

A black and white photograph of a desolate, dusty landscape. In the foreground, a wooden wagon with large spoked wheels is partially visible. In the middle ground, a lone figure stands in the distance. The background shows rolling hills under a hazy sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of hardship and isolation.

*The Great Depression*

*The Great Depression*

1929-1941

# Economic Troubles Prior to the Depression

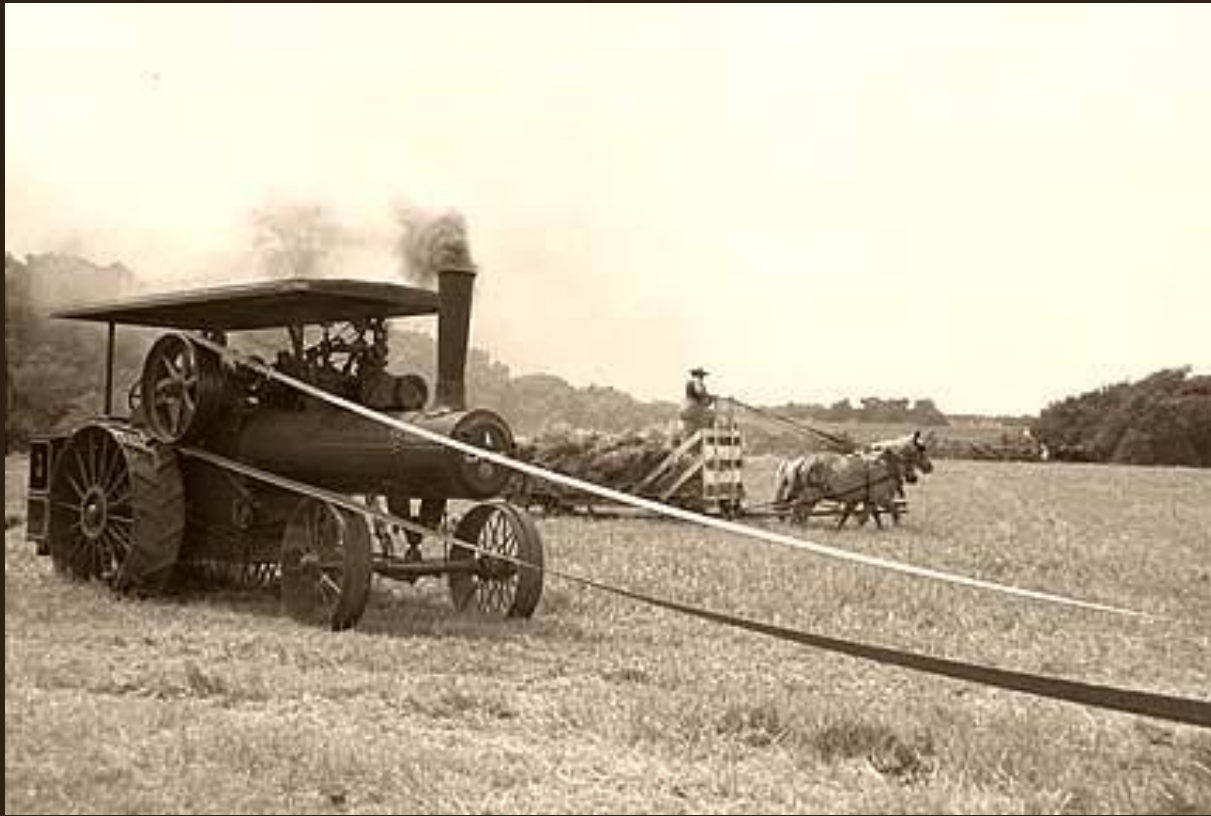


• Consumers in extreme debt

• Key Industries (textile, steel, coal, railroads) barely making a profit



# Agriculture Failings



- Farmers are the hardest hit by the failing economy
- Took out loans for new equipment when prices rose (during the war)
  - Crop prices fall more than 40% when the war ends (foreign markets gone)
  - Many lose their farms because they can't pay off their loans



# Less Consumption of Goods

- Consumers begin buying less:

- Rising prices
- Stagnant wages
- Unequal distribution of wealth

- 70% of Americans in the 1920's lived below the standard of living (\$2500/year)

- The income of the wealthiest 1% increased by 75%, while the nation as a whole increased by only 9%

- Too much credit buying in the 1920's

- The 1920's appeared to be a time of great wealth but in reality, many Americans were living on borrowed money (false sense of prosperity)





# Election of 1928



## Herbert Hoover (Republican):

- Former engineer
- Secretary of Commerce under Harding and Coolidge

*--versus--*

## Alfred E. Smith (Democrat):

- Career politician
- 4-term governor of New York
- Hoover had 2 advantages:
  - The previous years under Republican administrations were viewed as prosperous
  - Al Smith was Catholic (many Americans still mistrusted Catholics and feared the influence of the pope)
- Hoover wins the election



# The Dream of Riches in the Stock Market



- Many people invest in the stock market during the 1920's, because stock values were high.
- Many engaged in risky transactions:
  - Speculation-buying and selling stocks while ignoring the risks
  - Buying on Margin- Buying stock on credit
    - **When the value of stocks fell, they lost their investment and couldn't pay off their loans**

