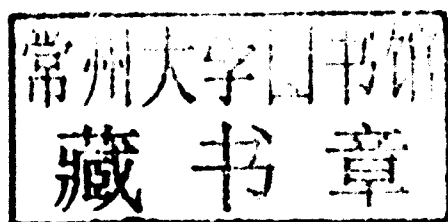


American Culture in the 1910s

Mark Whalan



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Chronology of 1910s American Culture

Date	Events	Visual Art, Photography and Design	Film and Vaudeville
1910	<p>Mann Act passed, preventing the transportation of women across state lines for 'immoral purposes'; becomes known as the White Slave Act.</p> <p>Victor Berger is the first Socialist elected to the United States Congress.</p> <p>Mexican Revolution against President Porfirio Diaz.</p> <p>Boy Scouts of America founded.</p> <p>African American Jack Johnson defeats Jim Jeffries, 'The Great White Hope', to retain heavyweight boxing championship of the world.</p> <p>George Herriman publishes first 'Krazy Kat' cartoon.</p>	<p>International exhibition of pictorial photography, Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo</p>	<p>Florence Lawrence stars in <i>The Broken Oath</i></p> <p>John Randolph Bray patents cel process for animation</p>
1911	<p>Triangle shirtwaist factory fire kills 146 workers in New York City, mostly young immigrant women, and prompts state reform of fire regulations in the workplace.</p> <p>Arizona and New Mexico admitted to statehood.</p> <p>United States Supreme Court breaks up Standard Oil.</p> <p>National Urban League founded.</p>	<p>John Sloan becomes Art Editor of <i>The Masses</i></p> <p><i>Sailing</i>, Edward Hopper's first painting to be sold</p> <p>New York Public Library Main Branch opens, designed by Carrère and Hastings</p>	<p>Al Jolson leaps to Broadway stardom in <i>La Belle Paree</i></p> <p><i>Enoch Arden</i> (Dir. D. W. Griffith)</p>

Fiction and Poetry	Performance and Music	Criticism
Henry James, <i>The Finer Grain</i>	Enrico Caruso stars, and Arturo Toscanini conducts, at the New York Met in the world premiere of Giacomo Puccini's <i>La Fanciulla del West</i>	Emma Goldman, <i>Anarchism and Other Essays</i> Jane Addams, <i>Twenty Years at Hull House</i> Theodore Roosevelt, <i>African Game Trails</i> <i>The Crisis</i> , the house journal for the NAACP, founded, with W. E. B. Du Bois as editor
Edith Wharton, <i>Ethan Frome</i> Theodore Dreiser, <i>Jennie Gerhardt</i> Frances Hodgson Burnett, <i>The Secret Garden</i> W. E. B. Du Bois, <i>The Quest of the Silver Fleece</i>	Edward Sheldon, <i>The Boss</i> David Belasco, <i>The Return of Peter Grimm</i> Irving Berlin, 'Everybody's Doin' It Now', 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' Nat D. Ayer and Seymour Brown, 'Oh, You Beautiful Doll' 1911–12 Abbey Players' tour of the United States	Ambrose Bierce, <i>The Devil's Dictionary</i> Frederick Winslow Taylor, <i>The Principles of Scientific Management</i> <i>The Masses</i> begins George Santayana, 'The Genteel Tradition in American Philosophy'

