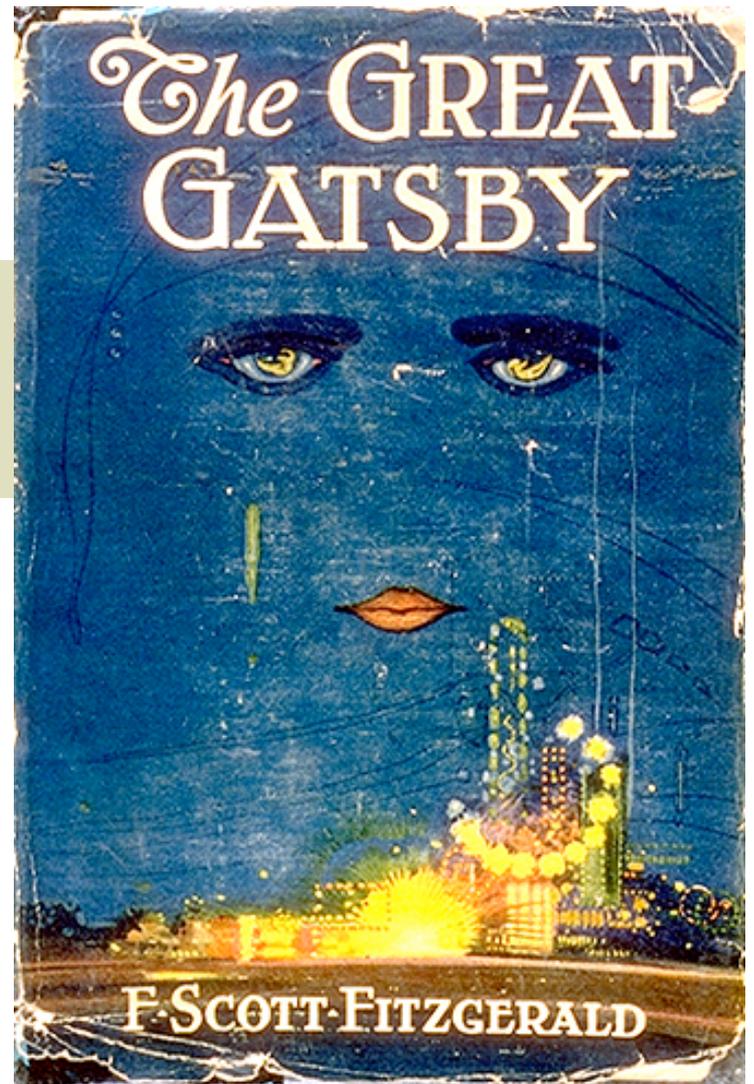


The Great Gatsby

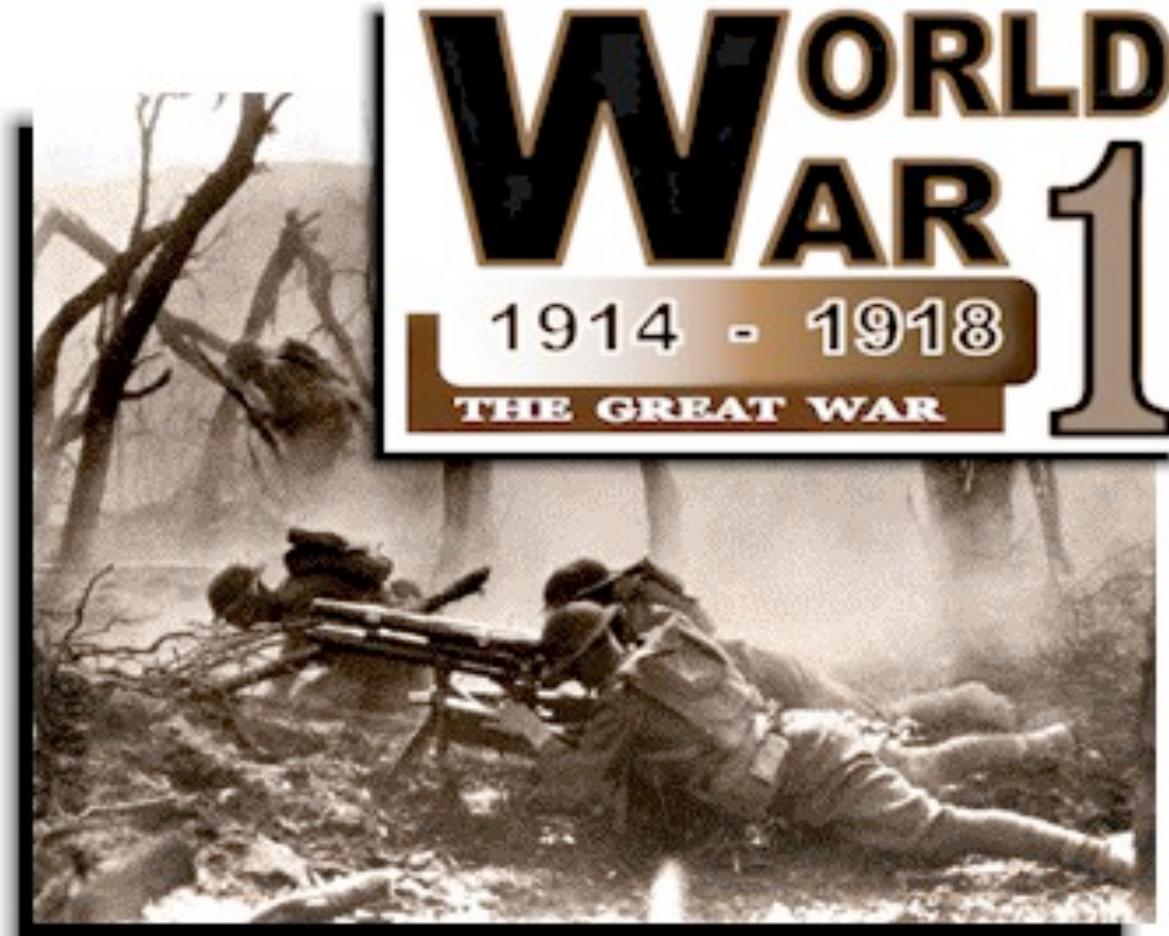
A look at the Jazz Age,