# Stock Market Crash



Panic at the NY Stock Exchange  
on the day of the crash

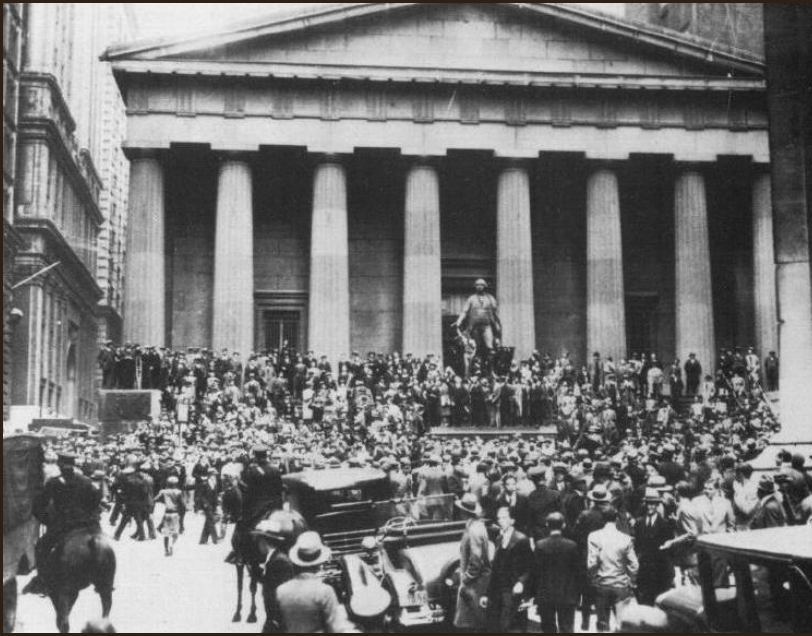
• On October 29, 1929 the stock market crashed and a record 16.4 million shares were dumped.

• The event became known as “Black Tuesday”

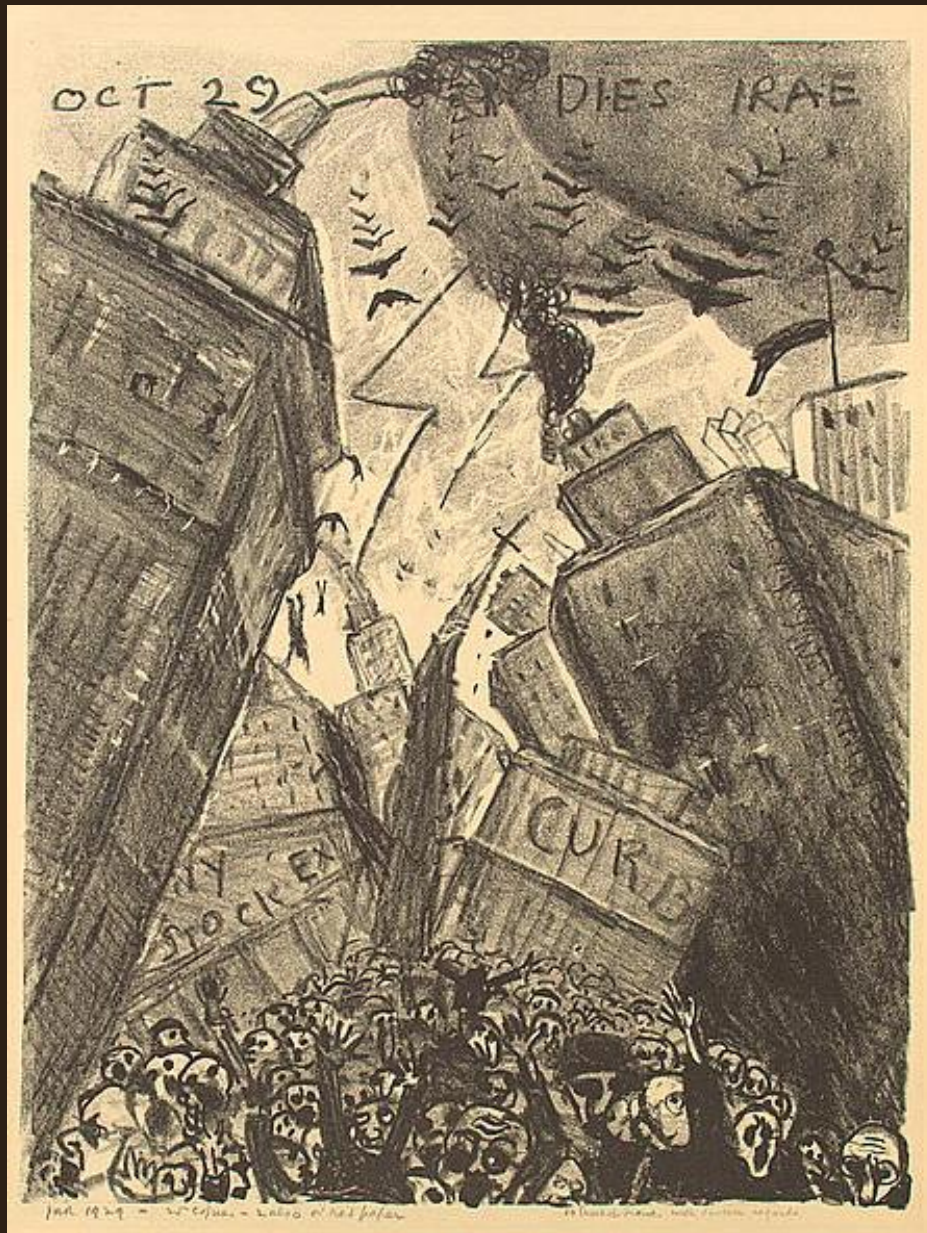
• **By November, investors had lost \$30 billion (amount equal to what the US spent during World War I).**

• The Crash signaled the beginning of the Great Depression:

• **The period from 1929 to 1941 in which the economy was in severe decline and unemployment was high**







*Dies Irae*  
“Days of Wrath”

# Bank and Business Failings

• After the crash, people panicked and rushed to withdraw their money from the banks

• The banks had also invested in the stock market and many didn't have enough cash to make the withdrawals

• In 1929, nearly 600 banks had been forced to close.

