

## FORUM POSTS MAY 2024

Post May 1st

Dear friends, while young Americans were fighting on the Western Front in the Great War (WWI), the “*Shadow*” encouraged a movement to save them from the “demon” alcohol when they returned home. A year before the end of the war, this movement succeeded in having the Eighteenth Amendment added to the Constitution of the United States. The amendment in effect declared that “the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol for consumption were banned.” Even though, President Wilson vetoed the Volstead Act, the official name for the Eighteenth Amendment or Prohibition, Congress overrode his veto with a majority voting to support the act. There is a saying that “you cannot legislate morality”, meaning that moral behavior is about individual choice and cannot be forced on people. Clearly, this adage was proved in how the general population responded to Prohibition, creating what became known as “Bootlegging.” The entry for Prohibition explains: “The illegal production and distribution of liquor, or bootlegging, became rampant. In fact, by 1925 in New York City alone there were anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 speakeasy clubs.”

Since the Volstead Act became law in 1920, it fell to Wilson’s successor, Republican Warren Harding to implement it. However, his presidency was cut short when he became the fifth victim of Tecumseh’s curse, albeit from natural causes. So ultimately, the bulk of its political impact was on his successor, Calvin Coolidge, who served from 1923 to 1929. The website History.com provided the excerpts below on the man ruling America during this pivotal time:

*Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), the 30th U.S. president... took office on August 3, 1923, following the sudden death of President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923), whose administration was riddled with scandal. Nicknamed “Silent Cal” for his quiet, steadfast and frugal nature, Coolidge... cleaned up the rampant corruption of the Harding administration... He was a pro-business conservative who favored tax cuts and limited government spending. Yet some of his laissez-faire policies also contributed to the economic problems that erupted into the Great Depression... Coolidge’s no-nonsense approach and somber nature stood in stark contrast to his predecessor’s genial personality and casual leadership style... Coolidge’s reputation for honesty and integrity helped him restore public faith in the government... Coolidge ran for president in 1924 and won decisively... Coolidge’s policies in office continued to be guided by his strong belief in private enterprise and small government. He cut taxes, limited government spending and stacked regulatory commissions with people sympathetic to business. Coolidge once said, “The chief business of the American people is business.” He also rejected U.S. membership in the League of*

*Nations and set high tariffs on imported goods to protect American industry. Coolidge remained popular throughout his presidency.*

Interestingly, the Volstead Act did not make it illegal to consume alcohol, it just made it near impossible to legally procure it. Consequently, during the time that Prohibition was enforced, the organized bootleggers became very rich and powerful. We see this demonstrated in the Chicago gangster Al Capone becoming a millionaire almost overnight, supplying illegal liquor to people. The police and Federal agencies were outmanned and outgunned, as depicted in the numerous gangster films such as the *St. Valentine's Day Massacre*.

Prohibition's entry relates the almost hopeless task law enforcement faced during this ill-fated time. When Prohibition became Law, only "1,520 Federal Prohibition agents (police) were given the task of enforcing the law." As Alcohol was freely available in the neighboring countries, legal "distilleries and breweries in Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean" thrived as Americans flocked to their countries to imbibe alcohol. Unfortunately, innocent US citizens were not the only patrons of these countries' liquor, bootleggers purchased it to import back to the US.

As Hollywood has portrayed Chicago was a hotbed for bootlegging throughout the "Roaring Twenties", with the "notorious" crime bosses "Al Capone and his enemy Bugs Moran", leading the pack. The entry relates that "By the end of the decade Capone controlled all 10,000 speakeasies in Chicago and ruled the bootlegging business from Canada to Florida. Numerous other crimes, including theft and murder, were directly linked to criminal activities in Chicago and elsewhere in violation of prohibition." Obviously, as this situation was engineered by the "Shadow", every aspect of it was strengthened. As the energy in the world was being lowered through the presence of the antichrist, the "Shadow" was able to use one of "his" favorite tools, Greed. With so much money to be made in "Boot-legging", all restraint was removed. Many resorted to any means to get rich, including bank robbery. This in turn created a new type of criminal known as a gangster, who would slaughter anyone standing in their way. It was like the outlaws of the West had resurfaced as the bank-robbers of the 1920s and 1930s. This new breed of criminals required a new way to combat them. That need was answered by J. Edgar Hoover and the newly formed Federal Bureau of Investigation – F.B.I. Have a great day, love always, Suzzan



Calvin Coolidge – 1872 - 1933

According to his entry on Wikipedia, Calvin Coolidge was born in Vermont on July 4th, 1872. He was a “Republican lawyer who climbed the ladder of Massachusetts politics, becoming the state's 48th governor. His response to the Boston police strike of 1919 thrust him into the national spotlight as a man of decisive action. The next year, Coolidge was elected the country's 29th vice president and succeeded to the presidency upon President Warren G. Harding's sudden death in 1923. Elected in his own right in 1924, Coolidge gained a reputation as a small-government conservative with a taciturn personality and dry sense of humor that earned him the nickname ‘Silent Cal.’ His widespread popularity enabled him to run for a second full term, but Coolidge chose not to run again in 1928, remarking that ten years as president would be ‘longer than any other man has had it—too long!’

