

THE GREAT DEPRESSION & THE NEW DEAL (1929-1941)

Summary

Ultimately, the boom of the 1920's may have rested on shaky economics. In October 1929 the US stock market crashed, sending the US and the world into the Great Depression, the most devastating economic downturn in all of history. The Republican administration of Herbert Hoover could do little to improve the economy, and in 1932, Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide victory, promising a "New Deal for the American people". The New Deal attempted to respond to the crisis through a number of programs, vastly expanding the power of the Federal government and changing the way that people viewed government. The US did not fully emerge from the Depression until the US entered World War Two in 1941 and the debate still rages over the New Deal's legacy.

Themes and Essential Questions

Economics. By what systems and mechanisms are resources allocated and used?

Capitalism and Centralization. How has the focus on individual property rights shaped American history? What is the proper role of government in the economy?

Skills

Decision-Making. Students will apply steps to a Historical Decision-Making paradigm including Framing the problem, considering Results, analyzing Analogies, Mental Simulation, and Evaluation of thinking.

Content Questions

1. What were the most important economic causes of the Great Depression?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of major macroeconomic policies (monetary policy and fiscal policy)?
3. What were the political, economic, geographic and social problems facing the US as the Great Depression hit and deepened? How did the Depression threaten a fundamental breakdown in American society and culture?
4. What was the response to the Depression by the traditional political and business leadership including Hoover? How did that response fail to address the problems of the Depression? How was FDR's political leadership different?
5. Why and how did FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt appeal to Americans?
6. How did the New Deal policies and programs attempt to provide relief, recovery and reform? Which of the policies and programs was most successful?
7. What was the opposition to the New Deal? Was the New Deal good or bad for the country?

Terms

1. Depression
2. Black Tuesday
3. Hoovervilles, Hoover blankets, Hoover flags
4. Soup Kitchens and Bread Lines
5. Mortgage Foreclosures
6. Unemployment
7. Dust Bowl
8. Bonus Army
9. Direct Relief (Welfare)
10. Pretty Boy Floyd
11. Herbert Hoover
12. *Rugged Individualism*
13. Federal Home Loan Bank Act
14. Reconstruction Finance Corporation
15. Boulder Dam
16. Recession
17. National Income, Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
18. The Bull Market
19. Easy Credit
20. Margin Trading
21. Speculation and Speculative Bubble
22. Stock Crash
23. Income Distribution
24. Savings and Investment
25. consumption
26. Banking Panic
27. Reserve Requirement
28. Federal Reserve Bank
29. Interest Rates
30. Money Supply
31. Inflation
32. The Gold Standard
33. Laissez-Faire
34. Supply-Side Economics “trickle down”
35. John Maynard Keynes and Keynesian Economics “prime the pump”
36. Deficit Spending
37. Monetary Policy
38. Fiscal Policy
39. Socialism
40. Public Works
41. Price Supports and Subsidies
42. Fascism
43. Conservative, Liberal, Moderate, Radical, Reactionary
44. Franklin D. Roosevelt
45. Eleanor Roosevelt
46. New Deal
47. Brain Trust
48. First Inaugural Address
49. Fireside Chats
50. 21st Amendment
51. New Deal Coalition
52. Southern Tenant Farmers Union
53. Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)
54. The Hundred Days
55. Alphabet Soup Legislation
56. Relief, Recovery, Reform
57. Glass-Steagal Banking Act
58. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
59. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
60. Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
61. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
62. National Recovery Administration (NRA)
63. Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)
64. Works Progress Administration (WPA)
65. National Youth Administration (NYA)
66. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
67. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
68. Social Security Act (SSA)
69. Court Packing
70. Huey Long and “Share the Wealth”
71. Father Charles Coughlin