

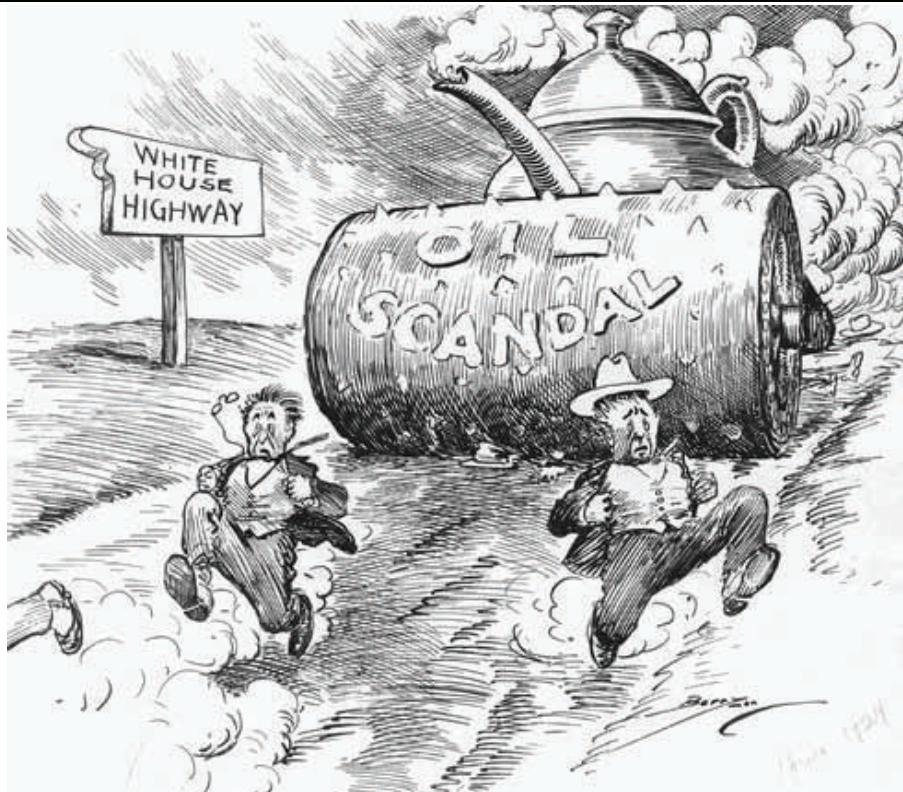
## The Roaring Twenties: Return to Normalcy

In the summer of 1920, Republican party bosses chose Senator Warren G. Harding as their nominee for president. Sensing America's longing for calm and stability after decades of progressive reform and world war, Harding declared in his campaign that "America's present need is not heroics, but healing." Harding promised a "Return to Normalcy" What Harding meant by normalcy was not really clear, but the word sounded reassuring to Americans who wanted an end to foreign involvement and domestic unrest.

Read *The Ohio Gang* page 705 and answer the following question:

1. What was the problem with the people appointed by Harding in his administration?
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### Teapot Dome Scandal



The Teapot Dome Scandal was an oil reserve scandal during the 1920's. It involved a secret leasing of naval oil reserve lands to private companies. The Teapot Dome oil field, where people got their oil, was in Wyoming. It was called the Teapot Dome because of a rock nearby that looked like a teapot.

In 1922 Fall secretly leased government oil reserves at Teapot Dome, Wyoming, Fall got \$400,000 from the oilmen. In 1924, it was revealed to the public that Albert B. Fall had put a lease on the Teapot Dome. Fall was convicted of bribery and sent to prison. The scandal became a symbol of the corruption in the Harding administration and of government corruption and scandal in general.

2. Read the information above and examine the political cartoon. What is the main idea of the political cartoon?
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## The Great Migration

### Chicken-Bone Specials

Between 1910 and 1920, more than 1 million black people headed north. Working conditions in the South were awful; schools were worse; and most blacks couldn't vote. The North held the hope of better jobs, better schooling, and a chance to get ahead. For a while, the Pennsylvania Railroad offered free passage to blacks who could recruit others to come north. The trains came to be called "chicken-bone specials"; blacks weren't allowed to eat in the dining

cars, so they had to bring their own food—usually fried chicken. New York's black population (centered in Harlem) increased by 66 percent in that 10-year period. Chicago's black population (centered in the South Side) increased by 50 percent. That black migration—from field to factory, from rural to urban—continued through most of the century. Jacob Lawrence painted the migration in a series of paintings that are small in size but powerful in impact.

*Jacob Lawrence's The Migration of the Negro, Panel No. 1 (1940-41). "There is absolutely nothing before them on the farm," said a government report on Southern labor, "no prospect...but to continue until they die." Instead, they fled.*



Jacob Lawrence,  
*The Migration of the Negro, Panel 1, 1940-1941*



Jacob Lawrence,  
*The Migration of the Negro, Panel 15, 1940-1941*



Jacob Lawrence,  
*The Migration of the Negro, Panel 3, 1940-1941*

### Jacob Lawrence

Painter  
1917-2000

One could say Jacob Lawrence would never have become a painter if he had not been a troublemaker first. His mother wanted him off the streets, so she enrolled him in an after-school arts program. The teacher there saw Lawrence's talent, and encouraged him to pursue an art career. Lawrence fell in love with creating art, and created paintings that focused on important parts of African American history. One example of this is *Migration of the Negro*, one of Lawrence's most famous works. He completed it in 1941 at the age of 24. It is a series of paintings representing the "Great Migration," the massive movement of African Americans from the rural South into the urban North that began in the 1910s.

One of Lawrence's signature styles is his use of vivid and bold colors. Lawrence received a lot of praise for both the historical content and artistic style of his work, and was the first black artist to receive lasting public and critical recognition in the United States. His murals can still be seen in subway stations, building entries and, of course, museums all over the country.

## Foreign Policy: A Return to Isolationism

### Foreign Policy

Harding and Coolidge both favored a limited role for the nation in world affairs. They desired world peace but did not want the nation to join the League of Nations or become involved in international disagreements. Harding had promised the American people that he would not lead them into the League “by the side door, back door, or cellar door.” Many Americans supported this policy of **isolationism**.

#### Promoting Peace

The Harding administration made serious efforts to promote peace. After the war the United States, Great Britain, and Japan began a naval arms race. In 1921 Secretary of State Hughes invited Japan and Britain to Washington, D.C., to discuss the problem. In February 1922 the three nations, along with France and Italy, signed the **Five-Power Treaty** to limit the

size of the nations’ navies. The treaty marked the first time in modern history that world powers agreed to disarm.

The United States continued working for peace. In August 1928, it joined 14 other nations in signing the **Kellogg-Briand Pact**, which called for outlawing war. Within a few years, 48 other nations had signed the pact, but it lacked any means of enforcing peace.

### A More Friendly Neighbor

The United States had intervened in Latin American countries several times in the early 1900s to support American business interests. When Harding took office, American troops were stationed in Haiti, the **Dominican Republic**, and **Nicaragua**, and relations with Mexico were tense.

After the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua held elections in the mid-1920s, the United States withdrew its troops from those countries.

At about the same time, American investors asked President Coolidge to send troops into Mexico when its government threatened to take over foreign-owned oil and mining companies. Coolidge chose to negotiate instead, and the United States reached a settlement with Mexico.



Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Frank B. Kellogg, standing, with representatives of the governments who have ratified the Treaty for Renunciation of War (Kellogg-Briand Pact), in the East Room of the White House

3. Why did the Kellogg-Briand Pact prove to be ineffective?

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4. Why did Americans support a return to isolationism as U.S. foreign policy in the 1920s?

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