

THE TIME 1900–1931

▶ PEOPLE TO KNOW

William Boeing
Major John Butler
Horace Cayton
Wesley Everest
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn
May Arkwright Hutton
Rev. Mark Matthews
James O'Sullivan
Anna Louise Strong
William U'Ren

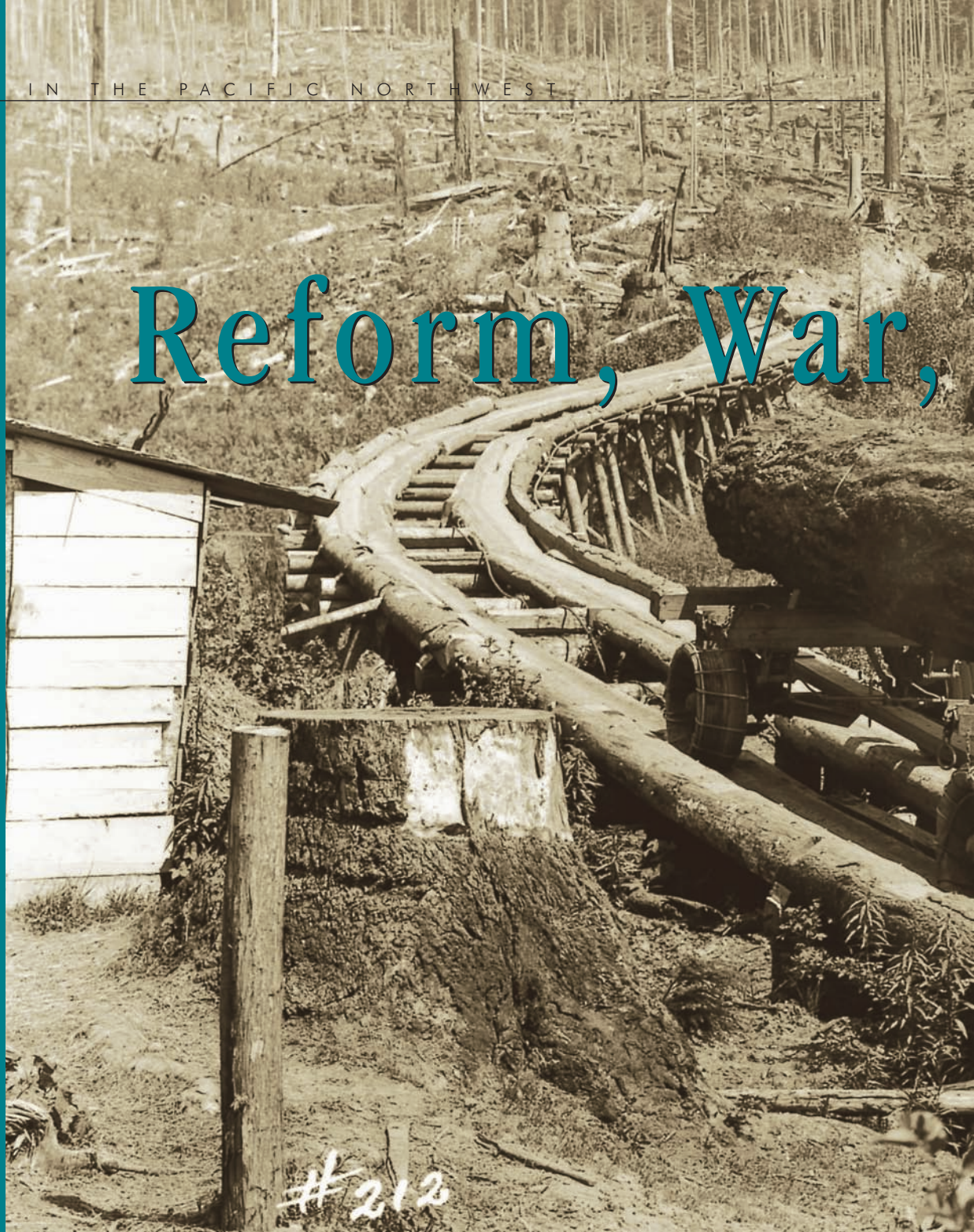
▶ PLACES TO LOCATE

Germany
Russia
British Columbia
Puget Sound
Columbia Basin
Grand Coulee
Columbia River
Seattle
Spokane
Everett
Centralia

