

“Booze, Broads, and Blood: The Effect of Prohibition on Crime During the 1920’s Gangster Era”

By:

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Fun Facts

- Al Capone was eventually caught on tax evasion.
- Prohibition actually was very successful as consumption of alcohol post 1933 was substantially down from that prior to 1919.
- The KKK strongly supported prohibition
- Gangsters generally carried .45 caliber weapons and Thompson machine guns, while local police enforcement were issued .38 caliber handguns.
- Speakeasies got their name because one had to whisper a code through a keyhole to gain admittance into their residence or distillery.
- Yuengling is one of the only remaining groups to survive prohibition. They switched to the making of ice cream.



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Speak Easy and Carry a Big Gun



The Effects of Prohibition on Crime During the 1920's "Gangster Era"

Gangsters and Prohibition

THE KING OF BATHTUB BOOZE

AL CAPONE WORKED HIS WAY FROM LOWLY STREET PUNK TO HEAD OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL GANG IN AMERICA



When gangster Alvin Karpis was brought to Chicago for trial, he already had a reputation as an accomplished killer.

The “Gangster Era” is intriguing to many because often Gangsters are seen as cool and interesting. In reality, gangsters and prohibition had many effects on society. Gangsters and crime arose from

the incorporation of the 18th Amendment. As a result, many across the nation began brewing their own alcohol. Violence broke out in urban areas where their was high demand for alcohol. Some saw them as heroes, others as villains, nevertheless their actions still have an impact today.



Effects

When the lawmakers of the 1920’s invoked the 18th Amendment due to such things as the Christian Temperance Movement they envisioned the world becoming a little more moral. What actually happened? Speakeasies, bootleggers, and gangsters arose giving way to crime in urban areas where alcohol was hard to come by. Needless to say, the amendment never held up, and was repealed soon after.

Gangster Q&A

Rise of gangster crime in the 1920’s?

-Yes. Due to the 18th amendment prohibiting alcohol, many illegally brewed and sold alcohol through criminal “gangster” organizations.



Prohibition during the 1920’s

Fear?

-Not as much as one would think. Although violent events such as the Valentine’s Day Massacre occurred, often the population saw the gangsters as a modern day robin hood, providing alcohol that was rightfully their choice to have.

People Involved?

“Scarface” Capone, “Lucky” Luciano, Jack “Legs” Diamond, “Dutch” Shultz, “Pretty Boy” Floyd, “Babyface” Nelson, Frank Nitti

Results?

Prohibition was repealed, however, prohibition is still very much alive today as many municipalities still disallow the sale

