



# Crossroads of Democracy

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**The Great Depression and  
New Deal**

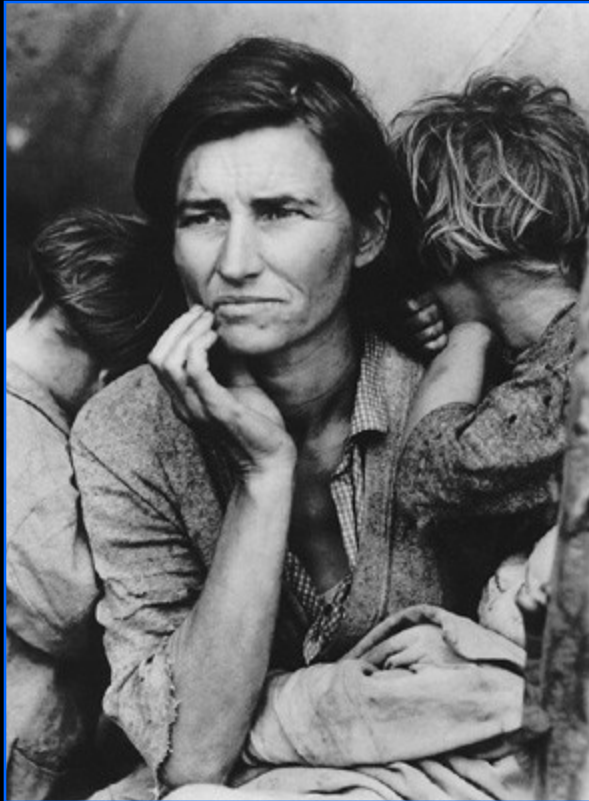


# Historical Markers

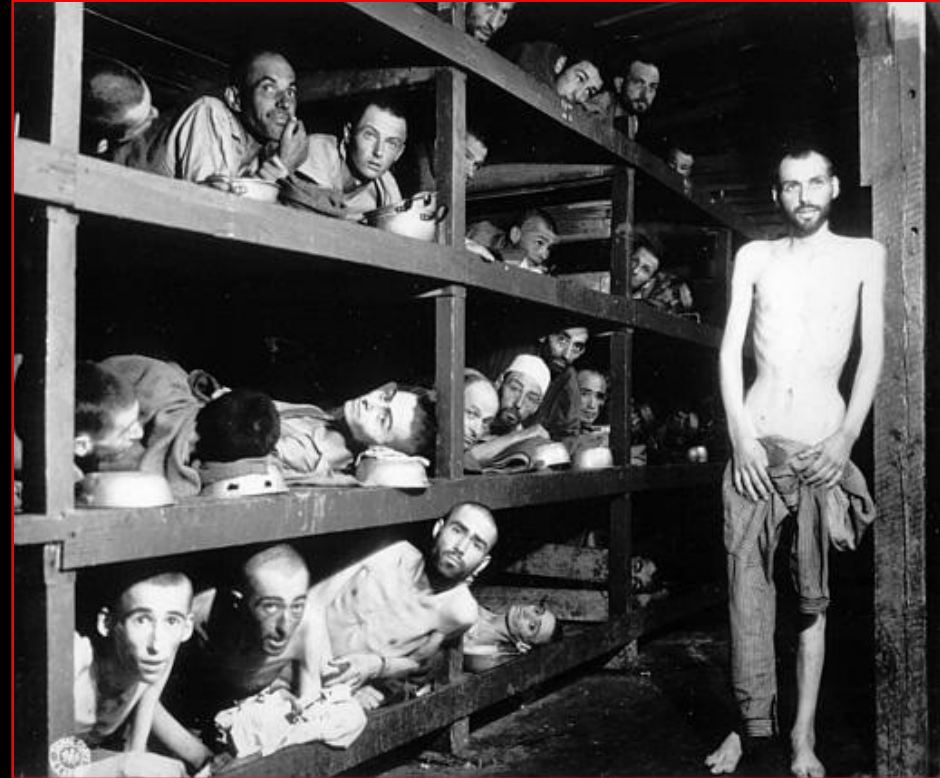
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- Crossroads of Democracy
- Causes and Impact of the Great Depression
- A New Deal of America
- Legacies of the New Deal

