

# FDR and the New Deal



The United States during the 1930s.

1

## The New Deal (1929-1939)



### OVERVIEW

- A. Concept Objectives
1. Students will develop an awareness of how the New Deal alleviated the Great Depression and transformed American society.
  2. Students will understand the importance of effective leadership in a democratic Society.

2

## Secondary Student Objectives

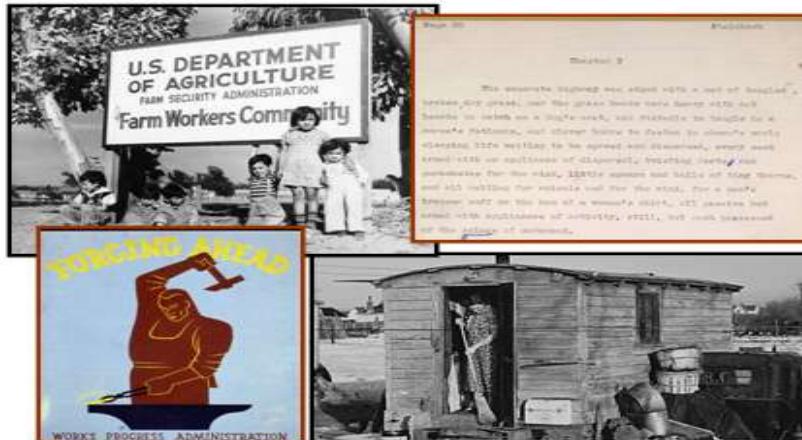
### STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- 1) Compare and contrast the efforts made by President Hoover and President Roosevelt to end the Great Depression.
- 2) State the main goals of President Roosevelt's New Deal administration with examples
- 3) Explain the effects of the first and second New Deal on labor, conservation, cultural life, women, and minorities.
- 4) Describe the significance and legacy of the New Deal for the United States.

3

### Great Depression and New Deal: 1920-1940

**Understanding Goal:**  
*Economic changes have social and political consequences.*



**Investigative Question:**

*How did the federal government adjust to meet the changing needs of society?*

**Explore:** What individual and societal needs are represented in these images? What evidence of government intervention can you find?

**Connect:** What kinds of help do people in today's society need? What government programs exist to help? Is it the government's responsibility to provide this help?

## The Background – early 1930s

During President Hoover's government the Depression was in full swing. Unemployment was at 13 million, industries were closed, farms repossessed and the Dust Bowl was disastrous, banks shut down and the stock market had major difficulties.

People couldn't find work anywhere so the government had to act.



People searched the newspapers for job adverts.

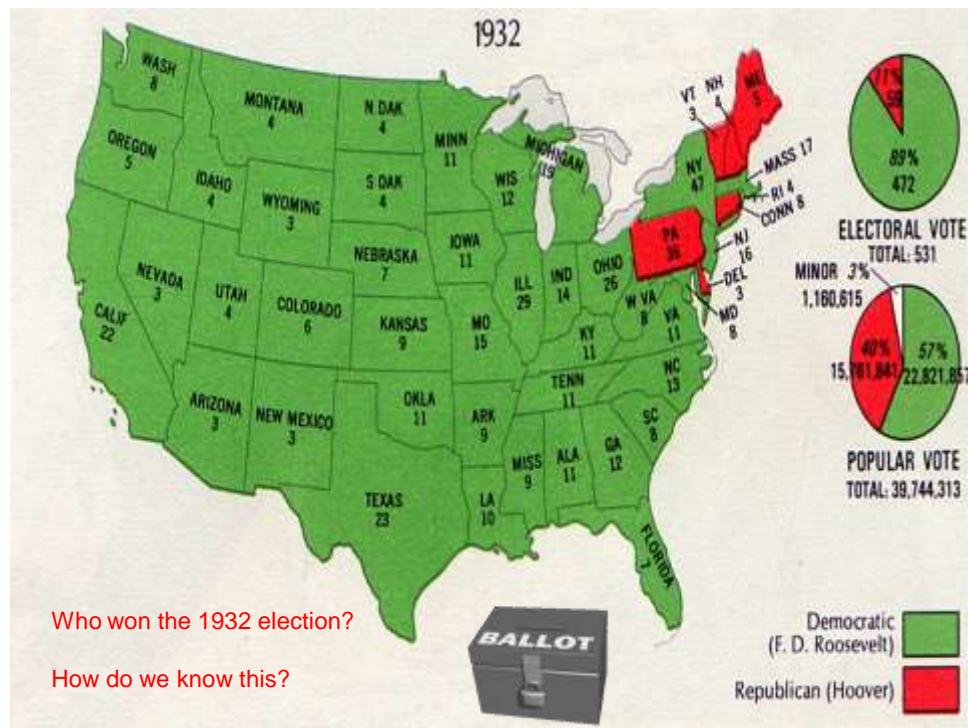
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## 1932 Election

- Herbert Hoover(R)
  - Decides to run for President again in 1932, despite his growing unpopularity since the Stock Market crash.
  - Hoover's "hands-off" approach to dealing with the Depression did not help the millions of unemployed and starving farmers.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt(D)
  - In his campaign, Roosevelt promised a new beginning and to take action!



6



## President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933 - 1945)



- He appealed to the public –
- OVERWHELMINGLY wins the presidency in 1933 – carried 42 states. Democrats win control of both houses.

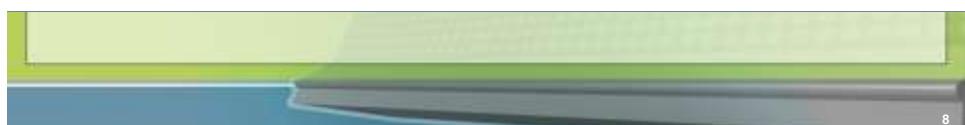
**Task:** How will the Democratic majority in Congress affect FDR's ability to get legislation passed?

*"First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance...The people of the United States have not failed...they want direct, vigorous action...They have made me the present instrument of their wishes."*

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address

### New Deal -

- More importantly, he offers a "new deal for the American people." His advisors, known as the "Brain Trust," drew up a three-part plan:



8

## Seminar Notes

All answers should be as specific as possible, and unless otherwise stated, given from the point of view from the author. Full credit will be awarded for direct use of the primary source.

USE DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE PRIMARY MATERIAL.

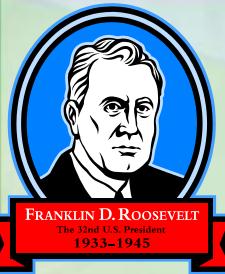
**8.1 FDR's Inaugural Address**      Franklin Delano Roosevelt

- A. Select 2 quotes from the reading and in a paragraph for each, explain why these quotes capture the essence of this document.
- B. In paragraph form answer the below questions.
1. What were the major problems the nation faced according to FDR?
  2. How are the two speeches different? (content, tone, approach)
  3. What does FDR believe the role of the Federal government should be?
  4. To what values and ideals does FDR appeal?

### ASSIGNMENT:

- **Read the biography on Franklin D. Roosevelt and complete the multiple choice quiz.**

## The Background



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
The 32nd U.S. President  
1933–1945

Roosevelt soon came to the conclusion that a massive change in the American way of life was needed to tackle the problems.

“The nation asks for action and action now.”

“Our greatest primary task is to put people to work.”

What was needed was a

**New Deal**

11

Read the following excerpt from FDR's first inaugural address. Answer the question that follows in a complete sentence.

“This is a day of national consecration. This is the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it had endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.”

Adapted from *Franklin D. Roosevelt: U.S. President*, Don Nardo

1. How would this speech encourage the people after having president Hoover in office?
2. Why did FDR make the statement, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”?

### FDR's Presidential Acceptance Speech

#### Directions:

**Read  
Roosevelt's  
inaugural  
address and  
complete  
the  
questions.**

12

## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

### PRE-TEST

Directions: Read the following statements and circle whether they are true or false.

