



## New World Coming: The 1920s And The Making Of Modern America

By Nathan Miller

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### New World Coming: The 1920s And The Making Of Modern America By Nathan Miller

The images of the 1920s have been indelibly imprinted on the American imagination—from jazz, bootleggers, flappers, talkies, the Model T Ford, Babe Ruth, and Charles Lindbergh to the fight for women's right to vote, racial injustice, and the birth of organized crime. Nathan Miller has penned the ultimate introduction to the era. *Publishers Weekly* calls it "an excellent chronicle of that turbulent, troubled, and tempestuous decade," and Jonathan Yardley's *Washington Post* review proclaimed this *the* new classic history of the 1920s, replacing Frederick Lewis Allen's celebrated account. Using the life of F. Scott Fitzgerald as a backdrop, Miller describes the world of Calvin Coolidge, H. L. Mencken, Woodrow Wilson, and the Red Scare in extraordinarily accessible (and frequently witty) writing, *New World Coming* is destined to become the book we all turn to to recall one of the most beloved eras in American history.

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Miller (Theodore Roosevelt: A Life; FDR: An Intimate History; etc.) quite eloquently illuminates the United States as it existed under presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, using the life of F. Scott Fitzgerald, with all its peaks and valleys during the 1920s, as the backbone of his narrative. But Miller's book is much more complex than a mere discussion of Fitzgerald or such related phenomena as the Lost Generation and the Jazz Age. In addition to events in the arts and sciences, Miller details bitter labor struggles, the rise of the reconstituted Ku Klux Klan and Prohibition. Woven into this text are vivid portrayals of such personalities as H.L. Mencken (who coined the famous phrase, "No one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American people") and the young, relatively unknown Franklin Roosevelt, dealing with the onset of polio. Miller's provocative prose dovetails such notables as Al Capone, evangelist Billy Sunday, birth-control advocate Margaret Sanger and aviator Charles Lindbergh. In addition to personalities, Miller is also keen to depict key trends and events, and, where appropriate, he notes them as distant mirrors of our own age. This is particularly Miller's ambition when it comes to the rampant stock market speculation of the 1920s and such corporate scandals as the Teapot Dome affair. In sum, this volume comprises an excellent chronicle of that turbulent, troubled and tempestuous decade called "the roaring '20s." Photos not seen by PW.

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#### From Booklist

Miller characterizes the 1920s as a decade full of drinking, dancing, hedonism, and crime. Miller first concentrates on the writer who captured the decade's insouciance and ennui in *The Great Gatsby*, periodically revisiting F. Scott Fitzgerald's self-destructive slide, then returning to recount the period's social and economic trends. Blacks moved north, women began voting, factories hummed, farms stagnated, stocks inflated, and speakeasies proliferated. Presiding over the turbulence, the five presidents of the period (Wilson through FDR) receive Miller's closest narrative attention, their reputations illustrated with telling anecdotes, such as Harding's signing a bill on a golf course. Considering this work's density of data and personalities from Klansmen to jazzmen to evangelists, Miller's structuring is notably skillful. A suave, entertaining survey. *Gilbert Taylor*

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#### Review

"Miller's work has the power to make the reader think as few history books do...A must read." -- *Curled Up with a Good Book* 2/28/05

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