

I Causes of the Depression

- A. Although there were warning signs, no one believed they would lead to a crash in the stock market.
- B. Economic challenges in the farming industry were the earliest factors to contribute to the Great Depression.
- C. On Black Tuesday the streets in front of the Stock Exchange were crowded by people who were stunned about the crash.
- D. About 55% of all Banks fail between 1929-1940.
- E. Most of the Bank failures were due to customers withdrawing their money.
- F. The Hawley-Smoot Tariff raised taxes on foreign imports. Italy was hit especially hard by this tariff.
- G. John Maynard Keynes believed that the Great Depression could have been avoided if Governments had taken a larger role in reducing unemployment.

II American Suffer

- A. Unemployment rates skyrocket all over the world. Poland was effected the least.
- B. Photos were displayed to show the plight of the American Farmers
- C. Farm prices drop so far that Farmers dump their produce into the streets instead of selling it.
- D. Many rural farmers lost their homes.
- E. Not only did rural Americans suffer tough economic times they suffered through natural disasters like the Dust Bowl.
- F. A significant number of people from Kansas left, and went to California
- G. The Dust Bowl prevented the production of profitable crops in the Great Plains region.
- H. A positive result of the Dust Bowl, is the Federal government began to fund improvements in infrastructure.

III Two Presidents Respond

- A. President Hoover advocated the deregulation of business in his campaign speeches.
- B. Hoovers initial response to the Great Depression was to appeal to the wealthy to volunteer time and money.
- C. When the Bonus Army marches on Washington D.C., Americans blamed Hoover for what many saw as MacArthur's excessive use of force.
- D. Americans believed that Franklin Roosevelt could lead the nation through the Great Depression.
- E. President Roosevelt acted quickly and proposed a number of major relief and reform bills in his first 100 days in office.
- F. Roosevelt took action to help farmers and people living in rural areas.
- G. The Civilian Conservation Corp was founded with the purpose of creating new jobs for young men.
- H. The National Industrial Recovery Act developed codes of fair competition to regulate industries.
- I. The Public Works Administration sought to build infrastructure that would be used for years to come.
- J. Father Coughlin, a critic of Roosevelt, felt that the government was not doing enough to help people.
- K. Huey Long, another critic of Roosevelt, did not support the New Deal because he believed that poverty was caused by the concentration of wealth, and that the wealth needed to be redistributed.

IV The New Deal Expands

- A. John Maynard Keynes argued the best way to lower unemployment is to increase government spending in order to increase demand for goods and services.
- B. Roosevelt explained that social security would ease unemployment by encouraging older workers to retire and thus opening up jobs for younger workers.
- C. Social Security provided a long-term safety net for the elderly.
- D. Social Security provided a protection against the loss of income due to unemployment, old age, death, disablement, and illness.
- E. Although many felt it was not appropriate, the government began to give direct aid to farmers.
- F. The Wagner Act recognized the right of workers to join labor unions and bargain collectively.
- G. The Fair Labor Standards Act gave workers a minimum wage, and a maximum work week of 44 hours.
- H. In a strike against General Motors from 1936-37, workers protested the company's refusal to recognize their union.
- I. Labor union membership begins to increase after the Great Depression began.
- J. FDR wants to expand the number of Justices on the Supreme Court. Reason being is he would be able to nominate judges that would agree with his views. FDR is accused of trying to "Pack" the court.
- K. Based on unemployment figures the East Coast was the least affected by the Great Depression.

V The Effects of the New Deal

- A. Frances Perkins was the first woman to be appointed to the presidential cabinet, and she played a large role in establishing social security.
- B. Eleanor Roosevelt said "the US needed to live up to the principles upon which it was founded" She meant that all racial groups should have equal rights.
- C. The Indian Reorganization Act gave Indians greater control over their affairs.

VI Culture During the Depression

- A. Going to the movies became a temporary relief from the Great Depression
- B. The Works Progress Administration commissioned murals to be painted on public buildings
- C. The Works Progress Administration hired artists to paint the murals on public buildings.