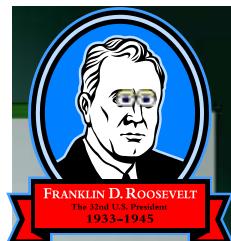
- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. The stock market crash marked the beginning of the Great Depression.                              | True      False |
| 2. Historians and economists agree on the main causes of the Great Depression.                       | True      False |
| 3. The United States was the only nation in the 1930s that had severe economic troubles.             | True      False |
| 4. President Hoover made many efforts to end the Great Depression.                                   | True      False |
| 5. Franklin D. Roosevelt inspired confidence in Americans with his proposal for the New Deal.        | True      False |
| 6. All U. S. citizens showed full support for the New Deal to end the Depression.                    | True      False |
| 7. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged President Roosevelt to develop a second New Deal.         | True      False |
| 8. The New Deal had no effect on labor and employment in the United States.                          | True      False |
| 9. The New Deal plan included efforts to conserve and protect natural resources.                     | True      False |
| 10. The Great Depression caused a complete halt in the active cultural life of the Roaring Twenties. | True      False |

## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

### PRESIDENTIAL TERMS

Directions: Complete the following chart with the administrative policies, programs, and outcomes of each presidential effort during the Depression. There may be more than one example in each section of the chart.

	President Hoover	President Roosevelt
Administrative Policies		
Programs Developed		
Outcome on the Great Depression		



Directions:

- Complete this graphic organizer.
- Refer to textbook pages or online for more info. Then, complete the following prompt: If you were president during the Depression would you make the same choices as FDR? Explain in 150 words.

## Political Cartoon Analysis



### • Question:

- What does this political cartoon suggest is coming in the near future? What symbols in the cartoon are used to reveal the artist's message?

– **Note:** Get used to examining cartoons now because you will be drawing your own very soon! **Yey!**

15

## FDR's Fireside Chats

FDR used fireside chats—weekly radio addresses—to encourage people, provide hope and discuss his important legislation



<rtsp://streaming.museum.tv/realmvideo/mpc/fdr.rm>  
Fireside Chats of Franklin D. Roosevelt



16

## FDR's New Deal

- The **first one hundred days** of Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term is considered to be historic because of the numerous laws passed during that period—which became known as the **New Deal**.
- The New Deal is divided into three groups: **relief, recovery, and reform**
  - **Relief** was immediate aid to the worst sufferers
  - **Recovery** was meant to get the economy going again
  - **Reform** programs were to be permanent



17

### AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

#### THE ABCs

Directions: Complete the following chart. Identify the acronym for each of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs. State whether the program was designed to provide **relief** for the needy, **recovery** for the economy, or **reform** of the financial system. Finally, explain the purpose of the program in your own words.

	Complete Name of Program	Relief, Recovery, or Reform	Explanation of the Program in your own words
FDIC			
AAA			
CCC			
PWA			
CWA			
NIRA			
TVA			
FHA			

## Alphabet Soup or the New Deal?

- **Complete this graphic organizer on the Alphabet Agencies!**



18

### **Blackline Master #8: The ABCs**

- FDIC - Federal Deposit Insurance Company
- AAA - Agricultural Adjustment Act
- CCC - Civilian Conservation Corps
- PWA - Public Works Administration
- CWA - Civil Works Administration
- TVA - Tennessee Valley Authority
- NIRA - National Industrial Recovery Act
- FHA - Federal Housing Administration

19

**Warm Up!—Choose an alphabet agency from your graphic organizer and draw your own representation of it on the board. Then, allow the students to guess ! 10 Min**




21



22



## Stock Market

•**Federal Securities Act (May 1933)**—Required private corporations that issues stock to register with the **Federal Trade Commission**.

- The Federal Trade Commission was later changed to be the **Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)**
- This act also gave the Federal Reserve Board the power to **regulate the purchase of stock**
- This act was not pleasing to businesses



New Deal

23



## FDR's Plan for Helping the Needy

### Federal Emergency Relief Act (F E R A)

Provided \$500 million to state governments to provide relief

Given as DOLE payments



Problems

Successes

New Deal

24



## Problems

Many states penalised by dollar matching arrangements

People treated abominably by states who believed people should help themselves

Variations in relief provided – Georgia didn't provide direct relief.



New Deal

25



## Successes

Unique – a move away from laissez faire

Helped prevent starvation

Won political support for the Democrats from the poor

Lowered unemployment from 13 million to 6 million by 1941.



New Deal

26

## Farming--First Agricultural Adjustment Act

Put up prices by creating artificial scarcity, ie killing livestock, ploughing up crops

This was considered by many to be unconstitutional and an extension of federal powers.

New Deal



27

## Farming--Second Agricultural Adjustment Act

Insurance Scheme introduced.

Parity price fixed for main crops

Black sharecroppers still suffered.



New Deal

28

## Industry

New Deal

The New Deal introduced major breaks with traditional practices in the workplace.

N.R.A.

Social Security Act

Wagner Act

Fair Labour Standards Act



29

New Deal

## Roosevelt's response to Unions: the N.R.A.

The National Recovery Administration (NRA) made:-

1. Industry less cut throat in its operation
2. Owners introduce a minimum wage
3. Rules on the maximum working hours

Employers reacted differently from their workers.

30

## Industry – N.R.A. Views

Owners such as Henry Ford opposed it by arguing:-

1. There would be an increase in monopolies
2. It was unconstitutional

The workers were pleased because:-

1. It gave them greater security and bargaining power
2. Elevated the position of the worker for the first time



31

## Industry – Fair Labor Standards Act

Set new standards so that:-

1. Set a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour
2. Set a maximum working week of 40 hours
3. Banned child labour



32

## Industry – Wagner and Social Security Acts

The Wagner Act stated that workers could join a trade union



The Social Security Act established a tax system that provided old age pensions for workers, benefits for accident victims, unemployment insurance, and aid for mothers of handicapped children. It created the Social Security Administration.



New Deal

33



## Alphabet Agencies

Roosevelt created a number of major agencies known by their initials.



P.W.A.

C.C.C.

T.V.A.

New Deal

Some opponents called them Alphabet Soup.

34

SELECTED NEW DEAL PROGRAMS		
YEAR	FIRST NEW DEAL PROGRAM	PROVISIONS
1933	Emergency Banking Act	Granted administration the right to regulate banks.
1933	Farm Credit Administration (FCA)	Refinanced farm mortgages at lower interest and for longer terms.
1933	Economy Act	Proposed to balance the budget through savings measures.
1933	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)	
1933	Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)	Provided relief to needy people.
1933	Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)	
1933	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)	
1933	Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC)	Loaned money to home owners to refinance mortgages.
1933	Emergency Banking Act of 1933	Created FDIC and authorized branch banking.
1933	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)	
1933	National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)	Established NRA; later declared unconstitutional.
1933	National Recovery Administration (NRA)	
1933	Public Works Administration (PWA)	Constructed roads, public buildings, and other projects designed to increase employment and business activity.
1933	Civil Works Administration (CWA)	Employed jobless persons to work on federal, state, and local projects.
1934	Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	
1934	Federal Housing Administration (FHA)	Insured bank loans for building and repairing homes.
YEAR	SECOND NEW DEAL PROGRAM	PROVISIONS
1935	Works Progress Administration (WPA)	Employed people to do artistic, public-works, and research projects.
1935	Soil Conservation Service (SCS)	Promoted control and prevention of soil erosion.
1935	Rural Electrification Administration (REA)	Provided electricity to rural areas lacking public utilities.
1935	National Youth Administration (NYA)	Provided job training and work for people ages 16-25; provided part-time jobs for needy students.
1935	National Labor Relations Act (Wagner-Connelly Act)	Recognized right of labor to organize and bargain collectively; regulated labor practices.
1935	Social Security Act	
1935	Revenue Act of 1935 (Wealth Tax Act)	Increased taxes on the wealthy.
1935	Farm Security Administration (FSA)	Provided loans to help tenant farmers buy land.
1936	Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (AAA)	
1936	Revenue Act of 1936	Reduced taxes on large corporations and increased taxes on smaller businesses.
1938	Fair Labor Standards Act (Wages and Hours Law)	Established minimum wage of 40 cents per hour and maximum workweek of 40 hours for businesses in interstate commerce.

# Introduction to Political Cartoon Assignment: New Deal Agencies

## New Deal Cartoons

Now that we have examined several political cartoons of FDR and the New Deal, it's your turn to be a political cartoonist. You know the components of a political cartoon, and have several you can refer to. Your job is to choose a New Deal agency and to research any **controversy** surrounding it. Use your textbook, New Deal worksheet, and any of the websites listed below to help you. **Your cartoon should reflect what the agency did AND demonstrate the complexity of the issue.**

First, make notes that answer these questions:

- ✓ What agency will my cartoon be about?
- ✓ What controversies surround the creation of this agency?
- ✓ Who are the real people involved in this issue?
- ✓ What groups of people do I need to symbolize? What labels will I need to use?
- ✓ On which side of the issue am I on?
- ✓ What should the caption say so that people understand the message?

