

PROHIBITION YESTERDAY *and* TODAY

Prohibition

in the United States made illegal the manufacture, sale, transportation, importation and exportation of alcohol (though there were exceptions for religious or medicinal uses).

The UNITED STATES of Prohibition

UT: Eighty years ago, on December 5, it was Utah that became the required 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to repeal National Prohibition (1920-1933).

WI: A federal study found that only 20 of Wisconsin's 71 counties could actually have been considered "dry" during Prohibition.

IN: The Prohibition Party hunkered down in Indiana, locating its national headquarters in Winona Lake for four decades after Repeal.

IN: Indiana remains the only state in the country to prohibit sales of wine, beer and spirits on Sundays.

MI: Within hours after Prohibition went into effect, smuggling alcohol across the Canadian border began – with major activity across the Detroit River between Windsor and Detroit.

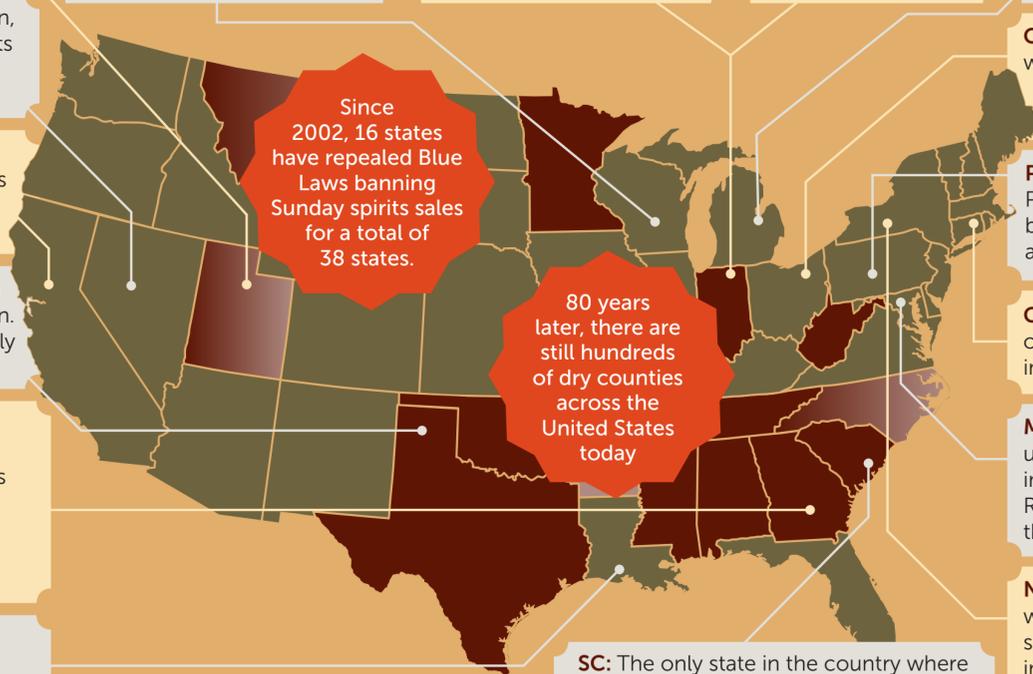
NV: In one year alone during Prohibition, Nevada's approximately 90,000 residents obtained about 10,000 prescriptions for "medicinal alcohol."

CA: The federal director of Prohibition enforcement for northern California was indicted for embezzling alcohol for his own consumption.

TX: Since 2004, Texans have marched to the polls to rally for alcohol modernization. Of the 665 local wet/dry elections, nearly 80% have gone "wet."

GA: In 2011, Georgia passed a local option legislation to allow Sunday sales. Since then, more than 200 communities have voted in favor of Sunday Sales, including Atlanta (82%-18%), Macon (62%-38%), and Savannah (60%-40%), among others.

LA: Any type of business can obtain a liquor license, with the exception of a donut shop.



OH: Westerville, a suburb of Columbus, was home to the Anti-Saloon League and became known as the "Dry Capital of the World."

PA: The Literary Digest once described Pittsburgh as "wet enough for rubber boots" and western PA became known as "the wettest spot in the U.S."

CT: In 2012, Connecticut repealed its ban on Sunday sales; it had been the last state in New England to overturn the ban.

MD: Maryland was the only state in the union that refused to pass a law enforcing Prohibition. Then-Governor Albert C. Ritchie personally opposed Prohibition throughout the entire period.

NY: Within five years after Prohibition was imposed there were over 100,000 speakeasies in New York City alone, leading many to begin calling New York the "City on a Still."

■ Sunday spirits sales banned: AL, IN, MN, MS, MT, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, WV ■ Spirits sampling banned: AK, GA, MT, NC, OK, UT

PROHIBITION TIMELINE

13 years, 10 months, 19 days, 17 hours and 32.5 minutes = *Duration of Prohibition*

1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930

1830s: Temperance Movements begin advocating for abstinence from alcohol.



1851: Maine becomes the first state to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor, though the law is later repealed in 1856.

January 16, 1919: The 18th Amendment is ratified, and prohibits the manufacture, sale or transportation, importation and exportation of liquor in the United States.

October 28, 1919: The National Prohibition Act, also known as the Volstead Act, is passed; it establishes the enforcement of prohibition.

December 5, 1933: Prohibition is repealed with the 21st Amendment.

Know Your Terms



Bathtub Gin: Gin made with water from the bathtub tap because the mixing jugs (filled with alcohol, glycerine and juniper juice) were too tall to be filled with sink water.

Speakeasy: Secret or underground drinking establishment that required a secret passcode to enter.

Bootlegger: A person who illegally sold spirits.

Wet: A person who supports the legal sale of alcoholic beverages.

Dry: A person who opposes the legal sale of alcoholic beverages.

\$1,000 Average industrial worker's income per year during Prohibition
\$60,000,000 Al Capone's (untaxed) income during Prohibition

LEGACY OF PROHIBITION

Blue Laws

Blue Laws originated hundreds of years ago during the colonial period in observance of Sunday as a day of worship or rest. Blue Laws often prohibited work, traveling, sports and many other activities. Many of these Blue Laws are no longer in effect, though many jurisdictions still prohibit the sale of spirits on Sundays.

Dry Counties

There are still hundreds of dry counties across the U.S. that partially or completely restrict alcohol.

Neo-Prohibitionism

Neo-prohibitionists continue to promote misguided "population-based controls" as a means of restricting alcohol sales. The most popular examples of these population-based controls include tax increases which lead to higher prices; bans on advertising and marketing; and excessive restrictions on market access.



THE SAD FAILURE OF Prohibition

As the nationally-famous Baltimore journalist, H. L. Mencken, observed: "There is not less drunkenness in the Republic, but more. There is not less crime, but more. There is not less insanity, but more. The cost of government is not smaller, but vastly greater. Respect for law has not increased, but diminished."

"What America needs now is a drink" –FDR, at the end of Prohibition