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**Fakulta filozofická**

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**DEPICTION OF ROARING TWENTIES IN THE  
WORKS OF F.S.FITZGERALD**

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## **Prohlášení**

Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně, s použitím odborné literatury a pramenů uvedených v seznamu, který je součástí této práce.

*Plzeň, duben 2015*

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## **Poděkování**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Bachelor Thesis is focused on the period of the Roaring Twenties, a significant part of the American history, and its aim is to find the features of this period of time in the works of Francis Scott Fitzgerald. In the beginning of the work, there is also mentioned the Reception theory which brings the idea of reading and also analysing the texts which is important for purpose of this thesis.

Essentially, the thesis is divided into four main parts. The first part is theoretical and deals with the real events of the 1920s, giving both cultural and historical background, which will be a base of the whole work, because these facts will be further searched for in the chosen books of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Within the facts of the 1920s there will be discussed mainly *Prohibition and criminality*, *Women rights*, *Great Migration*.

Another part of this work is dedicated mainly to literature and to a group of writers of so called, *Lost generation*. It is the post-First World War group of authors, who examined that era in their works. They had in common essential topics of their works, for example *decadence* and *idealised past*. We will be interested in this literary group predominantly because F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose works are going to be analysed in practical part of thesis, was one of them. This fact leads us to the third part of the thesis which deals with the life and writings of F. Scott Fitzgerald. During writing, we will use several printed and electronic sources which will allow us to obtain the fundamental information. As the key sources for the theoretical background we be working with Richard Gray and with Lucy Moore, who discuss the Roaring Twenties in their book *A history of American Literature* and *Anything goes, A Biography of the Roaring Twenties*.

The last part is then dedicated to an introduction and an analysis of two chosen Fitzgerald's works which were written in the period of the 1920s. These books follow this period of time and contain its specific elements. The books to be analysed are *The Great Gatsby*, published later than the second book, which is called *The Beautiful and Damned*. Nevertheless, we are sure to find the features of the 1920s in both mentioned books and comment on the finding, showing

particular examples on several extracts from each book. These extracts will allow us to specify the vision of the Roaring Twenties and connecting it with the idea of F. Scott Fitzgerald.



## 2. RECEPTION THEORY

For the purpose of this work, when we are about to analyse and comment chosen literary pieces, it is necessary to present, though only briefly, the reception theory. It is widely spread in the field of literature and deals with the reader's reception and his reaction to a literary text. In literature, it was firstly introduced in the late 1960s by a German, Hans-Robert Jauss. [1] Then, the theory attracted attention of theorists from other countries, e.g. Robert C. Holub from the USA. [2]

The theory does not have to be applied only to books but also to movies and other creations. The basic idea of the reception theory is that the text is not only passively accepted by the reader but it reader's opinion that is also emphasized. Another fact is that not only the text can influence the reader but also the reader can influence the text. It means that each reader can accept the same text in different way with regard to reader's background, personality and life experiences. There is literally created a relationship between the reader and the text, which is read. [3]

Robert C. Holub, also mentioned the term of "border crossing", which points out a difference of reception between various countries and their own point of views on the texts. There are many aspects which generate this differences such as culture, tradition, history and politics. [4]

Taking the facts related to reception theory in mind, we will analyse the books of F.S. Fitzgerald as readers living in the Czech Republic in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, knowing about the period he talks about only from books, Hollywood movies and academic literature. Therefore, it is necessary for us to create a theoretical framework that will help us to analyse the chosen example of Fitzgerald's works in more detailed and from more informed point of view.

### 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROARING TWENTIES

Firstly, a few introductory words about the Roaring Twenties are to be written in the following paragraphs. This period was also called *the Jazz Age*, *the Age of Intolerance* and *the Age of Wonderful Nonsense*. The 1920s also represented the beginning of modern America because it was a time of many changes in technology and inventions. [5] It was the time after the First World War which lasted from 1914 to 1918. [6] One of the most famous American writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, F. Scott Fitzgerald, depicted the period in his works. “It was Fitzgerald who christened it the Jazz Age.” [7] A short list and commentary of several events, which happened from 1920 to 1929, follow.

#### **Prohibition and criminality**

The beginning of the 1920s is known for the implementation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution. It is also often called *the Prohibition Amendment*. It commanded the prohibition of manufacturing, selling and transporting of alcoholic beverages. [8] The Prohibition lasted from 1920 to 1933. [9] Its realization planned to raise moral standards in the USA and on the other hand, decrease crime and corruption and reduce social problems. Nevertheless, it turned out that it had the opposite effect. “Bootlegging” became prosperous business during this era. It was an illegal production and distribution of alcohol from which benefited criminals and gangsters whose existence came out. The most famous one was Al Capone. [10]

Al Capone’s full name was Alphonse Capone but he was also known as “Scarface”, because he was once slashed with a knife across his left cheek and there reminded a visible scarf on his cheek after. Al Capone played a major role during the 1920s and nowadays, he is counted among the most famous American gangsters, especially in the branch of bootlegging, gambling and prostitution. [11] In 1927, Al Capone was at the peak of his power as Chicago’s leading gangster. However, Al Capone was sent to prison in 1932 and in 1933, the

Prohibition was pronounced inefficient and Congress passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment which lifted a ban on alcoholic beverages. [12]

## **Women rights**

In 1920, following the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was also ratified giving women the right to vote in the US, also known as women suffrage. However, it was a result of a long fight for women rights that had already been started by *the Women's rights movement* in the 1820s and 30s. The main characters of this movement were Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. They claimed that "American women are autonomous individuals who deserve their own political identities". [13] In 1890, the National American Women Suffrage Association was formed and its first President became Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This association started to assert the right to vote by the entirely different way. They decided not to struggle for parity with men Congress would not accept, but to take advantage of maternity and different angle of vision, which can be useful in politics. [14] Fortunately, this manoeuvre was a great step that later led to giving the women right to vote.

At the same time, scientists developed reasonably reliable methods of birth control, which enabled women to have some, though limited, control over their lives. Firstly, there were some illegal methods of contraception, such as the diaphragm<sup>1</sup>, illegal abortions were also done, which killed approximately 50 000 women. After that, other contraceptive devices existed, e.g. doctors could prescribe condoms to men for their health. Contraception definitely changed the point of view on the sex life. Suddenly, women were not afraid to experiment with sex before marriage and they had a choice. Women were no longer primarily mothers because their role had changed. They could lead an independent social life so that they were not afraid to be attractive or even provocative and they

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<sup>1</sup> A method of contraception, that consists of a thin contraceptive cap fitting over the woman's cervix. [15]

became more confident. [16] The woman who started to live this new lifestyle was called the Flapper. [17]

## **The Emergency Quota Act**

In 1921, *The Emergency Quota Act* was introduced. The Act restricted the entry of immigrants to the United States and the quota of annual number of immigrants who could be admitted to the country was established. [18] Violence and unrest dominated that year because of the wage cuts and massive unemployment. It led to price cuts and shorter working hours. “The average working day was 12-14 hours.” [19]

## **The Indian Citizenship Act**

The year 1924 saw the introduction of *The Indian Citizenship Act*. The Act represented the conferment of citizenship on all Native Americans who were born in the United States. It was the government of the United States which conferred the citizenship. Nevertheless, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the right to vote was often denied to Native Americans. [20]