Date	Events	Visual Art, Photography and Design	Film and Vaudeville
1912	<p>June: After failing to gain the Republican nomination for president, Theodore Roosevelt forms the breakaway Progressive Party.</p> <p>November: Democrat Woodrow Wilson wins presidential election against incumbent Republican William Taft, Roosevelt's Progressive Party and Eugene Debs's Socialists.</p> <p>The <i>Titanic</i> sinks on its maiden voyage to New York.</p> <p>Lawrence, MA Textile Strike, involving 23,000 workers.</p>	<p>Arthur Dove's first one-man exhibition, at Stieglitz's '291'</p> <p>Excerpts from Wassily Kandinsky's <i>Concerning the Spiritual in Art</i> appear in <i>Camera Work</i></p> <p>1912-13 John Marin's sequence of watercolours of New York architecture, including the Brooklyn Bridge and the Woolworth Building</p>	<p>Ruling against the Motion Picture Patents Company in Latham loop patent case represents an important legal victory for independent production companies</p> <p>Keystone Pictures Studio opens</p> <p>Harry Houdini pioneers 'Chinese Water Torture Cell' escape</p> <p>Keystone's <i>A Noise from the Deep</i>, starring Mabel Normand and Fatty Arbuckle, reputedly pioneers the thrown pie in the face gag</p> <p>Edison's <i>What Happened to Mary?</i> pioneers serial film</p>
1913	<p>31 March: A record number of immigrants in a single day arrive at Ellis Island (6,745).</p> <p>Crossword puzzles debut in the <i>New York World</i>.</p> <p>Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution passed, making federal income tax constitutional.</p> <p>Ford opens assembly line.</p> <p>Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution passed, allowing direct election of senators.</p> <p>Federal Reserve Act.</p> <p>Federal Raker Act allows for the flooding of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite to provide water for San Francisco.</p>	<p>The Armory Show</p> <p>Opening of remodelled Grand Central Station; completion of Woolworth Building, designed by Cass Gilbert</p> <p>Joseph Stella, 'Battle of Lights, Coney Island'</p> <p>Max Weber, 'Fleeing Mother and Child'</p>	<p><i>Traffic in Souls</i> (Dir. George Loane Tucker)</p>

Fiction and Poetry

James W. Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
 Zane Grey, *Riders of the Purple Sage*
 Harriet Monroe founds *Poetry* magazine
 Theodore Dreiser, *The Financier*
 Sui Sin Far, *Mrs Spring Fragrance*

Performance and Music

Max Reinhardt, *Sumurun*
 J. Hartley Manners, *Peg O' My Heart*
 Rachel Crothers, *He and She*
 W. C. Handy, 'Memphis Blues'

Criticism

Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*
 A. A. Brill, *Psychoanalysis: Its Theories and Practical Application*
 William James, *Essays in Radical Empiricism*

Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*
 Edith Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*
 Robert Frost, *A Boy's Will*
 Ellen Glasgow, *Virginia*

IWW co-ordinates Paterson Pageant to rally support for striking textile workers
 Frederick Weatherly, 'Danny Boy'
 1913–14 James Reese Europe's Society Orchestra records eight tracks with Victor; 1914, publishes *Castle House Rag* and *Castle Waltz*

Walter Lippmann, *A Preface to Politics*
The New Republic founded
 Ezra Pound, 'Patria Mia'
 Floyd Dell, *Women as World Builders: Studies in Modern Feminism*
 Randolph Bourne, *Youth and Life*

