

History 314: The Great Depression  
Week 1  
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## The Great Depression

### The 1920s: Permanent Prosperity or Prelude to Disaster?

#### The Roaring Twenties--For Some

A. Prosperity as a Ponzi Scheme? [Charles Ponzi and the original Ponzi Scheme](#)



Charles Ponzi

B. Toward a Consumer Society  
A “Consumer Durables Revolution”?  
[on consumer culture in the 1920s](#)

[Library of Congress website](#)



Magic Chef Stove 1924



**Model A Ford 1928**



**Listening to the Radio**

#### **IV. The International Context of the 1920s**

##### **Germany from Hyperinflation to Depression**

Watch a brief [video clip on German hyperinflation](#) from a recent PBS series.

##### **The Return to Gold--Great Britain, 1925**

[\(A brief lesson on the International Gold Standard\)](#)



**Hyperinflation in Germany, 1923**