## **Teapot Dome Scandal**

From 1921 to 1923, the President of the USA was Warren Harding who suddenly died of a heart attack. [21] During his administration, oil reserves scandal began and it was called the *Teapot Dome Scandal*. It happened when President Warren Harding transferred control of the naval oil reserves from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior. However, Secretary of the Interior, Albert Bacon Fall, abused his power. He secretly granted similar rights to the Teapot Dome reserves several oil companies in exchange for cash gifts and “no-interest loans”. [22]

## Scopes Trial

In 1925, *The Scopes Trial* took place. This event is also called the Evolution Trial or the Monkey Trial. “The Scopes Trial symbolizes the conflict between science and theology, faith and reason, individual liberty and majority rule.” [23] John Thomas Scopes was a high school teacher who taught Darwin’s theory of evolution, even though it was thought to be against the Bible. Further, teaching the theory of evolution was contrary to the *Butler Act*. “The Butler Act forbade the teaching of any theory that denied the biblical story of Creationism.” Thus, Scopes broke the law and his trial took place in Dayton, Tennessee. [24] “The Trial represented a dramatic clash between traditional and modern values in America of the 1920s.” [25]

## Great Migration

The period of the 1920s was widely affected also by the so called *Great Migration*. It was a long-term movement of about five million African-Americans which lasted from 1916 to 1970. The movement was directed from the South to the urban North of the United States. The final destinations were cities as Chicago, New York, Detroit and Michigan. The reasons why African-Americans wanted to move was craving for prosperity, better economic conditions and job opportunities in urban areas. [26] In general, 1920s are known for remarkably low unemployment. The result of the Great Migration is also that “by 1920, the urban population exceeded the rural population because more and more people crowded into the towns.” [27] Thanks to spreading of African-Americans many people were influenced by their traditional culture. One of the fields under African-American influence was also music, e.g. the rhythmic forms of blues, gospel and jazz. [28] So, there is a clear connection between the 1920s and its nickname containing jazz.

## **Culture and fashion**

When talking about jazz music, we have to mention the most popular dance, which was Charleston. Because the 1920s was the period after the WWI, people liked entertainment and parties especially in their homes. Parties were also connected to fashion. During the twenties, men tried to look more youthful and less “stuffy”. On the other hand, women were dressing in a comfortable way. Their clothes started to express their mood and distinctiveness. [29]

The short summary of the key events of the 1920s in the US and few remarks on culture of that age concludes this chapter. In this period, America became the wealthiest country all over the world. It was the time of prosperity and decent living. People had jobs and could improve their lives by buying inventions like radios, telephones or cars. Because of the prohibition the existence of gangsters came out. The most famous one was Al Capone. In connection to migration, the Ku Klux Klan strengthened their position. It was also one of the reasons why African Americans started to move. [30] Clustering of African-Americans gave the birth to jazz music, which became very popular. At the end of this period, the prosperity of the United States fell down and the country ended up in crisis. [31]

## **Media**

*The National Broadcasting Company* was established in 1926. It was the first permanent, full-service radio network in the United States. NBC’s first radio broadcast was a four-hour radio program from New York over a network of 25 stations. Almost five million of home radios were tuned in. [32] By the 1920s the telephone stopped being a curiosity and became a commonplace. [33]

## **The Wall Street Stock Market Crash**

A very important event of American history took place in October 1929. This event is known as the *Stock Market Crash* and was followed by the *Great*

*Depression* which lasted from 1929 to 1939. During the 1920s, the stock market in the United States underwent rapid expansion that peaked in August 1929. Soon after, production declined and unemployment increased. Stock prices started to go down in September and on the 18<sup>th</sup> October the fall began. On Black Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, stock prices collapsed completely, which meant that billions of dollars were lost. After the bankruptcy on Wall Street, the country fell into Great Depression and unemployment became a major issue. [34]

## 4. THE LOST GENERATION WRITERS

### The Lost generation

From the very beginning, it is important to mention that the term *Lost generation* has two senses. According to the dictionary [35], the first meaning refers to the generation of people who came of age during the World War I or immediately after it. These people were deeply affected by their war experiences, disillusioned by the number of killed people during the war and without any cultural and emotional stability. The second meaning emphasizes *The Lost generation* in culture referring to a group of American writers including Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. [36] Nevertheless, for the purpose of the thesis we are mainly interested in the second meaning of this term which will be elaborated below.

### The Lost generation writers

In reference to the aforementioned, *The Lost generation* in literature was a group of post-First War American writers. This term was firstly introduced by Gertrude Stein, a modernist American writer permanently living in Paris. Although it was a group of American writers, most of them lived in Europe, especially in France, Paris. The reason why they emigrated from the United States was the Great War. People had the sensing that they were powerless because everything was destroyed by the War and it could not be repaired. The bohemian soul of these writers wanted to start again, somewhere else. However, the feeling of loss and emptiness helped them to create great literary works. [37]

Talking about works of lost generation writers, it is important to shortly comment on the main themes they wrote about. The first topic of these works was “decadence”. “Lost generation writers revealed the sordid nature of the shallow, frivolous lives of the young and independently wealthy in the aftermath of the war.” [38] Another topic which had lost generation writers in common were “gender roles and impotence”. It means that the position of men had been changed as well as the position of women. Women strengthened their



individuality and it of course influenced lot of men who could lose virility. Since the 1920s women could take control not only of themselves but also of a man. Basically, the more rights women had, the more their position had been changed. The last topic which is said to be common for writers of lost generation was “idealised past”. Naturally, everybody who went through something terrible wanted to forget it or remembered it in a kind of idealized way. That was exactly the case of characters in books which came into existence during the 1920s. Writers saw in real lives how were people dealing with terrible past affected by the Great War and transferred it into their works. An example of idealized past is again well seen in Fitzgerald’s book *The Great Gatsby* where James Gatsby idealized Daisy so that he cannot see her in a real way. His picture of their joint past is still so real that he is not capable to take into consideration the things which had changed since they had met for the last time. [39]

Mentioning the themes of works written in the 1920s, it is important to write shortly also about the main representatives who were expanding such themes in their narrations. The group of lost generation writers comprises such authors as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, T.S. Elliot, John Dos Passos, Waldo Peirce, Alan Seeger and Erich Maria Remarque. [40]

## **4.1. Francis Scott Fitzgerald**

### **Biography**

The famous American writer Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1896 in St Paul, Minnesota. He was named after his distant blood-relative from father’s side Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald who wrote the lyrics to the US national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Fitzgerald’s mother was Mary McQuillan, from an Irish-Catholic family which managed to build up a small fortune in the branch of groceries. On the other hand, Fitzgerald’s father, Edward Fitzgerald, established a wicker furniture business, which unfortunately

failed. After that, he started to work as a salesman for Procter & Gamble and the family was forced to move to New York. However, when the father lost his job again, the family returned back to St Paul. [41]

From the beginning of his school studies, Fitzgerald's education was financed by his mother's family. In 1908, Fitzgerald commenced his studies at the St Paul Academy. He was writing while at school and his first play was finished in 1911. In the same year, Fitzgerald moved to Newman School in New Jersey and then in 1913 he proceeded to Princeton University in New Jersey. [42] At the Newman School, Fitzgerald became unpopular among his classmates because he was very intense and enthusiastic student. His experience from Princeton University, where he joined *the Triangle Club*<sup>2</sup>, a dramatic organization, varies. He was also considered as a prominent figure in the literary life of the university. "Despite these social coups, Fitzgerald struggled academically, and he eventually flunked out of Princeton." [43] During Fitzgerald's studies at Princeton University, he fell in love with Ginevra King. She was a sixteen-year-old girl who came from a wealthy family and this was a reason why Ginevra rejected Scott. After several failures to gain Ginevra, Fitzgerald joined the army in November 1917. [45]