Date	Events	Visual Art, Photography and Design	Film and Vaudeville
1914	<p>Telephone lines link New York and San Francisco.</p> <p>America declares neutrality as World War I begins in Europe.</p> <p>Ludlow massacre, as twenty die when state militia attack a striking miners' tent colony in Ludlow, Colorado.</p> <p>Panama Canal opens.</p> <p>Ford institutes five-dollar, eight-hour day.</p> <p>Tampico Affair leads to seven-month US occupation of the Mexican city of Vera Cruz.</p> <p>Federal Trade Commission Act.</p> <p>Provisional Executive Committee for General Zionist Affairs launched in New York, headed by Louis Brandeis.</p>	<p>Clarence White's School of Photography opens</p> <p>Brancusi has his first one-man show in New York, at '291'</p> <p>Edward Hopper, 'Soir Bleu'</p> <p>Marsden Hartley, 'Portrait of a German Officer'</p> <p>First US exhibition of the synchromist painters, including work by Stanton Macdonald Wright</p>	<p><i>The Perils of Pauline</i> (Dir. Louis D. Glasnier; starring Pearl White)</p> <p><i>Judith of Bethulia</i> (Dir. D. W. Griffith)</p> <p><i>Cabiria</i> (Dir. Giovanni Pastrone, Italy)</p> <p><i>Gertie the Dinosaur</i> (Winsor McCay)</p> <p>First appearance of Chaplin's Little Tramp character in Keystone's 'Kid Auto Races at Venice'</p>
1915	<p>Henry Ford develops the tractor.</p> <p>Ku Klux Klan revived at Stone Mountain, Georgia.</p> <p><i>Lusitania</i> sunk by German U-boat, killing 1,198 people, including 114 Americans.</p> <p>US Marines invade Haiti.</p> <p>Victrola phonograph goes on sale.</p>	<p>Francis Picabia and Marcel Duchamp arrive in New York</p> <p>Arthur Dove, 'Plant Forms'</p> <p>Maurice de Zayas opens his Modern Gallery</p>	<p><i>The Birth of a Nation</i> (Dir. D. W. Griffith)</p> <p><i>A Fool There Was</i> (Dir. Frank Powell, starring Theda Bara)</p> <p>Carl Laemmle opens huge Universal City Studios in Los Angeles</p> <p>MPCC prosecuted under Sherman Anti-trust Act</p> <p>Harold Lloyd pioneers his 'Lonesome Luke' character</p> <p><i>The Cheat</i> (Dir. Cecil B. De Mille)</p>

Fiction and Poetry	Performance and Music	Criticism
<p>Edgar Rice Burroughs, <i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> Gertrude Stein, <i>Tender Buttons</i> Robert Frost, <i>North of Boston</i> Margaret Anderson founds <i>The Little Review</i> Theodore Dreiser, <i>The Titan</i> Sinclair Lewis, <i>Our Mr Wrenn</i></p>	<p>Elmer Rice, <i>On Trial Watch Your Step</i> (songs by Irving Berlin, performed by Vernon and Irene Castle) Formation of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers W. C. Handy, 'Saint Louis Blues'</p>	<p>Walter Lippmann, <i>Drift and Mastery</i></p>
<p>Willa Cather, <i>The Song of the Lark</i> Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <i>Herland</i> Wallace Stevens, 'Sunday Morning' Theodore Dreiser, <i>The Genius</i></p>	<p>Ruth St Denis and Ted Shawn open Denishawn dance school Jelly Roll Morton, 'Jelly Roll Blues' Al Piantadosi and Alfred Bryan, 'I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier' Sole read-through performance of Scott Joplin's opera <i>Treemonisha</i></p>	<p>Van Wyck Brooks, <i>America's Coming-Of-Age</i> Edith Wharton, <i>Fighting France, from Dunkerque to Belfort</i> Horace Kallen, 'Democracy versus the Melting Pot'</p>

