

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 4-Political Cartoon Analysis Questions

1. Did the documents reveal any common ideas and attitudes that Americans shared during 1919 and 1920? Explain your answer and provide at least one example from the documents.
 - a. *The American public made connections between radical political beliefs, immigrants and the working class. There is a concern among many Americans that immigrants do not understand the basic values that helped make America successful. This is shown in several documents, including The Patriotic American, Too Slow for Me, Close the Gate, and Fungus.*
 - b. *There is concern that strikes during this period will hurt the American economy and the general public. This can be seen in the cartoon The Way It Strikes the Public.*
 - c. *Overall the documents demonstrate the intolerance of mainstream Americans to violence associated with radicals and do not want immigration from Eastern European nations.*
2. What world events prior to 1919 could be causes of these attitudes? Explain how one of these events would contribute to Americans' concerns during this period.
 - a. *The students should understand that the First World War had a profound impact on American attitudes during this period. Disillusionment over the settlement of the war, the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, and the controversy in the Senate over ratification of the Treaty all impacted the Red Scare. In addition, students may cite the Russian Revolution as a major influence on American rejection of immigrants, especially those of Russian heritage.*
3. Based on the sources of the documents, what generalization can be drawn about Americans' concerns during this period?
 - a. *The sources are from a variety of newspapers throughout America, including New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Chicago. These cities tended to be areas of settlement for new immigrants and therefore may have experienced the most resistance. The mainstream media both fostered and supported the public's concerns and the Red Scare was not an isolated incident but occurred across the country.*
4. Speculate on how the government would or should react to these concerns. Teachers should expect a variety of responses. These may include
 - a. *Government restriction of immigration*
 - b. *Arrests of radicals*
 - c. *Protection for radicals based on the First Amendment*
 - d. *Military or national guard patrol in cities*