Modernism,
and F. Scott Fitzgerald



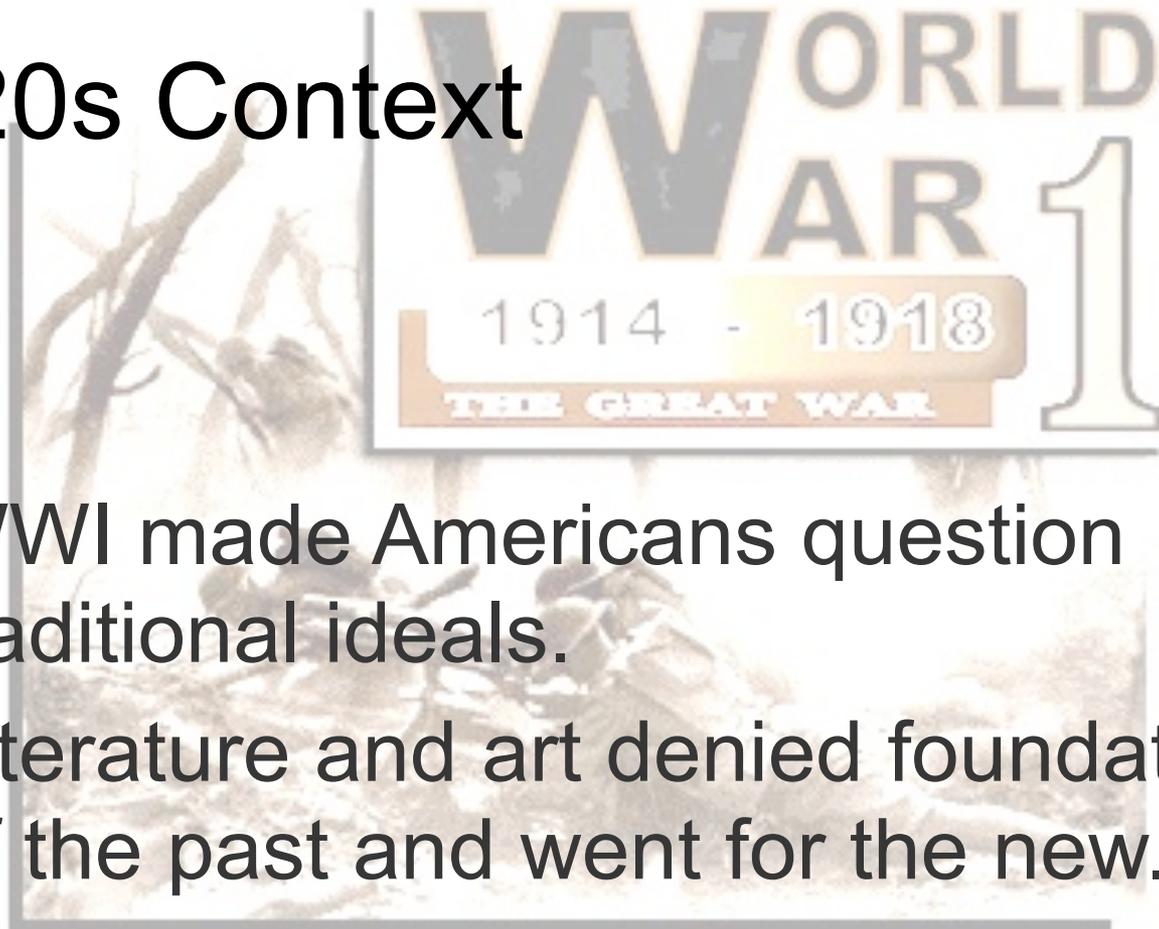
[The 1920s: Nicknames]