Date	Events	Visual Art, Photography and Design	Film and Vaudeville
1916	<p>Margaret Sanger opens first US birth control clinic.</p> <p>Woodrow Wilson re-elected president against Republican Charles Evans Hughes under the slogan 'He kept us out of the war'.</p> <p>US munitions exports at \$1.3 billion.</p> <p>German agents cause explosion at Black Tom Island, New York, destroying 2,132,000 pounds of munitions – during the Somme offensive.</p> <p>Skirmish between United States and federal Mexican forces at Carrizal.</p> <p>Louis Brandeis becomes first Jewish member of the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Labour leader Tom Mooney controversially convicted of murdering ten people in the Preparedness Day Bombing in San Francisco.</p>	<p>Paul Strand produces his first abstract photographs</p> <p>Georgia O'Keeffe's first exhibition</p> <p>First Norman Rockwell cover (of an eventual total of 321) appears on <i>Saturday Evening Post</i></p> <p>Man Ray, 'The Rope Dancer Accompanies Herself With Her Shadow'; also creates first American Dada assemblage, with <i>Self-Portrait</i></p> <p>Forum Exhibition of Modern American Painters, a key exhibition for American modernist art neglected at The Armory Show</p> <p>Morton Schamberg begins his machine paintings</p>	<p><i>Intolerance</i> (Dir. D. W. Griffith)</p> <p>Famous Players-Lasky merges with Paramount Pictures</p> <p><i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> (Dir. Stuart Paton)</p>
1917	<p>Last horse-drawn streetcar withdrawn from the streets of Manhattan.</p> <p>1 February: Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare.</p> <p>1 March: Zimmerman telegraph published, revealing a German offer of alliance to Mexico in forthcoming war with United States.</p> <p>6 April: United States declares war on Germany.</p> <p>5 June: Selective service draft begins.</p> <p>25 June: Espionage Act becomes law.</p> <p>Literacy test added to immigration statutes, as well as immigration being halted from the 'Asiatic barred zone'.</p> <p>Jones Act makes Puerto Rico a territory of the United States.</p> <p>Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution proposed by Congress.</p> <p>First Pulitzer Prizes awarded.</p>	<p>Society of Independent Artists' Show, which includes Duchamp's 'Fountain'</p> <p>The closure of '291', and last numbers of <i>Camera Work</i></p> <p>James VanDerZee opens his first studio in Harlem</p> <p>Charles Dana Gibson becomes director of the pictorial division of the CPI</p> <p>Charles Sheeler's <i>Doylestown Sequence</i> 1917–18, Joseph Stella, 'Brooklyn Bridge'</p>	<p><i>The Poor Little Rich Girl</i> (Dir. Maurice Tourneur, starring Mary Pickford)</p> <p>Buster Keaton's on-screen debut, in <i>The Butcher Boy</i></p> <p><i>Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm</i> (Dir. Marshall Neilan, starring Mary Pickford)</p>

Fiction and Poetry	Performance and Music	Criticism
<p>Robert Frost, <i>Mountain Interval</i> Ezra Pound, <i>Lustra</i> (also begins <i>Cantos</i>) H. D., <i>Sea Garden</i> Carl Sandburg, <i>Chicago Poems</i> Ring Lardner, <i>You know Me, Al</i></p>	<p>First performance of Eugene O'Neill's <i>Bound East for Cardiff</i> Susan Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i> Diaghilev's Ballets Russes tours the United States Isadora Duncan performs 'The Marseillaise' at the Metropolitan Opera House</p>	<p>John Dewey, <i>Democracy and Education</i> Randolph Bourne, 'Trans-National America' Carter G. Woodson founds <i>Journal of Negro History</i> Margaret Sanger, <i>What Every Girl Should Know</i></p>
<p>T. S. Eliot, <i>Prufrock and Other Observations</i> Edith Wharton, <i>Summer</i> Edna St Vincent Millay, <i>Renascence</i> William Carlos Williams, <i>Al Que Quiere!</i> Mary Austin, <i>The Ford</i> Abraham Cahan, <i>The Rise of David Levinsky</i></p>	<p>Théâtre du Vieux Colombier's US Tour George M. Cohan, 'Over There' Original Dixieland Jazz Band's 'Livery Stable Blues' and 'Dixie Jass Band One Step' becomes the first-ever jazz record release Eugene O'Neill, <i>The Moon of the Caribbees</i> 1917–18, Princess Theatre musicals by Jerome Kern, P. G. Wodehouse, and Guy Bolton</p>	<p>Joel E. Spingarn, <i>Creative Criticism</i></p>

