalist systems. Many laborers and poor populations viewed Marxism as a source of hope because it focused on collective ownership, workers' rights, and equal distribution of wealth. Socialist and communist movements expanded in several countries because many people believed that Marxist ideas could create a fairer society and improve the conditions of working-class populations (Jung, 1933).

At the same time, many societies reacted negatively to Marxism because they feared its political and economic consequences. Wealthy classes, industrial leaders, and conservative groups believed that Marxism threatened private property, individual freedom, and economic stability. In capitalist countries, especially the United States, Marxism and communism were often associated with revolution, political instability, and government control over society. During the twentieth century, fears of communist influence created political tensions and ideological conflicts between capitalist and socialist nations, especially during the Cold War (Jung, 1933).

Overall, society's reaction to capitalism and Marxism reflected differences in social class, economic interests, and political beliefs. Capitalism was often praised for encouraging innovation, industrial growth, and personal success, while Marxism was admired for promoting equality and defending workers' rights. Both theories strongly influenced political systems, economic structures, and social debates throughout modern history (Jung, 1933).

To what extent did capitalism theory affect and shape the American societies during the 1920s period

Capitalism played a major role in shaping American society during the 1920s, a decade commonly known as the Roaring Twenties. The rapid growth of industries, businesses, and financial markets reflected the expansion of capitalist principles based on private ownership, competition, and profit-making. During this period, the United States experienced remarkable economic growth, which encouraged mass production and consumption. Many Americans believed that capitalism represented progress, freedom, and the opportunity to achieve personal success through hard work and investment (Jung, 1933).

One of the clearest effects of capitalism during the 1920s was the rise of consumer culture. Companies used advertising and new marketing strategies to persuade people to buy products such as automobiles, radios, and household appliances. The development of assembly-line production, especially by industrialists like Henry Ford, made goods cheaper and more accessible to the middle class. As a result, consumption became an important part of American identity, and economic success was increasingly measured by material possessions and purchasing power (Jung, 1933).

Capitalism also transformed the social structure of American society. The expansion of industries created employment opportunities and contributed to the growth of the middle class. Urban areas developed rapidly as people moved from rural regions in search of jobs and better living conditions. However, despite this prosperity, the benefits of capitalism were not equally distributed. Wealth became concentrated in the hands of businessmen, investors, and large corporations, while many workers and farmers continued to struggle with low wages and financial insecurity (Jung, 1933).

In addition, capitalism strongly influenced cultural and social values during the 1920s. The pursuit of wealth and individual success became central ideals in American society. This

atmosphere encouraged competition, ambition, and personal achievement, but it also increased materialism and social inequality. Entertainment industries such as Hollywood cinema and jazz music expanded rapidly because capitalism encouraged profitable cultural production. At the same time, critics argued that excessive focus on money and luxury weakened traditional moral and social values (Jung, 1933).

Despite its contribution to economic growth and modernization, capitalism also created serious weaknesses that eventually contributed to the collapse of 1929. Easy credit, stock market speculation, and uncontrolled financial practices encouraged unstable economic behavior. Many Americans invested in stocks hoping to become rich quickly, while companies focused more on profit than economic stability. Therefore, capitalism greatly shaped American society during the 1920s by promoting industrial growth, consumer culture, and social transformation, but it also produced inequalities and financial risks that led to the Great Depression (Jung, 1933).

Capitalism greatly shaped American society during the 1920s by transforming the economy, social values, and daily life. Supporters of capitalism considered it a system that encouraged innovation, productivity, and individual freedom. During the Roaring Twenties, industries expanded rapidly, businesses generated enormous profits, and the United States became one of the strongest economic powers in the world. This economic success created optimism among Americans and strengthened the belief that wealth and success could be achieved through hard work and private enterprise. However, despite this prosperity, capitalism also created important social and economic inequalities that affected different classes of society (Jung, 1933).

