

The image features a monochromatic blue color scheme. The background is a photograph of a wide expanse of water meeting a sky filled with soft, wispy clouds. The horizon line is visible in the middle ground. Overlaid on this background is the title text in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

The Great Depression and The New Deal

Introduction

What phase of our country's history began with the stock market crash of 1929?

Answer: The Great Depression

What is a depression?

Answer: a period during which business, employment, and stock-market values decline severely or remain at a very low level of activity.

How was the Great Depression characterized?

Answer: 1) Banks failed because there was no Federal Insurance to guarantee people's money. 2) Businesses collapsed. 3) Families were living in cars. 4) Children were seen digging through garbage dumps for food. One-Forth of all Americans out of work.

From Boom to Bust

How did President Calvin Coolidge's approach to the economy lead to the Great Depression?

Answer: He promoted economic growth that was unparalleled in any point in history. He cut taxes to the point that 5% of American families owned 30% of the wealth. This made it difficult for families to buy things.

What are stocks?

Answer: Corporations were divided into "smaller pieces." Certificates of ownership of these stocks were sold to bring money into the company. Those who own stocks were entitled to a percentage of the company's profits based on the amount of stocks they owned.

What is the Stock Market?

Answer: The place in New York where men met to buy and sell these stocks.

What happened that made the stock market spiral out of control?

Answer: People went on buying sprees of stocks that push the stocks far beyond what they were worth. Prices dropped, people panicked, cashed in their stocks, causing a "crash."

The Great Crash and Mr. Hoover

Who was the president during the Great Depression?

Answer: Herbert Hoover

What did President Hoover do to combat the depression?

Answer: He had companies agree to not lower wages, he organized charity drives, and encouraged local governments to do more to help the needy.

What was the public opinion of Herbert Hoover?

Answer: The people felt as if he didn't care. This was because he was inept in his ability to use the media.

What were the cities of tin shacks called?

Answer: Hoover towns

The Great Crash and Mr. Hoover

How did the Great Depression effect farmers?

Answer: Prices dropped so low that they could not sell their crops, many of them lost their farms because they could not pay their mortgages.

The First New Deal

After President Hoover's unsuccessful attempts at fixing the Great Depression, who took over as president?

Answer: Franklin Roosevelt

What did Roosevelt initially do when he got into office?

Answer: He took the first hundred days of his administration to quickly try and put in place legislation to try to bring relief.

What did president Roosevelt do help the banks?

Answer: He passed laws to Federally control banks. He declared an eight day holiday where banks were closed.

The First New Deal

What was the National Industry Recovery Act?

Answer: Legislation sponsored by Roosevelt that allowed the government to negotiate agreements with businesses which ended lay offs.

What ravaged the farmers of the west?

Answer: A great drought that brought dust storms that buried houses, destroyed crops, and killed people.

What were the farmers called that migrated from their farms to places like California?

Answer: Oakies

What did Roosevelt do to save farms?

Answer: He formed an agency called the Agricultural Adjustment Administration which paid farmers to produce less in order to bring prices back up.

The First New Deal

What did Roosevelt do to help the people who were in immediate and desperate need of food and other basic needs?

Answer: He passed the Federal Emergency Relief Act.

What did the Federal Emergency Relief Act do?

Answer: Gave federal money to the states to give to the people in the forms of work projects.

A Revolution in Sight and Sound

How did Roosevelt use the media to further his social programs?

Answer: He had weekly “fire side” chats over the radio and used news reels to show the accomplishments of the works projects.

African Americans and the Great Depression

What role did Eleanor Roosevelt do in helping African Americans?

Answer: She advocated for the rights of the poor and down trodden. She helped to establish the first Federal black advisory board in American history.

What were the Blue Eagle codes?

Answer: Laws written that that allowed employers to fire black workers in order to hire white ones.

President Roosevelt did not support blacks like his wife did, what was one example of this?

Answer: President Roosevelt would not support legislation to fight lynching.

The First New Deal Under Fire

What political movement began to surface and get support during this period of time?

Answer: Communism

The Second New Deal

What was Roosevelt's Second New Deal?

Answer: A series of legislations such the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act which provided more money for works projects.

What did Roosevelt do to calm the fears of the elderly?

Answer: He passed the Social Security Act which provided supplemental income for elderly Americans.

What did Roosevelt do to help the domestic workers, farmers, day laborers or others who were underemployed?

Answer: He passed the Revenue Act or Wealth Tax Act which called for higher taxes on the rich, providing a better tax base for the poor.

The Second New Deal

What was the Wagner Act?

Answer: Legislation that forced businesses to deal with the union of the employees' choosing and employees could not be fired for being part of a union.

What did President Roosevelt do to handle his issues with the court system?

Answer: He proposed a law that would allow him to appoint six new justices, increasing the size of the Supreme Court, thus giving him the necessary majority in the High Court to uphold his New Deal.

How did the people respond to this potential law?

Answer: They felt that he was overstepping his bounds and some even accused him of dictator-like behavior.

The Legacy of the New Deal

What was the Fair Labor Standards Act?

Answer: Legislation that set a national minimum wage.

What are some of the long-term effects of the New Deal?

Answer: Deficit spending and involvement of the Federal government in the lives of people.

How was the way America handled the economic difficulties of the time different from European countries such as Germany or Italy?

Answer: During this time of difficulty, the U.S. became a stronger democracy while those countries fell under the control of brutal dictators.