

18th Amendment, Sections 1 & 2

The US Senate passed the 18th Amendment on December 18, 1917. It was ratified on January 16, 1919, after 36 states approved it. The 18th Amendment, and the enforcement laws accompanying it, established prohibition of alcohol in the United States. Many states already had laws prohibiting alcohol before this amendment. It was eventually repealed by the 21st Amendment on December 5, 1933. It is the only amendment that has ever been completely repealed.

Section 1. After one year from the **ratification** of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of **intoxicating liquors** within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate **legislation**.

Source: *United States Constitution*

Vocabulary

to ratify: to confirm or pass something, such as an amendment

intoxicating liquors: alcohol

legislation: laws

Guiding Questions:

1. What did the 18th Amendment prohibit? What is your initial reaction to this?
2. Do you think this amendment could be passed today? Explain.
3. Why do you think some Americans in 1918 supported this amendment?

18th Amendment, Sections 1 & 2 (Modified)

The US Senate passed the 18th Amendment on December 18, 1917, and it was ratified on January 16, 1919, after 36 states approved it. The 18th Amendment, and the enforcement laws that accompanied it, established prohibition of alcohol in the United States. Many states already laws prohibiting alcohol before this amendment. It was eventually repealed by the 21st Amendment on December 5, 1933. It is the only amendment that has ever been completely repealed.

Section 1. After one year from the **ratification** of this amendment, the manufacture, sale, or transportation of **intoxicating liquors** within the United States, or the importation into or exportation from the United States of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes is prohibited.

Section 2. Both Congress and the States shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate **legislation**.

Source: *United States Constitution*

Vocabulary

to ratify: to confirm or pass something, such as an amendment

intoxicating liquors: alcohol

legislation: laws

Guiding Questions:

1. What did the 18th Amendment prohibit? What is your initial reaction to this?
2. Do you think this amendment could be passed today? Explain.
3. Why do you think some Americans in 1918 wanted this amendment?

Document A: Dr. MacNicholl Address (Modified)

The following address was given by Dr. G. Alexander MacNicholl at a meeting of the American Medical Society in 1913. MacNicholl spoke frequently at Prohibition rallies and was widely cited in publications by prohibitionist groups, especially the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

A wave of **degeneracy** is sweeping the land—a **degeneracy** so bad that it staggers the mind and threatens to destroy the country; numbering more victims than have been killed in all the wars and by all the serious diseases that have swept the country in the last two hundred years. . . .

What is the cause of this? A hundred different things may contribute to the undoing of the race, but back of them all stands alcohol as the chief factor. . . .

A study of two groups of families will clearly show the difference between the children of the drinker and the children of the **abstainer**. Ten families of regular drinkers show the following: Total number of children, 55. Thirty died in infancy. . . . Two were excellent, 6 fair, and 17 deficient.

Of the abstainers, 90 per cent were normal in mind and body, as against 7 per cent of drinkers' children. A comparison of these two groups of families . . . shows that alcohol actually injured or destroyed 83 per cent of the children. Ninety-seven per cent of the children of total abstainers were proficient in their studies, as against 32 per cent with drinking parents. . . .

We are face to face with the greatest crisis in our country's history. The alcohol question must be settled within the next ten years or a stronger race will write the **epitaph** of this republic.

Source: *Transcript of an address by Dr. Alexander MacNicholl printed in the Washington Times on December 10, 1913.*

<p><u>degeneracy</u>: physical, mental, or moral decay <u>abstainer</u>: someone who doesn't drink alcohol <u>epitaph</u>: statement about the dead</p>

