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Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945



# The Great Depression

Outcome: Franklin Roosevelt & The New Deal

# Franklin Roosevelt & The New Deal

## 1. Background

### a. Youth and Personal Life

- i. Born into wealthy New York family
- ii. Spoiled; only child, “doted on”
- iii. Harvard Educated ---> history & law (athlete)
- iv. Married Eleanor Roosevelt (influential 1<sup>st</sup> Lady); 6 kids
- v. 1921 – age 39 ---> stricken w/polio (changed his life)



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## b. Long Political Career

- i. 1910 – NY Senate; 1912 – Asst. Sec. Of U.S. Navy
- ii. 1920 – Vice Presidential candidate --> lost to Harding/Coolidge
- iii. 1928-1932 ---> served as Governor of NY
- iv. 1932 ---> defeats Herbert Hoover for Presidency

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## 2. Presidency

- a. Character: ---> energetic, compassionate, confident, feared no one
- b. Broke Traditions
  - i. Created a "Brain Trust" of experts to advise him (beyond his cabinet)
  - ii. Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> woman to his cabinet: Frances Perkins
  - iii. Called Congress into Emergency Special Session
  - iv. Ordered a Nation Bank Holiday (goal: to inspect the banks)
  - v. Elected President 4 times
  - vi. Used media to fullest ---> "Fireside Chats"



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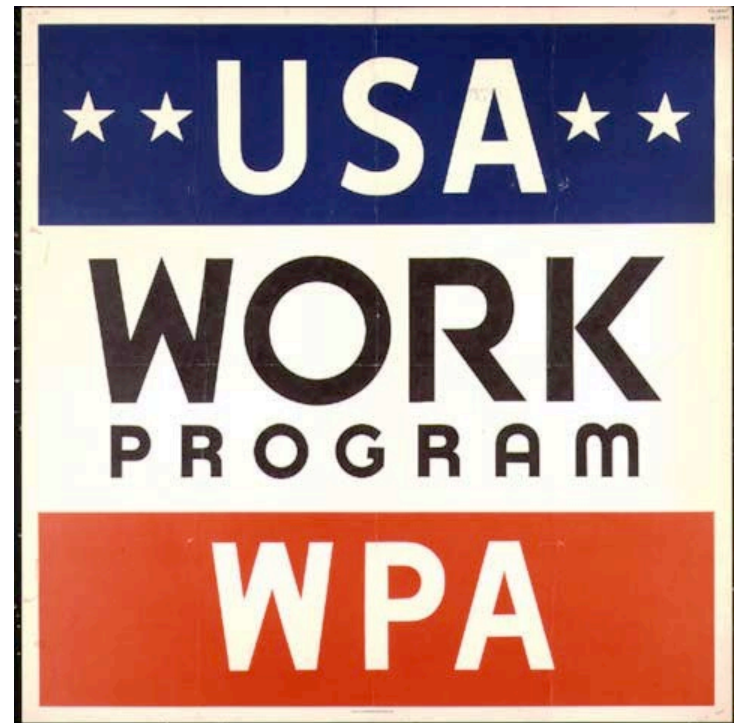
- c. **Personal Attitude Toward Depression and The Role of Government**
  - i. Federal Government has a responsibility to help ---> directly if need be
  - ii. Ignored Traditional Conservative Approach of:
    1. Maintaining a balanced budget
    2. Cutting taxes & waiting for recovery

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- iii. Adopts theory of economist John Maynard Keynes who suggested:
  1. Increasing government spending; deficit spend if necessary
  2. Cutting taxes
  3. Creating government job programs
  4. If workers have \$, they will spend it, priming the economic pump



# The New Deal



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- d. Actions & Policies ---> New Deal Program (3 part Public Assistance)
  - i. Relief (\$, food, shelter; temporary charity)
    - 1. Ex. CCC, FERA, WPA
  - ii. Recovery (programs aimed at industrial & agricultural recovery, jobs)
    - 1. Ex. AAA, NRIA, PWA
  - iii. Reform (lasting changes; built in safeguards)
    - 1. Ex. FDIC, NLRB, SEC, Social Security
  
- e. 1933 – 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment ---> repealed prohibition

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## 3. FDR's Critics

### a. Some said he was too liberal

- i. Conservatives called him a radical socialist
- ii. Gave government too much control of the economy (TVA, jobs, etc)

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## b. Demagogues

### i. Huey P. Long

1. Louisiana
2. Guardian of the Gulf
3. Gov't of the People
4. Assassinated



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# Charles Coughlin



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## ii. Charles Coughlin "Radio Priest"

1. Supported FDR at first and then grew impatient with New Deal
2. Offered an annual living wage; wanted banks nationalized
3. Blamed the Jews ---> BAD!

# Dr. Francis Townsend



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- iii. Dr. Francis Townsend ---> focused on program for the elderly
  - 1. Plan would give people 60 and older \$200 a month; could not save
  - 2. Ideas led to Social Security



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- c. Supreme Court said he abused power
  - i. Declared many “Recovery” programs unconstitutional
  - ii. Conservative Group (1930-36); FDR called them “The 9 Old Men”
  - iii. Court Packing Affair --> FDR’s attempt to liberalize the Court (1937)
  - iv. FDR loses the battle, but wins the war – retirements occur

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## 4. FDR's Long-Term Impact

- a. Deficit Spending became normal procedure at Federal level (debt today?)
- b. Government's role in regulating the economy remains strong
- c. Reform programs still exist (ex. FDIC, SEC, Social Security)
- d. Federal government remains a big and growing employer
- e. 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (1951) ---> 2 term limit for presidency
- f. Democratic party membership increased

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## 5. World Solutions to the Depression

### a. Dictators offered prosperity in exchange for power

- i. Germany: Hitler ---> Nazism
- ii. Italy: Mussolini ---> Fascism
- iii. Soviet Union ---> Stalin ---> communism

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## b. The Stage is Set for World War II