“During his gubernatorial career, Coolidge ran on the record of fiscal conservatism, strong support for women's suffrage, and vague opposition to Prohibition. During his presidency, he restored public confidence in the White House after the many scandals of the Harding administration. He signed into law the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, which granted U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans, and oversaw a period of rapid and expansive economic growth known as the ‘Roaring Twenties’, leaving office with considerable popularity. He was known for his hands-off governing

approach and pro-business stances; biographer Claude Fuesse wrote: ‘He embodied the spirit and hopes of the middle class, could interpret their longings, and express their opinions. That he did represent the genius of the average is the most convincing proof of his strength.’

“Coolidge died suddenly from coronary thrombosis at ‘The Beeches’ on January 5th, 1933, at 12:45 p.m., aged 60. Shortly before his death, Coolidge confided to an old friend: ‘I feel I no longer fit in with these times.’ Coolidge is buried in Plymouth Notch Cemetery, Plymouth Notch, Vermont. The nearby family home is maintained as one of the original buildings on the Calvin Coolidge Homestead District site. The State of Vermont dedicated a new visitors’ center nearby to mark Coolidge’s 100th birthday on July 4th, 1972.

“Scholars have ranked Coolidge in the lower half of U.S. presidents. He gains nearly universal praise for his stalwart support of racial equality during a period of heightened racial tension in the nation and is highly praised by advocates of smaller government and laissez-faire economics; supporters of an active central government generally view him far less favorably. His critics argue that he failed to use the country's economic boom to help struggling farmers and workers in other flailing industries, and there is still much debate among historians as to the extent to which Coolidge’s economic policies contributed to the onset of the Great Depression.”

## Post May 2nd

Dear friends, it is true that most F.B.I. agents answered a call to protect the innocent, but alas a few were caught up in the power they held over others. This was one of the ways the “*Shadow*” corrupted America. For instance, although J Edgar Hoover ostensibly stood for Law and Order, he was not a representative for the “*Light*.” As history has recorded, he became consumed with power. So much so that his influence on the consciousness stretched into the next “upstepping”, where he was not only the most powerful figure in law enforcement, he also held significant political power through nefarious methods. However, in the 1920s, the lawman was concerned with catching the “gangsters.” Hoover’s page on *Encyclopedia Britannica* relates his slide towards corruption:

*Hoover habitually used the FBI's enormous surveillance and information-gathering powers to collect damaging information on politicians throughout the country, and he kept the most scurrilous data under his own personal control. He used his possession of these secret files to maintain himself as the FBI's director and was apparently able to intimidate even sitting presidents by threatening to leak damaging disclosures about them. By the early 1970s he had come under public criticism for his authoritarian administration of the FBI and for his persecution of those he regarded as radicals and subversives...*

Hoover oversaw the FBI’s famous “Ten Most Wanted Fugitives” list originated in 1932 when wanting public recognition for his work, he started publishing a

nationwide dispatch of “Fugitives Wanted by Police.” Apparently, Hoover and the FBI were unstoppable in 1932 creating a “technical laboratory” that could examine handwriting, fingerprints, as well as determine the use of firearms. This laboratory is now in the famous Quantico, Virginia. From the get-go it was an invaluable tool for examining critical evidence for criminal investigations.

The creation of the FBI changed the way law enforcement operated, as before its conception, crime fighting was a local affair. With the enactment of Prohibition, as stated, the criminals were making so much money that they began spreading their influence nationwide. It is interesting that the FBI grew from the fact that bank robbers like John Dillinger, Bonny and Clyde, and Machine Gun Kelley crossed state lines. Tragically, after Prohibition was repealed in 1933, the public enemy number one for the FBI became members of the Mafia.

