

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

struck with polio

Roosevelt caught the dreaded paralyzing disease polio in 1921

Roosevelt began a vigorous exercise program to restore muscle control
he became able to walk short distances with braces and leaning on a cane
for all intents and purposes, his legs were completely paralyzed



in 1928 Roosevelt campaigned hard to become governor of New York
- he won -

as governor, Roosevelt oversaw the creation of the first state agency to aid the unemployed



Roosevelt became President in 1932

his energy and optimism gave Americans hope despite the tough economic times
he once said, *"If you had spent two years in bed trying to wiggle your big toe, after that anything else would seem easy."*

President Roosevelt

The Hundred Days



when Roosevelt was inaugurated in March, 1933,
most of the nation's banks were closed
one in four workers was unemployed

Roosevelt knew he had to restore the nation's confidence.

"First of all," he declared in his Inaugural Address,
"let me assert my firm belief that
the only thing we have to fear is fear itself
. . . . This nation asks for action, and action now!"

Roosevelt and his advisers had no clear agenda, but he argued,
"The country needs bold, persistent experimentation. . . . Above all, try something."

FDR sent bill after bill to Congress between March 9 and June 16, 1933,
which came to be called the Hundred Days

These programs made up what would be called the
the New Deal.



The New Deal

Bank Holiday



Roosevelt knew that before he did anything else he had to restore people's confidence in the banking system.

Within a week of his taking office, he passed the Emergency Banking

Relief Act

which required federal examiners to survey the nation's banks to make sure they were financially sound.

On March 12, Roosevelt addressed the nation by radio in the first of many "fireside chats." Sixty million people listened as he said,

"I assure you that it is safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress."

When banks opened on March 13, deposits far outweighed withdrawals. The banking crisis was over.



The New Deal

Other Economic Reforms



The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was created to regulate the stock market and stop fraud.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created to provide government insurance for bank deposits, which increased public confidence in the banking system.

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) bought the mortgages of home owners who were behind in their payments and restructured the loans with longer repayment terms and lower interest rates to allow the people to be able to pay them back themselves.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) was based on a simple idea - that prices for farm goods were low because farmers grew too much food. The AAA paid farmers NOT to raise certain livestock, grow certain crops, and produce certain dairy products.

The AAA met its goal, although it drew some criticism: the idea of paying farmers not to work went against the ideals of many Americans. Also, not all farmers benefited. Thousands of tenant farmers, many of them African Americans, lost their jobs and homes when landlords took their fields out of production.





The New Deal

Industry - the NRA



The National Recovery Administration (NRA) set prices, established minimum wages, shortened workers' hours to create more jobs, permitted unionization, and helped businesses develop industry-wide rules of fair competition.



The NRA revived a few industries, but the codes were difficult to administer. Employers disliked that the NRA allowed workers to form unions. They also argued that paying minimum wages forced them to raise prices. After the NRA was instituted, industrial production fell. The NRA was declared unconstitutional in 1935.

The New Deal

The CCC

the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) offered unemployed young men 18–25 years old the opportunity to work under the direction of the forestry service

they planted trees, fought forest fires, and built reservoirs

they planted a line of more than 200 million trees, known as a Shelter Belt from north Texas to North Dakota



the young men lived in camps they built near their work areas

earned \$35 a month, \$25 of which was sent to their families

more than 40,000 of their recruits to read and write

the average CCC worker returned home after six to twelve months, better nourished and with greater self-respect

when the CCC closed down in 1942, it had put 3 million young men to work outdoors

it was the most highly praised New Deal work relief program

The New Deal

other programs
the

Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)

gave money to state and local agencies to fund their relief projects



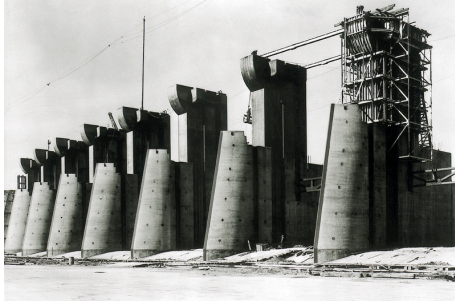
School lunch project paid for with FERA funds, Fresno City, CA 1940



Cheyenne women with stack of mattresses they made, paid for with FERA funds, 1940

the Public Works Administration (PWA)

construction workers built public highways, dams, schools, and other government facilities



the PWA insisted that contractors not discriminate against African Americans, breaking down some of the racial barriers in the construction trades

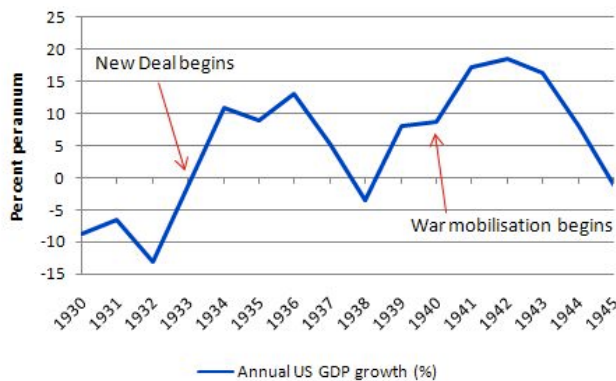
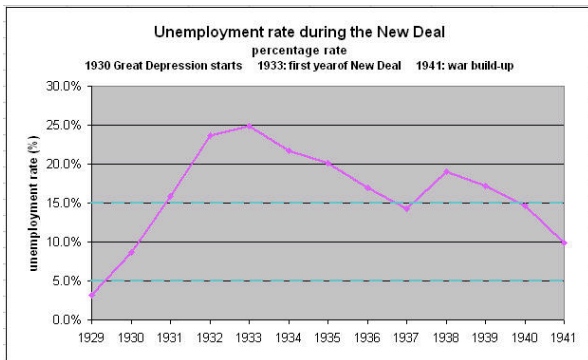


the Civil Works Administration (CWA) built or improved airports, roads, schools, playgrounds, and parks

The New Deal

effects

the New Deal did not restore prosperity, but it reflected Roosevelt's willingness to try banks were reopened, many retained their homes and farms, and more people were employed



the most important result of the New Deal a change in the spirit of the American people

Roosevelt's actions had inspired hope and restored Americans' faith in their nation