

American Literature Between 1917 and World War II



- There were a lot of the radical economic and social changes in American life during the twenties and thirties.
- It was a fruitful time for critical realists.



Overview

- What was the most important event of that period?

The First World War (WWI)

- was fought from 1914 to 1918
- 2 groups of warring nations
- ‘The Central Powers’ (Центральные державы): Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria
- ‘The Allied Powers’ (Антанта): France, [Britain](#), Russia, Italy, Japan, and (from 1917) the U.S.



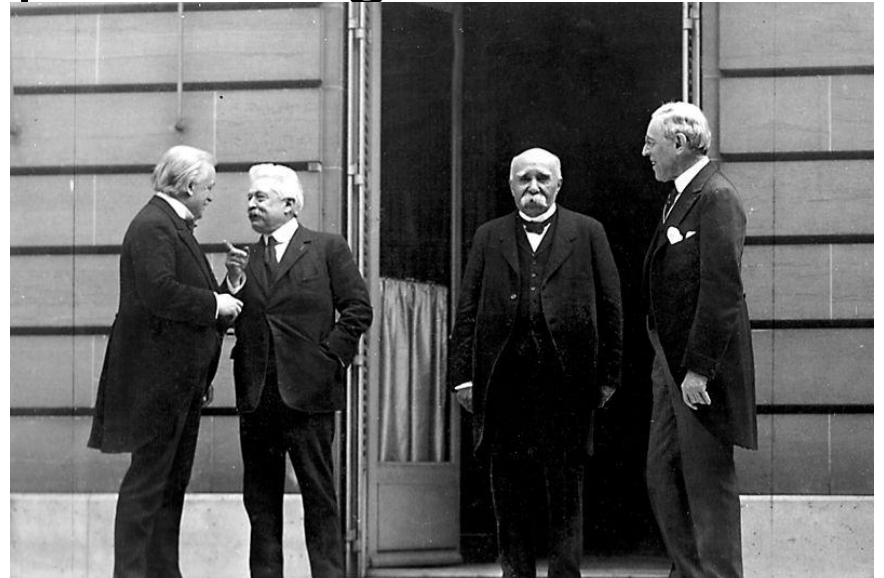
Nature of war

- War between countries for acquiring colonies or territory or resources.



Outcomes

- The German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires were defeated.
- Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires ceased to exist. The League of Nations was formed in the hope of preventing another such conflict.



- The writers reflected the new realities of American life.
- New themes, plots and heroes appeared in the novels and stories of the realistic writers.
- The main purpose is the necessity of changing the social order



American realists revealed in his works:

- the truth of American life,
- showed the tragic fate of young Americans after World War I

The most outstanding American realists:

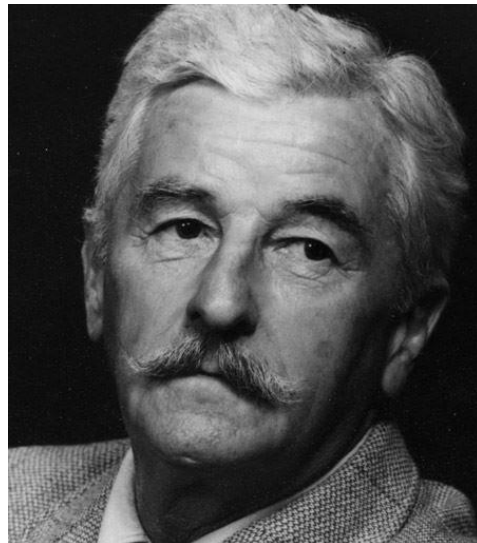
- Theodore Dreiser,
- Francis Scott Fitzgerald,
- William Faulkner,
- Ernest Hemingway.



Theodore
Dreiser



William
Faulkner



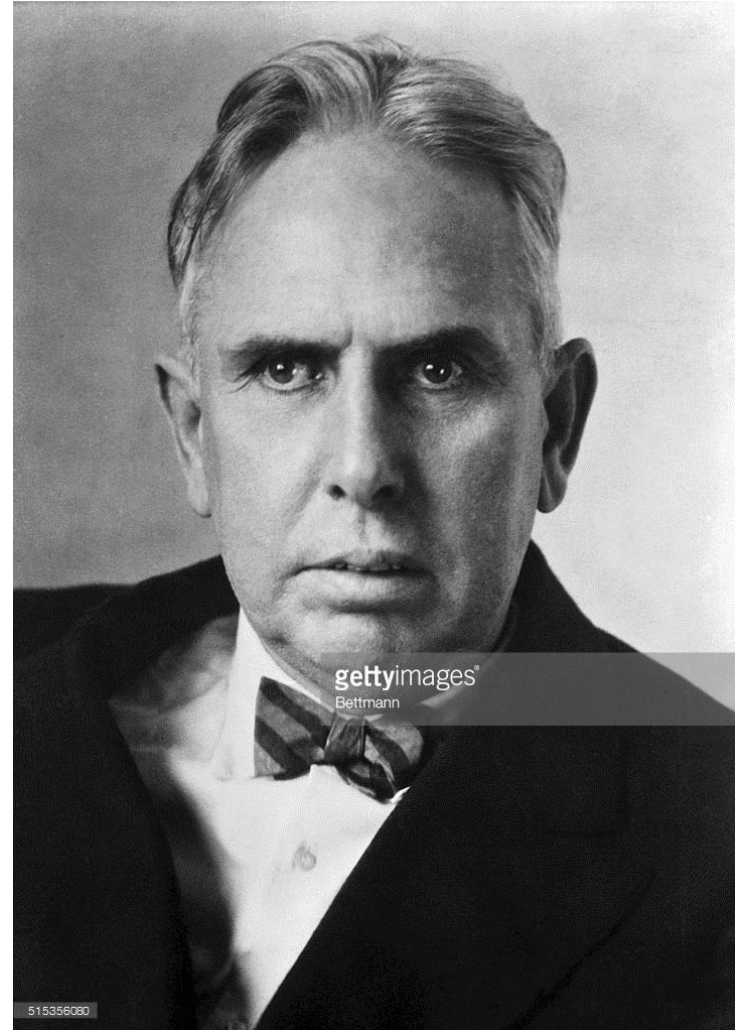
Ernest
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Francis
Scott
Fitzgerald



Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945)



An American Tragedy

- Pp 318-319