Fitzgerald was stationed at Camp Sheridan near Montgomery, Alabama, where he met the love of his life, Zelda Sayre. During their first meeting, they immediately fell in love. She was a daughter of an Alabama Supreme Court judge and Fitzgerald realized that he had to improve his financial situation to marry Zelda. There was no other way than left for New York to have better conditions to earn some money. However, Fitzgerald was not successful in New York and was made to accept a low-paid menial advertising job. As a result, Zelda cancelled their engagement. Then, Fitzgerald left for St Paul, Minnesota, where he finished a novel that he started writing at the university. Finally, in the spring of 1920, the novel *This Side of Paradise* was published. [46]

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<sup>2</sup> An association, which unites Princeton talented students, who create and accomplish their own theatrical performances. [44]

Publishing of Fitzgerald's first novel made him famous and rich. Suddenly, he became "one of the country's most promising young writers" [47]. Consequently, a week after publishing his novel, he married Zelda in New York. The life of Fitzgerald changed rapidly. He had an extravagant lifestyle with a reputation of a playboy. But he was also productive in terms of work because he began to publish regularly short stories in magazines, e.g. *The Saturday Evening Post*. In 1921, Scott and Zelda had a daughter, Frances Scott Fitzgerald, and a year later in 1922 he published his second novel *The Beautiful and Damned*. "Between 1922 and 1924 the family rented a house in Great Neck, Long Island. This furnished experiences and encounters which later became raw material for *The Great Gatsby*. [48] Because the Fitzgerald's life in Great Neck was exhausting they wanted to escape somewhere else. So in 1924, the family moved to France, where they became a part of a group of *The Lost generation*. During this era, Fitzgerald wrote his well-acclaimed novel *The Great Gatsby*. Literally it was the height of his life. After that, he lived disorganized and unhappy life full of alcoholic beverages. [49]

While looking for a job in Hollywood, his wife Zelda went through a mental breakdown in 1930 in Paris. She was accepted into a clinic in Switzerland. Then, she changed several hospitals until the end of her life. She died in 1948 at the hospital which burned down in a fire. [50]

In final decade of Fitzgerald's life, he published his fourth novel *Tender is the Night*. Initially, it was considered to be a failure, but it belongs to the greatest books in American literature now. After the criticism of this book, Fitzgerald tried to renew his reputation as a screenwriter and freelance storywriter in Hollywood and he also began to work on his further novel, *The Love of the Last Tycoon*. Nevertheless, he did not succeed in finishing it because he died of a heart attack on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1940 in Hollywood, California. [51]

## 5. THE GREAT GATSBY

*The Great Gatsby* is in order the third novel of the famous American writer Francis Scott Fitzgerald. It is Fitzgerald's masterpiece and it is said to be one of the greatest American novels of the twentieth century. This book is said to represent the *Jazz Age* and it limits the scope of this period of time. [52]

F. S. Fitzgerald started to work on this book in 1923 in the Riviera, France, where he moved with his family from New York. As was mentioned above, from 1922 to 1924 in New York, they rented a house in Great Neck, Long Island. This experience became a material for the book. Finally, it was finished in 1925. There were many proposals of a good title for the book, e.g. *Among the Ash Heaps and Millionaires*, *Trimalchio in West Egg*, *On the Road to West Egg*, *Gold-Hatted Gatsby* or *The High Bouncing Lover*. However, all of these were marked unsatisfactory. In spite of Fitzgerald's objection, the book was published as *The Great Gatsby* on 10 April, 1925. [53]

Importance of this book is shown by its current sales which count over three hundred thousand sold copies of *The Great Gatsby* every year. [54] Further, the popularity of the book was also used by Hollywood makers. The book was made into several film versions. The first one in 1949, *Gatsby* was represented by Alan Ladd and *Daisy* by Betty Field. In 1974 another version appeared, where Robert Redford starred as *Gatsby* and Mia Farrow as *Daisy*. Another one was made in 2000, with Toby Stephens as *Gatsby* and Mira Sorvino as *Daisy*. The latest version of this story was introduced in 2013, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan. [55]

### 5.1. Synopsis

The book tells the story of a young man, Nick Carraway, who decides to write about his experiences he goes through when he works in New York. Nick rents a house in the area of so called West Egg, Long Island. It is a modest place but sufficient for him. In comparison to his next-door neighbour, Jay Gatsby, who

owns a huge mansion where extravagant parties take place. Opposite this place, across a bay, there is situated the East Egg, where Nick's cousin Daisy Buchanan lives with her husband Tom. Tom and Nick know each other from university. Tom descends from a very wealthy family and he is considered as an upper-class person. At the house of Tom and Daisy, Nick often meets Jordan Baker who is a successful golf player. [56]

Tom and Daisy have a daughter but their marriage suffers from Tom's infidelity. Once, Tom introduced his mistress, Myrtle Wilson, to Nick. This woman is a wife of George Wilson who has a garage in the valley of ashes. The main storyline in this book is that Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan knew each other very well few years ago. They fell in love but they were separated because Gatsby served as a soldier during the World War I. Five years later, from the moment Gatsby and Daisy had seen each other for the last time, she got married to Tom Buchanan. When Gatsby learnt about Daisy's marriage he bought a house opposite to hers and started to throw parties because he wanted to attract her attention and wanted her to come. Nevertheless, she did not come, so Gatsby persuaded Nick to invite her for a cup of tea to his house. There, at Nick's place, Gatsby and Daisy met again. [57]

With Gatsby's parties follows a question, where he takes the money. There is a big mystery around Gatsby's life. A lot of stories and legends go around but, nobody really knows from where he comes and who he is. The real facts of his past are that he descends from a very poor background and is lucky that he met a wealthy but lonely man, Dan Cody. First of all, Gatsby inherited his fortune and it also became clear that Jay Gatsby pursues an illegal business mainly in the field of alcoholic beverages called bootlegging. [58]

However, this fact is hidden from Daisy. She enjoys everything what Gatsby offers her. But when one day Tom and Gatsby meet at Plaza Hotel Daisy realizes who the real gentleman for her is. Then, Daisy and Gatsby go home by his car and she accidentally knocks down Myrtle Wilson. Myrtle was arguing with her husband because he revealed her cheating on him. Unfortunately, George Wilson

thinks that it is Tom who did it. However, Tom explains to George that it is a car of a man called Gatsby who rode the car and killed his wife. Later Gatsby concedes Nick that Daisy rode the car but nobody else knows this. Afterwards, George Wilson wants to revenge the death of his wife and kills Gatsby in his pool. Then he commits a suicide. [59]

At the end, Nick arranges Gatsby's funeral. In contrary to his parties at the funeral are only Gatsby's father, his employees and Nick. Daisy and Tom left for a holiday. After the funeral, Nick leaves Gatsby's house in emptiness and darkness and returns to the Midwest where he comes from. [60]

## 5.2. Textual analysis

### Major characters

In the book, there are found four major characters of the story. The first one is a narrator, **Nick Carraway**, who comes from Minnesota but in summer 1922 he decided to move to New York to earn some money in the bond business.

The second major character is “the man who gives his name to this book” [61], **Jay Gatsby**. He is a Nick's neighbour, which made them very close. Gatsby is known in whole New York due to his huge house and extravagant parties which take place there. His lavish lifestyle is very specific for the era of the 1920s as well as the way how he earns money for it. Gatsby is considered to be one of the “new rich” group of people.