• By 1933, the number had jumped to 11,000 (out of a total of 25,000)

People rushing to withdraw their money from the bank



A guard prevents entry into a prominent NY



# Bank and Business Failings



•9 million people lost their savings accounts (no FDIC at this time)

•US GNP dropped from \$104 billion to \$59 billion

•90,000 businesses went bankrupt

•Unemployment rose from 3 to 25%

•13 million workers lost their jobs



"There was much hardship. Many people sold pencils on the street for 1 penny. Others were so devastated, they committed suicide by jumping out of windows of a skyscraper in New York City."

~Thomas Johnston



Suicides were so frequent that one hotel clerk reportedly asked patrons at check in, "Is this for sleeping or for jumping?"

# The Depression in Urban Areas



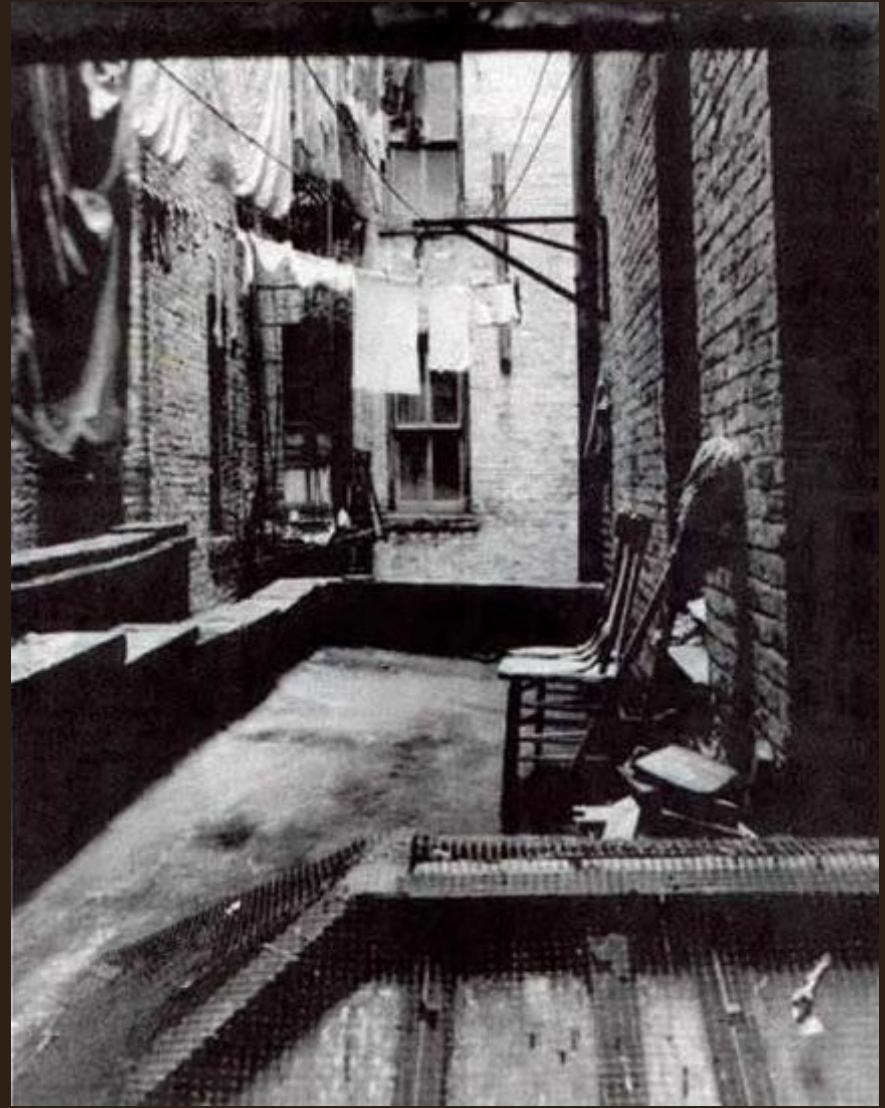
- Those living in cities were hit the hardest:
  - Evicted from homes, forced to live on the streets or in shantytowns
  - Food shortages (forced to raid the garbage, beg on street corners, wait in government bread lines)
- Conditions for minorities were especially bad, because they were already poor (before the depression hit)