# Crossroads of Democracy



The Great Depression



Hitler and Nazi Germany

# Collapse of the Stock Market



Wall Street – October 24, 1929

# Causes of the Great Depression 1920s

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- “Like a House with Termites ...”
- Economy
  - Shift for Wartime to Domestic Economy
  - Speculation in Business, Banks and Stock Market
  - The “Jazz Age” Approach to Spending
  - Increase of Consumer Debt & Static Income Increases
  - Sick Industries
  - Ecological Impact of “Tractoring Out” Agricultural Land
- Worldwide Depression

# Impact of the Great Depression



The Lasting Scar on Unemployment

# Responses to the Great Depression

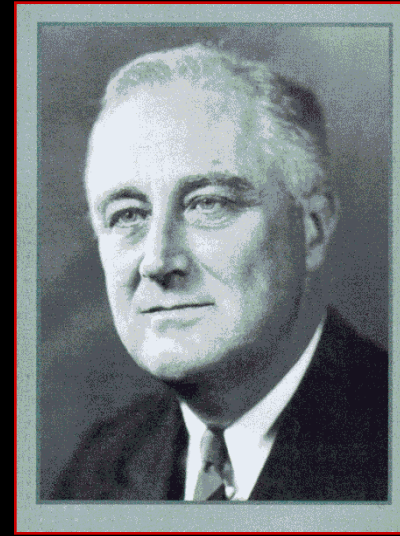
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Herbert Hoover

“Rugged Individualism”

“Trickle Down Theory”



Franklin Roosevelt

“Pragmatism”

“New Deal”

# FDR: The Man and The President



## ○ The Man:

- Silver Spoon, Family Connections. Political Connections
- Polio and Depression

## ○ The President

- Optimistic, Tenure in Office
- Crossroads of Democracy

“The Only Thing You Have to Fear  
is Fear Itself..”

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# Assumptions

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- “Revolutionary Response to Revolutionary Time”
- Every American Resident Entitled to Basic Needs of Shelter, Food, and Work
- If Private Sector Cannot Provide the Basic Needs, Then Government Would.



# Defining The New Deal

- Timeline: 1933 – 1938
- Definition: Series of Programs and Laws to Solve Problems of Great Depression (See next slide)
  - Needed Support of Congress and Supreme Court
  - Needed Public Support
- Used Power of Presidency and Federal Government to Change the Economic Factors and Social Impact of the Great Depression.

# The First and Second/Third New Deals

## **First New Deal**

1933 – 1935

- Economic Recovery
- Partnership of Government & Business
- Actions
  - Created Jobs
  - Price Controls
  - Support for Collective Bargaining
  - Farm Subsidies

## **Second New Deal**

1935 – 1938

- Social Justice – Social Welfare State
- Used Government Power to Provide Needs to People
- Actions
  - Social Security Act
  - Wagner Act
  - Minimum Wage
  - Direct Relief



# First New Deal Legislation: FDR's Stimulus Plan

- Financial Program: Banking Act
- National Recovery Administration (NRA)
- Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
- Housing Program



# Banking Act: Glass-Steagall Act

- Objective: Reverse Banking Crisis
- Outcome: Rescued Financial System
- Actions:
  - “Bank Holiday” – closed banks
  - Emergency Banking Act – Funds to banks
  - Glass-Steagall Act – Established FDIC
  - Off Gold Standard – Issue More Money



# National Industrial Recovery Act

- Objectives:
  - Restore Economic Vitality
  - Labor-Management “Peace”
- Outcome: Minimal Effectiveness & Weak Enforcement
- Actions
  - Government-Business Partnership
  - Industry Codes for Output, Prices, Working Conditions
  - Section 7A: Labor’s right to organize



# Agricultural Adjustment Act

- Objective: Revival of Farm Prices & Incomes
- Outcomes:
  - Benefitted Landowning Farmers
  - Excluded and Displaced Tenants, Sharecroppers
  - Increased Problems - Dust Bowl
- Actions
  - Production Quotas
  - Subsidies for Removal of Land from Cultivation
  - Destruction of Crops, livestock
  - Housing and Health Issues of Agricultural Workers



