

Teacher Professional Development Programs with Edward T. O'Donnell, Ph.D.

The Twenties: Roar and Reaction

The American economy “roared” in the 1920s as never before, until late 1929. Industrial output boomed, stocks on Wall Street soared, and per capita income rose for nearly everyone. The decade also witnessed profound social and cultural change as Americans embraced jazz, the Charleston, silent movies, and radio. Many women shocked their contemporaries by taking on the so-called “flapper” look with short hair and short dresses. These trends eventually prompted a conservative backlash that saw the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, passage of immigration restriction, and a surge in religious fundamentalism, as evidenced by the Scopes Trial.

This presentation, augmented with more than 75 visuals, examines the following:

- the main sources of the economic boom (and the underlying weaknesses)
- the explosion of consumer culture
- key cultural trends such as Jazz, the Harlem Renaissance, the “flapper” style, silent movies, and radio
- the rise of reactionary movements like the KKK and immigration restriction
- the 1929 Crash and coming of the Great Depression

Note: this talk can be tailored to your specific needs, focusing on a particular incident (i.e., The Scopes Trial), cultural figure, theme, or issue such as Prohibition.

About the Presentation:

Today’s students are visual and interactive learners – and so are their teachers. Consequently, this multimedia presentation is built around 75+ unique and carefully selected visuals, including vintage photographs, etchings, maps, cartoons, and documents (samples appear on this page). O’Donnell uses them to enhance a lively and interactive presentation. Ample time is allotted for Q & A, but O’Donnell always welcomes questions at any time during the session.

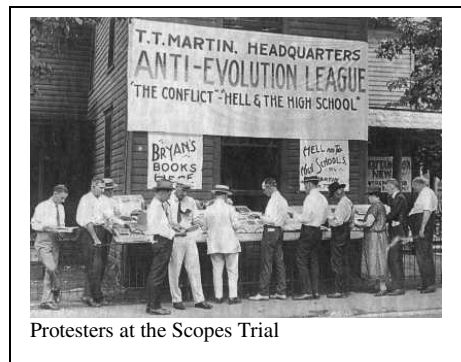
Benefits for your teachers:

- a renewed and/or deepened awareness of topic’s **essential content**.
- an enhanced understanding of the topic’s critical **questions, concepts, and ideas**.
- new ideas for finding and using **primary sources** and developing DBQ’s, simulations, projects, debates, and field trip preparation.



Programming Options:

- Time Flexibility – all presentations and workshops can be tailored to meet your needs, from 1 to 3 hours.
- Pedagogy Workshops – O’Donnell is also available to lead workshops on primary sources, DBQ’s, simulations, projects, and debates.
- Walking Tours & Historic Site Visits - O’Donnell has led thousands – just ask!



Edward T. O'Donnell, Ph.D. is a professional historian, author, and speaker. He earned his Ph.D. in American History from Columbia University (1995) and currently is Associate Professor (tenured) of History at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. He is the author of several books and frequently publishes history essays in publications such as the *New York Times*. He has made countless teacher professional development presentations and served as lead historian for the Teaching American History grant, “Enlivening American History Through Primary Sources” (2001, Queens College). For a full c.v., please visit his website: www.EdwardTODonnell.com.

