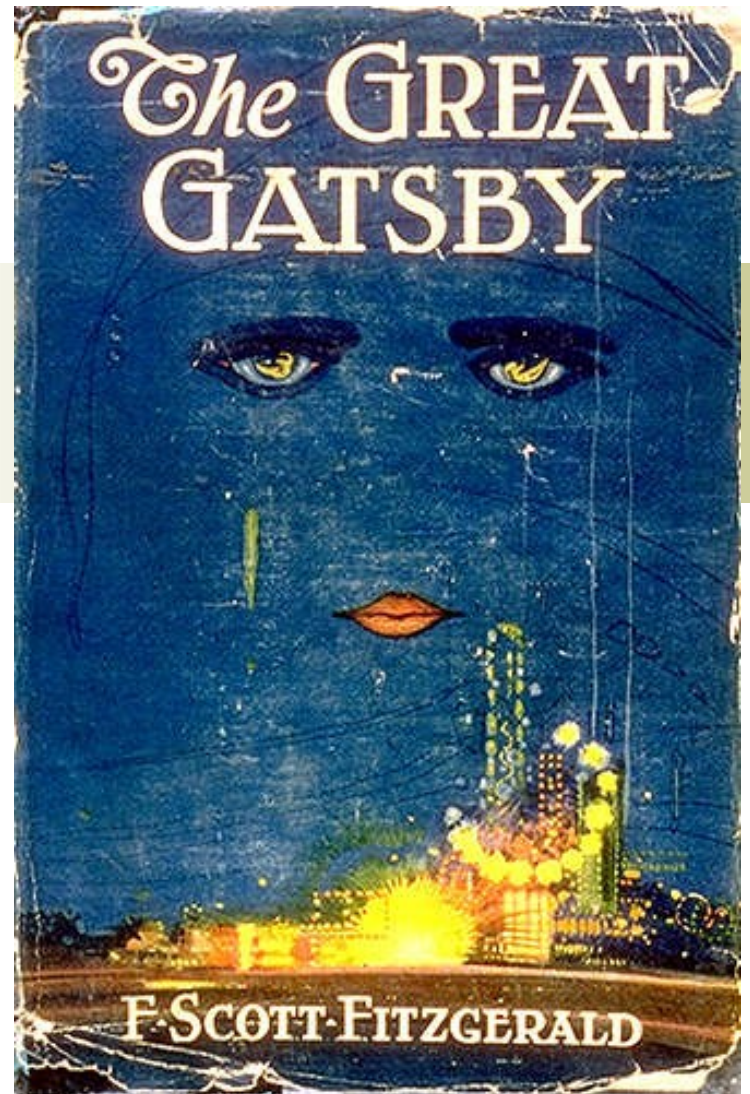


The Great Gatsby

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



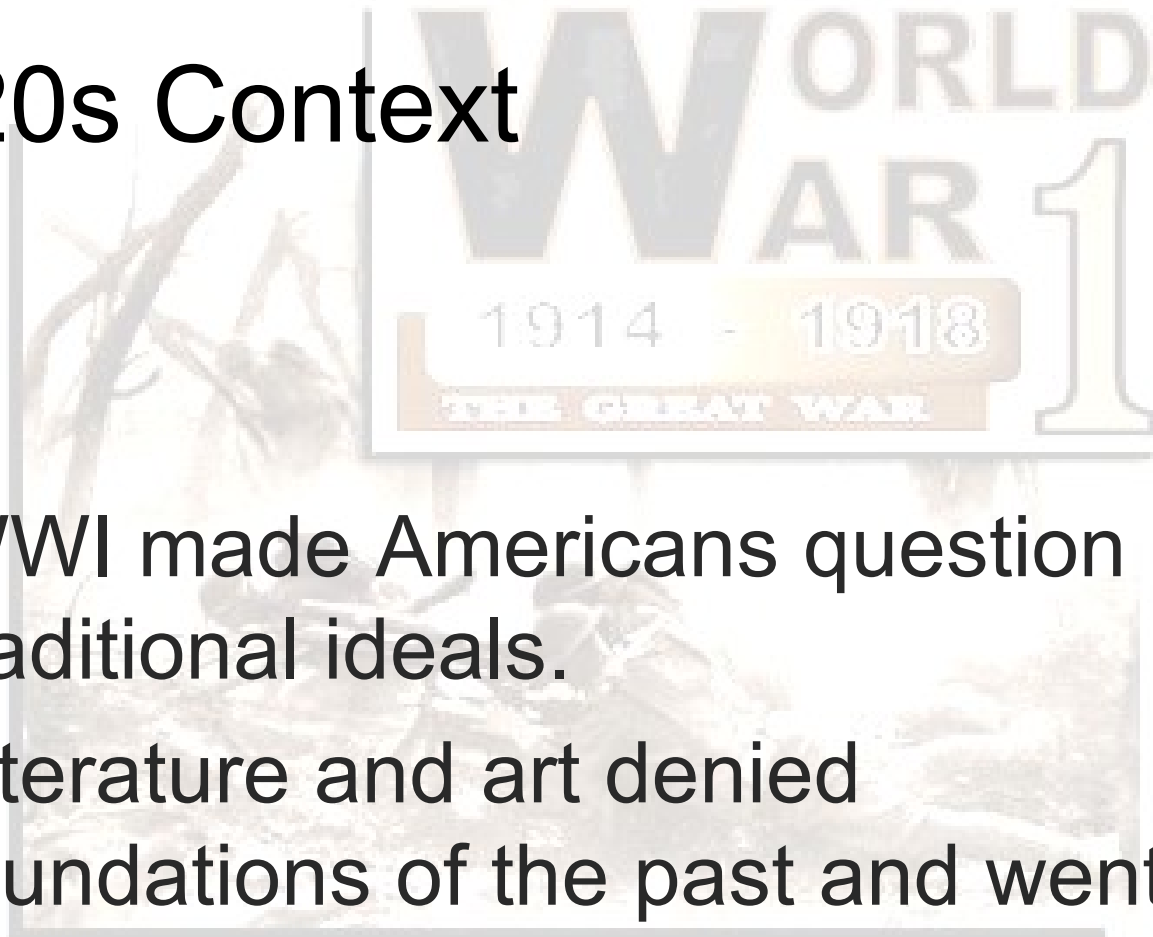
[The 1920s: Nicknames]

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

[1920s Context]



[1920s Context]

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- 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]