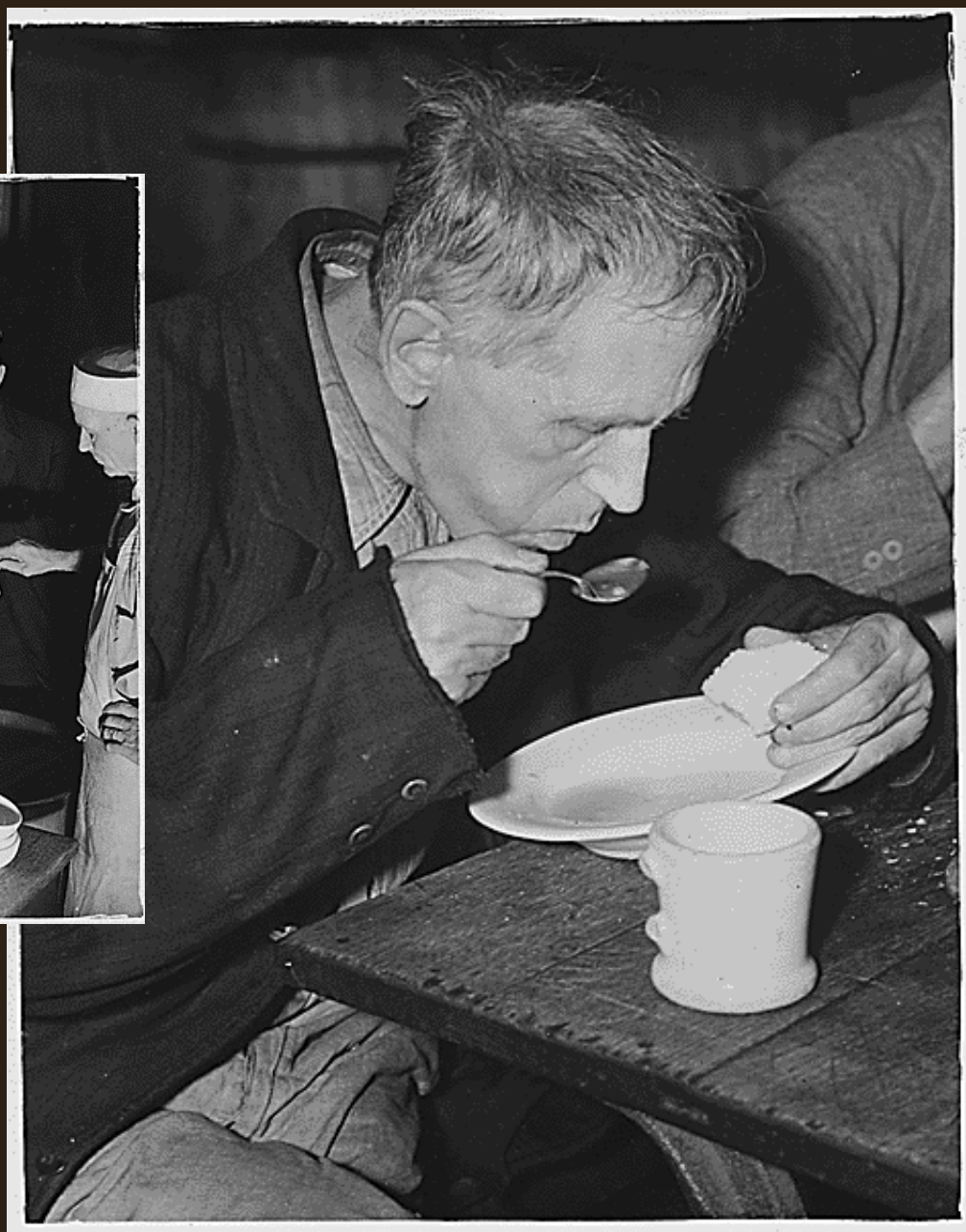


# Breadlines













**“Two or three blocks along Times Square, you’d see these men, silent, shuffling along in a line. Getting this handout of coffee and donuts, dealt out from great trucks...I’d see that flat opaque, expressionless look which spelled, for me, human disaster. Men...who had responsible positions. Who had lost their jobs, lost their homes, lost their families...They were destroyed men.”**

**~Herman Shumlin~**



# Selling Apples

- To avoid panhandling (begging), many farmers and businessmen would sell apples to make their living
- There were over 5000 apple sellers in New York City alone.



Fred Bell, a wealthy businessman who was forced to sell apples after the Crash to make even a meager living





