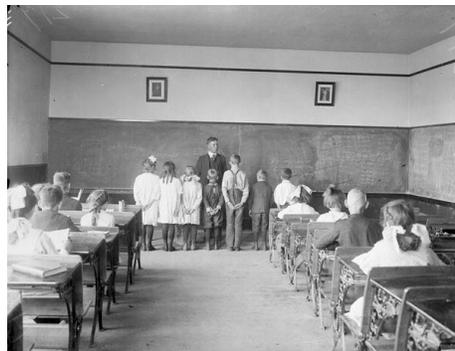


Meyer v Nebraska

In May 1920, Robert Meyer taught German to one of his students in Hampton, Nebraska. Unfortunately for him, this was illegal in the state. After being tried, convicted, and fined at the district court, the verdict was upheld by the Nebraska Supreme Court. So, Meyer appealed his case to the Supreme Court of the United States. And in 1923, *Meyer v Nebraska* overruled a 1919 Nebraska law that banned foreign language education for children who had not passed eighth grade. This law originated amidst the nativism and xenophobia that swept much of America in the aftermath of World War I. The Supreme Court found that the Nebraska law violated the due process clause of the 14th Amendment and that “mere knowledge of the German language cannot reasonably be regarded as harmful.” *Meyer v Nebraska* was a landmark court case and has served as an important precedent for several other Supreme Court cases, including *Griswold v Connecticut* and *Roe v Wade*.



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<http://cdn.loc.gov/service/ll/usrep/usrep262/usrep262390/usrep262390.pdf>

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Forging New Freedoms: Nativism, Education, and the Constitution by William Ross