

# BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

- ① Labor strikes
- Race riots
- Attacks on immigrants
- The Red Scare

→ These were some of the challenges of the post-World War I years.

② It is important to remember that in 1917 Russia experienced the world's first successful communist revolution. The Bolshevik Revolution made Americans very nervous!



KARL MARX

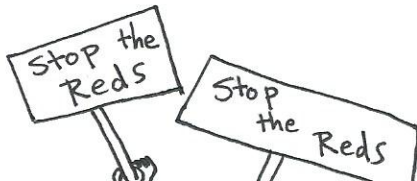
The history of the world is the history of class struggle!  
Abolish private property!  
Abolish social classes!  
Workers of the world unite!  
You have nothing to lose but your chains.

**Question:** How did the ideals of the Bolshevik Revolution differ from the ideals of the U.S. Constitution?

③ The Communist International was an organization committed to spreading communism throughout the world.

... we will rise up and overthrow the bourgeoisie!

This frightened Americans even more, especially Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer



By E. Mapp

④ January 1920

A. Mitchell Palmer's To Do LIST  
1- Arrest + some 6,000 People  
2- Charge them with wanting to overthrow the government

stop the Reds!

I think those "New Immigrants" from Eastern and Southern Europe are Communists

Commies are dangerous

Hey, a bomb exploded on Wall Street

⑤ Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were Italian immigrants and anarchists. In 1920, they were accused of the robbery and murder of a paymaster and his guard in Braintree, Massachusetts. Their trial ended on July 14, 1921 with verdicts of guilty.



We are Italians,  
We are immigrants,  
We are Anarchists,  
But we are innocent.

⑥ A number of Americans came to believe that Sacco and Vanzetti were innocent. The governor of Massachusetts established a committee to investigate. It found that the evidence against the two men was circumstantial and that the trial judge had allowed the men's radical beliefs to be the center of the prosecution's case.



In other words, the trial was unfair.

⑦ The men were sentenced to death in 1927.

Bartolomeo Vanzetti's statement to the judge after being sentenced to death:

This is what I say: I would not wish to a dog or snake, to the most low or misfortunate creature of the earth - I would not wish to suffer for things I am not guilty of. I am suffering because I have had to suffer and indeed I am a radical; I have suffered because I am a radical; I have suffered more for an Italian; I have suffered than for my family and for my beloved; I am so convinced to be right that if you could execute me two times, and if I could be reborn two other times, I would live again to do what I have done already. I have finished, Thank you.



⑧ List Facts about the Sacco and Vanzetti Trial

- A-
- B-
- C-
- D-
- E-
- F-
- G-

## Review Questions:

1. Why were many Americans convinced that Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty?
2. Why were many other Americans convinced that Sacco and Vanzetti were not guilty?
3. According to Bartolomeo Vanzetti, why was he arrested and found guilty of a crime?
4. How did the Sacco and Vanzetti case show that civil rights and liberties may suffer during periods of social unrest?
5. How should the Constitution theoretically protect individuals from a travesty of justice like the Sacco and Vanzetti trial?