▶ WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

ardent
capitalism
capitalist
communism
conspiracy
deficient
exploit
incense
initiative
libel
radical
recall
reclamation project
referendum
repeal
sabotage
suffrage
suppress
suspend
vigilante

Reform, War,



Men made makeshift “trucks” with automobile engines. The trucks replaced horse-drawn wagons for hauling logs. Since lumber was plentiful, it was used to make a “road” for the trucks in the early 1920s.

1911
Washington adopts the initiative, referendum, and recall.

Washington enacts workmen's compensation and an eight-hour workday for women.

TIMELINE

1900

1905

1910

1902
Oregon adopts the initiative and referendum.

1905
Birth of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

1909
IWW Free Speech Campaign in Spokane

1910
Washington approves women's suffrage.



Chapter and Inventions 8

1914
Prohibition is adopted in Washington.

1916
Everett Massacre

1919
Seattle General Strike
Centralia Massacre
The Eighteenth Amendment prohibits making or selling alcohol in the United States.

1929
Stock Market collapses.

1933
Prohibition is repealed.

1915

1920

1925

1930

1914 **1918**
World War I

1917
United States enters the war.

1920
The Nineteenth Amendment gives women the right to vote.

1931
Butler report favoring construction of Grand Coulee Dam is released.

Progressive Reform

The rapid growth of industries at the beginning of the twentieth century caused many problems. Cities were crowded and were without proper **sanitation**. No one collected the garbage, and water was not always clean. The cities needed sewer systems. There were few paved roads or public transportation. Factories, mines, and lumber camps were unsafe places to work. There was widespread political corruption.

People wanted to reform government and clean up the cities. The Progressive Movement was a collection of many different reforms. Local laws were passed to protect consumers and workers.

The United States Constitution was amended to give women the right to vote, to establish a federal income tax, and to provide for the direct election of U.S. senators by voters.

hol was responsible for much of the abuse of women and children, most of the crime, and that buying alcohol wasted money a family needed for food.

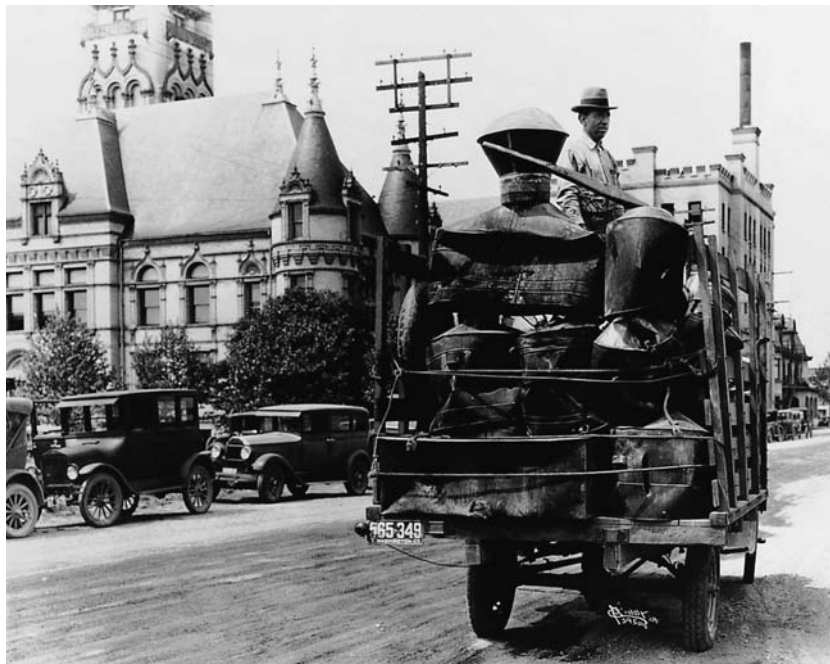
The Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution made alcohol illegal all over America. However, Washington was still very “wet” because liquor from British Columbia was smuggled into the state by “rumrunners” who could legally buy it north of the border. Rumrunners brought the illegal alcohol to private clubs or road-houses called “blind pigs.”

