

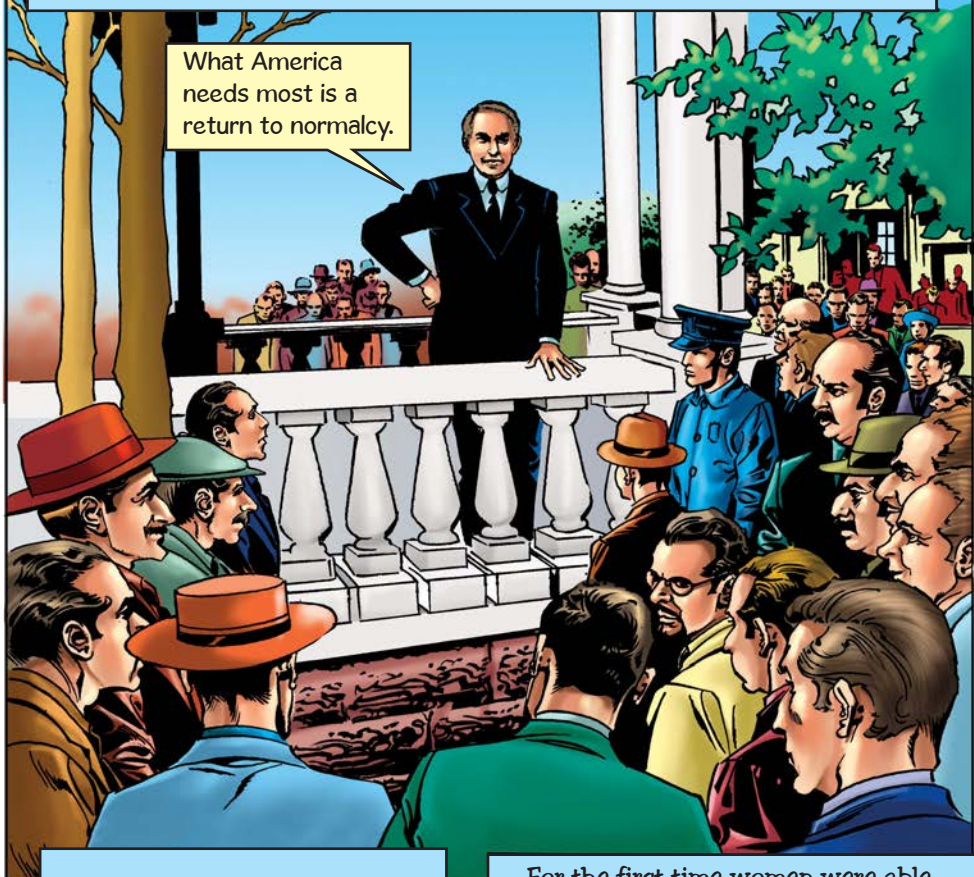


# THE ROARING TWENTIES & THE GREAT DEPRESSION



At the end of World War I, people were sick of death and destruction and sacrifice. In 1920, Warren G. Harding ran for president on the Republican ticket, conducting a "front-porch" campaign.

What America needs most is a return to normalcy.



People liked the idea. Al Jolson, a popular entertainer, even wrote a song.

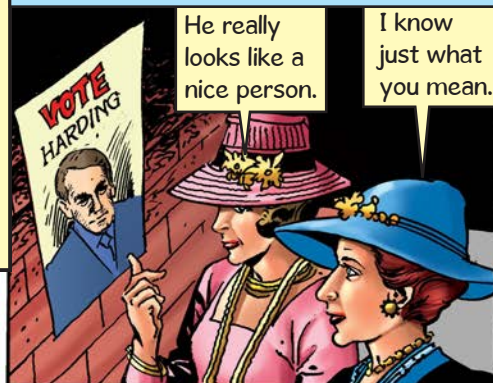
*Harding you're the man for us, you're the man for us.*