One major effect of capitalism was the rise of consumer culture in American society. Mass production allowed factories to manufacture products more quickly and cheaply, making goods accessible to the middle class. Companies used advertising to convince people that happiness

and social status depended on consumption and material possessions. As a result, Americans increasingly purchased automobiles, radios, and household appliances, often through installment buying and credit systems. While this consumer culture stimulated economic growth and improved living standards for many people, it also encouraged materialism and excessive spending, which later contributed to financial instability (Jung, 1933).

Capitalism also influenced the structure of social classes during the 1920s. Wealthy businessmen, industrialists, and investors benefited significantly from economic expansion, while many workers and farmers continued to face low wages and financial insecurity. The economic system created opportunities for some individuals to improve their social status, reinforcing the idea of the American Dream. Nevertheless, the unequal distribution of wealth revealed the limitations of capitalism because prosperity was not shared equally among all Americans. This situation increased social tensions between the rich and the working class, especially in industrial and rural areas (Jung, 1933).

In addition to economic changes, capitalism affected American culture and social behavior. The pursuit of profit and personal success became central values within society. Entertainment industries such as cinema, jazz music, and advertising expanded rapidly because they generated large profits for businesses. Urban life became associated with modernity, freedom, and economic ambition, especially among young people. On the other hand, critics argued that capitalism weakened traditional moral values by encouraging greed, competition, and excessive focus on money and luxury rather than social responsibility (Jung, 1933).

Ultimately, capitalism had a profound impact on American society during the 1920s by promoting industrial growth, technological progress, and consumer expansion. The system helped modernize the country and created opportunities for economic development and social mobility. However, capitalism also produced negative consequences such as inequality, speculation, and financial instability, which eventually contributed to the collapse of 1929 and the Great Depression. Therefore, the Roaring Twenties demonstrated both the strengths and weaknesses of capitalism and its powerful influence on American society (Jung, 1933).

Conclusion

To conclude, the Roaring Twenties represented a period of remarkable social and cultural transformation in the United States. The popularity of jazz music reflected new forms of artistic expression and cultural freedom, while the advancement of women's rights marked an important step toward greater social participation and independence. Furthermore, the emergence of flappers challenged traditional norms and symbolized the changing values of the younger generation. These developments demonstrate that the prosperity of the 1920s influenced not only the economy but also the attitudes, behaviors, and identities of Americans. Consequently, the Roaring Twenties remains a defining decade that shaped modern American society and culture.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

This study examined the influence of money on society by combining both theoretical and practical perspectives. The research aimed to understand how money affects social relationships, individual behaviour, and people's views of success and social status. The findings show that money plays an important role in shaping many aspects of daily life and social interaction.

The theoretical part focused on the Roaring Twenties, a period marked by significant economic growth, technological progress, and social change in the United States. It also explored the main ideas of capitalism and Marxism and their different views on wealth, social classes, and economic systems. These theories provided a useful framework for understanding the role of money in society.

The practical part of the study was based on the analysis of questionnaire responses. The results revealed that most participants consider money an essential factor in achieving stability, comfort, and personal success. Many respondents believed that financial resources influence opportunities, living standards, and social relationships.

The findings also showed that money can have both positive and negative effects. On one hand, it improves living conditions and provides access to education, healthcare, and other opportunities. On the other hand, financial difficulties may lead to stress, social inequality, and challenges in personal and family relationships.

In conclusion, money remains a central element in modern society and has a strong influence on both individuals and communities. While it can contribute to economic progress and personal development, it may also create social and psychological challenges. Therefore, understanding the role of money is important for analysing human behaviour and the functioning of contemporary society.