- The Roaring '20s
- The Jazz Age
- The Flapper Era
- The Age of Wonderful Nonsense

[1920s Context]



[1920s Context]



- WWI made Americans question traditional ideals.
- Literature and art denied foundations of the past and went for the new.
- The philosophy of the Jazz Age was called “modernism.”

[Post WWI]

- Standard of living increased for most
- Americans abandoned small towns in exchange for urban living
- Economy prospered as Americans tried to forget troubles of war
 - frivolous spending
 - illegal liquor
 - immorality

[Prohibition]

- 18th Amendment to Constitution prohibited manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages
- Thousands turned to bootlegging
- Mob activity increased to supply the demand for what was once legal

[Modernism]

- Literature, art, and music of this time reflected changing values
- Many authors attacked traditional values
- Other authors (including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Ezra Pound) moved to Paris, becoming labeled as “the lost generation” or “expatriates.”

[Modernism]

- Modernism was an artistic trend that sought to find new ways to communicate
- Writers stripped away descriptions of characters and setting and avoided direct statements of themes and resolutions
- This “fragmented” style of writing enabled the reader to choose meaning for himself, believing life had no meaning.

[F. Scott Fitzgerald]



- Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1896.
- His middle-class parents constantly overextended themselves financially.
- In high school, Fitzgerald published fiction in the school magazine.
- At Princeton, he also published fiction and wrote amateur comedies.

[Love and war



- Scott left Princeton to join the Army.
- He published his first short story.
- He also fell in love with Zelda Sayre, a Southern belle who wouldn't marry him until he could provide for her financially.

This Side of Paradise (1920)

- His first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, convinced Zelda he could be a success.
- It captured undergraduate life at Princeton, became an instant success, and established Scott as the “golden boy” of the Jazz Age.
- His works epitomized the spirit of the age.

[The Roaring '20s]

