Prohibition

The 18th Amendment was passed in the 1920s, banning the manufacture and selling of alcohol. Prohibition went into full effect on January 16, 1920 at 12 in the morning. It was illegal to sell or to purchase any drinks that contained 0.5% alcohol. People believed that prohibition would help relieve the amount of tragedies for families caused by alcohol. Many Americans viewed prohibition as a joke which made it hard for people to enforce the newly-implemented law. The 18th Amendment was later repealed due to the opposition of Prohibition.



There were people who sold illegal alcohol during the time of Prohibition, known as bootleggers. The bootleggers snuck liquor from Canada and the West Indies to sell to people. Successful bootleggers moved onto a high-profit business called racketeering. In cities there were places called speakeasies; speakeasies were bars the were open illegally during the prohibition era. Speakeasies provided bootleggers, or people in general, illegal alcohol. One of the most famous bootleggers was Al Capone. Prohibition ties into the organized crime aspect of the 1920s because people sold illegal alcohol.