

# Prohibition

Many Americans believed that alcohol was the source of all the nation's problems. On January 16, 1920 the 18th Amendment to the United States' constitution took effect, completely outlawing alcohol. The Volstead Act then came into effect and closed down every tavern in the nation. This was known as prohibition.

Prohibition had many affects on the nation. One of which was the introduction of organized crime. Along with crime, prohibition created a greater divide between rural and suburban areas of the country. Many rural communities followed the laws, while the cities weren't so diligent.

Perhaps the greatest problem sprung from prohibition was the proliferation of organized crime. Due to the closing of bars and taverns, people turned to Speakeasies and Bootleggers. Many bootleggers would brew their alcohol from not so great sources. They would also smuggle it from the Caribbean on speed boats fast enough to outspeed coast guard cruisers. Prohibition had much more negatives in contrast to positives.

