



Up to **HALF OF US STATES** had some form of restriction on the sale of alcohol **before World War 1** (13 States were described as DRY- with a total alcohol ban)

The **first world war** had saw alcohol consumption fall dramatically as it was seen to be **unpatriotic** and would affect **productivity** in factories.

HOWEVER, following the war there was a concerted effort by a variety of groups to ban (PROHIBIT) alcohol altogether! This was the NOBLE EXPERIMENT- the idea that a government could prohibit something to make society better, healthier and richer.

This would lead to the introduction of PROHIBITION of alcohol in 1918 with the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution

18th AMENDMENT
Prohibition was a highly controversial measure banning the manufacture, transportation or sale of 'intoxicating liquor' (alcohol) in the USA.

On January 16th 1918 the **18th AMENDMENT** to the US Constitution made it **ILLEGAL TO MANUFACTURE, BUY, SELL OR DISTRIBUTE ALCOHOL ACROSS THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES!**

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RELIGIOUS AND OTHER GROUPS
Many religious groups had been highly active in campaigning for prohibition, especially Christian women's groups like the **WCTU (women's Christian Temperance Union)**

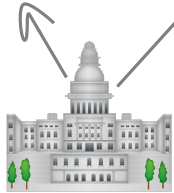
- They felt alcohol was a major cause of **family breakdown, social issues, economic problems** and **domestic abuse**. It was blamed for affecting people's health.
- Famous Christian pastors like **BILLY SUNDAY** were highly influential and persuaded many politicians to back their cause.

Other TEMPERANCE groups
There were other well supported temperance groups such as the **ANTI SALOON LEAGUE**. These were popular and well funded and proved a major driver to prohibition.

There were also a large amount of people opposed to Prohibition in 1918. This was due to a variety of reasons:

WETS
People who **OPPOSED** Prohibition

DRIES
People who **SUPPORTED** Prohibition



BACKGROUND

REASONS AGAINST PROHIBITION

REASONS FOR PROHIBITION



BACKGROUND TO PROHIBITION 1919



RURAL AMERICA
There was a major urban rural split over alcohol. While the aryan areas tended to mostly favour it, many rural areas were more conservative and saw alcohol as immoral. They favoured prohibition.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
This important medical group representing doctors across the USA were clear that prohibition would bring many healthy benefits

BIG BUSINESS
Industrialists like **FORD** believed that alcohol limited the **efficiency** of industrial mass production by leading to his workers taking time off.

DIVIDED OPPOSITION
The alcohol industry was not United in its approach to this issue.

Beer Brewers felt that the **spirit** manufacturers were most to blame and should be held accountable. They blamed spirits for being unhealthy which ended up being an own goal.

This **divided the whole industry** and led to its decade long downfall.

ANTI IMMIGRANT
As you have seen, industries like brewing are **targeted** during and following WWI . Many of the huge breweries are owned by people of **German** ancestry and this creates considerable friction leading to demands to shut them down. Groups like the **KKK** see alcohol as part of immigrant culture such as Irish communities.

RELIGIONS
Lutherans and other religions argued that alcohol was part of their cultural life and should not be prohibited.

FREEDOMS
Many Americans argued that it infringed on the meaning of being an American by cutting down on their freedoms to do something or not.

TAXES
Many worried about the effect on tax revenue. Alcohol had accounted for 1/3rd of American taxes. The government would perhaps suffer without this revenue.

BUSINESS
ALCOHOL was a vast business in itself. There was the farmers producing the grain, the brewers and distillers, the marketing, the transportation, the entertainment - bars and clubs. It was a multi billion dollar industry and it was argued that it would cost tens of thousands of jobs through prohibition.