References

References

1. Allen, F. L. (1931). *Only yesterday: An informal history of the 1920s*. Harper & Brothers.
2. Denning, M. (1996). *The cultural front: The laboring of American culture in the twentieth century*. Verso.
3. Fitzgerald, F. S. (1925). *The great Gatsby*. Charles Scribner's Sons
4. Galbraith, J. K. (1955). *The great crash 1929*. Houghton Mifflin.
5. Galbraith, J. K. (1958). *The affluent society*. Houghton Mifflin.
6. Hobsbawm, E. (1994). *The age of extremes: The short twentieth century, 1914–1991*. Michael Joseph.
7. Hofstadter, R. (1948). *The American political tradition and the men who made it*. Alfred A. Knopf.
8. Johnson, P. (1997). *A history of the American people*. HarperCollins.
9. Jung, C. G. (1933). *Modern man in search of a soul*. Harcourt, Brace & World.
10. Keynes, J. M. (1936). *The general theory of employment, interest and money*. Macmillan.
11. Marx, K. (1867). *Capital: A critique of political economy*. Hamburg, Germany: Otto Meissner.
12. Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1848). *The Communist Manifesto*. Penguin Classics.
13. Miller, N. (1975). *The roaring twenties*. Scribner.
14. Orwell, G. (1937). *The road to Wigan Pier*. Victor Gollancz Ltd.
15. Simmel, G. (1900). *The philosophy of money*. Duncker & Humblot.

16. Smith, A. (2004). *An inquiry into the nature and causes of the wealth of nations*. W. Strahan & T. Cadell.
17. Veblen, T. (1899). *The theory of the leisure class: An economic study of institutions*. Macmillan.
18. Weber, M. (1905). *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik.
19. Williams, R. (1958). *Culture and society: 1780–1950*. Chatto & Windus.
20. Zinn, H. (1980). *A people's history of the United States*. Harper & Row.

Résumé

Résumé

Cette dissertation examine l'impact du marxisme et du capitalisme sur les Années folles (Roaring Twenties), une décennie remarquable de l'histoire américaine caractérisée par une croissance économique sans précédent, des innovations technologiques majeures ainsi que de profondes transformations sociales et culturelles. Cette période a été marquée par des avancées significatives dans la production de masse, notamment dans des secteurs tels que l'industrie automobile, la radiodiffusion, les biens de consommation et le divertissement. Elle a également connu d'importants changements sociaux, notamment l'élargissement des droits des femmes à la suite de la ratification du Dix-neuvième Amendement, qui leur a accordé le droit de vote. Par ailleurs, cette étude analyse la relation entre le capitalisme et le marxisme et évalue leur influence sur la société américaine durant les années 1920. Une attention particulière est accordée à la manière dont les principes capitalistes ont façonné les structures économiques, les comportements de consommation, les classes sociales et les valeurs culturelles. En outre, la recherche explore les attitudes du public à l'égard de ces deux doctrines et examine les facteurs ayant favorisé l'adhésion généralisée au capitalisme ainsi que l'attrait limité du marxisme dans le contexte américain.

المستخلص

تتناول هذه المذكرة أثر الماركسية والرأسمالية على حقبة العشرينيات الصاخبة (Roaring Twenties)، وهي فترة بارزة في التاريخ الأمريكي تميزت بنمو اقتصادي غير مسبوق، وابتكارات تكنولوجية متسارعة، وتحولات اجتماعية وثقافية عميقة. وقد شهد هذا العقد تطورات مهمة في مجال الإنتاج الضخم، ولا سيما في صناعات السيارات، والبيت الإذاعي، والسلع الاستهلاكية، وقطاع الترفيه. كما تميزت بتغيرات اجتماعية مهمة، من أبرزها توسيع حقوق المرأة عقب التصديق على التعديل التاسع عشر للدستور الأمريكي، الذي منح النساء حق التصويت. وعلاوة على ذلك، تبحث هذه الدراسة في العلاقة بين الرأسمالية والماركسية، وتحلل تأثيرهما في المجتمع الأمريكي خلال عشرينيات القرن العشرين. ويُولى اهتمام خاص للكيفية التي أسهمت بها المبادئ الرأسمالية في تشكيل البنى الاقتصادية، وأنماط الاستهلاك، والطبقات الاجتماعية، والقيم الثقافية. كما تستكشف الدراسة مواقف الرأي العام تجاه كلتا النظريتين، وتبحث في العوامل التي أدت إلى القبول الواسع للرأسمالية، مقابل محدودية جاذبية الماركسية وانتشارها ضمن السياق الأمريكي.