Wikipedia’s entry for the Mafia relates how this organization originated in Sicily, before coming to America. Cosa Nostra, which became the Mafia, evidently began in the eastern states among the Sicilian and Italian immigrants during the late 19th (1800s) century. As portrayed in multiple films, the Mafia first flexed their muscles in New York City, “gradually progressing from small neighborhood operations in poor Italian ghettos to citywide and eventually international organizations.” According to the entry, the term “godfather” was first used for “A Manu Neura, also known as the “Black Hand.” He started by “extorting Italians (and other immigrants) around New York City”, but when his fellow Sicilian gangsters began joining him in the U.S., he consolidated his power into the Cosa Nostra or Mafia. As such, as an organization they “expanded their criminal activities from extortion to loan-sharking, prostitution, drugs and alcohol, robbery, kidnapping, and murder.” Recruiting young men as “soldiers” was not difficult, as according to the entry, “Many poor Italian immigrants embraced the Mafia as a possible way of gaining power and rising out of the poverty and anti-Italianism in America.”

I find it interesting that the first Mafia gangsters in New York targeted Italians, because they victimized their former neighbors, which kind of alludes to their being bad blood, so to speak, between Sicilians and Italians. The first Sicilian member in the Cosa Nostra who immigrated to America was: “Giuseppe Esposito.” It seems that along with “six other Sicilians”, Esposito bolted for “New York after murdering eleven wealthy landowners, and the chancellor and a vice chancellor of a Sicilian province.” Nevertheless, his freedom was short lived as “He was arrested in New Orleans in 1881 and extradited to Italy.” Although these gangsters were a menace in the first two decades of the 20th century, it was not until the implementation of Prohibition that they became a real threat to the stability of the United States. The

entry for the Mafia relates, “Mafia activities were restricted until 1920, when they exploded because of the introduction of Prohibition. An example of the spectacular rise of the mafia due to Prohibition is Al Capone’s syndicate that ‘ruled’ Chicago in the 1920s.” One more surprising thing in the entry was the fact that members of the Mafia were “initiated” into the organization with certain rituals. The author of the entry explains, “The initiation ritual emerged from various sources, such as Roman Catholic confraternities and Masonic Lodges in mid-nineteenth century Sicily and has hardly changed to this day.”

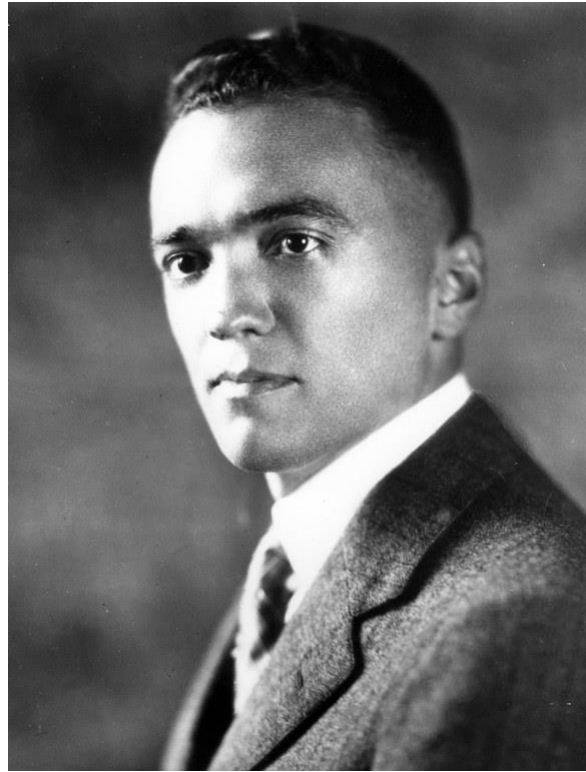
During the “Roaring Twenties”, there was a shift in the consciousness of the American people. Many historians attribute this as a reaction to the Great War. Obviously, Prohibition contributed to this, but I believe the primary cause was that the “*Shadow’s*” influence was growing with Adolph Hitler’s maturity. Even so, let us first examine this time from the conventional historical reports. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the Roaring Twenties were defined by its president Calvin Coolidge. Moreover, it appears to agree with the author of Coolidge’s article on History.com that said:

*The Roaring Twenties were a time of fast-paced social, cultural and technological changes, and many Americans lived boisterously and spent extravagantly. Some young women adopted the “flapper” lifestyle, and drank alcohol, smoked, danced and wore shorter skirts, makeup and bobbed hair. Women also voted, having won that right with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. Jazz music and Art Deco architecture flourished. Charles Lindbergh (1902-74) made his pioneering solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. More people owned automobiles and purchased mass-produced goods such as canned foods. During this era of societal transformation, Coolidge served as a sort of father figure. The quiet, respectable and frugal president provided a comforting symbol of old-fashioned responsibility and virtue.*

Coolidge’s page on *Encyclopedia Britannica* relates he was a more fitting “symbol” for this time than the popular terms of Jazz Age or Roaring Twenties. Even so, the president believed the disillusionment of the Great War and the emancipation of women caused the behavior.