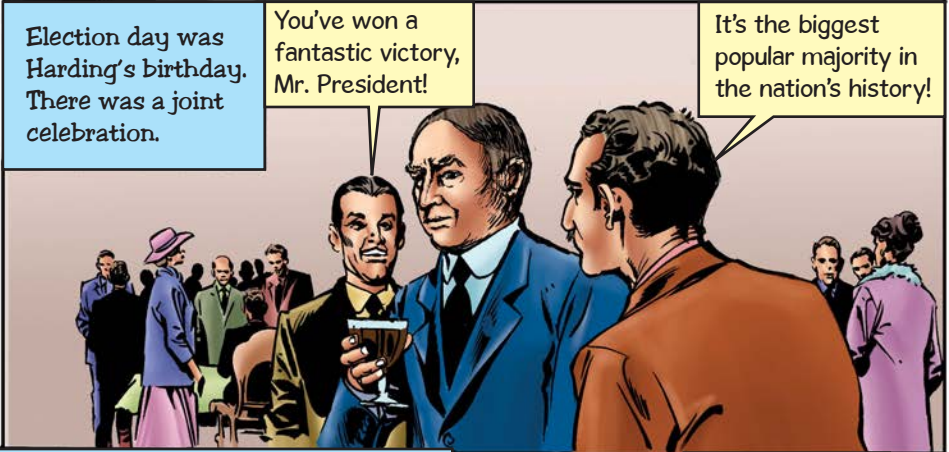
For the first time women were able to vote. Many voted for Harding.

He really looks like a nice person.

I know just what you mean.







Election day was Harding's birthday. There was a joint celebration.

You've won a fantastic victory, Mr. President!

It's the biggest popular majority in the nation's history!

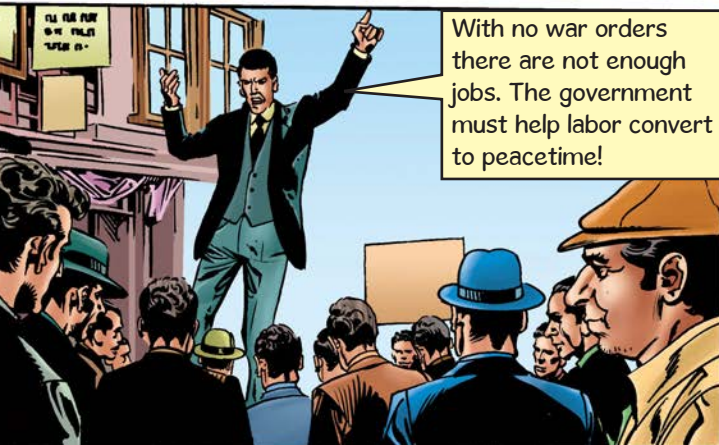
But the country failed to return to normalcy.

Industry was geared up for wartime production. Now we have high war taxes and wartime controls, but no orders!



We need a higher protective tariff and help in controlling labor!

But labor, especially the American Federation of Labor, had its own demands.



With no war orders there are not enough jobs. The government must help labor convert to peacetime!

The workers marched to demonstrate their demands.



A new tariff act went into effect in 1922. Harding was interviewed by the press.

I believe it to be the greatest work in tariff history!

I understand it raises rates by 25%?



Did you know the *Wall Street Journal* calls it "one of the most selfish laws of the kind ever"?

Uh, no!





When Harding was elected, the socialist candidate was in the Atlanta penitentiary for antiwar activities.

Eugene V. Debs—941, 827 votes!

Almost a million Socialist votes! I am pleased!



A kindhearted man, Harding made a decision.

Debs has served two years. That is long enough. I will pardon him.



Scandals came to light in the Harding administration. Large amounts of public funds had been misused. There were suicides. Men were convicted of crimes and sent to penitentiaries. Harding did not pardon them!

Perhaps things will seem better after our trip to Alaska.

I can take care of my enemies, but my friends? They're the ones that keep me walking the floor nights!

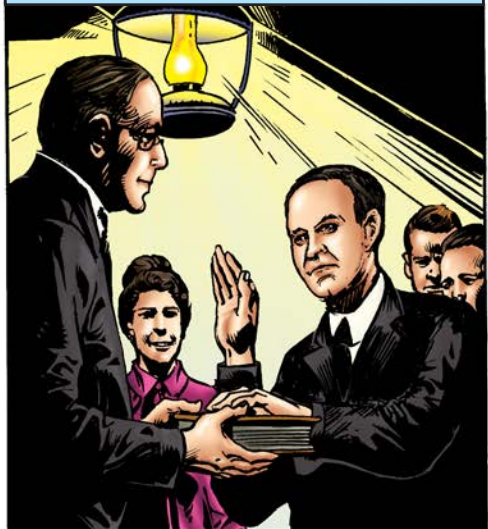
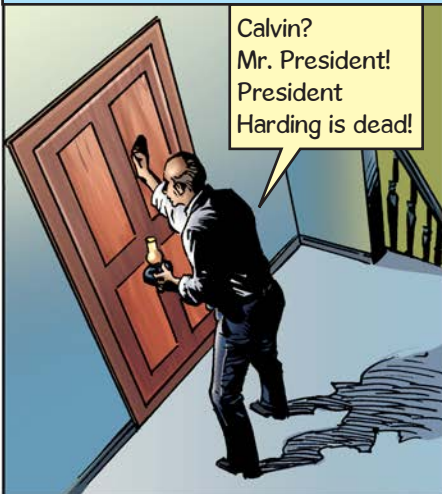