Gatsby is the opposite of the third major male figure that is **Tom Buchanan**. Tom belongs to the typical upper-class people who disrespect people like Gatsby. Tom is extremely rich but his money is not acquired illegally. Tom Buchanan is related to the first major character, **Daisy Buchanan**, who is his wife. Their marriage is not happy even though they have a daughter. Daisy got married to Tom because of his money and now when her ex-love, Jay Gatsby, appeared again, she is confused. Her character in this story shows transformation of the women position during the 1920s.

The same role has another female character but from a different point of view. Her name is **Jordan Baker** and in contrary to Daisy, who is married and has a child, Jordan is different. She is developing as an individual and she is very progressive. We shortly introduced the major characters that F. S. Fitzgerald linked to the period of the 1920s by their behaviour, attitude, lifestyle and appearance and we will connect them to the main topics discussed in the book below.

## **Prohibition and criminality**

As we mentioned above, prohibition commanded the interdiction of manufacturing, selling and transporting of alcoholic beverages. It was implemented in the USA by *The Prohibition Amendment*, which lasted during the 1920s. The topic of prohibition is greatly described in the book and touches all characters.

Despite the fact that selling and consuming of alcohol is forbidden, people drink anyway. In the 1920s, especially home parties became very popular. In the book, there is described a small flat party which takes place in New York. This party is thrown by Tom Buchanan and his mistress Myrtle in their apartment that is rented by Tom for extra-marital activities.

Description of Tom's apartment in New York: "The apartment was on the top floor – a small living-room, a small dining room, a small bedroom, and a bath." [62]

An example how people during prohibition keep alcohol and how it brings them together: "Meanwhile Tom brought out a bottle of whiskey from a locked bureau door." [63] "Just as Tom and Myrtle (after the first drink Mrs Wilson and I called each other by our first names) reappeared," [64]

Nick describes the party in his own words: "I have been drunk just twice in my life, and the second time was that afternoon; so everything that happened has a dim, hazy cast over it, although until after eight o'clock the apartment was full of cheerful sun." [65]

Jay Gatsby is one of the most principal characters talking about prohibition and criminality during the 1920s. Gatsby belongs to a shady world of bootlegging in

which he manages to earn a huge amount of money. Gatsby's business partner, Meyer Wolfsheim, told Nick a story of "The old Metropole"<sup>3</sup> that made him sure about the circles Gatsby belongs to and about the people Gatsby meets. [67]

Gatsby did not hide from Nick who Wolfsheim really is: "Meyer Wolfsheim? No, he's a gambler. He's the man who fixed the World's Series back in 1919." [68]

It is no wonder that Gatsby's possessions involve an interesting history and Tom is not the only one who has doubts about this extraordinary man. Rumours go around Gatsby and still nobody knows from where his money comes.

Firstly, people say: "I was down there at a party about a month ago. At a man named Gatsby's. Do you know him? Well, they say he's a nephew or a cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm's. That's where all his money comes from." [69]

Then, "one time he killed a man who had found out that he was nephew to Von Hindenburg and second cousin to the devil." [70]

Gatsby is also said to be connected with the illegal activities: "He's a bootlegger, said the young ladies, moving somewhere between his cocktails and his flowers." [71]

Nick knows who Gatsby really is as well as Tom who does not accept these people with their dirty money.

"Who is this Gatsby anyhow?" demanded Tom suddenly. 'Some big bootlegger? I didn't hear it. I imagine it. A lot of these newly rich people are just big bootleggers, you know.'" [72]

## **Role of women**

Since the position of women has changed during the 1920s it is obvious that there are some examples in *The Great Gatsby*. We focus on two main female characters of the book, Daisy and Jordan. Daisy is different from Jordan in many ways.

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<sup>3</sup> It is a café, which was a "swanky hotspot", at the Times Square during the 1920s. [66]



Even though, Daisy belongs to the upper-class and she should take care of her family, a husband and a little daughter, she is mainly interested in herself. Her “primary mission” is not to be a good wife and a caring mother, but rather an individual person who has its own desires and wishes.

A nurse takes care of Daisy’s and Tom’s daughter: “With a reluctant backward glance the well-disciplined child held to her nurse’s had and was pulled out the door.” [73]

The way how Daisy was treated by her husband shows us the social position of women, which has changed since then. Women also no longer follow thoughtlessly their men since they are self-dependent individuals. At that period of time, they could determine conditions and ways to deal with them.

“Now see here, Tom,' said Daisy, turning around from the mirror, 'if you’re going to make personal remarks I won’t stay here a minute. Call up and order some ice for the mint julep.’” [74]

In the book, the women’s power over men’s lives is also visible and it can result in diverse endings. For example, Tom who is an arrogant person got into situation when he doesn’t know what to do because of his relationship with two women. At that moment, it is not Tom who takes control over his life.

“There is no confusion like the confusion of a simple mind, and as we drove away Tom was feeling the hot whips of panic. His wife and his mistress, until an hour ago secure and inviolate were slipping precipitately from his control.” [75]

Further, in contrary to Daisy, there is Jordan, who is even less fettered by rules than Daisy. Jordan Baker is a self-sufficient, wealthy, young lady who comes from Louisville as well as Daisy. She is also a golf player who takes part in many tournaments. Jordan is a flapper and this is a way how she behaves.

“Let’s get out,' whispered Jordan, after a somehow wasteful and inappropriate half-hour; 'this is much too polite for me.’” [76]

Jordan often comes to Gatsby’s parties and she has her own reasons for that.

“Anyhow, he gives large parties,' said Jordan, 'and I like large parties. They’re so intimate. At small parties there isn’t any privacy.’” [77]

During one of Gatsby's parties, Nick became an observer of women's dealings with their husbands.

“The wives were sympathizing with each other in slightly raised voices. ‘Whenever he sees I am having a good time he wants to go home.’ ‘Never heard anything so selfish in my life.’ ‘We are always the first ones to leave.’ ‘So are we.’ In spite of the wives’ agreement that such malevolence was beyond credibility, the dispute ended in a short struggle, and both wives were lifted, kicking, into the night.” [78]

## **The Great Migration**

Also, there is another issue of the 1920s recorded in the book. It is *The Great Migration*, a term used for massive moving of African-Americans from South to North that offered them better living conditions. By *The Great Migration* were affected mainly larger cities such as Chicago and New York which was shown in the book.

“As we crossed Blackwell’s Island a limousine passed us, driven by a white chauffeur, in which sat three modish negroes, two bucks and a girl.” [79]

*The Great Migration* is also remarked by Tom when he mentions the work of Mr Goddard: *The Rise of the Colored Empires*.

“‘Civilisation’s going to pieces,’ broke out Tom violently. ‘I’ve gotten to be terrible pessimist about things. Have you read “The Rise of the Colored Empires” by this man Goddard?’ ‘Well, it’s a fine book, and everybody ought to read it. The idea is if we don’t look out the white race will be – will be utterly submerged. It’s all scientific staff; it’s been proved.’” [80]

## **The Wall Street Stock Market**

*The Wall Street Stock Market* is the main reason why Nick Carraway decided to move in New York and he is not the only one. In the 1920s, the bond business is another branch which goes through blossoming so that it was nothing extraordinary to work there.

“Instead of being the warm centre of the world, the Middle West now seemed like the ragged edge of the universe – so I decided to go East and learn the bond business. Everybody I knew was in the bond business.” [81]

## **Culture and fashion**

The period of the 1920s became so popular because people were satisfied with their lifestyle. There is almost no unemployment and America experienced economic growth. In the book, Gatsby's character shows the prosperity of this period of time.

