

Relief, Recovery & Reform: The New Deal, 1933-1938

A Presentation Based on the
Georgia Standards of Excellence
(GSE) Objectives for High School
History Students

SSUSH18 Evaluate Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal as a response to the Great Depression and compare how governmental programs aided those in need.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President, was born on January 30, 1882 & died April 12, 1945.
- He is often referred to by his initials “**FDR.**”
- FDR was a central figure of the 20th century during a time of worldwide economic crisis and world war.
- Elected to four terms, FDR served from 1933 to 1945 and is the only President to have served three or more terms.



FDR's Style and Demeanor

A posed photograph of FDR leaving his Manhattan townhouse in 1933. This stunt requires the skill of an acrobat—strength and exquisite timing. It is dangerous. (Courtesy of the New York Daily News)



- FDR was a gregarious, outgoing man who obviously loved meeting and talking with people.
- He contracted polio in 1921 and was henceforth unable to walk without heavy braces and crutches.
- Despite his disability, he became one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century.
- He is remembered for his “fireside chats” (radio broadcasts) which people found hopeful and encouraging.



The New Deal

- President Hoover was criticized for not doing enough to help the country and its people out of the Great Depression.
- FDR was determined to do more, and he was often criticized for going too far in the opposite direction from Hoover by doing too much in his programs called the “New Deal.”
- The New Deal introduced and embraced governmental economic planning AND a wide range of social welfare programs.
- This was a major change in political and domestic policy in the U.S.
- Historians often divide the New Deal into two eras:
 - the First New Deal (1933-1934)
 - The Second New Deal (1934-1938)

FDR's First Hundred Days and the "Three R's"

- During his first one hundred days in office, FDR and his advisors produced a massive set of executive orders, laws and programs to achieve the President's three New Deal objectives to help the country escape the Great Depression
- The three main objectives of the New Deal are sometimes called "The Three R's."
- The Three R's are:
 1. Relief: immediate help for those suffering most
 2. Recovery: getting the nation's economy back on sound footing, and
 3. Reform: finding and eliminating the root causes of the Depression

The “Alphabet Soup” of the New Deal

- Sometimes people refer to New Deal programs as an “alphabet soup” because many of Roosevelt Administration’s programs, laws, acts and ideas are referred to by their initials, such as:
 - the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority)
 - the WPA (Works Progress Administration)
 - the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)
 - the FSA (Farm Security Administration)
 - the SSA (Social Security Act)

a. Describe Roosevelt's attempts at relief, recovery, and reform reflected in various New Deal programs.

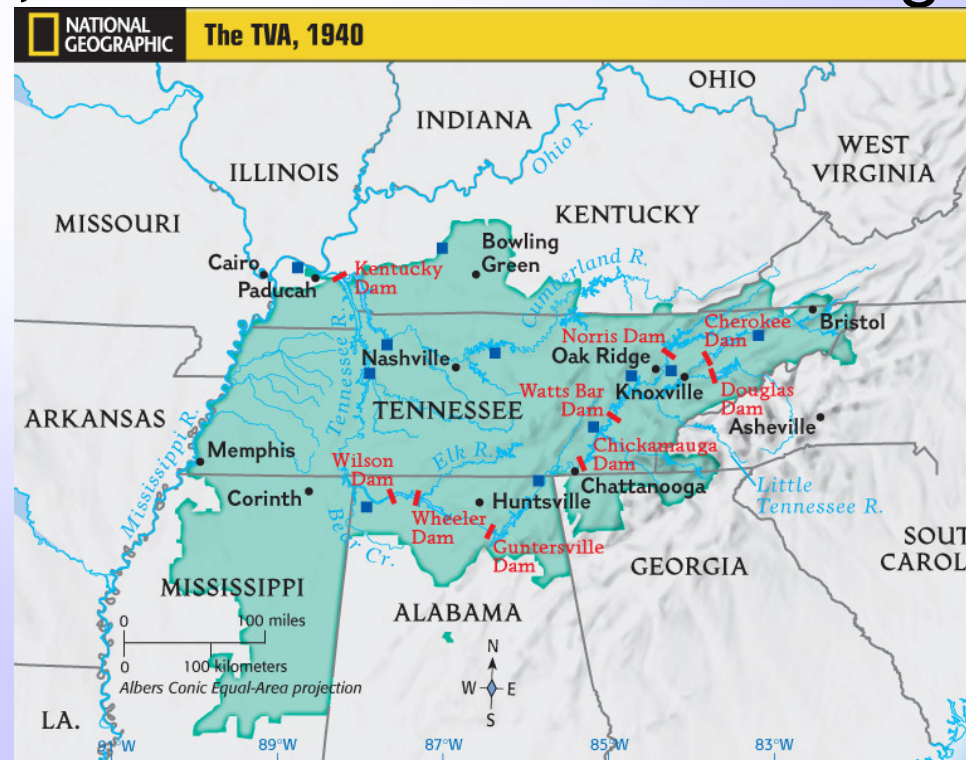


Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)

- An example of **relief** was the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA).
- This agency granted federal money to state and local governments for operating soup kitchens and meeting the basic needs of the homeless.
- Over \$500 million in relief funds was provided by this program

- In 1933, the **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** was created as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's First New Deal to control floods and bring electricity to rural America.
- The TVA generated over 40,000 jobs building dams, power plants, roads and miles of wiring.

