

F. Scott Fitzgerald. The Great Gatsby (1925)

Movement East from West. /Rise of capitalism/modernity. The rise of the immigrant(s); Reed-Johnson Act (1924) bars entrance of immigrants from the European South. End of the "Open Door" policy.

The rise of people of color; old and new money. (Buchanans-Carraways-Wolfshiem-Dan Cody-Gatz/Gatsby).

The Jazz Age--The Roaring Twenties (Flapper= a New Woman who drinks, smokes, dances, votes, flirts)—Prohibition (1920-1933)—The Harlem Renaissance.

Seminal text= T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land (1922).

The young man from the provinces motif—From poverty to wealth (The Horatio Alger story [**Raggedy Dick**])— (Western [Hopalong Cassidy-(1904) rough, rude, dangerous]) Benjamin Franklin The Way to Wealth=Popular Culture. Focused on money. Franklin is all about saving the money one earns and making the right, responsible choices with it.

Money replaces class (A historical possibility).

City life—New York (monied, vulgar, noisy, chaotic, immoral and interesting)—Manhattan (Pursuit of money, sex and booze).

Subjects of Modernity—Production, entertainment, style and consumption.

Capitalism and industrialism are the material forces that bring modernity and its ceaseless changes into being. Modernism by contrast is a cultural movement critical of modernity.

Modernity and the modern world

The evolutionary theories of *Charles Darwin*, the psychoanalysis of *Sigmund Freud* and *Friedrich Nietzsche's* call for a reevaluation of moral values important philosophical background.

Heraclitan/History Platonic/Myth

Process	Cyclical/ideal
Chaos	Stability/Meaning
Chance	Design

Oscillation between tradition and nostalgia, history and myth. Experience of deracination, rupture, defamiliarization.

A city novel/cityscape. «The city frontier». Urban environment as positive and negative. A new pastoral or a wasteland?

Technology (the movies, trains, cars, hydroplanes)-Consumer society (Houses showcases of consumption [Myrtle's, Gatsby's]).

The division of classes. Leisure class and parvenues/nouveaux riches.

Working class(?).

Copper mines and robber barons

Cornelius Vanderbilt, J. P. Morgan, John Rockefeller, Jim Fisk, Andrew Carnegie--

Originally they were considered as self-made men who helped build the nation;

In fact

There was very little regulation; distinguished for the exploitation of workers and especially the immigrants, unethical practices.

The American Dream challenged. The recreation/reinvention of a civilization
Reinventing oneself. "Repeat the past."

Romance and modernity. *The Holy Grail* in the 20th century. Commodification/wealth
(Meretricious). A romance of money.

White vs people of color, new immigrants; ambiguity of whiteness.

Green and yellow color.

Reliable and unreliable narrator(s).

Nick--Yale man; Great War veteran; Wall Street ambitions (new beginning?)

Gatsby—"Oggsford" man; what kind of a narrator? The Platonic conception of himself/Self made. The gentleman/criminal or the gentleman/hero?