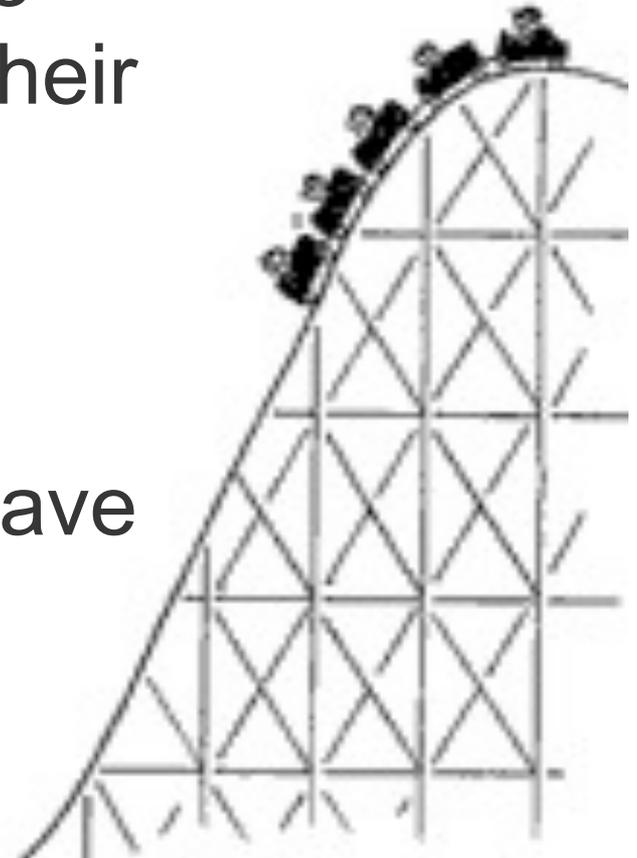


- The Fitzgeralds became part of the wealthy, extravagant society of this time.
- They spent time in both New York and Europe, mingling with famous celebrities and spending recklessly.
- The decline of Fitzgerald's personal and artistic life coincided with the end of the 1920s.

[Fitzgerald's decline]



- Scott was forced to write “hack work” to support their lifestyle.
- His addiction to alcohol increased.
- Zelda was rumored to have had an affair in Europe.



Fitzgerald's decline

- Zelda suffered nervous breakdowns and was later institutionalized with schizophrenia.
- She died in a fire in 1938.
- Scott never regained his voice in literature and died of a heart attack at age 44.



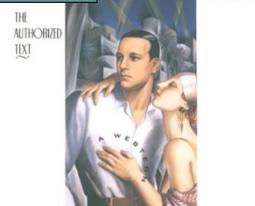
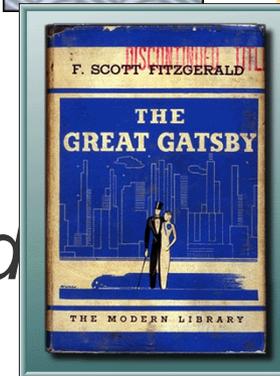
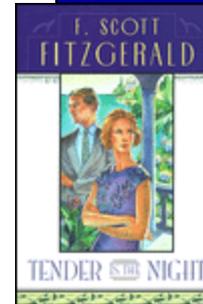
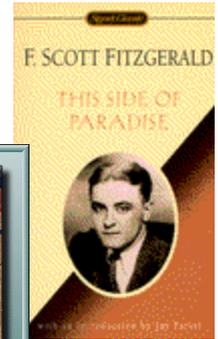
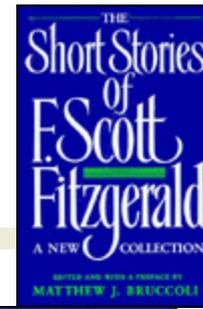
Fitzgerald's claim to fame

- F. Scott Fitzgerald is best known as the leading writer of the Jazz Age.
- He was able to both live the life of the Roaring '20s yet write as a detached observer of it.



Fitzgerald's works

- *This Side of Paradise*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Beautiful and the Damned*
- *Tender is the Night*
- *The Last Tycoon* (unfinished)
- Four volumes of short stories
- A selection of autobiographical pieces



"Definitive." - Robert Taylor, The Boston Globe

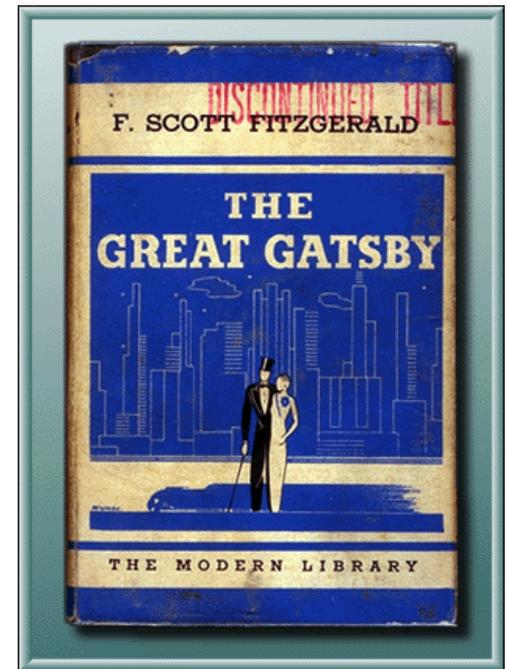
Fitzgerald's name (trivia!)

- The author got his name, Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, from his second cousin, three times removed, Francis Scott Key, the author of the National Anthem



The Great Gatsby

- *The Great Gatsby* is considered a masterpiece of American Literature.
- It is filled with symbolism and beautiful, descriptive passages.
- It displays the characters' moral emptiness, selfishness, and narcissism.



[The Great Gatsby: Geography]

