

The Great Depression and the New Deal, 1933-1939

Theme: Roosevelt’s New Deal tackled the Great Depression with massive federal programs designed to bring about relief, recovery, and reform.

Summary:

Confident, aristocratic Roosevelt swept into office with an urgent mandate to cope with the depression emergency. His bank holiday and frantic Hundred Days lifted spirits and created a host of new agencies to provide for relief to the unemployed, economic recovery, and permanent reform of the system,

Roosevelt’s programs put millions of the unemployed back on the job through federal action. As popular demagogues like Huey Long and Father Charles Coughlin increased their appeal to the suffering population, Roosevelt developed sweeping programs to reorganize and reform American history, labor, and agriculture. The TVA, Social Security, and the Wagner Act brought far-reaching changes that especially benefited the economically disadvantaged.

Conservatives furiously denounced the New Deal, but Roosevelt formed a powerful coalition of urbanites, labor, “new immigrants,” blacks, and the South that swept him to victory in 1936.

A decade after the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, women began to exercise their rights, both politically and intellectually.

Roosevelt’s Court-packing plan failed, but the Court finally began approving New Deal legislation. The later New Deal encountered mounting conservative opposition and the stubborn persistence of unemployment. Although the New Deal was highly controversial, it saved America from extreme right wing or left-wing dictatorship.

Identify and state the historical significance of each of the following:

Herbert Hoover	Harry L. Hopkins	Reorganization Act of 1934
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Father Charles Coughlin	Muscle Shoals
Eleanor Roosevelt	Huey P. Long	John L. Lewis/CIO
“Brain Trust”	Dr. Francis Townsend	sit-down strike
Election of 1932	<i>Schechter v. U. S. 1935</i>	Election of 1936
FDR’s First Inaugural Speech	Harold Ickes	Twentieth Amendment
Banking holiday	Francis Perkins	“court packing” scheme
Hundred Days	Twenty-first Amendment	John Maynard Keynes
New Deal	“Subsidized scarcity”	Hatch Act of 1939
“fireside chats”	Dust Bowl	
“managed currency”	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	

***NOTE: FDR’s “alphabet soup” programs are covered on another assignment.**

Be sure to study them and the charts on pp. 774 & 777

Thought Provokers:

1. How did FDR’s programs develop such a strong appeal for the “forgotten man,” and why did the New Deal arouse such opposition from conservatives?
2. Discuss Roosevelt’s battle with the conservative courts. What were the short and long-term implications of his attempts to control the Judiciary?
3. Read the sections “New Deal or Raw Deal?” and “FDR’s Balance Sheet” on pages 796-798. Draw a line down the middle of your paper and label each column as “criticism” and the other as “accomplishments.” Then list the main points made in the reading under the appropriate heading.

Identification *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

- _____ 1. Term used by FDR in 1932 acceptance speech that came to describe his whole reform program
- _____ 2. FDR's reform-minded intellectual advisors, who conceived much of the New Deal legislation
- _____ 3. The special session of Congress in early 1933 that passed vast quantities of Roosevelt-initiated legislation
- _____ 4. The early New Deal agency that worked to solve the problems of unemployment and conservation by employing youth in reforestation and other socially beneficial tasks
- _____ 5. Large federal employment program, established in 1935 under Harry Hopkins that provided jobs in areas from road building to art
- _____ 6. Widely displayed symbol of the National Recovery Administration (NRA), which attempted to reorganize and reform U.S. industry
- _____ 7. New Deal farm agency that attempted to raise prices by paying farmers to reduce their production of crops and animals
- _____ 8. The drought-stricken plains areas from which hundreds of thousands of "Okies" were driven during the Great Depression
- _____ 9. New Deal agency that aroused string conservative criticism by producing low cost electrical power in competition with private utilities
- _____ 10. New Deal program that financed old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, and other forms on income assistance
- _____ 11. The new union group that organized large numbers of unskilled workers with the help of the Wagner Act and the National Labor Relations Board
- _____ 12. New Deal agency established to provide a public watchdog against deception and fraud in stock trading
- _____ 13. Organization of wealthy Republicans and conservative Democrats whose attacks on the New Deal cause Roosevelt to denounce them as "economic royalists" in the campaign of 1936
- _____ 14. Roosevelt's scheme for gaining Supreme Court approval of New Deal legislation
- _____ 15. Law of 1939 that prevented federal officials from engaging in campaign activities or using federal relief funds for political purposes

Putting Things in Order *Put the following events in correct order.*

- _____ FDR devalues the dollar to about sixty cents in gold in an attempt to raise domestic prices.
- _____ Congress passes numerous far-reaching laws under the pressure of a national crisis and presidential leadership
- _____ Republican attempts to attack New Deal fall flat, and FDR wins reelection in a landslide.
- _____ FDR's frustration at the conservative Supreme Court's overturning of New Deal legislation leads him to make a drastic proposal.
- _____ Passage of new federal pro-labor legislation opens the way for a new union group and successful mass labor organizing.

Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or even in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

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|---|--|
| ___ 1. Franklin D. Roosevelt | A. Republican who carried only two states against "The Champ," in 1936 |
| ___ 2. Eleanor Roosevelt | B. The "microphone messiah" of Michigan whose mass radio appeals turned anti-New Deal and anti-Semitic |
| ___ 3. Banking Holiday | C. Writer whose best-selling novel portrayed the suffering of dust bowl "Okies" in the Thirties |
| ___ 4. Harry Hopkins | D. Supreme Court justice whose "switch in time" to support New Deal legislation helped undercut FDR's Court-packing scheme |
| ___ 5. Father Coughlin | E. Presidential wife who became an effective lobbyist for the poor during the New Deal |
| ___ 6. Huey ("Kingfish") Long | F. Louisiana senator and popular mass agitator who promised to make "every man a king" at the expense of the wealthy |
| ___ 7. <i>Schechter Case</i> | G. Former New York governor who roused the nation to action against the depression with his appeal to the "forgotten man" |
| ___ 8. Harold Ickes | H. Dramatic CIO labor action in 1936 that forced the auto industry to recognize unions |
| ___ 9. John Steinbeck | I. Lopsided but bitter campaign that saw disadvantaged economic groups line up in a kind of "class warfare" against those better off |
| ___ 10. John L. Lewis | J. Former New York social worker who became an influential FDR advise and head of the several New Deal agencies |
| ___ 11. General Motors' sit-down strike | K. Former bull moose progressive who spent billions of dollars on public building projects while carefully guarding against waste. |
| ___ 12. Alfred M. Landon | L. Roosevelt-declared closing of all U.S. financial institutions on March 6-10, 1933, in order to stop panic and prepare reforms. |
| ___ 13. Election of 1936 | M. British economist whose theories helped justify New Deal deficit spending |
| ___ 14. John Maynard Keynes | N. Supreme Court ruling of 1935 that struck down a major New Deal industry-and-labor agency |
| ___ 15. Justice Roberts | O. Domineering boss of the mine workers' union who launched the CIO |

Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
_____ 1. The “lame-duck” period from November 1932 to March 1933	A. Succeeded in raising farm prices but met strong opposition from many conservatives.
_____ 2. Roosevelt’s leadership during the Hundred Days	B. Encouraged the CIO to organize large numbers of unskilled workers
_____ 3. The Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, and the Civil Works Administration	C. May have pushed the Court toward more liberal rulings but badly hurt FDR politically
_____ 4. New Deal farm programs like the AAA	D. Caused the “Roosevelt Depression,” which brought unemployment back up to catastrophic levels
_____ 5. The Tennessee Valley Authority	E. Caused a political paralysis the nearly halted the U.S. economy
_____ 6. The Wagner (National Labor Relations) Act	F. Provided federal economic planning, conservation, cheap electricity, and jobs to a poverty stricken area
_____ 7. FDR’s political appeals to workers, African-Americans, southerners, and “New Immigrants”	G. Provided federal jobs for unemployed workers in conservation, construction, the arts and other areas
_____ 8. The Supreme Court’s conservative rulings against New Deal legislation	H. Caused Roosevelt to propose a plan to “pack” the Supreme Court
_____ 9. Roosevelt’s attempt to “pack” the Supreme Court	I. Pushed a remarkable number of laws through Congress and restored the nation’s confidence
_____ 10. The rapid cutback in federal “pump-priming” spending in 1937	J. Forged a powerful political coalition that made the Democrats the majority party

ANSWERS:

Identification:

1. New Deal
2. brain(s) trust
3. Hundred Days
4. Civilian Conservation Corps
5. Works Progress Administration (WPA)
6. blue eagle
7. Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)
8. Dust Bowl
9. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
10. Social Security
11. Committee/Congress for Industrial Organization (CIO)
12. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
13. American Liberty League
14. court packing plan
15. Hatch Act

Putting Things in Order: 2, 1, 4, 5, 3

Matching People, Places, and Events:

1. G
2. E
3. L
4. J
5. B
6. F
7. N
8. K
9. C
10. O
11. H
12. A
13. I
14. M
15. D

Cause and Effect:

1. E
2. I
3. G
4. A
5. F
6. B
7. J
8. H
9. C
10. D