PrepUS History

Unit 7 - Changing America

The New Deal

Immediately after his inauguration, FDR created a plan to turn the economy around, aimed specifically at helping farmers, young people, and the needy. From 1933 to 1938 Congress passed all of FDR’s legislative acts listed in the chart below. Because they were referred to by initials, they became known as Roosevelt’s “ABC programs” or “alphabet soup.”

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| **New Deal Program** |
| AAA  Agricultural Adjustment Act |
| CCC  Civilian Conservation Corp |
| FERA  Federal Emergency Relief Administration |
| FDIC  Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation |
| FSA  Farm Security Administration |
| HOLC  Home Owners Loan Corporation |
| NRA  National Recovery Administration |
| PWA  Public Works Administration |
| SEC  Securities Exchange Commission |
| SS  Social Security |
| TVA  Tennessee Valley Authority |
| WPA  Works Progress Administration |

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| **Program** | **What it Did** |
|  | created to regulate and reform financial practices, particularly buying stocks on credit |
|  | encouraged business owners and labor unions to cooperate in regulating prices, production, and wages; members displayed the “Blue Eagle” in their business’s window |
|  | established a federal pension system for elderly Americans by using money from payroll deductions and matching employer contributions |
|  | gave jobs to more than two million young men in environmental improvement projects, especially the National Park System |
|  | gave money to local and state relief organizations |
|  | insured bank deposits up to $5,000 and eliminated the fear of bank failures |
|  | loaned money to sharecroppers and tenant farmers so they could purchase their own land; most famous for its photography of rural poverty |
|  | provided four billion dollars for the construction of highways and public buildings |
|  | provided funding for the development of the Tennessee River Valley, especially in providing electricity to the general population; taught farmers better farming techniques |
|  | reduced interest on loans and provided for postponement of payments |
|  | reorganized all New Deal relief programs under this single federal agency in 1935; employed workers on large construction projects and gave jobs to writers and artists |
|  | set a new national farm policy, by providing that farmers be paid to limit the production of crops and livestock |