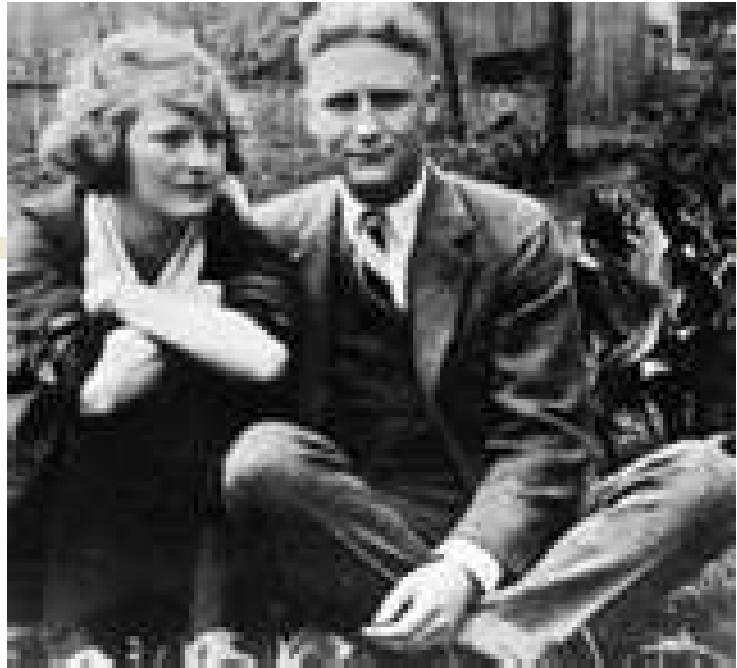
- Modernism was an artistic trend that sought to find new ways to communicate
- Writers stripped away descriptions of characters and setting and avoided direct statements of themes and resolutions
- This “fragmented” style of writing enabled the reader to choose meaning for himself, believing life had 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]