The cartoon should be **original** and **hand-drawn**. Use **pencil first**, and then go over with **black pen or marker**. Staple this sheet to the back.

### GRADING:

New Deal Agency is clearly understood by artist  
 Controversy surrounding the agency is accurately depicted  
 The meaning/position of the cartoon is easily discernable  
 (Labels for symbols, people, events are clear; good captions)  
 Cartoon is clearly drawn, reflects thought and creativity

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5



## Websites

While these sites do not include every New Deal agency, they reflect many that were controversial. You are welcome to do the cartoon on any New Deal Agency.

1. <http://www.bergen.org/AAST/Projects/depression/successes.html> -- a good place to start--look over the agencies and see what you are interested in/what controversies were present.
2. [http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/new\\_deal\\_opposition.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/new_deal_opposition.htm)— general information about opposition to FDR/New Deal—you might gain inspiration here.

### 3. Works Progress Administration (WPA):

<http://www.library.gatech.edu/archives/nchs/history.htm>

Has descriptions of the Federal Theatre project, Federal Writers, and Federal Music project—all had serious controversy surrounding them.

[http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/money\\_17.html](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/money_17.html)

4. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA): <http://newdeal.feri.org/tva/> (do not plagiarize any ideas for cartoons from this site)

### 5. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC):

[http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/money\\_15.html](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/money_15.html)

### 6. Social Security Administration (SSA):

[http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/money\\_18.html](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/money_18.html)

7. Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) (make sure you read the whole page)  
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAagriculture.htm>

[http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/water\\_11.html](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginth30s/water_11.html)

### 8. National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)

[http://www.usnews.com/usnews/documents/docpages/document\\_pages6.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/documents/docpages/document_pages6.htm)

The Farmer: "Sure, I'll Try Anything Once!"



USLife-Major Features of the New Deal

Problems Relieved by New Deal relief programs to help the nation recover from the Depression



New Deal Ingredients

## **Warm Up—5 Minutes:**

- Using tape or stapler, hang up your New Deal political cartoons around the classroom!**

39



## **Tennessee Valley Authority T.V.A.**

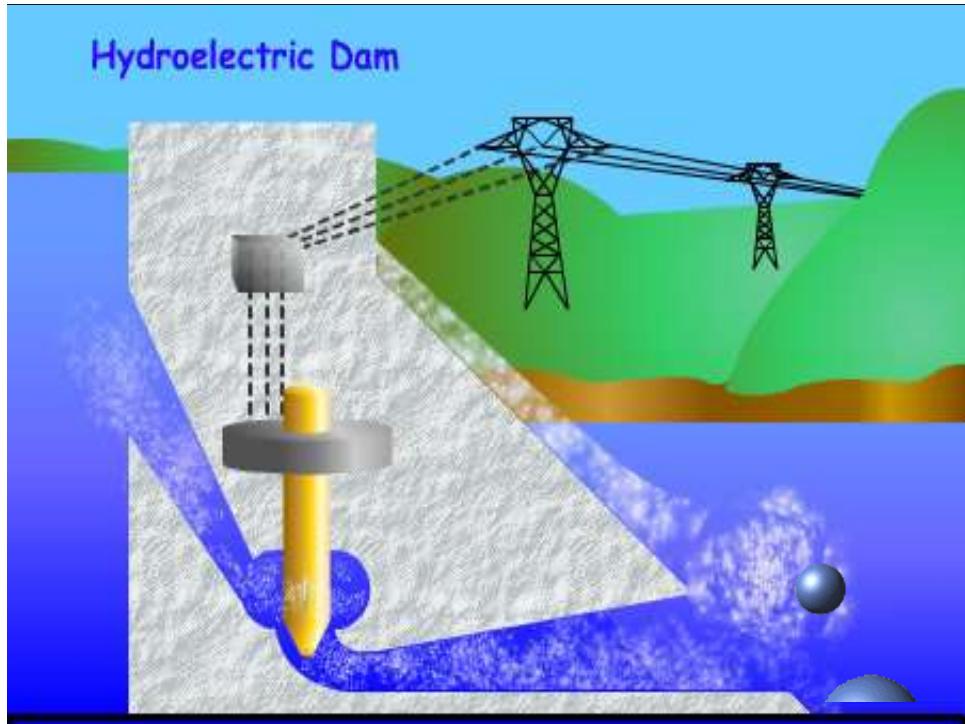
The river Tennessee was transformed by

1. Overturning years of deforestation and soil erosion by replanting and soil conservation.
2. The building of a series of dams and canals.
3. Flood prevention.
4. Hydro electric power for homes and business.



*New Deal*

40



## Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.)

The first New Deal project introduced in March 1933.

1. Created work for 2.5 million unemployed workers
2. Led to tree planting and soil conservation
3. Bridges, dams, nature trails and picnic areas were built
4. Blacks were segregated and women excluded



New Deal



## Public Works Administration P.W.A.

Laws passed in Congress.

1. It was slow to get underway.
2. Capital intensive rather than labor intensive – money to T.V.A. and other organisations.
3. Built hospitals and roads and was involved in slum clearance.



P.W.A Project - Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam on the Columbia River, Oregon, 1936



New Deal

## Vocabulary Review

**Hooverville**

shanty towns built by homeless people during the Great Depression.

**Black Tuesday**

October 29, 1929 when the Wall Street stock market collapsed.

**Dust Bowl**

The years of drought which turned the soil of Mid West farms to dust.

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### **Study Aid: Alphabet Agencies Vocabulary Sheet**

- **FDIC**  
Inspect banks and insure depositor's accounts.  
  
Roosevelt now said it was safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress.

**AAA**

A law that paid farmers to grow less by farming fewer acres created it. This would increase farm prices.

**FCA**

Provided low cost farm loans.

**HOLC**

Provided homeowners with low cost loans.

**NRA**

Helped businesses earn reasonable profits while workers earned decent wages.

The agency encouraged businesses to draw up rules of fair competition. These rules set prices, production quotas wages, and working conditions.

- **PWA**

Provided funds for construction projects such as roads, dams, bridges, and warships. It helped businesses put people to work so that they had money to spend.

- **CCC**

Employed thousands of young men in camps across the country improving public lands by planting trees, clearing trails, and fighting forest fires.

**TVA**

It improved the economy of the deep south by building dams and improving existing new so that electricity could be brought to the region. It provided flood control and a reliable supply of water for irrigation, drinking and recreation.

- **NYA**

Provided jobs for young people.

**WPA**

Millions were put to work in construction projects such as schools, libraries, hospitals, roads, sewer systems, and airports. Musicians were hired to give lessons, writers and artists and actors were hired.

**NLRB**

Set up by the Wagner Act, this agency strengthened the power of labor unions by outlawing unfair labor practices. Employers had to bargain with unions or keep workers from joining unions. The board watched over business to ensure collective bargaining.

**SSA**

It set up a form of insurance where employers and workers would pay the tax to cover unemployment benefits, old age pensions, programs for the blind, and for children of workers who had died. Domestic and farm workers had been left out of the bill that created the agency.