Of course, whenever anything gets out of control, like a balloon overfilled with air, it eventually explodes in a very loud bang throwing out bits of itself in every direction. This occurrence is no different to what happened at the end of the “Roaring Twenties.” Alas, the explosion would not only affect those participating in blowing air into the balloon, so to speak, but also everyone else. First though, let us review how this devastating event came about. Because this “explosion” marks an obvious

significant change in the world's consciousness, it starts the second half of this "upstepping." Have a great day, love always, Suzzan.



John (J) Edgar Hoover 1856 - 1972

Hoover was born on New Year's Day 1895 in a house on the present site of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, located on Seward Square near Eastern Market in Washington's Capitol Hill neighborhood Washington, D.C. His parents were Anna Marie and Dickerson Naylor Hoover, who rose to the position of chief of the printing division of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey,. Dickerson Hoover was of English and German ancestry. "Hoover's maternal great-uncle, John Hitz, was a Swiss honorary consul general to the United States. Among his family, he was the closest to his mother, who despite being 'more inclined to instruction', showed great affection towards her son..."

"Hoover was 18 years old when he accepted his first job, an entry-level position as messenger in the orders department at the Library of Congress... half a mile from his house. The experience shaped both Hoover and the creation of the FBI profiles; as Hoover noted in a 1951 letter: 'This job ... trained me in the value of collating material. It gave me an excellent foundation for my work in the FBI where it has been necessary to collate information and evidence.'

Later, he achieved a Bachelor of Law from the George Washington University Law School in 1916, while there he joined the Alpha Nu Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order, a Southern fraternity that was born out of a desire to continue the heritage of the 'incomparable flower of Southern Knighthood.' This fraternity was formed after the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865. Apparently, some prominent Kappa Alpha alumni influenced Hoover's future beliefs... Hoover graduated with

an LL.M. in 1917 from the same university... Immediately after getting his LL.M. degree, Hoover was hired by the Justice Department to work in the War Emergency Division. He accepted the clerkship on July 27th, 1917, aged 22. The job paid \$990 a year (\$23,500 in 2024 dollars) and was exempt from the draft.

According to his entry, "Hoover soon became the head of the Division's Alien Enemy Bureau, authorized by President Woodrow Wilson at the beginning of World War I to arrest and jail allegedly disloyal foreigners without trial. He received additional authority from the 1917 Espionage Act. Out of a list of 1,400 suspicious Germans living in the U.S., the Bureau arrested 98 and designated 1,172 as arrestable.

"In August 1919, the 24-year-old Hoover became head of the Bureau of Investigation's new General Intelligence Division, also known as the Radical Division, because its goal was to monitor and disrupt the work of domestic radicals. America's First Red Scare was beginning...

At 25-years of age in 1920 "Edgar Hoover was initiated as a Freemason at D.C.'s Federal Lodge No. 1 in Washington, D.C. He went on to join the Scottish Rite in which he was made a 33rd Degree Inspector General Honorary in 1955." Then in 1921, Hoover rose in the Bureau of Investigation to deputy head, and in 1924 the Attorney General made him the acting director. On May 10, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge appointed Hoover as the fifth Director of the Bureau of Investigation, partly in response to allegations that the prior director, William J. Burns, was involved in the Teapot Dome scandal. When Hoover took over the Bureau of Investigation, it had approximately 650 employees, including 441 Special Agents."

Tellingly, "Hoover fired all female agents and banned the future hiring of them." In addition, he "frequently fired Bureau agents... He also relocated agents who had displeased him to career-ending assignments and locations. Melvin Purvis was a prime example: Purvis was one of the most effective agents in capturing and breaking up 1930s gangs, and it is alleged that Hoover maneuvered him out of the Bureau because he was envious of the substantial public recognition Purvis received.

In the end, John Edgar Hoover "expanded the FBI into a larger crime-fighting agency and instituted a number of modernizations to policing technology, such as a centralized fingerprint file and forensic laboratories. Hoover also established and expanded a national blacklist, referred to as the FBI Index or Index List.

Later in life and after his death, Hoover became a controversial figure as evidence of his secretive abuses of power began to surface. He was also found to have routinely violated both the FBI's own policies and the very laws which the FBI was charged with enforcing, and to have collected evidence using illegal surveillance, wiretapping, and burglaries. Hoover consequently amassed a great deal of power and was able to intimidate and threaten political figures, including high-ranking ones." Proving the axiom "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."