What do workers do with the money they earn?
How could the TVA help the economy?







Works Progress Administration (WPA)

- The WPA (1939–43) created jobs in public works projects and in the arts.
- Although FDR's opponents labeled the WPA a "dole" (handout), this program created over 8.5 million jobs.
- Many workers in this program built, roads, bridges, and public buildings.
- Artists in the WPA created literature, music, plays, etc.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was a **recovery** effort created to shore up public confidence in the banking system.
- The FDIC provided insurance on individual bank accounts with deposits up to \$5000.

Other Notable First New Deal Events

- “bank holiday” and Emergency Banking Act
- Home Owner's Loan Corporation (HOLC)
- Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
- National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
- Public Works administration (PWA)
- Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)
- several executive orders for currency stabilization and establishing sound banking practices
- Repeal of Prohibition

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

- One major area of **reform** dealt with the Stock Market.
- The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was created to regulate the Stock Market.
- The intent was to prevent another stock market crash by limiting the types of stock speculation that could be transacted.

b. Explain the passage of the Social Security Act as a part of the second New Deal.



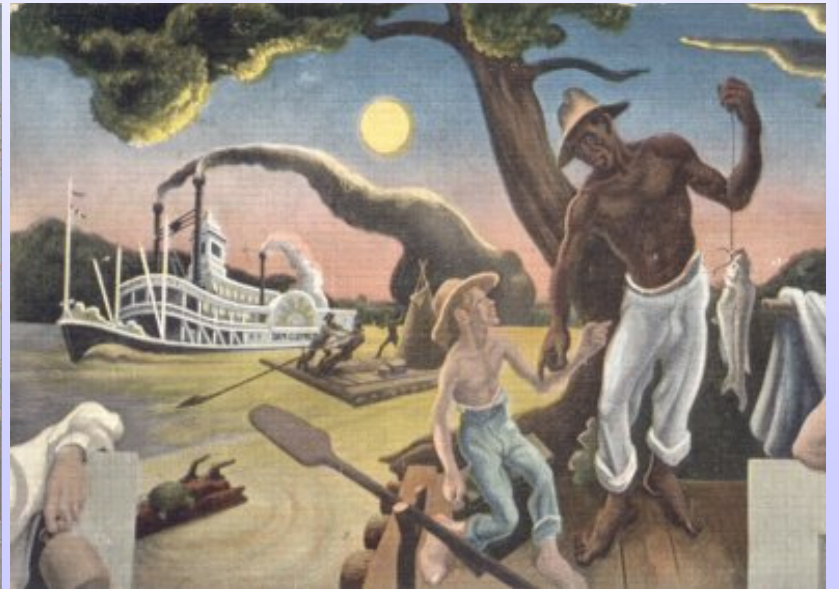
- After two years of New Deal programs, the American economy showed little sign of recovery.
- To speed up the recovery process, Roosevelt launched his Second New Deal.

Notable Second New Deal Programs

- **Social Security Act (SSA)**
- **National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act)**
- **Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)**
- **Works Progress Administration (WPA)**
- **Securities Exchange Act (created the SEC)**
- **United States Housing Authority**
- **Farm Security Administration (FSA)**
- **National Youth Administration**
- **Fair Labor Standards Act**
- **Banking Act of 1935**
- **Revenue Act of 1935**

The Social Security Act (1935)

- The Social Security Act provided:
 - retirement benefits
 - unemployment insurance
 - welfare payments to the needy



The Wagner Act and the Rise of Industrial Unionism.

The **National Labor Relations Act of 1935**

(also known as the Wagner Act):

1. guaranteed workers the right to unionize
2. allowed for collective bargaining
3. allowed for binding arbitration
4. formed the National Labor Relations Board to monitor labor issues

In short, the Wagner Act gave workers more power through the right to form and participate in unions.

c. Analyze political challenges to Roosevelt's leadership and New Deal programs.



Huey Long's motto was
"Every Man a King"

- Roosevelt's New Deal Programs had opponents, including Huey P. Long, a Senator from Louisiana known as the "Kingfish."
- Long started "**Share the Wealth**" clubs, believing government should take money from the rich and give it to the poor.
- Long intended to run for President, but he was assassinated in 1935.

Other Critics On the Left

- In addition to Huey Long, FDR had other left-leaning critics such as Father **Charles Coughlin**
- Coughlin, a Roman Catholic priest, used his radio program to criticize FDR and the New Deal for not doing enough to combat the depression.
- Coughlin's increasing extremism and anti-Semitism led church officials to discontinue his broadcasts.
- **Dr. Francis Townsend** advocated monthly pensions of \$200 to those over 60 years of age. Townsend believed this money would "trickle down" to other parts of the economy.

