

## 2003 APUSH DBQ- FDR and New Deal

Having gone through severe unemployment, food shortages, and a seemingly remiss President Hoover, the American people were beginning to lose hope. But sentiments began to turn as FDR stepped into office and implemented his New Deal programs. FDR and his administration responded to the crisis by executing policies that would successfully address reform, relief, and, unsuccessfully, recovery. Although WWII ultimately recovered America from its depression, it was FDR's response with the New Deal programs that stopped America's economic downfall, relieved hundreds of Americans, reformed many policies, and consequently expanded government power.

One of FDR's first orders of business was to respond to the need of reforming the banking system. FDR created the Emergency Banking Act that shut down all banks across the US and only allowed them to reopen upon government inspection. This proved effective as Americans began to restore their trust in the banking system. The EBA also demonstrated how government power was expanding, as the program allowed the government to ignore states' and businesses' rights to shut down the banks.

John L. Lewis praises the Wagner Act, which was FDR's response to the "widespread labor unrest". **(Doc G)** The Wagner Act addressed the concerns of workers over their rights as union members and ability to collectively bargain. The act proved effective as labor unrest began to dwindle. FDR took this chance to once again increase the government's power by creating the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB enforced the terms of the Wagner Act. The Wagner Act changed the role of the government by implying that social justice was now also on the government's agenda of what to provide to citizens, in addition to political rights and economic security.

Another instance of reform provided by FDR and his administration was social security. **(Doc E)** In response to Townsend and his followers, FDR created the Social Security Act which gave pensions to old-age workers, along with many other benefits to citizens. The effectiveness of Social Security was only satisfactory, as it failed to help farmers and domestic workers. Yet, it implanted hope into millions of Americans for the well-being of their future and the capitalist system. The Social Security Act was also revolutionary in changing the government's role by showing how a citizen's welfare was now also part of the government's responsibility. All these new programs and organizations created by the New Deal show how they greatly expanded the government's power and influence. FDR's New Deal was a progression of small change that consequently led to an expansion of government power. **(Doc C)** The New Deal's many reform programs provided a foundation for America to build off of.

FDR's New Deal also sought out to provide relief for Americans. Unemployment rates were high and poverty was widespread. To solve these problems, FDR created many programs and organizations, such as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Poor women, and also men, were barely assisted by the government. **(Doc A)** Urban unemployment represented a big problem in the US. To solve the unemployment issue, FDR implemented the CWA, which gave jobs to many people to build or repair roads, buildings, and other structures. This was very effective because it not only dealt with the problem of unemployment, but it also improved the deteriorating parts of the country. Unfortunately, public works programs like these greatly increased the national debt, as well. The CCC functioned in the same way, providing millions of jobs to unemployed workers for maintaining and restoring the environment.

The Federal Emergency Relief Program revitalized local relief programs by giving them funding. All of these programs were in the First New Deal and dropped unemployment about twenty-five percent from 12,830,000 unemployed to 7,700,000 unemployed, thus proving the effectiveness of these relief programs. **(Doc J)** The creation of such programs also expanded the role of government by demonstrating that the government could have a large bureaucracy. The numerous programs FDR implemented were all run by the bureaucracy, thus the "bureaucracy in Washington grew by leaps and bounds" according to William Lloyd Garrison, Jr. **(Doc D)**

One of the issues the New Deal did not completely heal was recovery, which would be taken care of by WWII. Two of FDR's chief recovery programs, the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 1933 (NIRA) and the Agriculture Adjustment Administration (AAA) were repealed because they were viewed as unconstitutional. Garrison says that some New Deal programs "retarded the recovery of industrial activity." **(Doc D)** This was true in the case of the NIRA, as it promoted a

cycle of overproduction and underproduction and set in many complicated codes. The government's powers expanded too much when the court ruled against NIRA. **(Doc F)**