The first and mainly visible feature which expresses Gatsby's prosperity is his house. It is a huge mansion in West Egg where many extravagant parties take place every Saturday.

“Instead of taking the short cut along the Sound we went down to the road and entered by the big postern. With enchanting murmurs Daisy admired this aspect or that of feudal silhouette against the sky, admired the gardens... And inside, as we wandered through Marie Antoinette music-rooms and Restoration Salons, I felt that there guests concealed behind every couch and table... We went up-stairs, through period bedrooms swathed in rose and lavender silk and vivid with new flowers, through dressing-rooms and poolrooms, and bathrooms with sunken baths – intruding into one chamber where a dishevelled man in pajamas was doing liver exercises on the floor.” [82]

However, there is another characteristic of Gatsby and his fortune which seems to be typical for the 1920s, the fashion. Since the 1920s, not only women but also men were more attentive to their appearance. Gatsby is so demanding that the market in America is not sufficient for him so he receives clothes from Europe.

“I've got a man in England who buys me clothes. He sends over a selection of things at the beginning of each season, spring and fall.” [83]

During this period, people are not afraid of extravagant combinations in clothing.

“We hadn't reached West Egg Village before Gatsby began leaving his elegant sentences unfinished and slapping himself indecisively on the knee of his caramel-coloured suit.” [84]

Nevertheless, clothes show not only the financial abilities but also the background and possibly also the origin. For example, Tom or Nick, who are representatives of traditional wealthy families, do not wear such extraordinary clothing combinations as Gatsby.

This difference is perfectly seen between Gatsby and Tom while Tom has doubts about Gatsby's studies at Oxford University. "An Oxford man! He was incredulous. 'Like hell he is! He wears a pink suit.'" [85]

And here is shown the classic style of clothing by Nick. "Dressed up in white flannels I went over to his lawn ... " [86]

The women in the 1920s had many opportunities how to present themselves. They were also divided into several groups according to their status and identity as the men were. For example, Jordan Baker who is a flapper has her specific style.

"I noticed that she wore her evening-dress, all her dresses, like sports clothes – there was a jauntiness about her movement as if she had first learned to walk upon golf courses on clean, crisp mornings." [87]

"..., followed by Daisy and Jordan wearing small tight hats of metallic cloth and carrying light capes over their arms." [88]

On the other hand, there is not only mentioned the change of clothing but there is evidently seen the power of expansion and development in the field of technology, e.g. Gatsby has a hydroplane and made-to-order car.

"After the house, we were to see the grounds and the swimming-pool, and the hydroplane and the midsummer flowers – "[89]

"At nine o'clock, one morning late in July, Gatsby's gorgeous car lurched up the rocky drive to my door ... It was a rich cream color, bright with nickel, swollen here and there in its monstrous length with triumphant hat-boxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes, and terraced with labyrinth of wind-shields that mirrored a dozen suns." [90]

The last thing which is necessarily important to be mentioned is lifestyle and attitude of some characters, mainly Jay Gatsby. In the book, Gatsby represents a person who has a dream, an American dream, which he wishes to be accomplished. Gatsby has powerful optimism and vitality typical for Americans

that gives him strength. [91] With Gatsby's dream is closely connected an idealized past which is one of the main features of *The Lost Generation* books. For example, when Jay Gatsby idealized Daisy, he cannot see her in a real way. His picture of their joint past is still so real that he is not capable to take into consideration the things which changed since they had met for the last time. [92]

Daisy and Gatsby used to be in love but he thinks that since the time they were seeing each other nothing has changed so he shouts at Tom:

“She never loved you, do you hear? She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me. It was a terrible mistake, but in her heart she never loved any-one except me!” [93]

## 6. THE BEAUTIFUL AND DAMNED

The book *The Beautiful and Damned* is the second work of F. S. Fitzgerald, published in 1922 and considered to be another of his masterpieces. The book was firstly presented serially in *Metropolitan Magazine* and then it appeared in form of a book. [94] The book is said to be basically autobiographical because it shows the life of Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda. The book is mainly about “café society” in New York in the era of Jazz Age. Fitzgerald was in contact with these people during his life and he knew exactly how they looked like and behaved. [95]

In 1920, Fitzgerald married Zelda Sayre in New York and he was writing the book while they were travelling across Europe as a part of their honeymoon. They visited England, France and Italy, and then in October 1921 their daughter Scottie was born. [96]

According to the then review, which appeared in *The New York Times*, the book was very depressing because it was a slowly-moving narrative of vain and unimportant lives. The book content was very extensive with lots of repetitions concerning alcohol abuse, laziness and lack of courage. [97] The book also deals with one of the most important topics of the Lost generation, “decadence”, that established F.S. Fitzgerald as one of its main members.<sup>4</sup>

### 6.1. Synopsis

*The Beautiful and Damned* is a novel which is divided into three books and tells the story of a young man, Anthony Patch, who shows readers his vain life. Each book carries its own title to demonstrate the progress of the story (“The Pleasant Absurdity of Things”, “The Romantic Bitterness of Things” and “The Ironic Tragedy of Things”). [98]

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<sup>4</sup> An example of decadence is shown as the decline of Anthony and Gloria Patch who had been sunk into alcoholic dissolution.

In the beginning of the book the main character, Anthony Patch, is introduced. He is a well-educated young man from upper-class society. Anthony was raised in luxurious background and he has lots of money to live without having a job. Moreover, he is waiting for his grandfather's death that would guarantee him a big fortune. However, Anthony has some vision of what he could do and he thinks about writing similarly to his friend, Richard Caramel. Nevertheless, Anthony does not have Richard's sense of discipline and ambition. So, Richard became successful writer in contrast to Anthony. [99]

Afterwards, another character, Gloria Gilbert, is introduced. She becomes Anthony's wife. Initially, neither Gloria nor Anthony wanted to be married but when they got to know each other they suddenly changed their minds. Gloria is an upper-class girl, who is used to always get what she wants. She is also very attractive which results in that she is very popular with men and she enjoys being in the spotlight. As soon as Anthony got into Gloria's good graces, they got married and started to live an extraordinary lavish lifestyle full of parties and alcoholic beverages. [100]

However, Anthony and Gloria suffer from lack of money. They constantly spend for their enjoyment and they have to find a source of money. This could be a chance for Anthony's grandfather, Adam Patch, who is a millionaire. Anthony is the only heir of his grandfather, so he waits until he dies. However, Adam Patch is an intolerant reformer and hard-working man who does not accept Anthony's lazy lifestyle full of amusement. Subsequently, Anthony is disinherited and after his grandfather's death he obtains nothing. [101]

In conclusion, Gloria's and Anthony's lives are in decline as a result of a superfluity of alcohol and parties. Their marriage is also drawing to a break-up because they are both selfish and hard to please. At the end of the story, the United States enters the World War and Anthony joins the army. During this period of time he has a mistress and realizes that he is still in love with Gloria. After his return to Gloria, they cut down their standard of living, which put them

into a lower social class than they used to be before, which proves their failure. [102]