# Job Creation

- Federal Emergency Relief Administration
  - Grants to Local Agencies
  - Impact in California
- Temporary Jobs
  - Civilian Conservation Corps
  - Public Works Project; Civil Works Project; Civil Works Project
- Tennessee Valley Authority
  - Jobs
  - Electricity



# From Economic Recovery to Social Justice: The Second New Deal

- Shift: Extend Government Support to Individuals
- Actions:
  - Continued Job Creation
  - Direct Relief
  - Housing
- Entitlement Legislation
  - Social Security Act
  - Wagner Act
  - Minimum Wage

# Case Study: Migrant Workers



# Response to Problem: California

## Housing for Migrant Workers

- California State Relief Administration
- Field Report of 1935 – Paul Taylor and Dorothea Lange
  - First time of federal funding for public housing – \$20,000
  - Arvin and Marysville migrant camps

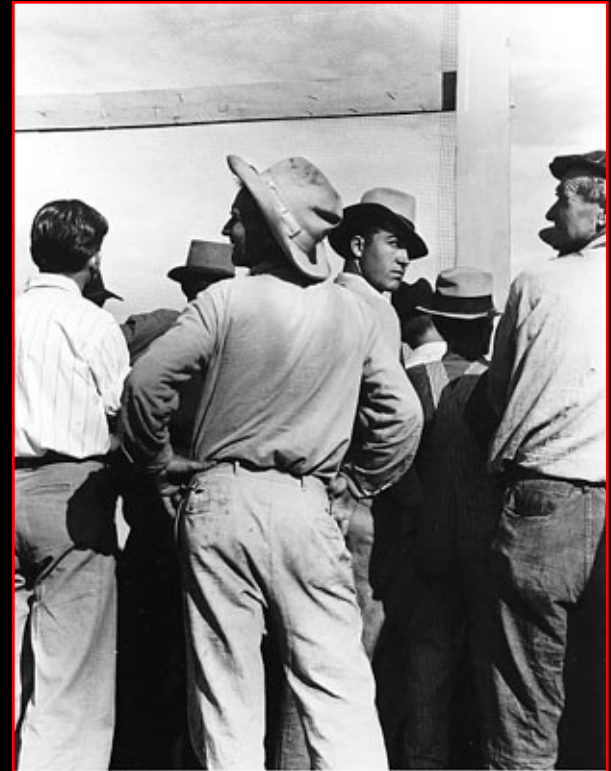
## Dorothea Lange



# Migrant Housing – Before Legislation



# Migrant Housing – After Legislation



# Legacies of the New Deal

## Positive Legacies

- **Democracy Sustained**
- **Entitlement Legislation**
  - Social Security
  - Wagner Act
  - Minimum Wage
  - Low Interest Home Loans

## Negative Legacies

- **Did Not Cure the Great Depression**
- **Did Not Address Problems**
  - Race and Gender Discrimination
  - Migrant Agricultural Workers
- **No Long-Term Solution of the Poor**

Liberalism: Established the Federal Government as a Power, an Economic Force, and Gatekeeper for Assuring Equality of Opportunity



# Women in the Great Depression

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- The New, New Woman – 1920s
- Primary Problem of the Great Depression: Unemployment
- Impact / Actions of Eleanor Roosevelt
- Woman's Patriotic Duty
- Impact: Social Class, Ethnicity, & Race

# Case Study: Social Security Act

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- Francis Townsend
- Pensions: Retired Population
- Social Security Act of 1935
- Not adequate but a start



# Race & Gender: A Lesson in Tolerance



- [Marian Anderson singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C., April 1939](#)
- [Harold L. Ickes, Marian Anderson performs at the Lincoln Memorial Audio \(5:16\)](#)
- [U.S. HISTORY | Civil War Eastern Sunday, Washington, 1939, more than famed 75,000 African Americans to cheer at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on the first African American concert. Marian Anderson give a free, open-air concert. An... Listen audio](#) Add to Playlist