

Sacco and Vanzetti

The Sacco and Vanzetti trial highlighted some of the issues that America faced at the start of the 20th century. The Red Scare had made lots of people nervous. After the Communist Revolution in Russia in 1917 some Americans believed immigrants to America could be plotting revolution too.

Sacco and Vanzetti lost their appeal. In August 1927 they were both executed by electricity.

America had a history of freedom, liberty and respect for the law - but some laws began to show the prejudice in the country. The prosecution of Sacco and Vanzetti is one example - the Jim Crow laws that limited the rights of black Americans were another.



Things to remember

- Sacco and Vanzetti had radical anti-government pamphlets in their car when they were arrested.
- The defence had 107 witnesses alleging that they had seen Sacco and Vanzetti somewhere else when the crime was committed.
- Judge Webster Thayer was prejudiced against the two men.