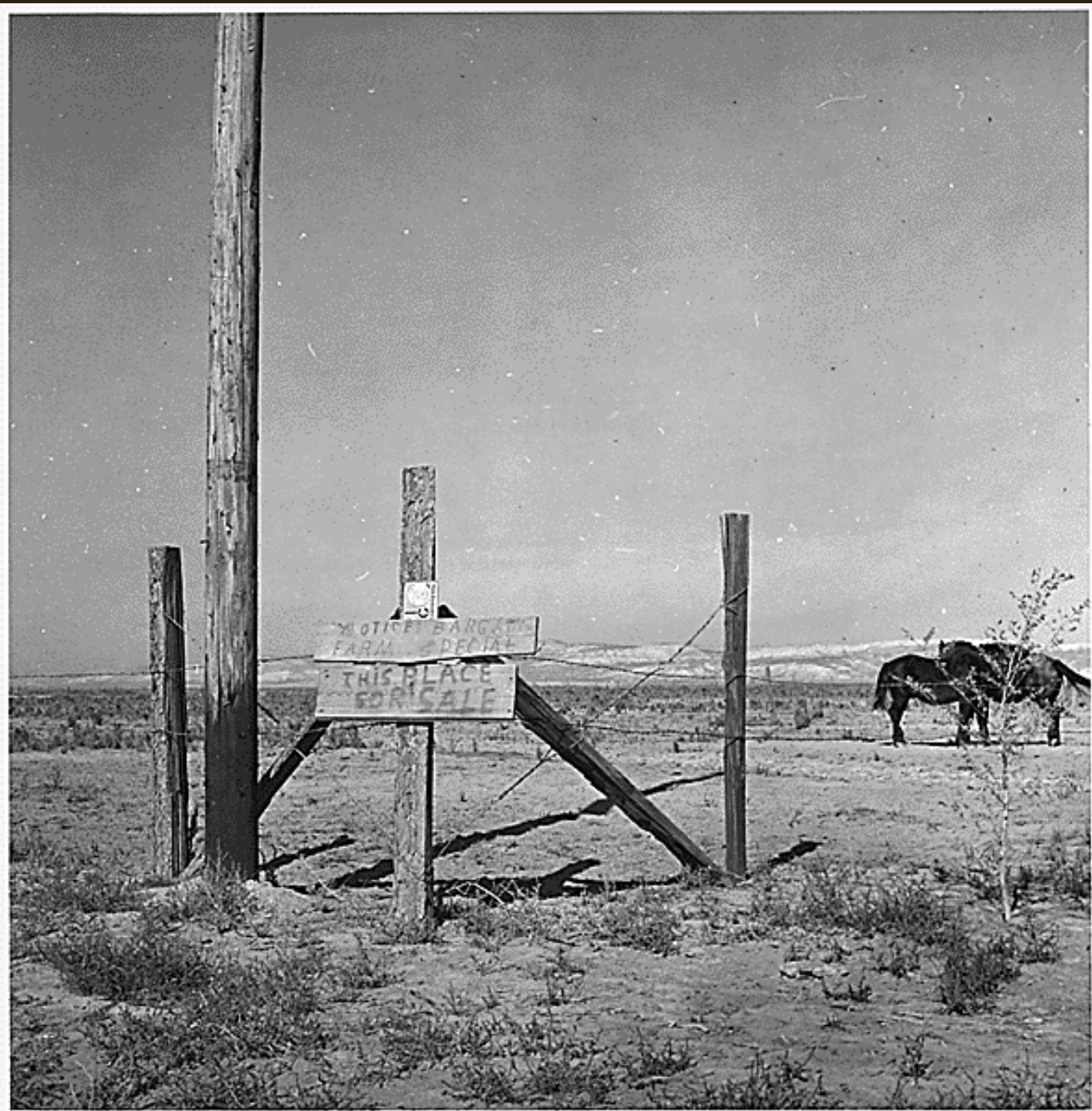


# The Depression in Rural Areas



- Rural areas had 1 advantage over the cities--the ability to grow their own food
  - Unfortunately, many lost their farms to foreclosure when they couldn't pay off their debts
  - Between 1929-1932, nearly 400,000 farms had been lost to foreclosure