Date	Events	Visual Art, Photography and Design	Film and Vaudeville
1918	<p>Influenza epidemic kills up to fifty million people worldwide, 1918–20, and at least 675,000 in the United States.</p> <p>January: Woodrow Wilson presents his fourteen points to Congress, outlining his goals for the post-war peace.</p> <p>Summer: initial American troops arrive in Siberia as part of joint Allied force.</p> <p>June: American troops help halt German offensive on Paris at Château-Thierry.</p> <p>September: 550,000 American troops in action in St Mihiel offensive.</p> <p>September–November: 1,200,000 American troops in action in Meuse-Argonne offensive.</p> <p>Eugene Debs sentenced to ten years in jail for sedition.</p> <p>11 November: armistice with Germany.</p>	<p>Formation of the Provincetown Printers</p> <p>Formation of Whitney Studio Club</p> <p>Lewis Hine dispatched to Europe to photograph for the Red Cross</p>	<p><i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> (Dir. Scott Sidney, starring Elmo Lincoln)</p> <p><i>Old Wives for New</i> (Dir. Cecil B. De Mille)</p> <p><i>Shoulder Arms</i> (starring Charlie Chaplin)</p> <p><i>Mickey</i> (Dir. F. Richard Jones and James Young, starring Mabel Normand)</p>

Fiction and Poetry	Performance and Music	Criticism
Willa Cather, <i>My Ántonia</i> Booth Tarkington, <i>The Magnificent Ambersons</i> US Post Office burns five hundred copies of <i>The Little Review</i> containing sections of James Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> , claiming it is indecent	Frank Bacon and Winchell Smith, <i>Lightnin'</i> James P. Johnson, 'Carolina Shout'	First public printing of <i>The Education of Henry Adams</i> Henry James, <i>Within the Rim, and Other Essays</i> , 1914–1915

Date	Events	Visual Art, Photography and Design	Film and Vaudeville
1919	<p>Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution ratified, prohibiting the manufacture, sale and transport of alcohol within the United States. It goes into effect in January 1920.</p> <p>February: general strike in Seattle.</p> <p>March: founding of the Third International, or Comintern, in Moscow.</p> <p>June: signing of the Treaty of Versailles.</p> <p>Galleianist radicals explode bombs in eight cities; targets include Attorney General, A. Mitchell Palmer.</p> <p>July–August: race riots in Washington and Chicago.</p> <p>August: Palmer creates the anti-radical General Intelligence division of the Bureau of Investigation, headed by J. Edgar Hoover.</p> <p>September: Boston Police strike; 350,000 steelworkers strike.</p> <p>October: race riot in Elaine, Arkansas; Woodrow Wilson suffers a massive stroke.</p> <p>November: Palmer raids against suspected radicals begin; US Senate refuses to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.</p> <p>December: deportation to the new Soviet Union of Emma Goldman and 248 others suspected of radical activity.</p> <p>Radio Corporation of America founded.</p> <p>‘Black Sox’ baseball scandal, as eight members of the Chicago White Sox are banned from baseball for life for attempting to fix the World Series.</p> <p><i>New York Daily News</i>, the first tabloid newspaper, publishes its first issue.</p>	<p>John R. Covert, ‘Brass Band’</p>	<p>Foundation of United Artists</p> <p><i>The Homesteader</i> (Dir. Oscar Micheaux)</p> <p>First Felix the Cat films, by Otto Messmer</p> <p><i>Broken Blossoms</i> (Dir. D. W. Griffith)</p>

Fiction and Poetry	Performance and Music	Criticism
Sherwood Anderson, <i>Winesburg, Ohio</i> Upton Sinclair, <i>Jimmie Higgins</i> Zane Grey, <i>The Desert of Wheat</i> Claude McKay, 'If We Must Die'	Actors' Equity strike John Kelette and Jann Kenbrovin, 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'	Waldo Frank, <i>Our America</i> Upton Sinclair, <i>The Brass Check</i> H. L. Mencken, <i>The American Language: An Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States</i> T. S. Eliot, 'Tradition and the Individual Talent' John Reed, <i>Ten Days that Shook the World</i>