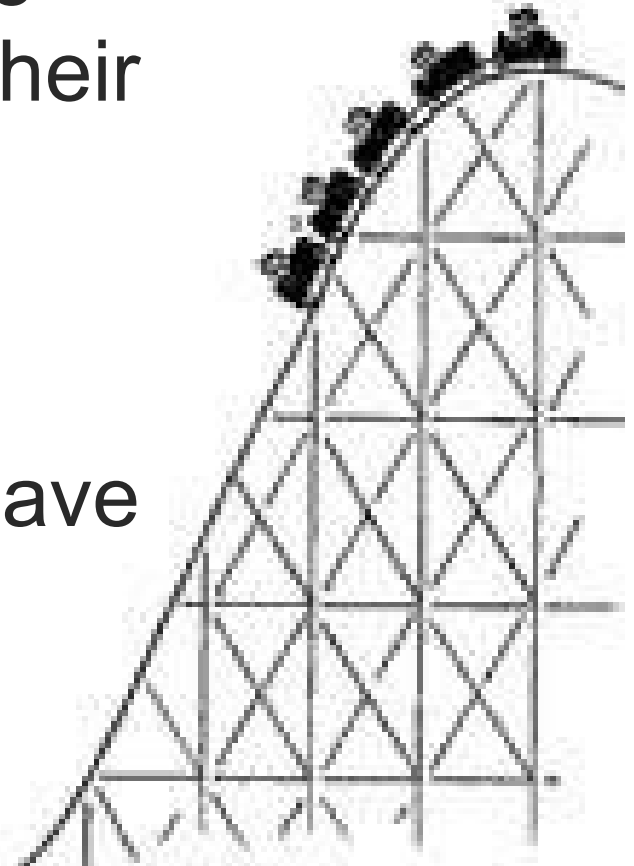


- The Fitzgeralds became part of the wealthy, extravagant society of this time.
- They spent time in both New York and Europe, mingling with famous celebrities and spending recklessly.
- The decline of Fitzgerald's personal and artistic life coincided with the end of the 1920s.

[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.



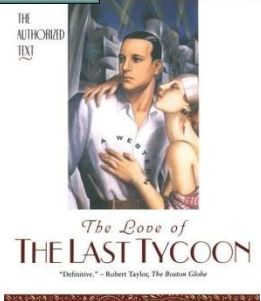
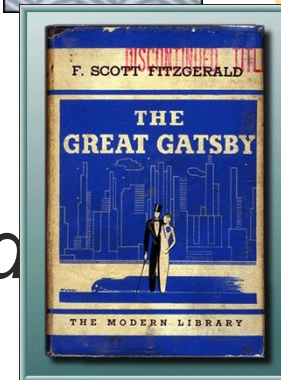
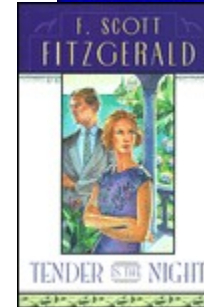
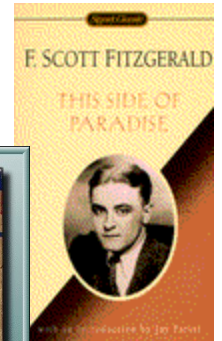
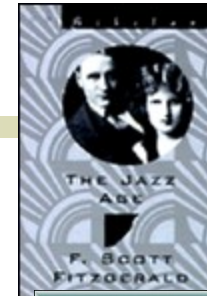
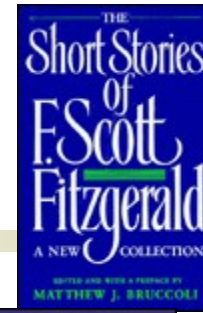
[Fitzgerald's claim to fame]

- 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



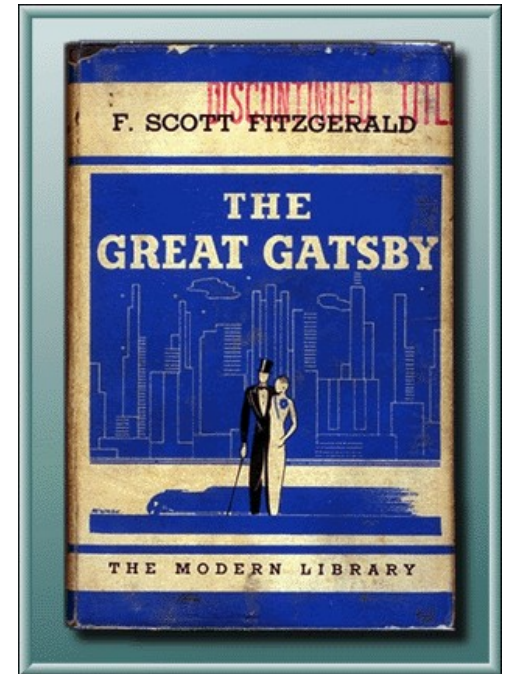
[Fitzgerald's name (trivia!)]

- 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 shows us the characters' moral emptiness, selfishness, and narcissism.



[The cast of characters]

- Nick, just returned from WWI, moves from the Midwest to the East to get into the bond market.
- He finds himself living among the wealthy on Long Island where he reacquaints himself with his cousin Daisy and begins a love interest with Jordan.
- He lives next door to Jay Gatsby.

