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The Zoot Suit:

When you think of jazz what words come to your mind? Loud dynamics, with a big crescendo and the rhythm can be pulsatile or nonpulsatile where you can't even predict the next beat. Usually in jazz there's multiple instruments being played at once either in or out of  harmony. An overall word to describe Jazz is extravagant and since the music and dancing can be over the top so should the clothes. The zoot suit was introduced in the 1930's and the silhouette was an oversized blazer with the hemline stopping near your knees, oversized trousers with the bottom hemmed, big shoulder pads and for accessories it was occasionally worn with a fedora and attached to the pants was a watch that was held by a long chain. The suit was created in Harlem and was worn by African Americans such as Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie etc these suits were used to attend Harlem dance halls. The suits weren't only available to the celebrities of that time but it was available to the working class men where they would purposely buy a suit that's two times bigger than their size and have certain areas tailored to fit on their body.

From the suits becoming available to a large number of people African Americans were not the only one wearing the suit Mexican Americans and other minorities wore it as well. The whites related the zoot suit to Mexican gangsters in "Zoot Suit Riots" on History.com it states "Latino youths in California known as "pachucos"—often wearing flashy zoot suits, porkpie hats and dangling watch chains—were increasingly viewed by affluent whites as menacing street thugs, gang members and rebellious juvenile delinquents." During World War 2 rationing was

crucial so food, supplies, and clothing were distributed in small proportions. People who wore zoot suits were seen as unpatriotic because a zoot suit used too much fabric that could've went towards the war and with minorities wearing the suit gang violence increased causing the suit to be remembered as a "badge of delinquency." "Fresh in the memory of Los Angeles is last years surge of gang violence that made the 'zoot suit' a badge of delinquency. Public indignation seethed as warfare among organized bands of marauders, prowling the streets at night, brought a wave of assaults [and] finally murders." In result these zoots became not only associated with race but young people so choose to wear the suit.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/zoot-suit-riots>