Critics on the Right

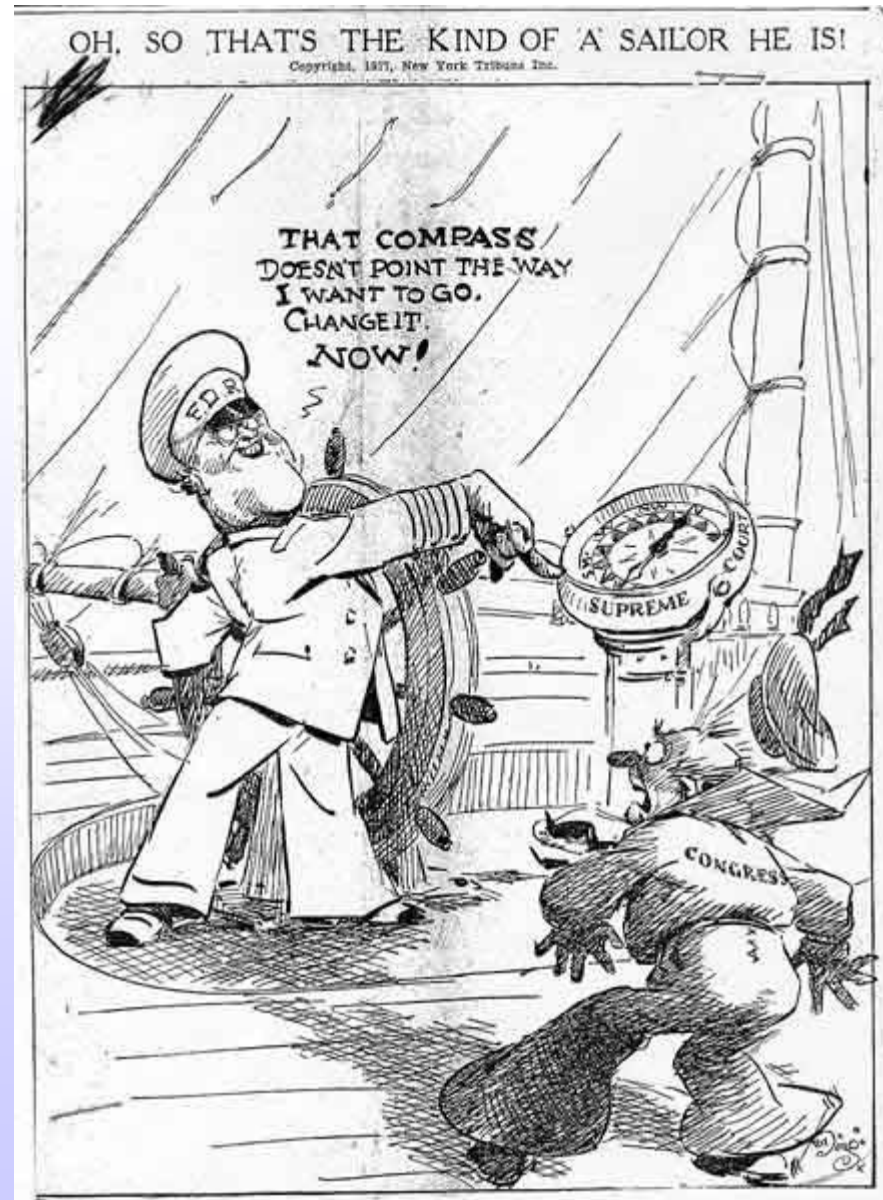
- Former President **Herbert Hoover** complained that the New Deal was an attack on free market democracy and would not only lead to statism but would open the door to radical dictatorship.
- **Robert Taft**, a Congressman and son of President Taft, believed FDR's approach assailed individual liberties.
- These and other critics from the business and political worlds formed the **American Liberty League** which held that the New Deal conflicted with principles of limited government.

FDR and Court Packing

- The Supreme Court had struck down several of Roosevelt's programs (inc. the AAA) declaring them unconstitutional.
- In an attempt to control the Supreme Court, Roosevelt sent Congress a bill in 1937 which would allow him to increase the number of justices on the court.
- This would allow Roosevelt to appoint justices who were "friendly" towards his New Deal policies.

Court Packing

- Roosevelt had over-estimated his power: after much protest by Congress and many Americans, the bill was killed in the Senate.
- This episode cost FDR considerable political capital.



d. Examine how Eleanor Roosevelt changed the role of First Lady including development of New Deal programs to aid the needy.

- Eleanor Roosevelt is considered by many to be the first “activist” First Lady.
- She spoke to many women’s and African American groups and relayed their concerns to the President.
- Though little progress in race relations was made, Eleanor helped promote minority and women’s rights.



Eleanor Roosevelt

- She toured the country representing the President, gathering the public's views on important subjects, and advised the President with her findings and opinions.
- She was the first president's wife to testify before a Congressional committee, to hold press conferences, to speak before a national party convention, to write a syndicated newspaper column, to be a radio commentator, and to earn money as a lecturer.
- Mrs. Roosevelt was interested in humanitarian causes and social progress. She was very vocal about these issues with her husband during his time in the White House and urged him to create reforms to help minorities and the poor.
- Many later First Ladies have continued her precedent as an activist.