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## The Second New Deal Takes Hold



- **The Second New Deal**—the legislation that FDR and Congress passed between 1935 and 1938—was different from the First New Deal.
- Relied more heavily on deficit spending.
- FDR altered his policy making because of complaints from critics and because, by 1935, it was clear that more Americans still needed federal relief assistance.
- **Roosevelt aimed half the Second New Deal programs and policies at long-term reform.**

47

## New Deal vs 2<sup>nd</sup> New Deal

- Restore nation's hope
- Help banks and stock market
- Provide jobs and relief for poor
- Plan and regulate the economy
- Pass new labor laws
- Create and expand New Deal agencies
- Establishes **Social Security** for older people and unemployed

48

## 1936 Election

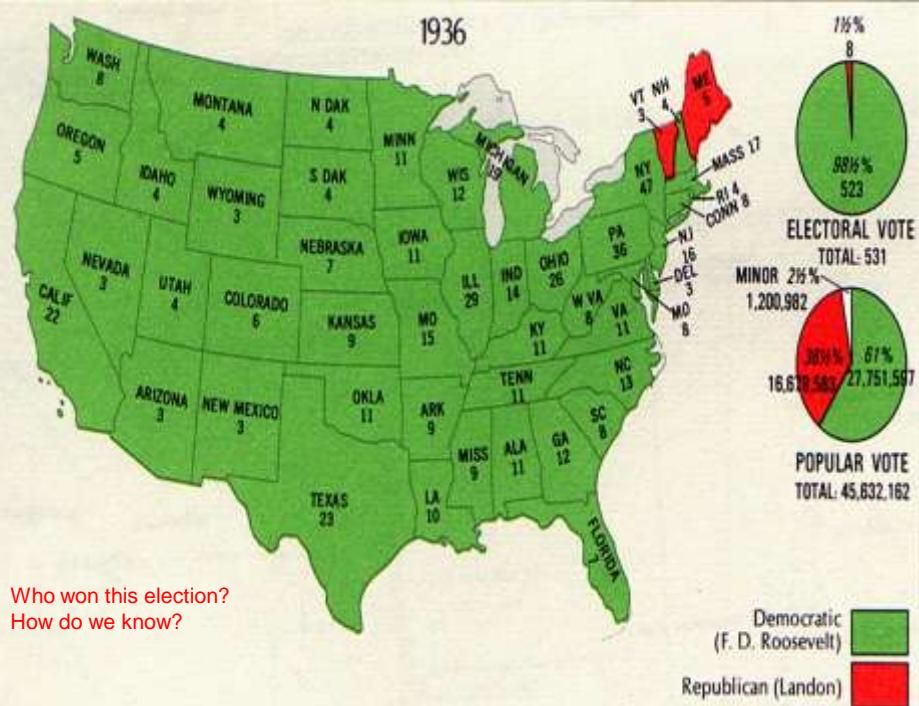
- FDR(D)-Incumbent



- Al Landon(R)



49



## Political Cartoon Analysis

Questions:

- Was everyone happy about the New Deal Programs? Why or why not?



"Ring around a Roosevelt, pockets full of dough": a 1938 cartoon.

51

## Criticisms of Roosevelt and the New Deal:

- A. What were some of the reasons the New Deal was challenged?
  - 1. Created a very powerful president that led Congress, this was a violation of checks and balances.
  - 2. It was a radical departure from Laissez Faire ideals. Created "big government".
  - 3. Some acts appeared interfering and at worst unconstitutional. Ex. "Court Packing" incident
  - 4. Heavy debt burden - the United States was engaged in deficit spending and this was unhealthy for the economy in the long run.

52

## The Court Packing Plan

Task: How many justices are there on the Supreme Court?

- The A.A.A. and the N.R.A. are declared unconstitutional. (Schecter Poultry v. U.S.)

Task: What power did the Supreme Court use?

- Roosevelt feared the entire New Deal would be threatened by the Supreme Court.
- He proposed to "pack the court" by adding a new Supreme Court Justice for every one over the age of 70.
- This would have given Roosevelt's appointees control.



53

## Court Packing Bill



FDR was accused of court packing

- The Constitution does not say how many justices the Supreme Court must have
- FDR proposed that he have the ability to appoint one new justice for every one who turned seventy years old and did not retire.
- He said that there would never be more than **fifteen** justices.
- People became outraged and accused FDR of court packing —appointed justices who would support Roosevelt.
- Roosevelt fought hard for it, but eventually came to accept that it would not pass.

<http://www.hpol.org/fdr/chat/chat.ram>

54

**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT  
AND THE "COURT PACKING" CONTROVERSY OF 1937**

*A Documentary Source Problem*

In the Presidential election of 1936, President Roosevelt was swept back into office by a landslide. Such a victory showed public approval of Roosevelt's first four years in office. The Democratic candidates for Congress had done almost as well as the President, and they now controlled both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It seemed that the Democratic-controlled Congress would enact FDR's ideas for new laws. Yet, by the end of July, 1937, he met the worst political defeat of his years as President.

During Roosevelt's first term the main obstacle to his ideas for social reform had been the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court was divided over Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. Four of the nine justices were conservative, believing in a narrow interpretation of the Constitution. This is the idea that the government may not make laws beyond the original intent of the framers of the Constitution, no matter how much time may have passed. Three of the justices were liberals who supported the New Deal. They believed in a looser, broader interpretation of the Constitution, allowing the President and Congress to make laws beyond those mentioned originally by the framers of the Constitution in 1787. In the middle were two justices who had usually voted with the three liberals, and the New Deal had been safe from judicial interference. But in 1935 the two started to side with the four conservative justices. First, they declared unconstitutional the National Industrial Recovery Act, the cornerstone of FDR's efforts, and the Depression. Then the Court invalidated other New Deal measures, and in 1936 struck down the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the New York Women's Minimum Wages Law. To Franklin Delano Roosevelt and many other liberals, this narrow interpretation of the Constitution used by the Supreme Court was based more on the outdated economic and social philosophy of the conservative justices than on good law. In FDR's opinion, something had to be done.

Roosevelt presented his solution to Congress on February 5, 1937: a bill to reorganize the judicial branch. It said that for every justice over 70 years old who did not retire, the President could enlarge the Court by appointing another justice, to a total of fifteen justices. Since the conservative justices were all over 70, the bill would put Roosevelt in a position to appoint six new liberal justices unless the conservatives resigned. Much to Roosevelt's surprise, there was loud and immediate opposition to his bill, even from members of his own Democratic Party.

Your job is to examine the motivations and maneuvers of the advocates and opponents of the bill. Use your own judgment with the following documents to create your history of the Court Bill and the issue of presidential power that it raised. Make your finished draft (of 2-3 double-spaced typewritten pages) as polished as you possibly can, as if you are writing for publication. Answer these questions to help you:

1. What kind of man was Roosevelt? How did the landslide of 1936 affect his outlook?
2. What appealed to him about the Court bill? What was his opinion of himself and his position?
3. Why didn't the Democratic Senators go along with Roosevelt, the head of their Party? Did Roosevelt make a mistake in not consulting them in advance?
4. What were Roosevelt's advisors like? Were they worried about the constitutionality of the bill?
5. Was the bill really very radical? What justification did FDR and his advisors give for the bill?
6. Finally, who won?

## Senator Huey Long: Opponent of FDR



• [http://www.authentichistory.com/audio/1930s/history/19341211\\_Huey\\_Long-Share\\_The\\_Wealth.mp3](http://www.authentichistory.com/audio/1930s/history/19341211_Huey_Long-Share_The_Wealth.mp3)

## Senator Huey Long

- Huey Long was Louisiana senator a “determined enemy” of Wall Street and the Roosevelt administration.
  - Long wanted the government to confiscate the wealth of the nation’s rich and privileged.
  - Criticized New Deal for not doing enough to help American people
  - President Roosevelt considered Long to be “one of the most dangerous men in America.”
  - Long was assassinated before he could seriously challenge Roosevelt’s presidency



57

### HUEY LONG, "SHARE OUR WEALTH" PLAN (1934)

#### Questions:

- 1) What are the central elements of the Share Our Wealth plan?
- 2) To whom would Long's ideas appeal? Why?
- 3) Who would oppose Long's agenda? Why?
- 4) Would the Share Our Plan have ended the Depression? Explain your answer.

*Following his stirring inaugural address, Franklin Roosevelt sent Congress dozens of measures designed to spark economic recovery, to aid the unemployed and poor, and to reform financial institutions blamed for the crisis. The cornerstones of the initial stage of the New Deal were the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the National Industrial Recovery Act. At first, Roosevelt's programs had overwhelming public support. However, when the depression continued, some Americans began to listen to critics who attacked the New Deal from both the political right and left.*

*Huey Long (1893-1935) was one of FDR's most ardent opponents. Triumphing over poverty and limited educational opportunities, Long passed the Louisiana bar exam in 1913. After joining the state railroad commission, his criticism of large oil companies and unfair regulation of public utilities made him popular. His unconventional humor and oratorical skills helped him win the governorship in 1928. Long's ambitious public works programs and educational reforms transformed Louisiana. Although poor whites adored Long, his imposition of increased taxes drew the wrath of the wealthy. After winning election to the U.S. Senate, Long tried to keep control of Louisiana politics through dictatorial measures. Capitalizing on deep popular resentment of the rich, he publicized his "Share the Wealth" plan, an impractical scheme aimed at redistributing large fortunes to ensure a guaranteed income for all. Before he was assassinated in 1935, Long claimed that seven million people had joined Share Our Wealth clubs.*

THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD  
February 5, 1934

People of America: In every community get together at once and organize a share-our-wealth society — Model: Every man a king.

#### PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM:

1. To limit poverty by providing that every deserving family shall share in the wealth of America for not less than one third of the average wealth, thereby to possess not less than \$5,000 free of debt.
2. To limit fortunes to such a few million dollars as will allow the balance of the American people to share in the wealth and profits of the land.
3. Old-age pensions of \$50 per month to persons over 60 years of age who do not earn as much as \$1,000 per year or who possess less than \$10,000 in cash or property, thereby to remove from the field of labor in time of unemployment those who have contributed their share to the public service.
4. To limit the hours of work to such an extent as to prevent overproduction and to give the workers of America some share in the recreations, conveniences, and luxuries of life.
5. To balance agricultural production with what can be sold and consumed according to the laws of God, which have never failed.
6. To care for the veterans of our wars.
7. Taxation so run the Government to be supported, first, by reducing big fortunes from the top, thereby to improve the country and provide employment in public works whenever agricultural surplus is such as to render unnecessary, in whole or in part, any particular crop.

#### SIMPLE AND CONCRETE-NOT AN EXPERIMENT

To share our wealth by providing for every deserving family to have one third of the average wealth would mean that, at the worst, such a family could have a fairly comfortable home, an automobile, and a radio, with other reasonable home conveniences, and a place to educate their children. Through sharing the work, that is, by limiting the hours of toil so that all would share in what is made and produced in the land, every family would have enough coming in every year to feed, clothe, and provide a fair share of the luxuries of life to its members. Such is the result to a family, at the worst.

From the worst to the best there would be no limit to opportunity. One might become a millionaire or more. There would be a chance for talent to make a man big, because enough would be floating in the land to give brains its chance to be used. As it is, no matter how smart a man may be, everything is tied up in so few hands that no amount of energy or talent has a chance to gain any of it.

Would it break up big concerns? No. It would simply mean that, instead of one man getting all the one concern made, that there might be 1,000 or 10,000 persons sharing in such excess fortune, anyone of whom, or all of whom, might be millionaires and over. I ask somebody in every city, town, village, and farm community of America to take this as my personal request to call a meeting of as many neighbors and friends as will come to it to start a share-our-wealth society. Elect a president and a secretary and charge no dues. The meeting can be held at a courthouse, in some town hall or public building, or in the home of someone.

It does not matter how many will come to the first meeting. Get a society organized, if it has only two members. Then let us get to work quick, quick, quick to put an end by law to people starving and going naked in this land of too much to eat and too much to wear. . . .

We have waited long enough for these financial masters to do these things. They have promised and promised. Now we find our country \$10 billion further in debt on account of the depression, and big lenders even propose to get 90 percent of that out of the hides of the common people in the form of a sales tax.

There is nothing wrong with the United States. We have more food than we can eat. We have more clothes and things out of which to make clothes than we can wear. We have more houses and lands than the whole 120 million can use if they all had good homes. So what is the trouble? Nothing except that a handful of men have everything and the balance of the people have nothing if their debts were paid. There should be every man a king in this land flowing with milk and honey instead of the lords of finance at the top and slaves and peasants at the bottom....

## Father Charles Coughlin

- **Father Charles Coughlin - Catholic priest in Michigan and outspoken New Deal critic; blamed Crash of 1929 on wealthy financiers and Jews; wanted federal government to take over entire banking system**





## **Francis Townshend — Pressured Congress to pass legislation for the elderly>Social Security**



61

## **Success or Failure? Page 673**

1. Reduced unemployment by 7 million
2. Soil conservation schemes.
3. The Stock Market and banks recovered.
4. Transformed the Tennessee valley.
5. Roosevelt was re-elected.

1. Still 6 million out of work in 1941.
2. The numbers fell due to enlistment and rearment in WW2.
3. Black people were segregated from white.
4. Women were excluded from the New Deal.
5. Tennessee benefited but many areas were still suffering.

62

*Lesson Eight: Handout #1*  
**Ballad of Roosevelt, 1934**

By Langston Hughes

*Langston Hughes was a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance. In "Ballad of Roosevelt," Hughes criticized the unfulfilled promises that FDR had made to the poor.*

The pot was empty,  
The cupboard was bare.  
I said, Papa,  
What's the matter here?  
I'm waitin' on Roosevelt, son,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
Waitin' on Roosevelt, son.  
  
The rent was due,  
And the lights was out.  
I said, Tell me, Mama,  
What's it all about?  
We're waitin' on Roosevelt, son,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
Just waitin' on Roosevelt.  
  
Sister got sick  
And the doctor wouldn't come  
Cause we couldn't pay him  
The proper sum--  
A-waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
A-waitin' on Roosevelt.  
  
Then one day  
They put us out o' the house.  
Ma and Pa was  
Meek as a mouse  
Still waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt. But when they  
felt those  
  
Cold winds blow  
And didn't have no  
Place to go  
Pa said, "I'm tired  
O' waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt.  
Darn tired o'  
waitin' on Roosevelt.  
  
I can't git a job  
And I can't git no grub  
Backbone and navel's  
Doin' the belly-rub--  
A-waitin' on Roosevelt,  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt.  
  
And a lot o' other folks  
What's hungry and cold  
Done stopped believin'  
What they been told  
By Roosevelt--  
Roosevelt, Roosevelt--  
  
Cause the pot's still empty,  
And the cupboard's still bare  
And you can't build a bungalow  
Out o' air--  
Mr. Roosevelt, listen!  
What's the matter here?



## The critic poet?

### Directions:

- Read the Poem and answer the questions

63

*Questions:*

1. What phrases repeat in this poem and why? Explain their significance.
2. What does the narrator of the poem think about Roosevelt's promises his community?
3. What is the main message that Hughes is conveying in his poem?

*Lesson Eight: Handout #2*

**Gonna Miss President Roosevelt:  
The Blues for FDR, 1945**

By Langston Hughes

Well you know that President Roosevelt he was awful fine,  
He helped the crippled boys and he almost healed the blind,  
Oh yes, gonna miss President Roosevelt.



Well he's gone, he's gone, but his spirit always'll on  
He traveled out East, he traveled to the West,  
But of all the Presidents, President Roosevelt was the best,  
Oh yes, gonna miss

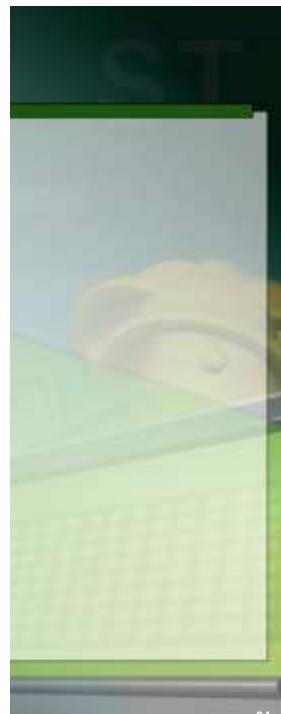
Well now he traveled by land and he traveled by sea,  
He helped the United States boys, and he also helped Chinese,  
Oh yes, gonna miss

President Roosevelt went to Georgia boy, and he ride around and round,  
I guess he imagined he seen that Pale Horse when they was trailin' him down.  
Oh yes, gonna miss

Well now the rooster told the hen "I want to crow,  
You know President Roosevelt has gone, can't live in this shack no more,"  
Oh yes, we're gonna miss President Roosevelt,  
Well he's gone, he's gone, but his spirit always'll live on.

*Questions:*

1. This poem was written over ten years after the first one. How did the poet's attitude changed toward Roosevelt?
2. What accomplishment does Hughes attribute to Roosevelt?
3. FDR's record on civil rights is controversial. He needed the support of Southern Democrats for his New Deal, and taking an active position on civil rights could have threatened his ability to pass programs. If Langston Hughes had the chance to speak with FDR privately, what might he have said to him?