Millions of Americans seemed willing to break the law if it interfered with having a good time. Violations became so widespread that local police stopped enforcing Prohibition in many cities. Bribery of the police to ignore the selling of alcoholic drinks was so common that one Spokane man said years later that it was a shock to find an honest law officer.

Prohibition

Prohibition was part of the Progressive Movement. People, especially women, tried to make the production, selling, and buying of all alcoholic drinks illegal. They said alco-

Prohibition was finally repealed in 1933. The fourteen-year effort to make alcohol illegal had been a failure.



Remains of stills that had made alcohol pass by the Spokane County Courthouse.



MAY ARKWRIGHT HUTTON

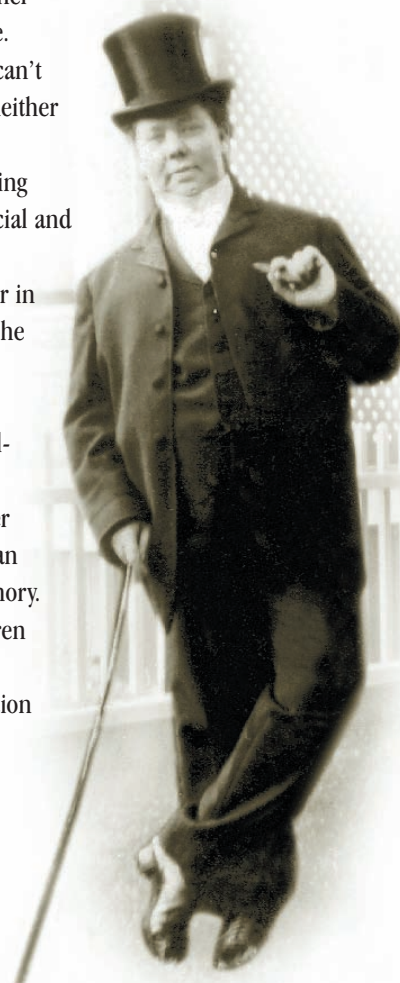
A colorful and energetic campaigner for women's suffrage was May Arkwright Hutton. She was a former mining camp cook who had struck it rich in the silver mines in Idaho. May was always on the side of striking miners. She spoke bluntly. Her language often embarrassed both men and women, but her speeches were effective.

"Criminals and idiots can't vote," she said, "and neither can women."

Hutton enjoyed being driven to her many social and political activities in Spokane by a chauffeur in a fire-engine-red car. She loved to wear scarlet dresses, a tiger-striped coat, and a hat with billowing ostrich plumes.

After her death, her husband Levi opened an orphanage in her memory. Hundreds of the children raised there returned as adults for a celebration in 1994.

May Hutton fought male opposition to women's suffrage.





MARK MATTHEWS

Much of the Progressive Movement in Seattle revolved around the Reverend Mark Matthews. Matthews came to Seattle from the South in 1902. A tall slender man, he was a powerful speaker and a dynamic leader. Matthews turned Seattle's First Presbyterian Church into an instrument of social change. His congregation worked for public hospitals, parks, and playgrounds, as well as a juvenile court system.

Matthews said:

It is cheaper to establish schools, parks, . . . and places of refinement, culture and morality, than it is to support hundreds of policemen, jails . . . and asylums for [alcoholics].

Matthews fought against the “moral evils of liquor, gambling, and prostitution.” He was particularly *incensed* with political corruption in city government. He directed a campaign that used the recall to remove the mayor from office because the mayor supported illegal activities.



Mark Matthews and his church members were champions of Progressive reform.

LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT



ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN



One of the most popular IWW free speech fighters was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. As an eighteen-year-old girl, she led a free speech fight in Spokane in 1909. Speaking on Wobbly philosophy on the city's street corners, she and several hundred IWW members were arrested for disturbing the peace.

