

1929 American Financial Collapse: Overproduction

scientific farming and new machinery dramatically increased farmers' crop yields



a worldwide surplus of agricultural products
drove prices and profits down

many farmers could not pay off the bank
loans that kept them in business



"I think I'll plow under every third parish."

these unpaid debts weakened banks and forced some to close

1929 American Financial Collapse: Underconsumption

the richest 5% of the population earned 33% of all personal income
60% of all American families earned <\$2,000/year

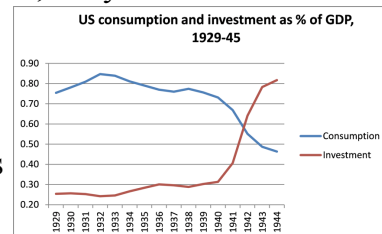
few could buy the goods being produced

store owners cut back their orders from factories

factories reduced production and laid off workers

workers lost their jobs and then bought even fewer goods

factories made further cuts in production and laid off
more workers





One of the westward highways migrants drove, 1938



Migrant family on U.S. Highway 99
between Bakersfield and Famoso, 1936



Between Tulare and Fresno, migrants on the road, 1939



Former Missouri farmers, now migrant workers in California, 1936



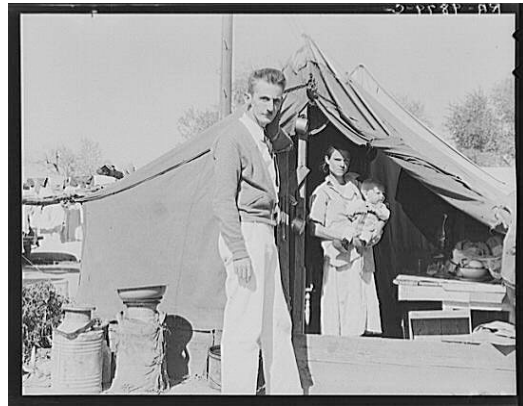
Children of migrant workers, California, 1937



Migrant pea pickers, and all their worldly possessions, 1936



Migrant cotton picker from Kansas on highway near Merced, California



Tom Collins, manager of Kern camp, California, with migrant mother and child, 1936



Man in Maryville migrant camp, figuring his year's earnings, 1935



Oklahoman family vehicle, stranded by side of the road in California, 1936



Squatters along a highway camp (Hooverville) near Bakersfield, 1935



Migrant family outfit on U.S. 99 between Bakersfield, California, and the Ridge, 1939



Migratory family in auto camp, California, 1936



Migrant laborers, Brawley, Imperial Valley, California



Migrant worker entertainers, in blackface, Shafter camp, 1938



Family, one month after leaving South Dakota, on road in Tulelake, California, 1939



Oklahoma drought refugee children, migrant camp, California



Arkansas family, seven months in California, washing dishes, 1936



Arkansan girl in migrant camp near Greenfield, Salinas Valley, California.



Pregnant migrant woman, squatter's camp, Kern County, California, 1936



Motherless children, cotton pickers, California, 1935



Drought refugees in migrant camp, California



California migrant camp, 1936



Son of destitute migrant, American River Camp, near Sacramento, California



Migrant worker's home, California, 1937



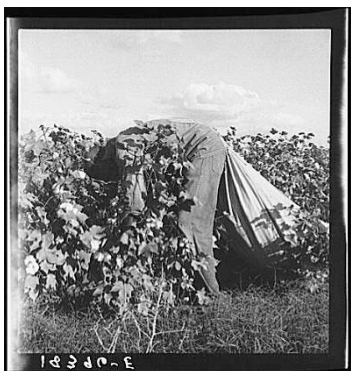
Eighteen year-old mother from Oklahoma, now a California migrant, 1937



Freight car converted into house in "Little Oklahoma," California



Pea ranch camp near Calipatria, Imperial Valley, California



Migrant cotton picker, California, 1938



Housing for workers of the Frick Ranch, California



Camp council, FSA camp for migrant workers,
Farmersville, California



Kern County migrant camp, California, 1936



Migrant child, FSA camp, Shafter, California,
1938



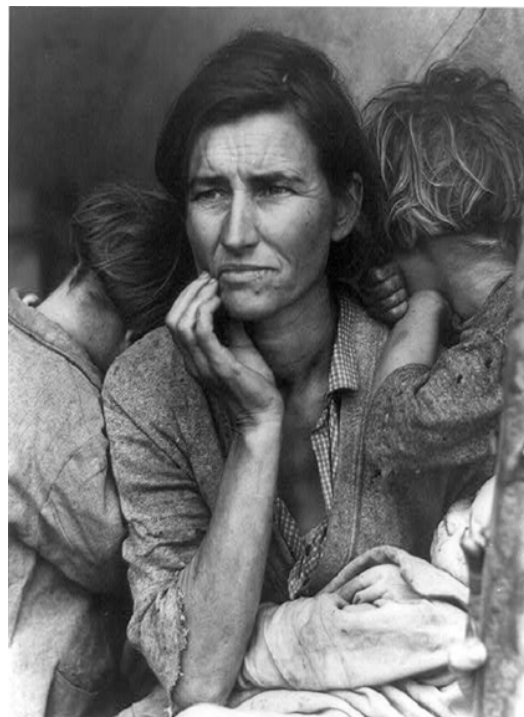
Halloween party, Shafter camp, California, 1938



FSA migrant labor camp, Calipatria, Imperial
Valley, California



Migrant pea pickers on the road with tire trouble,
California, 1936



“Migrant Mother”

Destitute family of pea pickers; mother of seven,
age 32, Nipoma, California, 1936