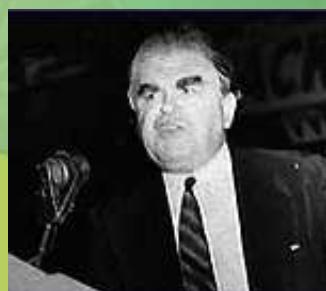


64

# THE NEW DEAL'S IMPACT ON AMERICAN SOCIETY

65

## Organized Labor and the New Deal



## Organized Labor

- In the 30s, labor relations became a legitimate arena for federal action and intervention:
  - Precedents: Progressive Era & WWI
    - Specific Examples?
- Union successes:
  - Recognition
  - Higher wages
  - seniority systems
  - Grievance procedures

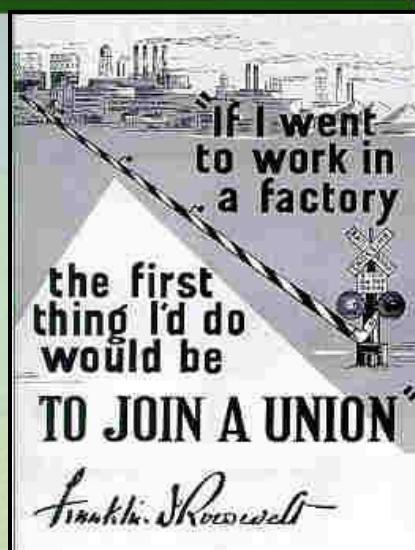


## Growth during New Deal Era

### Why?

1. Inadequacy of **welfare capitalism** during Depression (welfare capitalism is the idea that businesses should provide services to employees --higher wages, health care, housing, pensions -- pioneered by Ford & G. Pullman)
2. NIRA & Wagner Act
3. Rise of CIO
4. Growing militancy of average worker

By end of 30s, unionized workers tripled to almost 9 million! (25% of non-farm workforce)



## The CIO: Congress of Industrial Organizations



- Promoted “**industrial unionism**”: all workers in a single industry
  - At odds with AFL craft-by-craft approach
- Attracted lots of **NEW** groups:
  - Mex-Amer & blacks b/c CIO committed to racial justice
  - Women found a *limited* welcome
  - BUT: none of these groups held leadership positions
    - UAW told women strikers to “go back home” after the strike ended

## Background: Unions and the Fight For Worker's rights!

- John L. Lewis was a spokesman of the working people for almost forty years.
  - Revitalized the U.S. labor movement in the 1930s
  - Formed the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)
    - pressured the AFL to change its policies.
    - CIO desired organization of industrial workers
    - CIO had initial success with unions like the General Motors Corporation and U.S. Steel
- Other unions started up in hopes of overcoming the CIO



**Upon the CIO's creation John L. Lewis said,**

**"The millions of workers in our mass production industries have a right to membership in effective labor organizations and to the enjoyment of industrial freedom. They are entitled to a place in the American economic sunlight.**

**"If the labor movement and American democracy are to endure, these workers should have the opportunity to support their families under conditions of health, decency, and comfort, to own their own home, to educate their children, and possess sufficient leisure to take part in wholesome social and political activities."**



## CIO Tactics

- **Sit-down strikes**
  - Alienated the middle class who saw this as an attack on private property
  - Banned by Supreme Court in 1939
- **Biggest strike at Flint, MI against General Motors in attempt to form UAW (United Auto Workers)**

## Other Union Activities

- Philip Randolph was the president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP)
- BSCP were members of the AFL, but Randolph took his union to the CIO because of racial discrimination in the AFL



73

## The Memorial Day Massacre

- The Memorial Day Massacre--
- In 1937, several small steelmakers refused to follow U.S. Steel by signing a union contract.
- A **strike** was called by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) (a union within the CIO)
- Hundreds of SWOC supporters gathered at Chicago's Sam's Place on Memorial Day, 1937.
- The crowd then marched toward Republic Steel mill and was stopped by Chicago police. Some police pursued people as they fled, shooting them in the back.



74

## Song Lyrics about Unions and the New Deal

- "I'd Rather Not Be on Relief"  
By Lester Hunter, Shafter, 1938  
(Note: The CIO is a labor union. The WPA is the Works Progress Administration, a United States government agency created in 1935 to provide paying jobs for unemployed workers.)

We go around all dressed in rags  
While the rest of the world goes neat,  
And we have to be satisfied  
With half enough to eat.  
We have to live in lean-tos,  
Or else we live in a tent,  
For when we buy our bread and beans  
There's nothing left for rent.

I'd rather not be on the rolls of relief,  
Or work on the W.P.A..  
We'd rather work for the farmer  
If the farmer could raise the pay;  
Then the farmer could plant more cotton  
And he'd get more money for spuds,  
Instead of wearing patches,  
We'd dress up in new duds.
- From the east and west and north and south  
Like a swarm of bees we come;  
The migratory workers  
Are worse off than a bum.  
We go to Mr. Farmer  
And ask him what he'll pay;  
He says, "You gypsy workers  
Can live on a buck a day."

We don't ask for luxuries  
Or even a feather bed.  
But we're bound to raise the dickens  
While our families are underfed.  
Now the winter is on us  
And the cotton picking is done,  
What are we going to live on  
While we're waiting for spuds to come?

Now if you will excuse me  
I'll bring my song to an end.  
I've got to go and chuck a crack  
Where the howling wind comes in.  
The times are going to better  
And I guess you'd like to know  
I'll tell you all about it, I've joined the C. I. O.
- **Questions:** What is the purpose of this song? How do you know?

75

## Limits of Labor Movement

- Organized labor *wasn't* a priority for FDR
- Many workers still indifferent or hostile to unions
- Unions didn't ultimately redistribute power in American industry
- Social programs of New Deal diffused radical spirit

# African-Americans and the New Deal

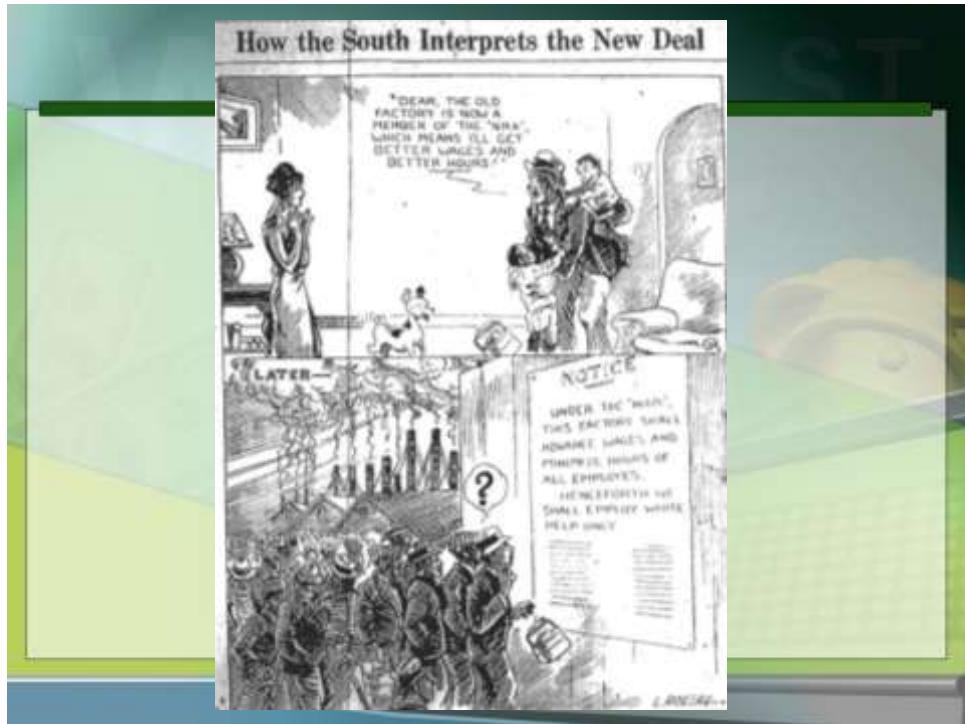


## African-Americans

- Just as ND didn't seriously challenge gender inequalities, it didn't battle racial discrimination either.
- In the 1930s, civil rights not considered a legitimate area for gov't action.
- Programs often reflected prevailing racist attitudes
  - CCC segregated
  - NRA codes didn't protect black workers
  - FDR refused to support federal lynching law

