

Ch 21 Section 3 Education and Popular Culture

Schools and the Mass Media Shape Culture

School Enrollments

- High school population increases dramatically in 1920s due to:
 - prosperity
 - higher standards for industry jobs
- Pre-1920s, high school for college-bound students
- In 1920s, high schools also offer vocational training
- Public schools prepare immigrant children who speak no English
- School taxes increase as school costs rise sharply

Expanding News Coverage

- Mass media shapes mass culture; takes advantage of greater literacy
- By 1914, hundreds of local newspapers replaced by national chains
- 1920s, mass-market magazines thrive; *Reader's Digest*, *Time* founded

Radio Comes of Age

- Radio is most powerful communications medium of 1920s
- Networks provide shared national experience
 - can hear news as it happens

America Chases New Heroes and Old Dreams

New-Found Leisure Time

- In 1920s, many people have extra money, leisure time to enjoy it
- Crowds attend sports events; athletes glorified by mass media

Lindbergh's Flight

- **Charles A. Lindbergh** makes first solo nonstop flight across Atlantic
- Small-town Minnesotan symbolizes honesty, bravery in age of excess
- Lindbergh paves the way for other pilots

Entertainment and the Arts

- Silent movies already a national pastime
- Introduction of sound leads millions to attend every week
- Playwrights, composers break away from European traditions
- **George Gershwin** uses jazz to create American music
- Painters portray American realities, dreams
- **Georgia O'Keeffe** paints intensely colored canvases of New York

Writers of the 1920s

- **Sinclair Lewis** is first American to win Nobel Prize for literature
 - criticizes conformity, materialism
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald** reveals negative side of era's gaiety, freedom. Describes the 1920s as the Jazz Age
- **Edna St. Vincent Millay** celebrates youth, independence in her poems
- Writers soured by American culture, war settle in Europe
 - called Lost Generation
- Expatriate **Ernest Hemingway** introduces simple, tough, American style. Wrote *The Sun Also Rises*.