Flynn was only in jail one night, but it was long enough to get material for a report of illegal prostitution going on in Spokane's county jail. The city's chief of police knew what was going on and did nothing to stop it. Flynn's account, printed in the next edition of *The Industrial Worker*, provoked outrage across the country.

Flynn was the inspiration for the popular IWW ballad "The Rebel Girl."



Flynn speaks in Patterson in 1913.

Workers Lingo

Bindle Blanket roll

Bindle Stiff Worker who carries his bedding

California Blankets Newspapers used for bedding

Dingbat A tramp considered "homeless, helpless, and harmless"

Fink An informer or strikebreaker

Jungle A place, usually near a railroad yard, where migrants cooked and slept

Rattler Fast freight train

Scab Person who takes the job of a striking union member

Skid Road An area of town where there were saloons, gambling, and prostitution

ACTIVITY

POSTERS PROMOTE THE CAUSE

These posters show some of the powerful messages that the IWW was trying to promote. Read the posters, and then discuss the questions.



1. What did the union mean by the phrase, "We have fed you all a thousand years"?
2. Look up the meaning of the word "proletariat." Discuss how it relates to poor workers who were fighting against the wealthy business owners.

3. The Rebel Girl was a popular union ballad. What do the terms

"blue blooded" and "thoroughbred" refer to?

The Rebel Girl

*There are blue-blooded queens and princesses,
Who have charms made of diamonds and pearls;
But the only and thoroughbred lady
Is the Rebel Girl.*

Chorus:

*That's the Rebel Girl!
That's the Rebel Girl!
To the working class
she's a precious pearl.*

*She brings courage, pride and joy
To the fighting Rebel Boy.
We've had girls before, but we need some more
In the Industrial Workers of the World.
For it's great to fight for freedom
With a Rebel Girl.*



*"The world must
be safe for
democracy."*

—Woodrow
Wilson, 1917

Girl Scouts collected peach pits to help the United States win the war. The pits were turned into charcoal. Charcoal was used in gas masks to filter out poisonous gas.



Russian Revolution and the Red Scare

Life in Russia was desperate. There had already been a huge loss of life and materials during the war. People wanted to end it. There was no food and no fuel to heat homes. Everyone blamed the government, and the czar was forced to step down from power.

Vladimir Lenin established a communistic government where all the people, not individuals, owned all property and all businesses. No longer, they said, would wealthy capitalists take all the profits and **exploit** workers who lived in poverty. No longer would there be a struggle between the "haves" and the "have nots." "All the people" quickly came to mean only the government, however.

The Russians called on the world's workers to revolt against capitalism. Some Americans regarded striking workers in America as part of a world-wide **conspiracy** against democracy. Some people in the United States did join a Communist Party, but no evidence was found of any communist plot to overthrow the American government.

Since Russian communists marched under a red flag, they were called Reds.

A jubilant soldier returns from the war.

Capitalism:

private (individual or company) ownership of land, property, and business

Communism:

government ownership of all land, property, and business



Who was responsible for building the planes? When young Bill Boeing took his first plane ride just ten years after the Wright brothers made their first flight in North Carolina, he wanted to build a better plane. Boeing and two friends planned, built, and tested ideas. In 1916, the three men completed a seaplane on the shores of Lake Union.



WILLIAM BOEING



William Boeing (right) flew air-mail between Seattle and Vancouver in 1919.

The next year the Boeing Company built fifty airplanes for the government. At first, airplanes were used for observation in the war. Later they were equipped with machine guns.

Within fifty years, the Boeing Company was the largest company in Washington.

Washington

PORTRAIT



ANNA LOUISE STRONG

At the center of the Seattle General Strike was a remarkable young woman, Anna Louise Strong, who had just come to Washington. She was a published writer and the youngest woman ever to receive a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

An accomplished mountain climber, Strong led the first winter climb of Mt. Hood. She quickly became a Seattle favorite and was elected the first female member of the school board.

When Wobblies were on trial for the Everett murders, Strong covered the story as a reporter for a New York newspaper. The testimony she heard in court changed her life. She came to sympathize with the Wobblies, who were “waging a stark fight for human rights.”