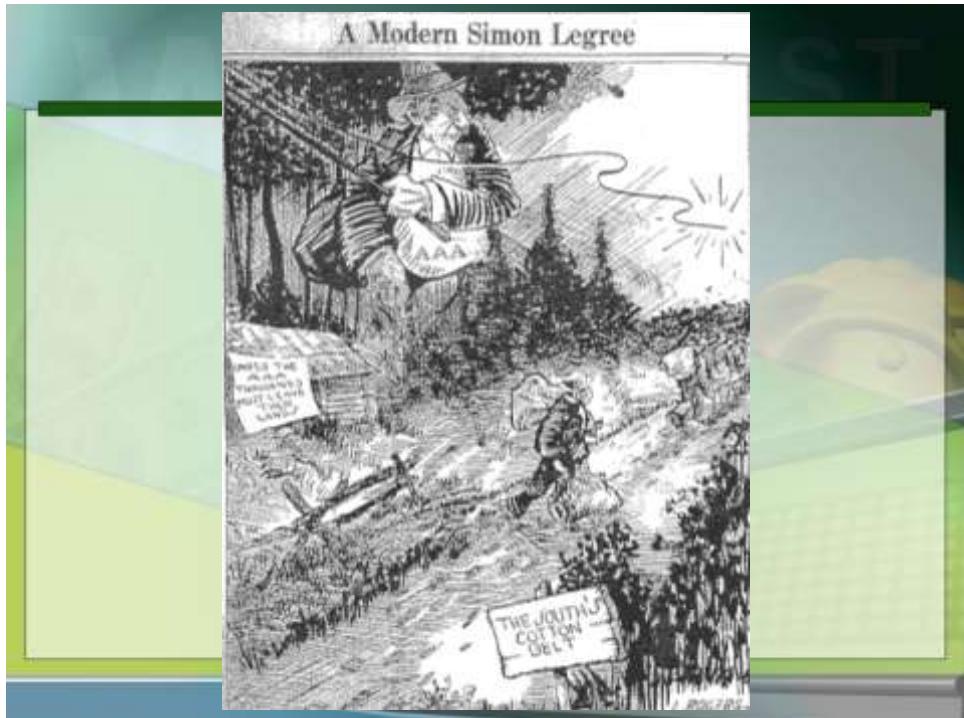


Segregated CCC unit repairing a tractor. The CCC held that "segregation is not discrimination"



A sharecroppers yard & evicted sharecroppers in MO. The marginal and oppressive economy of sharecropping largely collapsed during the Great Depression. Tenant farmers & sharecroppers were evicted when Southern farm owners used cutbacks in production as an opportunity to discriminate against African-Americans. In 1932, unemployment among African-Americans was about 50%,





## African-Americans

BUT, there were some benefits

- **Resettlement Administration** to aid in resettlement of sharecroppers and tenant farmers onto more productive land
- Most of all relief programs directed to helping poor—regardless of race and ethnicity. For example, 18% of **WPA** beneficiaries were African-Americans
- Appointed to federal office
- Led by Mary McLeod Bethune, the “**Black Cabinet**” worked for fairer treatment of blacks in agencies & aided by Eleanor Roosevelt. It openly and actively called for = treatment before the law.

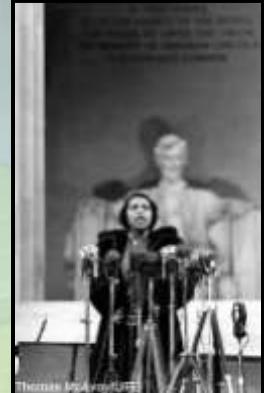
## Eleanor Roosevelt & Civil Rights

When the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) refused to allow black opera singer **Marian Anderson** to perform at Constitution Hall, Eleanor ultimately intervened.

She resigned from DAR and used her newspaper column "My Day" as a forum for the announcement --which was printed in hundreds of newspapers across the country & transformed the incident from a local slight to one of national importance.

The First Lady then had the concert location changed to the symbolic Lincoln Memorial -- an event which she pressured radio stations to cover live.

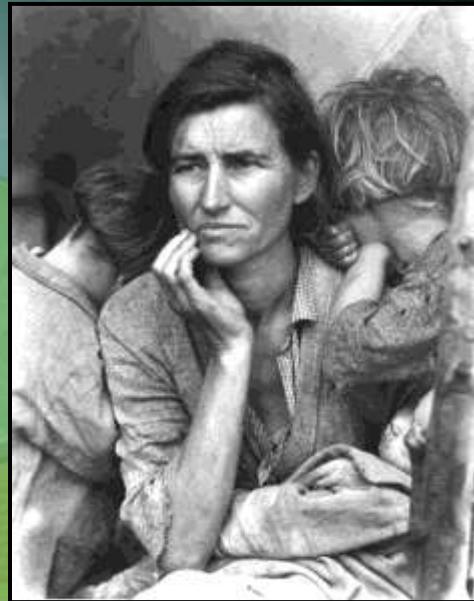
*"In this great auditorium under the sky all of us are free."*



## African-Americans

- Since Civil War, African-Americans voted w/the “party of Lincoln.” Democrats’ association with the KKK dissuaded African-Americans from voting for Dems
- BUT, by 1936 (in a 4 year span!), voted Dem bloc:
  - Harshness of the depression caused
  - National politics to assume a new relevance for black Americans outside the South (due to the Great Migration)

# Women and the New Deal



## Gains during the New Deal

- Women were offered policymaker and middle-level bureaucrat positions
  - **Francis Perkins** - Secretary of Labor
  - **Molly Dewson** -social reformer turned politician headed Women's Division of DNC

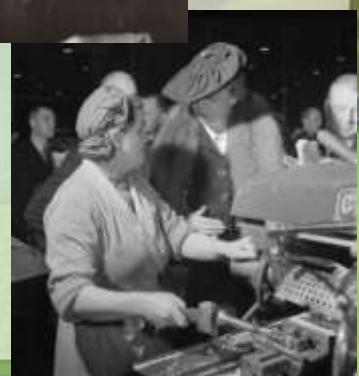


His First Girl



## Eleanor Roosevelt

- 1<sup>st</sup> active First Lady
- Held press conferences
- Wrote syndicated column "My Day"
- Traveled extensively & featured in popular magazines like *Life*.
- Reached out to women, poor, African-Americans, & children
- Embraced a civil rights agenda which accepted segregation and championed equal opportunity. Quality education became her top public priority .



## Yet, ...

- **WPA** hired some women & even offered equal pay for same jobs held by men & women!
- Women work *within* programs, departments, and agencies to facilitate change (just like African-Americans did)



## But ND programs often excluded or limited women

- NRA lower minimum wage for women
- CWA and PWA jobs almost all to men
- Soc Sec Act and Fair Labor Standards Act didn't cover jobs traditionally held by women (like domestic service)
- CCC excluded women: '*where's the she-she-she?*'

## Eleanor Roosevelt—First Lady



- **Anna Eleanor Roosevelt** (1884 –1962) was an American political leader who used her influence as First Lady from 1933 to 1945 to promote the New Deal policies of her husband, FDR, as well as advocate for civil rights.
- After her husband's death in 1945, she continued to be an internationally prominent author and speaker for the New Deal coalition. She was a delegate to the UN General Assembly in 1945 and chaired the committee that drafted and approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

91

## Video Clip: Eleanor Roosevelt (5 min)



**Questions:**  
What was unique about  
This First Lady? How did  
she revolutionize the role?

92

### Thought Provokers

Use the letters to Mrs. Roosevelt to answer the following questions.

1. Identify specific ways that the children tried to convince Mrs. Roosevelt that they were uniquely worthy of her help.
2. What does this reveal about the children's values?
3. Do children today hold similar values to the children in the letters?
4. What about these letters stood out to you?
5. Did you strongly identify with one child's letter? Why or why not?

### Analyzing Primary Sources

#### Directions:

In five small groups, you will read letters written to Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady. Use these letters to answer the questions. A spokesperson for your group will present the answers to the class.

Note to teacher: More copies of letters are located at the end of this presentation. 93

### Letters to Mrs. Roosevelt

Port Morris N.J.  
March 20, 1934

My Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Do you realize that "Easter" is at hand? Do you realize how many hearts are broken on this account? Do you realize how hard its going to be for most people? Like me, for instance, I am a young girl of fifteen and I need a coat, so bad I have no money, nor any means of getting any. My father has been out of work for two years.