But already in bad health, during the trip President Harding collapsed and died on August 2, 1923. His return to Washington was as part of a funeral procession.



On August 2, Vice President Calvin Coolidge spent the day raking hay. He slept soundly that night until his father called him.

The new president's father administered the oath of office in the family sitting room.





Coolidge first came to national attention in 1919, when he was governor of Massachusetts.

Your excellency, the Boston police are threatening to form a labor union.

What does the police commissioner say?



Commissioner Curtis has issued orders banning police membership in labor organizations.

I have no authority over the commissioner, but keep me informed.



The working conditions of the Boston police were scandalously bad.

All through the war we worked for half the salary of war workers.

And now the war is over.



The hours are awful ... Hardly know my children!



And look at this freezing pigpen of a station house.



They had a local organization, the Boston Social Club, where they made plans.

I move we apply to join the American Federation of Labor.

Good! Police in other cities have joined it!

They received a charter and the Central Labor Union of Boston made a statement.

We pledge to the Boston police every atom of support that organized labor can bring to bear!

Then it was the commissioner's turn.

I have found 19 police union leaders guilty of violating my orders! They are suspended from the force.

Do you think the Bolsheviks are behind this?

The policemen voted to leave their posts the next afternoon.

Understand that I do not approve of any strike. But can you blame the police when they get less than a street car conductor?

But they are disobeying my orders!



Bostonians were terrified at the prospect of a police strike.

They say the city will be looted and we will all be assaulted!

Even worse, there's fear that all union men will leave their jobs in a general strike!



It's red agents and anarchists from Russia at the bottom of it—spreading revolution and striking at the very foundations of government!



On Tuesday, 1,117 of Boston's officers walked out. In the early evening, there were only minor disturbances.

Spare tires were stolen from parked cars.



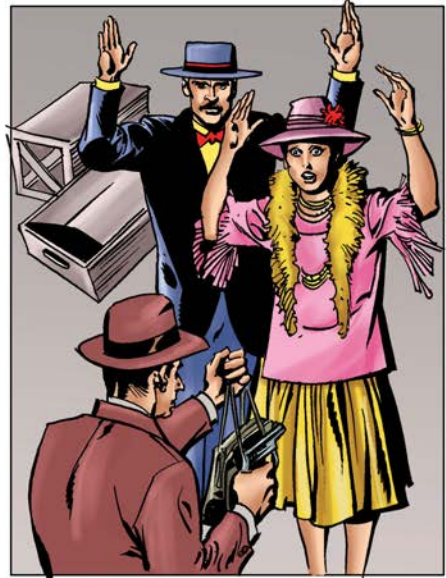
A trolley car was stoned.



After midnight, looting and riots began.



Many citizens were robbed.



At dawn, the mayor called out the state guard, resident in Boston, and asked Governor Coolidge for 3,000 additional troops. Before nightfall, guardsmen were patrolling the streets with rifles and fixed bayonets.

In South Boston, they fired on a rioting crowd.



Two men were killed and others wounded.

In Scollay Square, one man died when the cavalry charged a mob.





By morning, the situation was under control. Governor Coolidge issued a proclamation essentially approving the mayor's action. But newspapers throughout the country carried stories of the strike, the disorders, and of Coolidge. He had become a great national figure. Elected vice president, he became president upon Harding's death.

To a child of the 1920s, there were many new things—for instance, radio.

Listen, the president.

The business of America is business.



Here in our own living room, we can hear the president speak.

I don't understand what he means.

Sh! Just listen!



The movies were new, too!

KNIGHTS of the KU KLUX KLAN



A famous one showed Southern scenes after the Civil War.





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