Two days before the Seattle strike, Strong wrote a famous newspaper editorial, admitting that no one really knew what the outcome of the strike would be, but saying that it was important for workers to be heard. She wrote:

*We are undertaking the most
tremendous move ever made
by Labor in this country, a
move which will lead
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE. . .*



Anna Louise Strong

After the strike, Anna Strong left Seattle and worked for reform in Russia and China.

The Centralia Massacre

Centralia, a lumber mill town south of Olympia, was the center of a dispute between mill owners and the IWW. The mill owners had recruited World War I veterans called Legionnaires to harass local Wobblies.

The Legionnaires were tricked into thinking the Wobblies were a real threat to America. After marching in a parade celebrating the end of the war, the Legionnaires

went on to attack the IWW meeting hall. The Wobblies, forewarned, had armed themselves and met the attack with gunfire. Three Legionnaires were killed.

Wesley Everest, a Wobbly, shot into the crowd, killed a man, and ran. He was caught and taken to jail. Other Wobblies were also arrested.

That night, an angry mob of over a thousand men kidnapped Everest from jail.

They hanged him on a bridge outside of town. Mobs persecuted Wobblies throughout the state for days.

No one was ever charged with the murder of Wesley Everest, but eight Wobblies were convicted of murdering Legionnaires. They were given long prison sentences, though no one could prove who shot first.

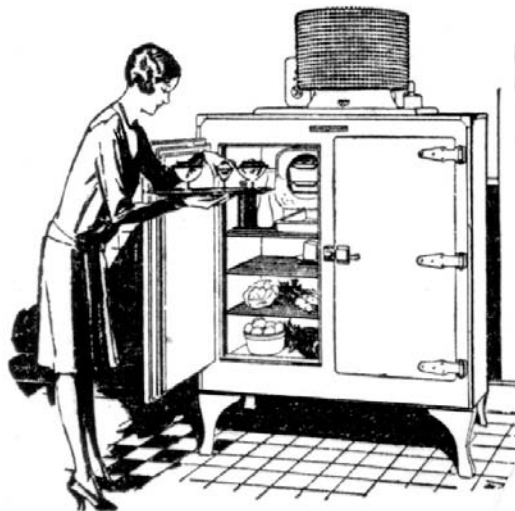
Centralia demonstrated the fear caused by the Red Scare.

LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

Interview someone who can remember the 1920s. This might be difficult, but not impossible. Ask questions that will help you compare life in that time period with your life today.

With the widespread use of electricity, radios became popular. For the first time in the history of the world, airwaves brought music and stories into homes.





Every family wanted a refrigerator instead of the old ice box.



An unfortunate event of the Automobile Age was a streetcar and an automobile collision on the crowded streets of Spokane in 1929.

ACTIVITY

The KKK—a Primary Source Document

During a huge Ku Klux Klan ceremony in a field south of Yakima, over 1,000 robed Klansmen escorted 700 new members before a crowd of 40,000 viewers. Wooden crosses burned, and fireworks exploded in the sky.

The Klan blamed all the problems of the United States on immigrants, Catholics, Jews, and African Americans. Hiding under white hoods, Klan members terrorized families by burning crosses on lawns, and whipping, shooting, or hanging people they were trying to get rid of.

An ugly event developed in Washington's Yakima Valley in the early 1920s. The Klan tried to evict Japanese American farmers who were leasing land. However, the Klan became weaker over the next two years and the Japanese farmers remained on the land.

Some of the questions on the application below are:

8. Are you a Gentile or a Jew?
9. Of what race (color)?
15. What is your religious faith?

This document has strong language that is very much against the ideals of Americans who work for racial equality and freedom of religion. As a class, talk about the words in the document and how the Klan used the words for their purposes. Discuss how you feel about the document.



HORACE R. CAYTON

Cayton was a prominent African American who worked for civic reform and racial equality in Seattle. He told a story of a woman who was told to move to the back of the bus and replied, "God's getting awfully tired of this."

Cayton published a weekly newspaper, *The Seattle Republican*. A scathing article on Seattle's police chief, W.L. Meridith, accused the chief of accepting bribes and allowing prostitution and other vices to go unpunished. The article led to Cayton's arrest for *libel*, but it also produced a huge outpouring of support. Charges were dropped.