My brother works on the C.W.A. but he is, or rather has been, insane in an asylum and has taken most of our money. My mother gets fits when I ask her to buy me something new. Poor mother, I sympathize with her because it has been very hard on her, this depression, and having no money at all but debt piling up on us. I want tell you something: We were once the richest people in our town but now, we are the lowest, considered, the worst people of Port Morris.

For Easter some friends of mine are thinking of getting new out-fits and I just have to listen to them. How I wish I could have a least a coat. That would cost about \$5.00 at least. I need a dress, I want one and it only cost 5.79 cents. Dear Eleanor how I wish I had this coat and dress for Easter I would be the happiest girl. I love you so much.

Please send me about \$5.00  
I thank you so much.

A. C.  
Port Morris

March 24, 1934

My dear Miss C.:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to acknowledge your letter and to express her regret that because of the great number of similar requests she receives, she has found it impossible to comply with them, much as she would like to assist all those who appeal to her. Assuring you of Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathy, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

- What is surprising about this letter?
- What does it reveal about life during the Depression?

### Rubric – Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2
<b>Salutation and Closing</b>	Salutation and closing have no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and closing have one-two errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and closing have three or more errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and/or closing are missing.
<b>Sentences and Paragraphs</b>	Sentences and paragraphs are complete, well constructed and of varied structure.	All sentences are complete and well constructed (no fragments, no run-ons). Paragraphing is generally done well.	Most sentences are complete and well constructed. Paragraphing needs some work.	Many sentence fragments or run-on sentences OR paragraphing needs lots of work.
<b>Ideas</b>	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.
<b>Grammar and spelling (conventions)</b>	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes one-two errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes three-four errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes more than four errors in grammar and/or spelling.
<b>Capitalization and Punctuation</b>	Writer makes no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes one-two errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes three-four errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes more than four errors in capitalization and punctuation.
<b>Neatness</b>	Letter is typed, clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections. It was done with pride.	Letter is neatly handwritten, clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting error corrections. It was done with care.	Letter is typed and is crumpled or slightly stained. It may have one-two distracting error corrections. It was done with some care.	Letter is typed and looks like it had been shoved in a pocket or locker. It may have several distracting error corrections. It looks like it was done in a hurry or stored improperly.

## Assignment: Fictional Letter Writing

### Directions:

- 1) Imagine that you are one of the children of the letters, but now you have grown up.
- Remember: You now must imagine it's about 8 years later—early 1940's—and America is at war with Germany and Japan during World War War II.
- 2) Write a follow-up letter to Mrs. Roosevelt explaining how your life unfolded since the first letter.
- 3) I will collect the letters in 20 minutes or assign as a home assignment to be due at a later date.

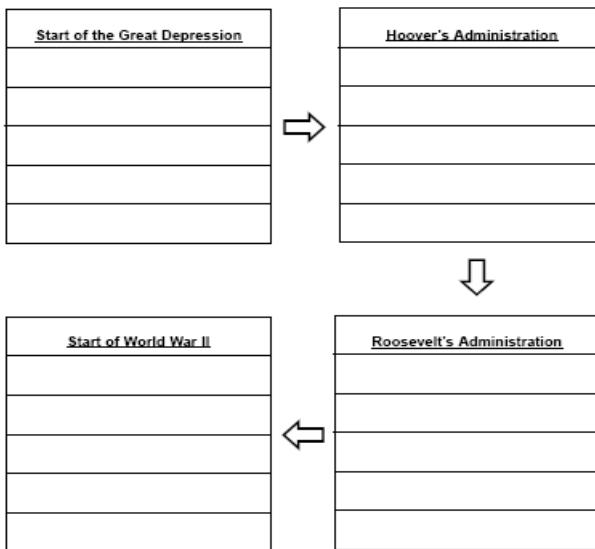
95

### AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

#### THE GREAT PICTURE

Directions: Complete the following chart. In each box, explain the main event listed in the box and describe its result on the Great Depression.

Review



• Complete this graphic organizer for review!

96

## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION



VOCABULARY TERMS

Review!

**Black Tuesday**

The crash of the New York Stock Exchange on October 29, 1929.

**Depression**

A period of low general economic activity marked especially by rising levels of unemployment.

**Dictator**

A ruler with absolute power and authority.

**Foreclosed**

A legal proceeding when a mortgage holder cannot pay his or her mortgage and banks repossess the property.

**Mortgages**

A transfer of rights to property as security for the payment of a loan that becomes void when the loan is paid.

**New Deal**

An administrative program of President Roosevelt designed to promote economic recovery and social reform.

**Share**

Any of the equal portions into which property or invested capital is divided.

**Stock market**

A market for money or capital available for investment or trading.

**Tariff**

Tax on imported goods.

**Trickle Down**

An effect caused gradually by remote or indirect influences.

## AMERICA IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Review!

1. What was the cause of the 1929 stock market crash?
2. Discuss the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.
3. Describe the attempts made to deal with the crisis.
4. What were Hoover's efforts to resolve the Depression?
5. Explain the purpose of FDR's New Deal and its accomplishments.
6. List some of the work provided for the unemployed and other methods of direct assistance.
7. Compare and contrast the views of those who opposed and those who supported the New Deal.
8. Describe the cause for the second New Deal and its outcome.
9. Discuss the effect the New Deal had on women and minorities.
10. What were some of the effects the New Deal had on American culture?

## Discussion Question Answers

### Blackline Master #4: Discussion Questions

Answers will vary. Possible answers follow.

1. Businesses began slowing down, economic boom of 1920s ending, stock prices falling, stockbrokers demanded that people repay loans for stocks bought on margin, and on October 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday" saw the collapse of the stock market and stocks sold for almost nothing.

2. Key industries were in trouble, the gap between the rich and the rest of the nation, people living beyond their means with credit, overproduction of products, banking system in trouble when investments in stocks were lost, and not enough money to pay depositors. World War I caused economic slump worldwide, and many businesses failed and millions lost their jobs.

3. Soup kitchens and bread lines were set up for the unemployed, unemployed "rode the rails" looking for jobs, people lost their homes and lived in shantytowns, and many children suffered from malnutrition and stopped attending school to work.

4. Reassured the nation its economy was sound, advocated the "do-nothing" approach for the economy to recover naturally, took cautious approach and spent federal money on public works construction, provided emergency financing for big businesses hoping for trickle-down theory, and asked private charities to help the less fortunate.

5. The New Deal's purpose was to provide relief for the needy, recovery for the economy, and reform for the financial system. Accomplishments included restoring confidence in financial system with the "bank holiday" and FDIC; helping farmers with AAA; provided work for the unemployed with CCC, PWA, CWA, TVA; and gave direct assistance for the needy with Federal Emergency Relief Administration, National Industrial Recovery Act, Federal Housing Administration, and Home Owners Loan Corporation.

6. Unemployed were hired to build community buildings, repair roads, flood control, and other conservation projects, and jobs also included creating a system of dams to provide hydroelectric power. The needy were given food, clothing, loans for home mortgages, and low interest rates for mortgage payments.

7. Critics on the left said the New Deal did not go far enough to help poor or reform the economy, whereas critics on the right said it gave the government too much control over the economy and FDR was establishing dictatorship. The Supreme Court declared NIRA and AAA unconstitutional and FDR's "court

99

## Discussion Question Answers continued...

packing" aroused public protest. Father Charles Coughlin, Dr. Francis Townsend, Upton Sinclair, and Senator Huey Long all opposed FDR's New Deal.

8. Minimal improvement in the economy and Eleanor Roosevelt's visits around the country influenced FDR to urge Congress to pass additional measures to help the economy and the needy. The second New Deal included, AAA, FSA, WPA, Wagner Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Social Security Act, and Rural Electrification Administration.

9. Many women and African-Americans were appointed to important positions, such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Robert C. Weaver, William H. Hastie, Marian Anderson, Mary Dewson, and Frances Perkins. African-Americans abandoned the Republican Party, many Mexican-Americans deported to Mexico, and Native Americans received full citizenship and the Indian Reorganization Act passed in 1934.

10. People went to the movies to forget their troubles. Almost every home had a radio, which played soap operas, comedies, children's shows, and FDR's Fireside Chats. Many New Deal programs supported artists and writers.

100