## 6.2. Textual analysis

### Major characters

In the book there are mentioned several characters of the story but only two of them can be considered as the major ones. The first one is **Anthony Patch**. The book is written as a description of events from Anthony's point of view between his 25 and 33 years of age. Anthony is a wealthy, handsome and intelligent man who ought to be an heir of his grandfather because Anthony's parents died when he was a child. Being raised as a member of upper-class, he has no intention of earning money and work. His life is literally one big party, which results in Anthony's alcohol abuse. [103] The only fruitful thing of his life was his joining the army during the World War, which would be appreciated by his grandfather as he had served as a major during the Civil War. [104]

Another major character is **Gloria Gilbert** who became Anthony's wife. She is a sort of a "golden girl" raised as Anthony in wealthy background. She does not come from New York, but from Kansas City. Gloria is used to get whatever she wants and she is always surrounded by many men with whom she is used to manipulate. It is even easier for her because of her beauty which is renowned. From the point of view of the 1920s Gloria is definitely the "flapper" who set new trends and is not afraid of anything new. On the other hand, she is selfish, feckless and irresponsible as Anthony so they are very bad couple which does not fit together. [105]

Further, few more characters appeared in the book and complete the story. The first important person is **Adam Patch**, Anthony's grandfather. During Anthony's life, Adam Patch is the person who supervises him and watches his lifestyle. They are arguing all the time and this is the reason why they are not seeing each other too much. Adam Patch changes Anthony's life mainly by his death because



Anthony supposed to inherit Adam's money but he did not. This situation causes Anthony's financial problem in his following living. [106]

Another character is **Richard Caramel** who is a friend of Anthony and also a successful writer. Richard is a member of "café society" who is meeting Anthony at the Plaza Hotel. A similar figure to Richard is **Maury Noble** who is also a friend of Anthony and Gloria. Maury has in contrary to Anthony his own success that Anthony envies him. [107]

The last important character is **Dorothy Raycroft** who became Anthony's mistress when he served in the army. She is a nineteen-year-old girl who is totally different from people that Anthony knows in New York. She is warm-hearted, sensible and she has no ideals about her future. Anthony got to like her even though she does not possess any attributes of Gloria's beauty. The difference between Dorothy and Gloria is the thing that he finds so attractive for Anthony. [108]

## **Alcoholic problems**

The book was not written during the time of prohibition and thus the problem of illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages as in the case of *The Great Gatsby* is out of question here. Still, we can point out excessive drinking of the main characters in the book, which caused their addiction and destruction. This mainly affects Anthony Patch who at the end of the story is almost nonstop drunk.

"He was very drunk even then, so drunk as not to realize his own drunkenness." [109]

The life of main characters is full of parties which tempt them to drink alcohol even more. It is a stereotype that ensures fun and action. Anthony and Gloria rented a house during one summer where they invite guests and throw parties not to be alone and abandoned.

“More from their fear of solitude than from any desire to go through the fuss and bother of entertaining, they filled the house with guests every week-end and often on through the week. The week-end parties were much the same. When the three or four men invited had arrived, drinking was more or less in order.” [110]

And the men drink all day long: “With Eric Merriam, Anthony had been sitting over a decanter of Scotch all the hot summer afternoon, “ [111]

## **Role of women**

Fitzgerald depicted only one major woman character in this book, but it is enough for readers to see that she nicely complies with the features of the women in the 1920s. Gloria Gilbert, the main woman character in the book, represents a flapper by her lifestyle, attitude and clothing.

Gloria’s introduction: “Her name’s Gloria. She’s from home – Kansas City. Her mother’s practising Bilphist<sup>5</sup>, and her father’s quite dull but a perfect gentleman.” “Oh, you’ve heard of her – Gloria Gilbert. Goes to dances at colleges – all that sort of thing.” [113]

Gloria’s lifestyle from her mother’s point of view: “At sixteen she began going to dances at preparatory schools, and then came the colleges; and everywhere she went, boys, boys, boys.” [114] “Gloria’s out, she’s dancing somewhere. Gloria goes, goes, goes. I tell her I don’t see how she stands it. She dances all afternoon and all night, until I think she’s going to wear herself to a shadow. Her father is very worried about her.” [115]

Richard’s opinion of Gloria: “Gloria has a very young soul – irresponsible, as much as anything else. She has no sense of responsibility.” [116]

In contrary to customs and traditions Gloria does not want to hear about marriage and starting a family. She wants to be independent and live her own life without obstacles. It can be caused by her selfishness. On the other hand, when she met Anthony everything changed.

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<sup>5</sup> Biphism: “The name used and coined by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his 1922 novel *The Beautiful and the Damned*, referring to a religious belief concerned with the reincarnation of the human soul.” [112]

Gloria's speech to Anthony when they met: "I don't like being twenty-two. I hate getting old and everything. Getting married. I don't to have responsibility and a lot of children to take care of." [117]

There is a change in Gloria's opinion:"I want to marry Anthony, because husbands are often 'husbands' and I must marry a lover." [118]

Gloria's idea of her marriage: "Mine is going to be outstanding. It can't, shan't be the setting – it's going to be performance, the live, lovely, glamorous, and the world shall be the scenery." [119]

Gloria, as many women of her era, is used to take care of her because she wants to be attractive. Unfortunately, nothing last forever and when she gets older she falls into depression because her beauty means everything for her.

Gloria's obsession with her beauty: "'Oh, my pretty face,' she whispered, passionately grieving. 'Oh, my pretty face! Oh, I don't want to live without my pretty face!'" [120]

## **The Great Migration**

*The Great Migration* lasted from 1916 to 1970 and so we can find several features of it in the book, too. Events of the story take place in New York as in the case of *The Great Gatsby*, and this big city is definitely affected by arrival of African-Americans, who usually worked in services there.

An elevator man at Patch's house: "He was replaced by a glib Martinique negro, with an incongruous British accent and the tendency to be surly, whom Anthony detested." [121]

With an arrival of African-Americans also came their culture, which was positively accepted by other people. African-American music is mainly connected to jazz and saxophone.

Anthony describes his experiences of the period when he served in the army: "He liked 'Johnston's Gardens' where they danced, where a tragic negro made yearning, aching music on a saxophone until the garish hall became an enchanted jungle of barbaric rhythms and smoky laughter." [122]

## Culture and fashion

As we mentioned above in the part of *The Great Migration*, jazz music was typical for that period of time. People were visiting clubs where they drank with their friends and listened to jazz. Other sources of amusement were usually home-parties. These parties were often just small meetings of a few friends who spent time together. They had a lot of free time because they did not have a job. Anthony says in the book that he does not know what he wants to do. He is just waiting for his inheritance.

Adam Patch talking to Anthony: “Do you think you’ll be able to do any work in New York at all?’ This last with soft, almost imperceptible, cynicism.” [123]

Because Anthony never has to earn the money, he cannot appreciate their value and spends them without thinking. Finally, when he is short of money he realizes his expenses.

“Two rents a good part of time, clothes, travel – why, each of those springs in California cost about four thousand dollars. That darn car was a expense from start to finish. And parties and amusements and – oh, one thing or another.” [124]

There were big differences between lifestyle of people based on the social classes they belonged to. Anthony and Gloria are evidently parts of upper class which is visible due to their meetings, e.g. at the Plaza Hotel. On the other hand, in the book there are signs of another class, working class.

“ – the working girls, poor ugly souls, wrapping soap in factories and showing finery in the big stores, dreamed that perhaps in the spectacular excitement of this winter they might obtain for themselves the coveted male – “ [125]

“On Thursday afternoon Gloria and Anthony had tea together in the grill room at the Plaza.” [126]

The last what remains to be mentioned is fashion. Women of the 1920s wanted to be demanded, so they took care of themselves but it did not always have positive effect. Gloria is very nice example of that because beauty is so important for her.