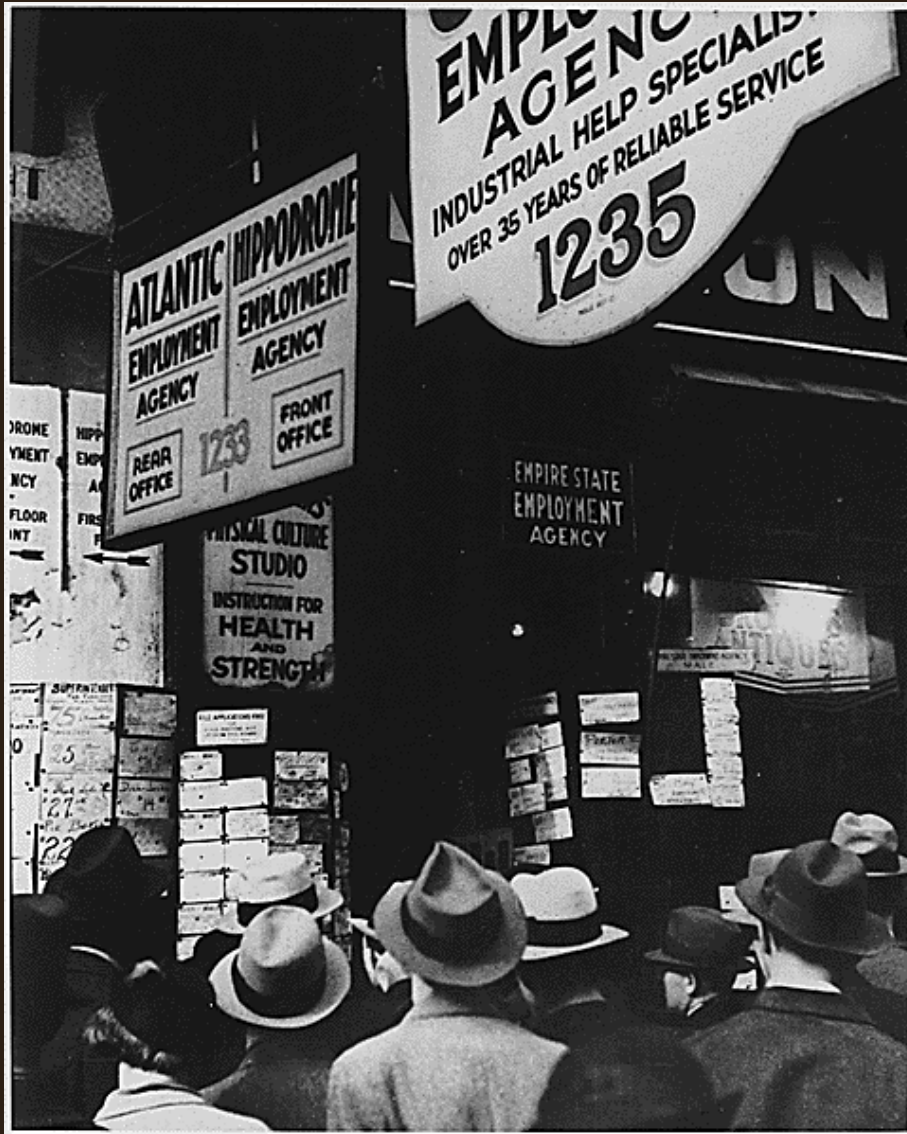




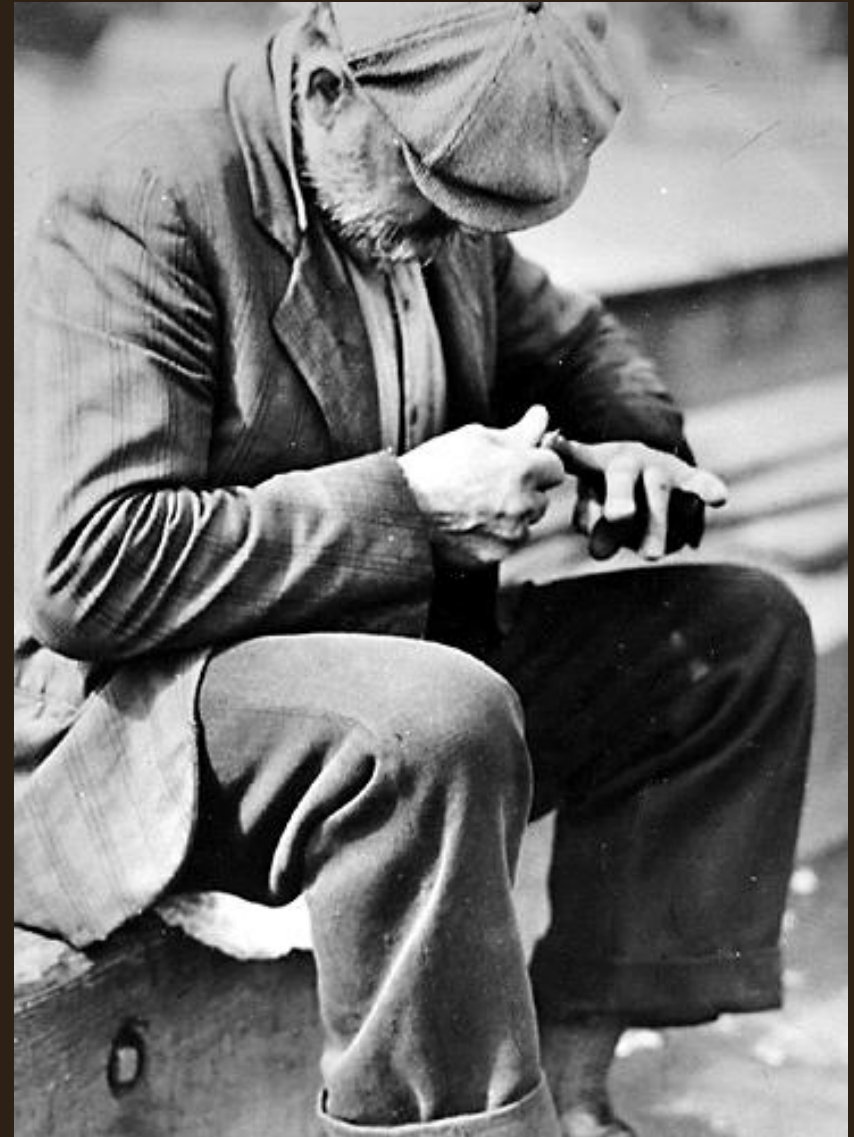


Visiting Family 30 Miles Away

# Unemployment



Unemployment Agency

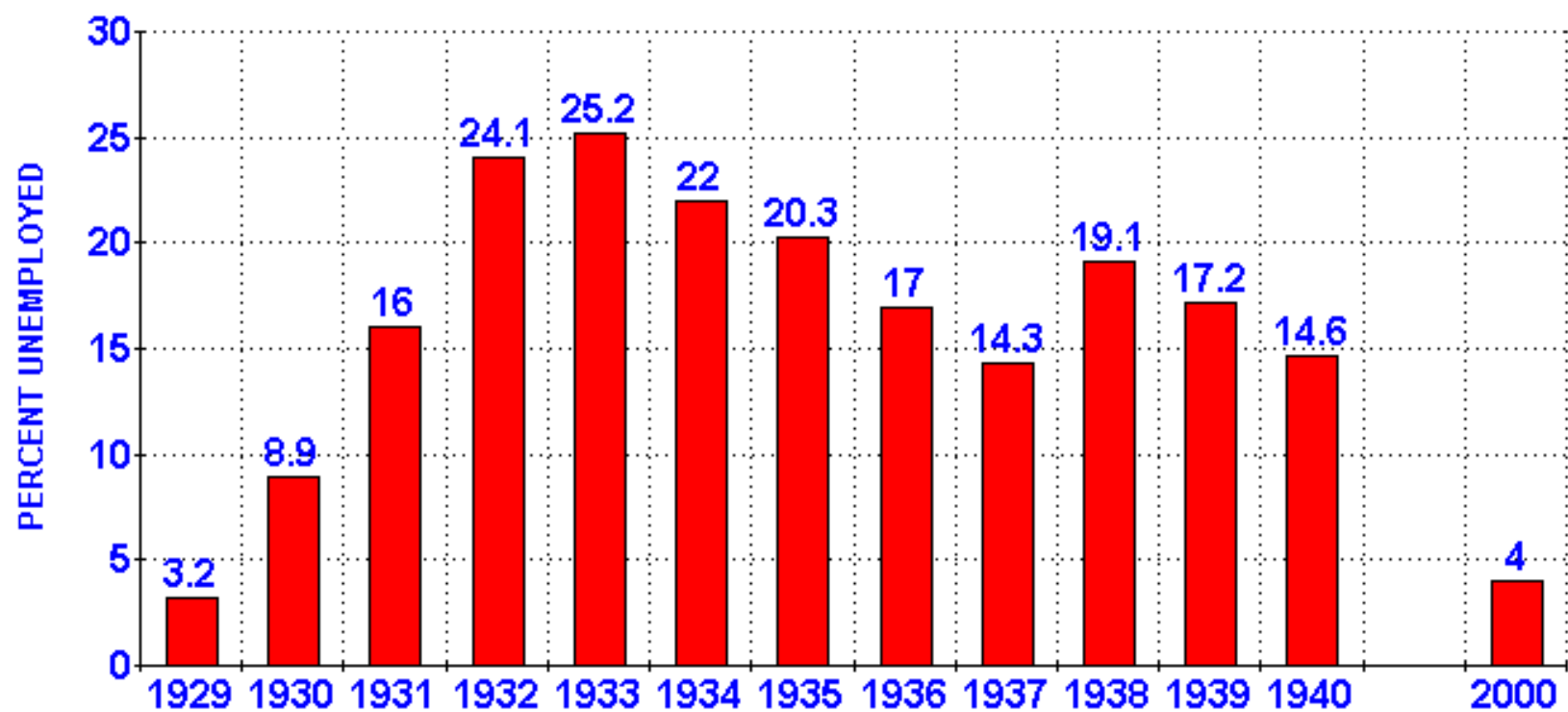


“A Study of an Idle Man”

