



Alphonse Capone

The continuing demand for alcohol after the passage of the 18th Amendment led to widespread lawbreaking and a general disrespect for authority. Organized crime, realizing that millions of dollars could be made making, transporting and selling alcohol, moved in and took control of the bootlegging trade. Using the profits gained from selling alcohol, men like Al Capone (left) controlled police and government at the state and local level. The federal government, employing only 1,500 agents (as opposed to the tens of thousands employed by organized crime) could do little to enforce this law.

1. What are two reasons some Americans wanted to ban alcohol? (It isn't in the reading.)
2. How did Prohibition affect the crime rate in America?
3. Who controlled bootlegging in America?
4. Describe two reasons the federal government was unable to enforce Prohibition.
5. Why was Al Capone eventually put in prison? Why don't you think he was put away for his more serious crimes?

DID YOU KNOW?

Unable to convict Al Capone of the many serious charges of murder, bribery and bootlegging the FBI eventually was able to send him to jail for not paying his taxes.