Avail of the
IMPERIAL WIZARD

Imperial Palace Invisible Empire
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC.
Atlanta, Georgia

To His Majesty the Imperial Wizard, Emperor of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the KU KLUX KLAN, being a white male Gentile person of temperate habits, sound in mind, and a believer in the tenets of the Christian religion, the maintenance of White Supremacy, the practice of an honorable clanishness and the principles of a "pure Americanism," do voluntarily most respectfully, seriously and unselfishly petition you for citizenship in the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and to become a member of Tillamook Klan No. 9.

I guarantee on my honor to conform strictly to all rules and requirements regulating my "naturalization" and the continuance of my membership, and at all times a strict and loyal obedience to your constitutional authority and the constitution and laws, and all regulations and usages of the fraternity. The required "donation" of \$15.00 accompanies this petition.

Recom. by Kl.....
Kl.....

Signed.....Petitioner
City.....State.....

1. Is the motive prompting your inquiry serious?
2. What is your age?
3. Occupation?
4. Where were you born?
5. How long have you resided in your present locality?
6. Are you married, single or widower?
7. Were your parents born in the United States of America?
8. Are you a Gentile or Jew?
9. Of what race (color)?
10. What educational advantages have you?
11. Color of eyes?
12. Do you believe in the principles of a PURE Americanism?
13. Do you believe in White Supremacy?
14. What is your political faith?
15. What religious faith?
16. Of what church are you a member (if any)?
17. What secret, fraternal orders are your parents?
18. Do you honestly believe in the practice of REAL fraternity?
19. Do you owe ANY KIND of allegiance to any foreign nation, government, institution, sect, people, ruler or person?
20. I most solemnly assert and affirm that each question above is truthfully answered by me in my own handwriting and that below is my real signature.

Date.....19...
Donation: Check \$.....Cash.....
First Reading.....
Second ".....
Third ".....
Objected to by.....

Signed.....
Residence Address.....



James O'Sullivan is one of the most honored figures in the struggle to build Grand Coulee Dam.

Washington's wheat country today contains hundreds of farm homes abandoned in the 1920s.
Photo by Mike Green



LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

ACTIVITY

Debate the Issues

Divide the class into two or four groups. Choose a topic, take a side, and research your topic. Present your ideas to the class in a persuasive manner. Let the class decide whose views are the most convincing.

Choose from these topics:

- Prohibition—good or bad for citizens?
- Labor Unions—good or bad for America?
- The Columbia Basin Irrigation project—good or bad for the Columbia Basin?

CHAPTER 8 REVIEW

1. What were some of the reforms Progressives worked for?
2. What was Prohibition?
3. How was Washington ahead of the rest of the nation in regards to women's suffrage?
4. What two new laws made it possible for ordinary citizens to make or repeal laws?
5. What was the nickname of the IWW union members? What were some of their objectives?
6. Who was a popular free speech fighter and the inspiration for "The Rebel Girl"?
7. Which groups participated in the Everett Massacre?
8. Name the two sides of the Great War (World War I) and which countries fought on each side.
9. What was outlawed in the Sedition Act?
10. Why did Americans think that strikers might be part of a communistic takeover?
11. Define capitalism and communism.
12. How did the war help Washington's economy?
13. What happened to Washington's economy after the war ended?
14. Who started the airplane company that became Washington's largest industry?
15. What famous strike was Anna Louise Strong involved in? How did the strike end?
16. Which groups shot at each other during the Centralia Massacre?
17. Describe life in the twenties, including some inventions that everyone wanted.
18. Who was Horace R. Cayton?
19. What groups did the Ku Klux Klan think were responsible for all the problems in America?
20. What was the solution to Washington's need for hydropower and irrigation water?

GEOGRAPHY TIE-IN

1. On a map of the world, locate the countries involved in World War I. How could our lives be different today if the Central Powers had won the war?
2. Refer to pages 19, 150, and 151 and read more about the Grand Coulee Dam. How has the dam changed life for people in Washington?