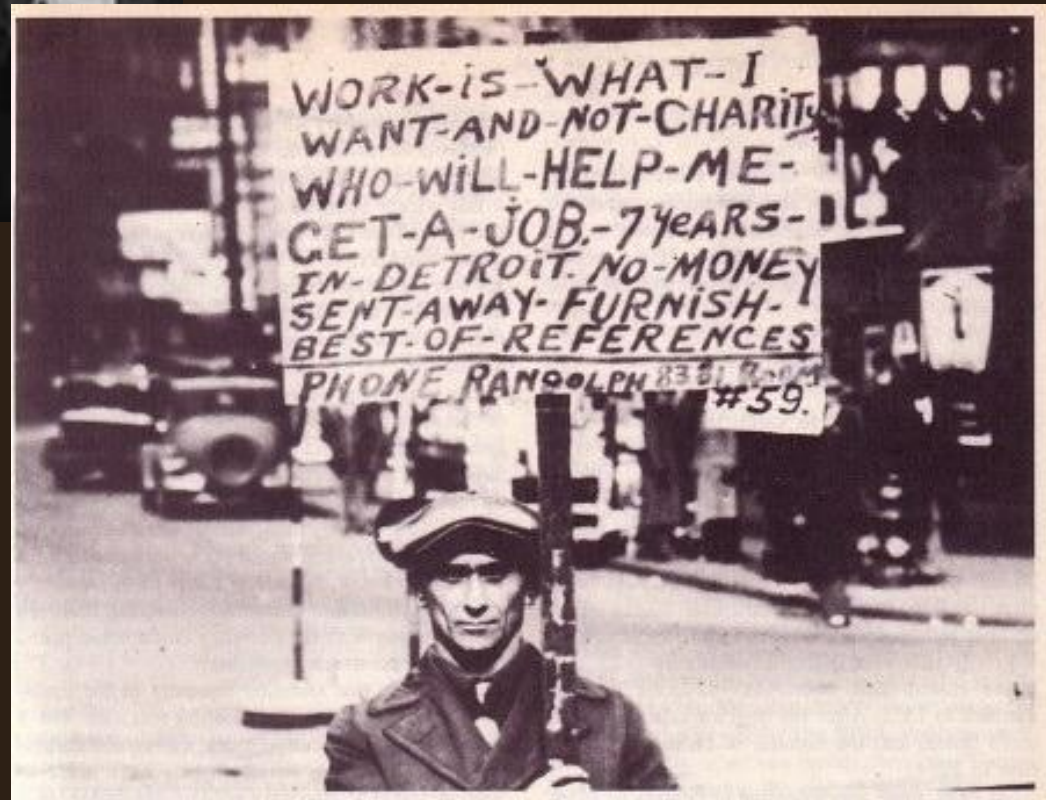


## THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

THE PEAK WAS 30+ PERCENT!