[The cast of characters]

- Daisy Buchanan and her husband are unhappily married—but rich.
- Her husband Tom is having an affair with Myrtle Wilson, a married woman.
- She introduces Nick to Jordan Baker, who is an “incurably dishonest” golfer.

[The cast of characters]

- Jay Gatsby lives next door to Nick and is extravagantly wealthy.
- Even at his own parties, he is the subject of rumors and speculation.
- His single dream, for which he has amassed all his wealth, is to win back the love of Daisy.
- His desire to relive the past is his undoing.

[*The Great Gatsby*]

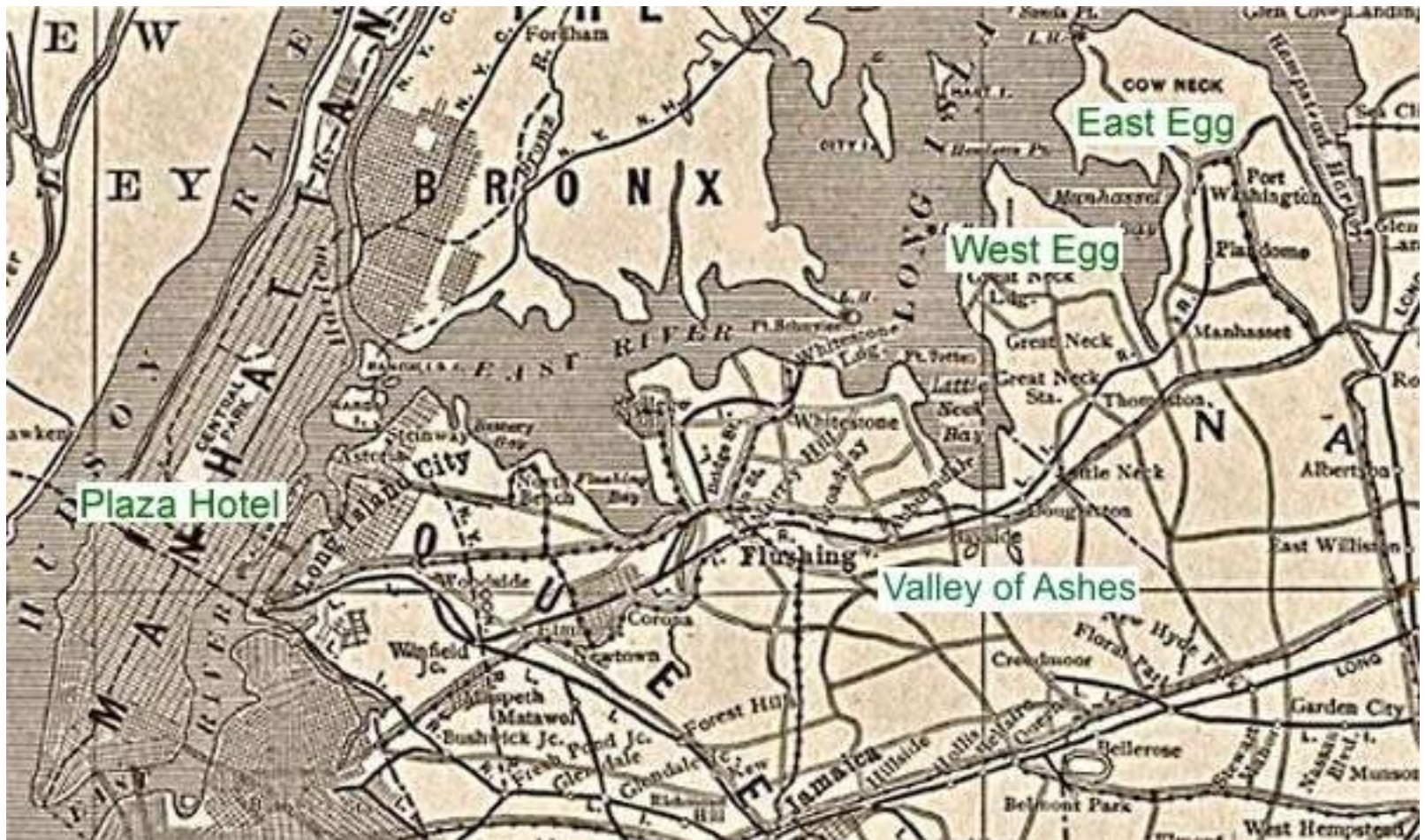
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun... And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

--Ecclesiastes 2:11, 4:4

[The Great Gatsby: Geography]



[The Great Gatsby: Geography]





Enjoy The Great Gatsby!