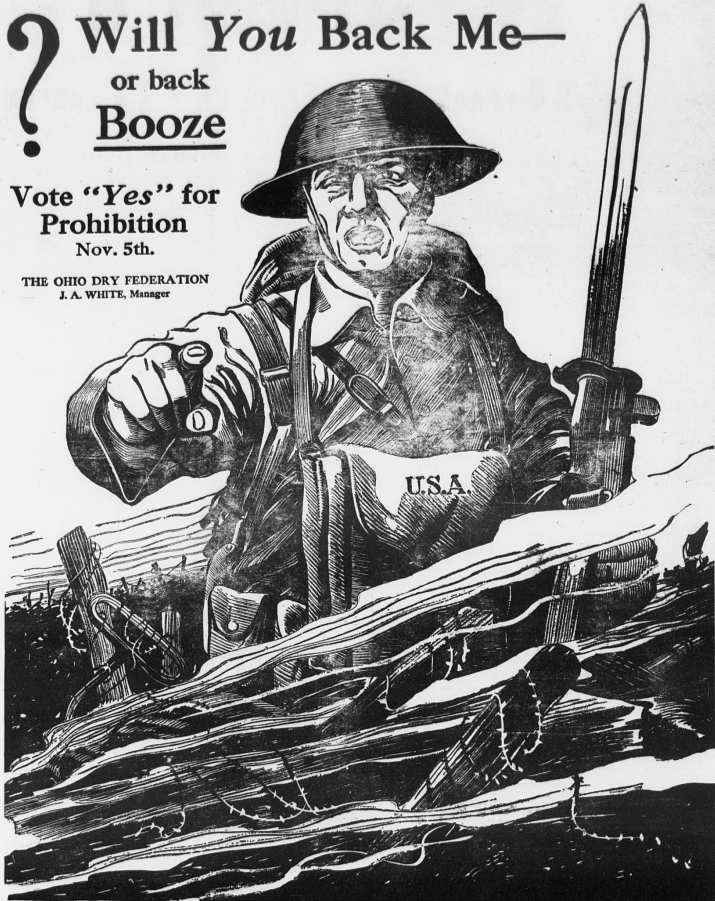
Document B: Ohio Advertisement

This advertisement appeared in the Mahoning Dispatch in Canfield, Ohio on November 1, 1918.

**? Will You Back Me—
or back
Booze**

**Vote "Yes" for
Prohibition
Nov. 5th.**

THE OHIO DRY FEDERATION
J. A. WHITE, Manager



THE MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD, MARK YOU THIS, OF AMERICA IS FINALLY INCENSED BEYOND ALL RESTRAINT. THE UNPRINCIPLED SELFISHNESS OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC HAS PROCLAIMED IT A BLOOD BROTHER OF THE MILITARISM OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE AND WE CAN BE, WE WILL BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING BUT

**UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
Will You Join In This Demand?**

The Hun and the Brewer are Bitter Foes of Humanity
VOTE "OVER HERE" AS OUR BOYS SHOOT "OVER THERE"
Vote Early in the Morning Tuesday, Nov. 5, '18
BE A PATRIOT! DO YOUR DUTY!
Vote Dry

Source: Newspaper advertisement from the Mahoning County Dry Federation.

incensed: very angry

brewer: beer maker

hun: insulting name for Germans

Document C: ASL Poster 1

This poster was made around 1917 by American Issue Publishing, a company owned by the Anti-Saloon League (ASL). The ASL was the largest and most influential group supporting Prohibition in the early 20th century.

In WAR or PEACE
WHICH NEEDS IT MOST?

SALOON KEEPER

PAY ENVELOPE

HOME MAKER

For the Money Represented by
Three Ten Cent Drinks a Day For a Year

Even at "War Prices"

Any Grocer in Your Town Will Give You the Following Groceries:

10 Fifty-pound Sacks of Flour	25 Cans Tomatoes
10 Bushels Potatoes	10 Dozen Oranges
100 Pounds Granulated Sugar	10 Dozen Bananas
5 Pounds Salt	30 Cans Corn
20 Pounds Butter	10 Pounds Beans
10 Pounds Rice	100 Cakes Soap
10 Pounds Oat Flakes	1 Pound Pepper
10 Pounds Coffee	4 Gallons Molasses
5 Pounds Tea	20 Gallons Oil

And There Would Be ENOUGH MONEY LEFT To Buy a Good Present For Your Wife and Babies

SERIES G. No. 1.—doz., 10c; 100, 50c; 500, \$2.00. Attractive Series Rates or Quantity Rates.
THE AMERICAN ISSUE PUBLISHING COMPANY, WESTERVILLE, OHIO.

Source: Poster titled "In War or Peace Which Needs It Most" by the American Issue Publishing Company, 1917.

Document D: ASL Poster 2

This poster was also made by American Issue Publishing around 1917.



Source: Poster titled "The Overshadowing Curse - The Legalized Saloon" by the American Issue Publishing Company, 1917.

Guiding Questions

Document A

1. (Close reading) Summarize MacNicholl's argument.
2. (Sourcing) Is Dr. MacNicholl a trustworthy source? Explain.
3. (Sourcing) Dr. MacNicholl believed that alcohol caused diseases and disabilities in adult drinkers that were passed on to their children. According to Dr. MacNicholl, each generation of drinkers had more physical "defects" than the one before it. Modern scientists have rejected this theory. Does the fact that MacNicholl was wrong about this theory affect whether he is a reliable source? Explain.

Document B

1. (Contextualization) What world event occurred when this ad was made?

How might this have affected the content of this advertisement?

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2. (Contextualization) How might the fact that many brewers were Germans or of German descent have affected the argument this poster made?

Document C

1. (Close Reading) What argument is this poster making?
2. (Contextualization) Based on the content of the poster and your knowledge of the time, who do you think was the intended audience? Why?

Document D

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2. (Contextualization) Based on the content of the poster and your knowledge of the time, who do you think was the intended audience? Why?

