

The Impact of the New Deal

- The New Deal promised relief, recovery, and reform.
 - Relief** programs put billions of dollars into the pockets of poor Americans.
 - The New Deal was less successful in delivering economic **recovery**.
 - New Deal **reforms** were successful and long-lasting.
- The New Deal changed the link between the American people and their government.
 - Roosevelt believed that government could help businesses and individuals achieve a greater level of economic security.
 - The New Deal required a much bigger government.
 - Americans now began to look regularly to government for help.

NEW DEAL REPORT CARD

RELIEF

Point

- Millions of people were employed by New Deal Programs (CCC, PWA, CWA, WPA)
- Direct relief or jobs that provided a steady paycheck
- Government agencies provided direct relief payments to struggling citizens (FERA)
- Social Security is still an important part of retirement today

Counterpoint

- Establishes a welfare state (Size of government is increased)
- Jobs were not provided to all that needed them
- Unemployment remains at 13% in 1940
- The level of government assistance varied by state. For example, a family needing assistance in Massachusetts might receive \$60 per month, while a family in Arkansas might get \$8.

REFORM

POINT

- Banking and Stock systems become stabilized and regulated (FDIC, SEC, Glass-Steagall)
- Wagner Act and NLRB boosted union membership and enforced labor laws
- Minimum wage improved purchasing power
- Child Labor, Workers Compensation, and Unemployment Insurance programs better protected workers

COUNTERPOINT

- Power of the President was dramatically increased in the following areas
 - Economy
 - Social Policy
- New Deal programs had very little oversight by congress (budgets)

RECOVERY

POINT

- Rural areas were brought into the modern world with the electricity (REA)
- Agricultural and soil conservation subsidies provided some relief to farmers (AAA, FSA)
- Gross National Product to 85% of the level of 1929 (\$85 Billion)
- The New Deal left thousands of roadways, bridges, dams, public buildings, and works of art.

COUNTERPOINT

- Not as successful at economic recovery
- Unemployment remained high.
- Some critics argued that Roosevelt needed the support of big business.
- Other critics said that the New Deal didn't spend enough money.
- Government took too much of an active role in the economy

The End of the New Deal Weakening Support

- Setbacks such as the court-packing fight and the 1937 economic downturn gave power to anti-New Deal senators.
- Opposition in Congress made passing New Deal legislation more difficult. Only one piece passed in 1938: the Fair Labor Standards Act (which set up a minimum wage).

1938 Elections

- Roosevelt tried to influence voters in the South during the congressional elections of 1938; however his candidates lost.
- The Republicans made gains in the both houses.
- Roosevelt lacked the congressional support he needed to pass New Deal laws.

New Roles for Women

- Roosevelt promoted and recognized women.
- Frances Perkins – Secretary of Labor – was the first woman to head an executive office.
- Roosevelt appointed women to such posts as director of the U.S. Mint and assistant secretary of the Treasury.
- Women served as leaders in several New Deal agencies.
- Still, women faced challenges and discrimination.
 - Lower wages
 - Less opportunities
 - Hostility in the workplace

New Roles for African Americans

- Roosevelt's administration also appointed many African Americans.
 - A group of African Americans hired to fill government posts were known as the **Black Cabinet**, and they served as unofficial advisors to the president.
 - The Black Cabinet met under the leadership of **Mary McLeod Bethune**, director of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration.
 - Many African Americans left the Republican party and joined the Democratic Party
- Still, African Americans continued to face tremendous hardships during the 1930s.
 - Severe discrimination
 - Thousands of African American sharecroppers and tenant farmers were not helped by New Deal programs.
 - Southern Democrats in Congress opposed efforts to aid African Americans.
- Many African American switch from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party during the 1930s.

Popular Entertainment of the Great Depression

Movies

- Millions of Americans went to the movies each week.
- Most films were upbeat and allowed viewers to "escape" the depression.
- Grand musicals and comedies were popular.
- Animation and color photography delighted audiences.

Radio

- Provided politics, religion, music, sports, and other forms of entertainment
- Introduced new music styles such as jazz and swing
- Action shows such as *The Lone Ranger* and comedies such as *Fibber McGee and Molly* were popular.

Sports

- Interest in sports remained strong in the 1930s.
- Baseball was popular.
 - Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Joe Lewis