“She was still slightly under weight, and she had fancied, a few days before, that her cheeks were a trifle thinner –. “ “She had bought and charged a new hat, and as the day was warm she had left the leopard skin coat at home.” [127]

Description of a young woman Muriel Kane: “Her finger-nails were too long and ornate, polished to a pink unnatural fever. Her clothes were too tight, too stylish, too vivid, her eyes too roguish, her smile too coy. She was almost pitifully too over-emphasized from head to foot.” [128]

## Media

In the book we can find several examples of media. Firstly, there are newspapers that are used as a source of information for general public. Reading newspapers can also be considered as a habit for most of the men who spend their time by reading newspapers in the certain period of day or week, for example Anthony Patch.

“He lit a cigarette and glanced through several letters and the morning *Tribune*.” [129]

“It was ten o’clock. *The Sunday Times*, scattered about his feet, proclaimed by rotogravure and editorial, by social revelation and sporting sheet, that the world had been tremendously engrossed during the past week in the business of moving toward some splendid if somewhat indeterminate goal.” [130]

Further, the movie industry, which was booming at that time, may be considered as another media example. In fact, in the beginning of the 1920s there were introduced many advanced film-making techniques which won the success. [131]

Gloria wants to take part in a film business through her friend Joseph Bloeckman: “Can you see me?’ she suggested lightly. ‘It’s on a business matter, really. I’m going into the movies at last – if I can.’ ‘I’m awfully glad. I’ve always thought you’d like it.’ At the ‘Films par Excellence’ studios she was announced over the telephone ... “ [132]

## 7. CONCLUSION

Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald are told to be masterpieces of American literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and they are said to be chronicles of the period of the Roaring Twenties. Fitzgerald himself called that period of time as *Jazz Age*. The aim of the Bachelor Thesis was therefore to introduce the period of the 1920s and show its typical phenomena as introduced by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his books.

The work was structured into several parts, each of which is dedicated to a specific issue. The theoretical part was compiled from several printed and electronic sources and includes historical and cultural phenomena related to the period under question, mainly about Prohibition and criminality, Women rights, The Emergency Quota Act, The Indian Citizenship Act, Teapot Dome Scandal, Scopes Trial, Great Migration, Culture and fashion, Media and The Wall Street Stock Market Crash. These acts tremendously influenced the 1920s and thus it was necessary to include them in the theoretical framework. The part about the Lost generation writers follows. Then, F. Scott Fitzgerald is introduced, paying attention to important moment of his life and his works, which was important for subsequent work analysis. This part facilitates an analysis of Fitzgerald's works because they include many autobiographical elements, for example when he depicts the lifestyle at Long Island in the book *The Great Gatsby* which corresponds with his living in a rented house at Long Island, as well, or the life of a young couple in the book *The Beautiful and Damned*, which resemble the life of young Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda.

*The Great Gatsby*, from the point of the 1920s is distinctive because there is mainly depicted a problematic of illegal trading with alcoholic beverages that formed a generation of "newly rich". After that, the wealth allow people to take care of themselves and pay attention to their clothes so fashion is also one of the most important features of the 1920s. Even though, there is an omnipresent prosperity in the book, this era ends by the crash on the Wall Street Stock Market and by the fall in the Great Depression. In the second book, *The Beautiful and Damned*, are also found some features of the Roaring Twenties. For example the

woman character, Gloria Gilbert, who presents the lifestyle of young and modern women during the 1920s. Then, the Prohibition caused that people rather organize home parties instead of going out, which is typical for Anthony and Gloria who rent a house and throw parties.

In conclusion, we can say that an attentive reader can learn a lot about the period of the 1920s from the books written by F.S. Fitzgerald. The analysed books obviously depict the era of the Roaring Twenties and thus we can say that the main goal of the Bachelor Thesis as well as the initial hypothesis were reached.

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## 10. ABSTRACT

The Bachelor Thesis is focused on the period of the Roaring Twenties in the United States of America. This period of time is important from several perspectives – both historical and cultural ones, namely because of Prohibition, growth of women rights and economic prosperity, which ended by the crash on the Wall Street Stock Market. The aim of this work is to introduce mentioned period of time, discuss the Lost generation writers, especially Francis Scott Fitzgerald and his books, which are subject of the analysis in the practical part of the thesis. In the Bachelor Thesis, we study the books *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned*, paying specially attention to the features of the 1920s described in them, as a proof that the books are chronicles of this period of time American history.

## 11. RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá obdobím tzv. Bouřlivých dvacátých let ve Spojených Státech Amerických. Toto období je významné z několika hledisek, historických i kulturních, jmenovitě například kvůli Prohibici, rozvoji ženských práv a celkové prosperitě, která je ukončena krachem na Wall Street burze. Cílem práce je představení zmíněného období, krátce informovat o Ztracené generaci spisovatelů, zvláště pak o Francisi Scottu Fitzgeraldovi a jeho dílech, která jsou předmětem analýzy v praktické části této práce. V práci jsou rozebírána díla *Velký Gatsby* a *Krásní a Prokletí*, přičemž se analýza soustředí na znaky dvacátých let dvacátého století, abychom tak mohli dokázat jejich historickou hodnotu pro popis tohoto významného období americké historie.

## 12. APPENDIX

### 12.1. Historical and cultural phenomena of the 1920s

#### 12.1.2. Prohibition and criminality

##### Al Capone



Al Capone, an American gangster. (See Chapter 3) [133]

##### Bootlegging



An illegal factory where were manufactured alcoholic beverages during the Prohibition.  
(See Chapter 3) [134]

### 12.1.3. Women rights movement

#### Women suffrage



The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified during the 1920s. (See Chapter 3) [135]

## 12.1.4. Fashion and lifestyle

### Flapper



Lifestyle and appearance of women during the 1920s. [136]

*The Flapper* was a young woman in 1920s that dressed and behaved in a way that was considered very modern. It means that she rebelled against conventional manner of ladylike behaviour and dress. [137]

## Plaza Hotel



The outside building of the Plaza Hotel in New York. [138]



The interior of the Plaza Hotel in New York. [139]

## Jazz music



The jazz was brought to the Northern parts of the USA by African-American migrants. [140]



## 12.1.5. Great migration

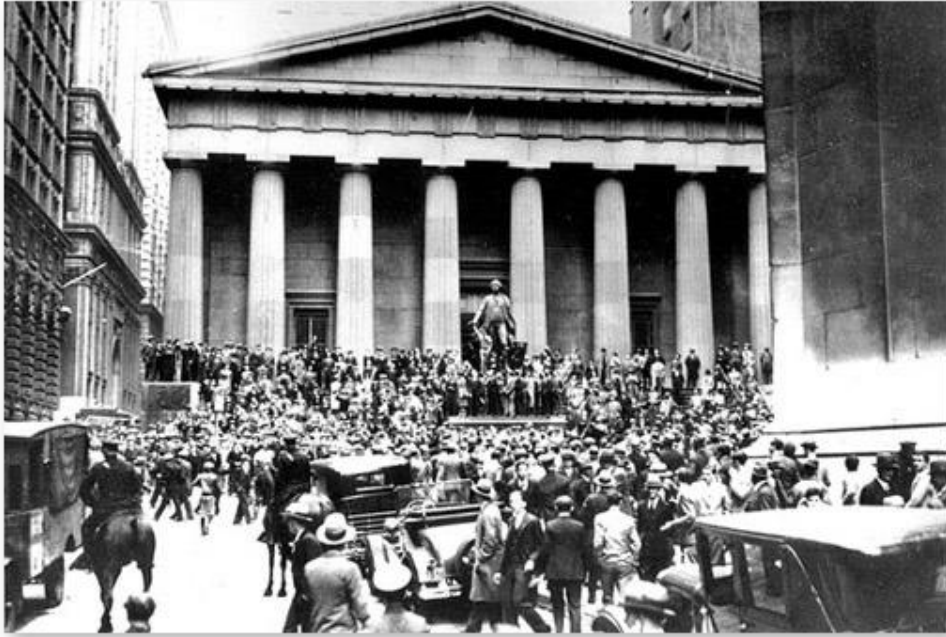
### Ku Klux Klan



An American movement which defends white dominance. [141]

