

## US History: Great Depression Unit Outline

### 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.

### Sources

- \_\_ Lesson 14: What Caused the Great Depression? Historians A-E
- \_\_ Video: Road to Rock Bottom
- \_\_ Manchester, "The Cruellest Year"
- \_\_ *Cinderella Man*
- \_\_ Lesson 15: What Should Be Done to Cure the Depression?
- \_\_ PPT: Intro to FDR & the New Deal
- \_\_ Berryman Cartoons
- \_\_ DBQ 18: The New Deal's Opponents
- \_\_ PPT: New Deal Historical Assessments

### Themes and Essential Questions

How did differing understandings of capitalism←→centralization shape reactions to the Great Depression? How did responses to the Great Depression affect the relationship between capitalism & centralization?

### 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 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? Why did such a breakdown fail to happen?
2. What was the response to the Depression by the traditional political and business leadership including Hoover? Why did that response fail to address the problems of the Depression? How was FDR's political leadership differ from the traditionalists including Hoover? Why and how did FDR appeal to Americans?
3. What were the most important economic causes of the Great Depression?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of major macroeconomic policies?
5. How did the New Deal policies and programs attempt to provide relief, recovery and reform? Which of the policies and programs was most successful?
6. 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
4. Soup Kitchens and Bread Lines
5. Mortgage Foreclosures
6. Unemployment
7. Dust Bowl and Okies
8. Hobos
9. Bonus Army
10. Direct Relief (Welfare)
11. Iowa Farmer's Revolt
12. Pretty Boy Floyd
13. Herbert Hoover
14. American Individualism
15. Volunteerism
16. Reconstruction Finance Corporation
17. Boulder Dam
18. Recession
19. Production
20. National Income, Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
21. The Bull Market
22. Easy Credit
23. Margin Trading
24. Speculation and Speculative Bubble
25. Stock Crash
26. Technological Unemployment
27. Income Distribution
28. Savings and Investment
29. Wages
30. Consumption
31. Hawley-Smoot Tariff
32. Banking Panic
33. Multiplier Effect
34. Hoarding
35. Reserve Requirement
36. Federal Reserve Bank
37. Interest Rates
38. Money Supply
39. Inflation
40. Deflation
41. Foreign Trade
42. Conventional Wisdom
43. Tax Cuts and Balanced Budgets
44. The Gold Standard
45. Laissez-Faire
46. Supply-Side Economics
47. John Maynard Keynes and Keynesian Economics
48. Deficit Spending
49. Progressive Taxation
50. Central Planning
51. Monetary Policy
52. Fiscal Policy
53. Socialism
54. Public Works
55. Price Supports and Subsidies
56. Fascism
57. Franklin D. Roosevelt
58. New Deal
59. Brain Trust
60. First Inaugural Address
61. Fireside Chats
62. 20th Amendment
63. 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment
64. New Deal Coalition
65. The Hundred Days
66. Alphabet Soup Legislation
67. Glass-Steagall Banking Act
68. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
69. Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
70. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
71. National Recovery Administration (NRA)
72. Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)
73. Works Progress Administration (WPA)
74. Civil Works Administration (CWA)
75. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
76. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
77. Social Security Act (SSA)
78. Court Packing
79. The Liberty League
80. Huey Long and "Share the Wealth"
81. Upton Sinclair
82. New Left