Although the role of government had been increased by other New Deal programs, NIRA crossed the line for many of the justices on the Supreme Court. The AAA was also one of the programs that "retarded the recovery of industrial activity". The AAA attempted to increase farm prices by paying farmers not to overproduce, thus keeping the prices stable. But millions of Americans were still starving, so it made more sense to the public to give the surplus of food to the starving Americans. The AAA was deemed unconstitutional because it expanded the power of government too much. Under the AAA, the agriculture sector was viewed as a "creeping socialism", as the government regulated what to produce and how much of it. The government's role in the economy was becoming much too interfering in the private sector. These fears reflected, "that the Administration at Washington is accelerating its (sic) pace towards socialism..." **(Doc B)** Under FDR, Congress was made rubber stamp and FDR's policies went through undisputed. Therefore, many of FDR's "socialist" policies ended up becoming implemented. The judiciary reacted and shut down both NIRA and the AAA because they not only proved impractical, but also tried to greatly expand the role of the government.

Overall, FDR's response to the crisis in America proved beneficial to many Americans, at least for the short term. As Document J demonstrates, it was WWII that truly solved the problem of depression and spurred America's recovery. However, FDR's New Deal impacted the future of America mentally. It instilled trust for FDR and his leadership which would be critical as America was heading into WWII, and FDR would have to serve three terms which resulted in "the government as an instrument of democratic action in the future has...been strengthened and renovated." **(Doc H)**

# 2003 AP® UNITED STATES HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## UNITED STATES HISTORY

### SECTION II

#### Part A

(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—45

**Directions:** The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A-J and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

1. Analyze the responses of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to the problems of the Great Depression. How effective were these responses? How did they change the role of the federal government?

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1929-1941 to construct your essay.

#### Document A

Source: Meridel Lesueur, *New Masses*, January 1932.

It's one of the great mysteries of the city where women go when they are out of work and hungry. There are not many women in the bread line. There are no flop houses for women as there are for men, where a bed can be had for a quarter or less. You don't see women lying on the floor of the mission in the free flops. They obviously don't sleep . . . under newspapers in the park. There is no law I suppose against their being in these places but the fact is they rarely are.

Yet there must be as many women out of jobs in cities and suffering extreme poverty as there are men. What happens to them?

#### Document B

Source: Letter to Senator Robert Wagner, March 7, 1934.

It seems very apparent to me that the Administration at Washington is accelerating it's [sic] pace towards socialism and communism. Nearly every public statement from Washington is against stimulation of business which would in the end create employment.

Everyone is sympathetic to the cause of creating more jobs and better wages for labor; but, a program continually promoting labor troubles, higher wages, shorter hours, and less profits for business, would seem to me to be leading us fast to a condition where the Government must more and more expand it's relief activities, and will lead in the end to disaster to all classes.

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### Document C

Source: *The Evening Star* (Washington D.C.), April 26, 1934.



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Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division,  
Clifford Berryman Collection, LC-USZ62-17290.

### Document D

Source: William Lloyd Garrison, Jr., "The Hand of Improvidence," *The Nation*, November 14, 1934.

The New Deal, being both a philosophy and a mode of action, began to find expression in diverse forms which were often contradictory. Some assisted and some retarded the recovery of industrial activity. . . . An enormous outpouring of federal money for human relief and immense sums for public-works projects started to flow to all points of the compass. . . . Six billion dollars was added to the national debt . . . a bureaucracy in Washington grew by leaps and bounds . . . and finally, to lend the picture the heightened academic touch, John Maynard Keynes, of Cambridge, England, . . . commenced the plan of buying Utopia for cash.

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Document E

Source: Print and Photograph Division, Library of Congress, 1935.

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FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE BEGINNING WHEN YOU ARE 65

GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER promptly

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**WHO IS ELIGIBLE** - EVERYBODY WORKING FOR SALARY OR WAGES (WITH ONLY A FEW EXCEPTIONS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND GOVERNMENT WORK). APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH EMPLOYERS. IF YOU DO NOT GET ONE FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, ASK FOR ONE AT THE POST OFFICE.

**HOW TO RETURN APPLICATION**

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2. HAND IT TO THE LOCAL POST OFFICE.  
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### Document F

Source: Charles Evans Hughes, majority opinion, *Schechter v. United States*, 1935.

The question of chief importance relates to the provision of the codes to the hours and wages of those employed . . . It is plain that these requirements are imposed in order to govern the details of defendants' management of their local business. The persons employed . . . are not employed in interstate commerce. Their wages have no direct relation to interstate commerce . . .

