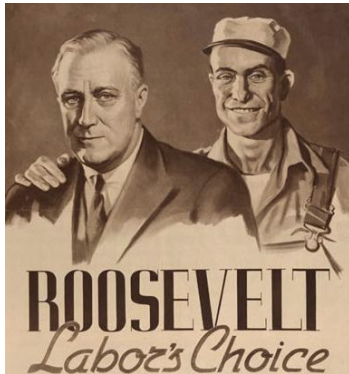


Roosevelt and The New Deal



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

early years

distant cousin of **Theodore Roosevelt**

liked to hunt, ride horses, and sail
educated at Harvard and Columbia Law School
his future wife, **Eleanor**, was
Theodore Roosevelt's niece



elected to the New York
State Senate in 1910

appointed as
assistant secretary
of the navy
in 1913
by President Wilson



was James Cox's vice-presidential running
mate in the 1920 Presidential election
(they lost to Warren Harding)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

struck with polio

Roosevelt caught the dreaded paralyzing disease polio in 1921

Roosevelt began exercising to try to get back some control of his muscles
he became able to walk short distances with braces and leaning on a cane
he was basically paralyzed from the hips down



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

as governor, Roosevelt created the first state
organization that helped find jobs for the
unemployed in his state



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 sworn in as President
(inaugurated) in March of 1933,
most of the nation's banks were closed

and 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

Roosevelt and his advisers didn't have a specific plan of action, but he said,
*"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 the first thing he had to do was make people believe in the nation's banking system.



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

which required the inspection of all banks in the nation to make sure people could put their money in them and they would remain open.

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, very few people withdrew any money; most people made deposits! The banking crisis was over.



The New Deal

Other Economic Reforms



The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was created to oversee the stock market to make sure another crash didn't happen.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created to provide government insurance for bank deposits.

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) bought the mortgages of home owners who were behind in their payments and gave the people lower payments and a longer time to pay back the loan.

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 idea of paying farmers **not** to work seemed UnAmerican to many people. Also, thousands of tenant farmers, many of them African Americans, lost their jobs and homes when landlords took their fields out of production (but kept farming with the white sharecroppers' lands).*





The New Deal

Industry - the NRA



The National Recovery Administration (NRA) set prices, established minimum wages, and shortened workers' hours to create more jobs.



*The NRA revived a few industries, but employers said that paying minimum wages forced them to raise the prices of their products. After the NRA was put in place, the amount of goods produced actually 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, in better physical shape 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



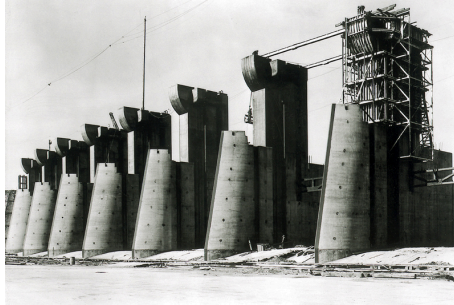
School lunch project paid for with
FERA funds, Fresno City, CA 1940



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)

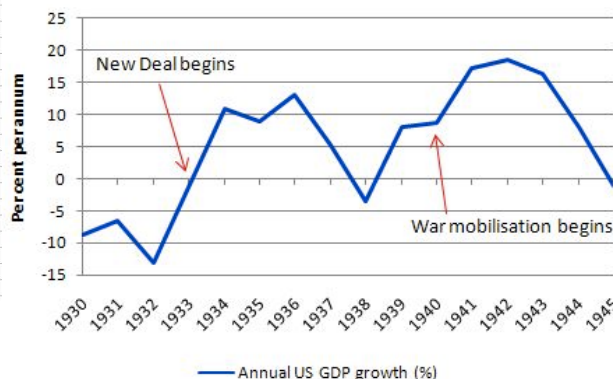
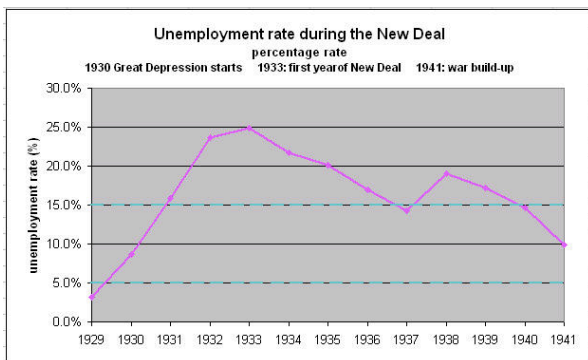
built or improved airports, roads, schools, playgrounds, and parks

The New Deal

effects

the New Deal did not give everyone the life they had before the Great Depression,
but it reflected Roosevelt's willingness to try to do something to help

banks were reopened, many people were able to keep 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