*The Ku Klux Klan* was founded in 1866 by ex-soldiers of the Confederation and other Southerners who stood against Reconstruction after the Civil War. The Klan promoted fundamentalism and mainly advocated white supremacy. In the 1920s, *the KKK* moved in many states of the USA to rule their politics. In this era, *the KKK* reached its peak which meant the membership of more than 4 million people. The Klan took a burning cross as its symbol. [142]

### 12.1.6. Wall Street Stock Market



(See Chapter 3) [143]

### 12.1.7. Lost generation



(See Chapter 4) [144]

### 12.1.8. Francis Scott Fitzgerald



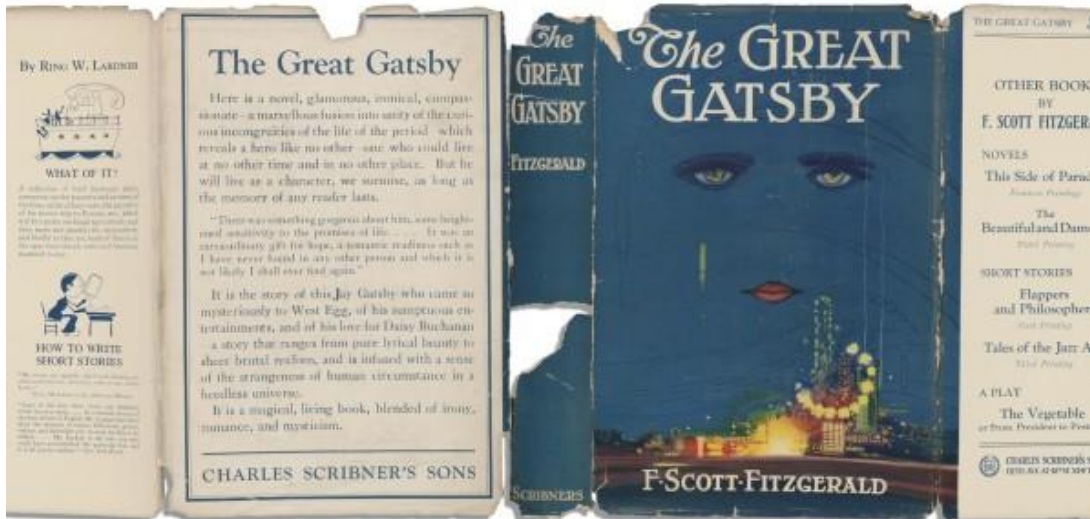
(See Chapter 4) [145]



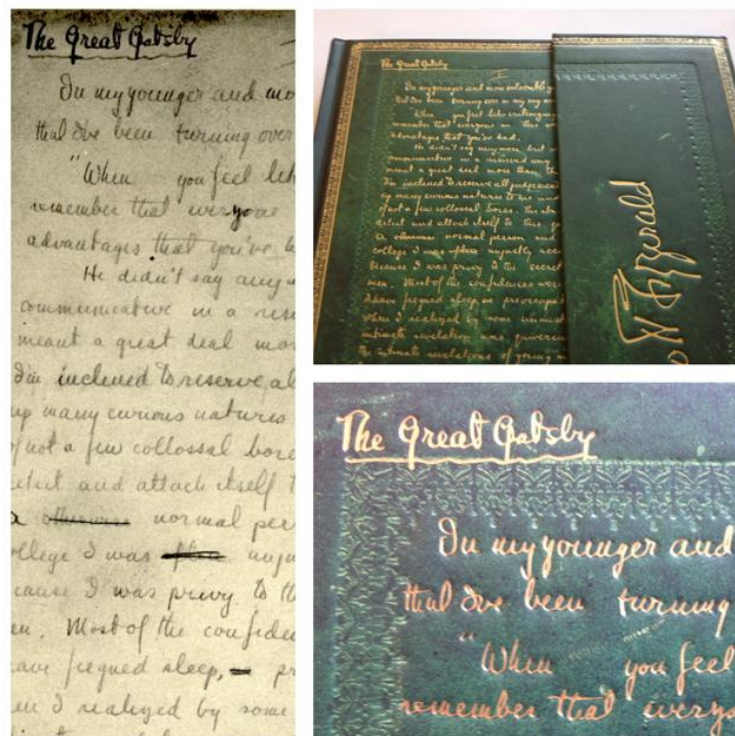
F.S. Fitzgerald with his wife Zelda and their daughter Scottie. [146]

## 12.2. Book covers

### 12.2.2. The Great Gatsby

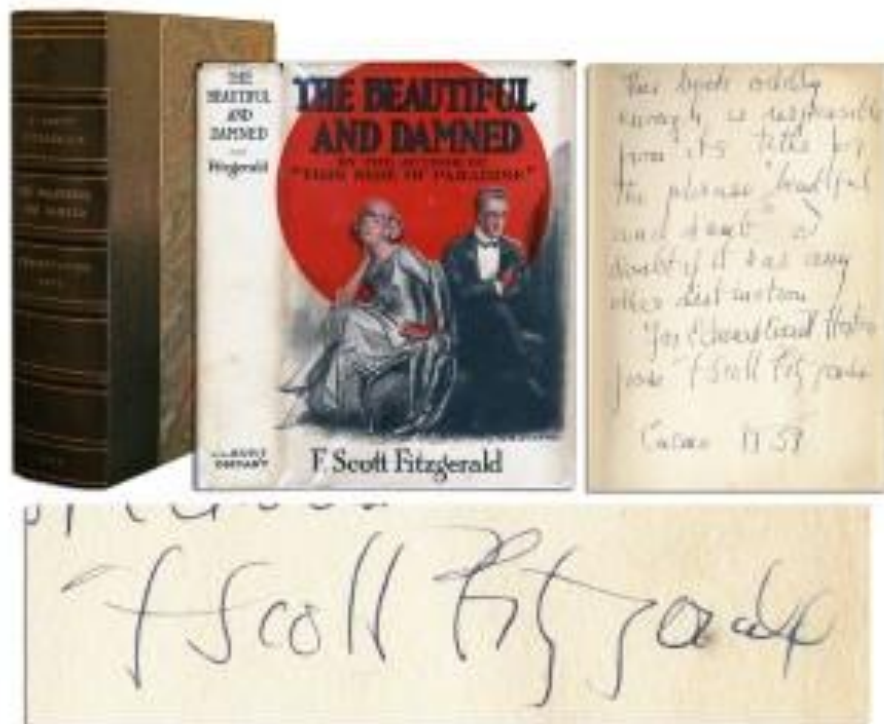


(See Chapter 5) [147]



Fitzgerald's manuscript [148]

### 12.2.3. The Beautiful and Damned



(See Chapter 6) [149]