The authority of the federal government may not be pushed to such an extreme.

### Document G

Source: NBC radio broadcast, John L. Lewis, December 13, 1936.

It is the refusal of employers to grant such reasonable conditions and to deal with their employees through collective bargaining that leads to widespread labor unrest. The strikes which have broken out . . . especially in the automobile industry, are due to such "employee trouble."

Huge corporations, such as United States Steel and General Motors . . . have no right to transgress the law which gives to the workers the right of self-organization and collective bargaining.

### Document H

Source: "The New Deal in Review" editorial in *The New Republic*, May 20, 1940.

The government as an instrument of democratic action in the future has also been strengthened and renovated. This is not merely a matter of the addition of many new agencies, but of the more efficient organization of the whole executive department — including a planning board under the President which so far has been relatively unimportant but is capable of future development. The Courts, too, have been revived, partly by legislation, but principally by excellent new appointments, so that we now have a Supreme Court which is abreast of the times.

# 2003 AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## Document I

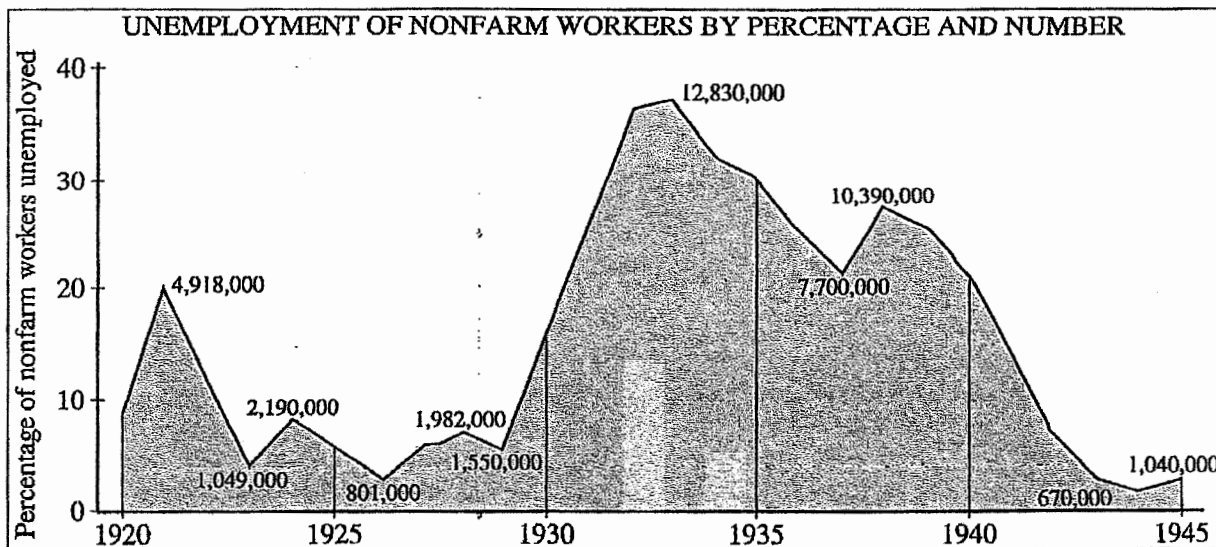
Source: "The Roosevelt Record," editorial in *The Crisis*, November 1940.

To declare that the Roosevelt administration has tried to include the Negro in nearly every phase of its program for the people of the nation is not to ignore the instances where government policies have harmed the race. . .

At Boulder Dam, for example, the administration continued the shameful policy begun by Hoover of forbidding Negroes to live in Boulder City, the government-built town. And in its own pet project, the TVA, the administration forbade Negroes to live in Norris, another government-built town at Norris Dam.

[The] most important contribution of the Roosevelt administration to the age-old color line problem in America has been its doctrine that Negroes are a part of the country and must be considered in any program for the country as a whole. The inevitable discriminations notwithstanding, this thought has been driven home in thousands of communities by a thousand specific acts. For the first time in their lives, government has taken on meaning and substance for the Negro masses.

## Document J



END OF DOCUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1

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