

Prohibition in the USA

What was it?

banned the production, transporting and sale of alcoholic liquor

introduced by the Volstead Act The Eighteenth Amendment to the US Constitution

but did not ban its consumption

ratified in January 1919

Why was it introduced ?

Many small towns and women's organisations campaigned against alcohol

Alcohol was blamed for breaking up families, causing unemployment, ill health and suffering for women and children

The Anti-Saloon League, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union supported Prohibition

Brewing was traditionally run by German immigrants. Campaigners claimed that it would be patriotic to close down their industry

Politicians agreed with them...to get more votes.

Effects

Speakeasies arose , which sold alcohol behind closed doors.

Moonshine or hooch was illegally made alcohol, which could be lethal

Bootlegging was smuggling alcohol into the USA from Canada or the West Indies

Made ordinary people into criminals

Police were reluctant to enforce the law, and were open to bribes

Gangsters stepped in to supply the demand and made a fortune and fought to control the business

Led to a big increase in organised crime

Why was it repealed in 1933 ?

It was not working Some states repealed their own legislation

The Depression meant that there was less money to spare to catch smugglers

Roosevelt (became President in 1933) personally disapproved of prohibition.

so the local police would take no action.