# The Dust Bowl



•Farmers in the Great Plains area faced severe dust storms in the 1930's

•Caused by overproduction of the land which was followed by a drought

# The Dust Bowl

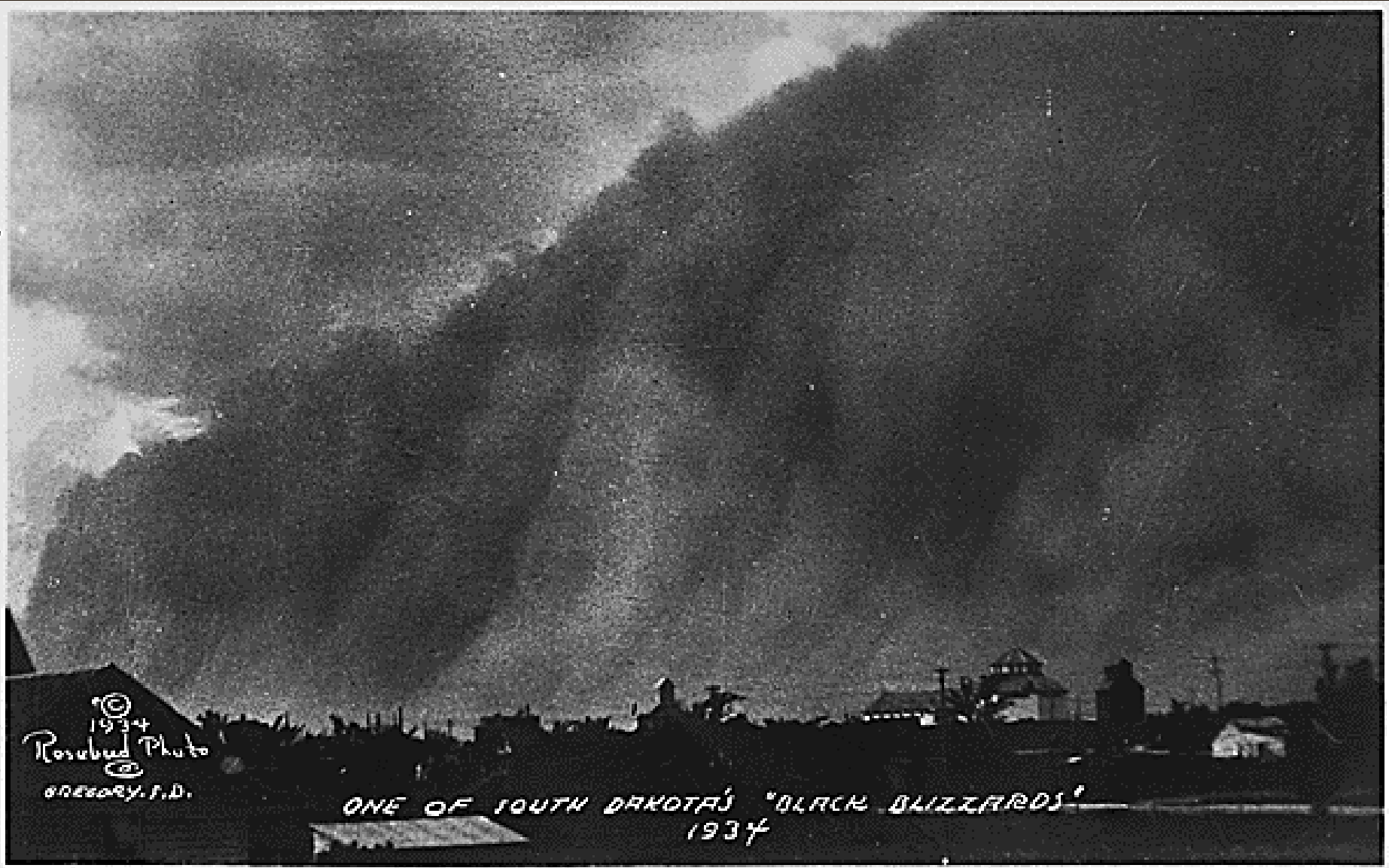


- Violent wind storms swept across Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado carrying large amounts of dust with them, often traveling hundreds of miles

- One storm in 1934 was so bad that the dust reportedly reached the East Coast







©  
1934  
Rosedale Photo  
GREGORY, F.D.

ONE OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S "BLACK BLIZZARDS"  
1934



Dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas,  
on April 18, 1935

Credit: NOAA George E. Marsh Album







Cows were found dead, bellies loaded with dust... It also killed people: there was so much floating particulate matter in the air that children would develop “dust pneumonia” --- a form of silicosis, and die of suffocation.

~Timothy Egan~



The animals died.  
Then the people moved away,  
or, as often, died or went crazy.  
~Timothy Egan~







# The Dust Bowl



• Many farmers in the dust bowl were forced to leave their homes

• Many traveled to California, searching for work as migrant laborers

• Were nicknamed "Ookies"--a term that became used for all immigrants

# Migrant Families





# Migrant Camps















# Effect on Families



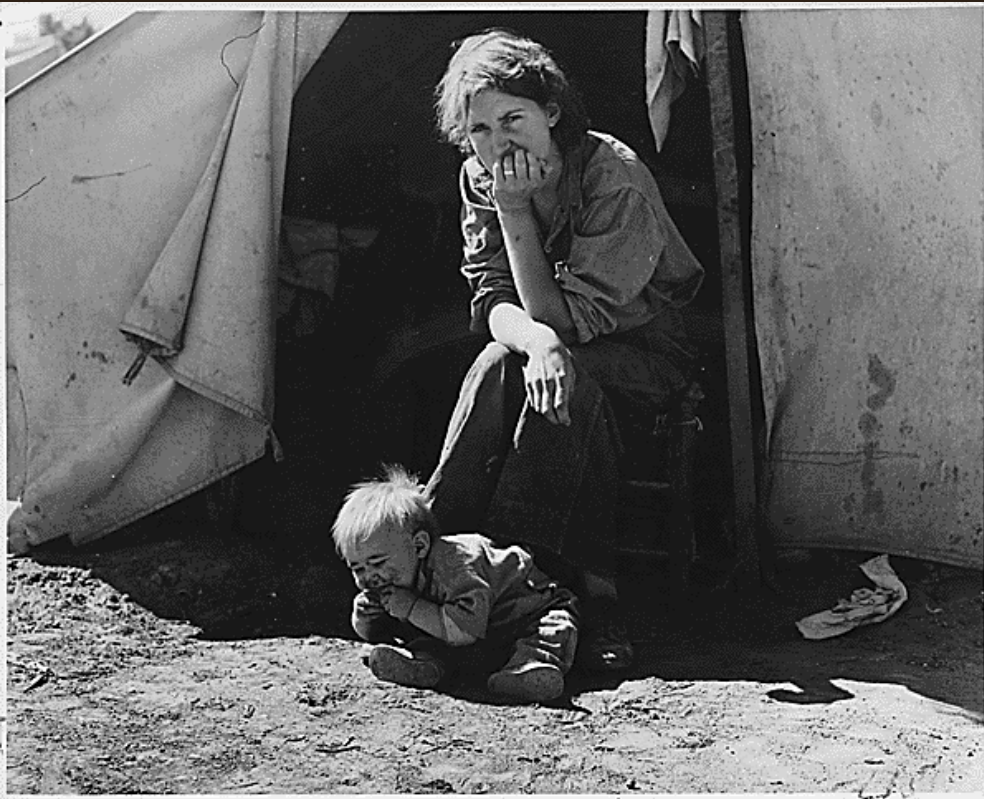
## Men

- Felt pressure to provide for their families
- Many became discouraged and quit trying or left
  - 2 million men left their families and traveled across the country looking for work or escape---became known as hoboes





# Effect on Families



## Women

- Many had to work outside the home for the first time to support their families, while others did what they could at home

- often faced more harsh conditions because they were too



# Effect on Families

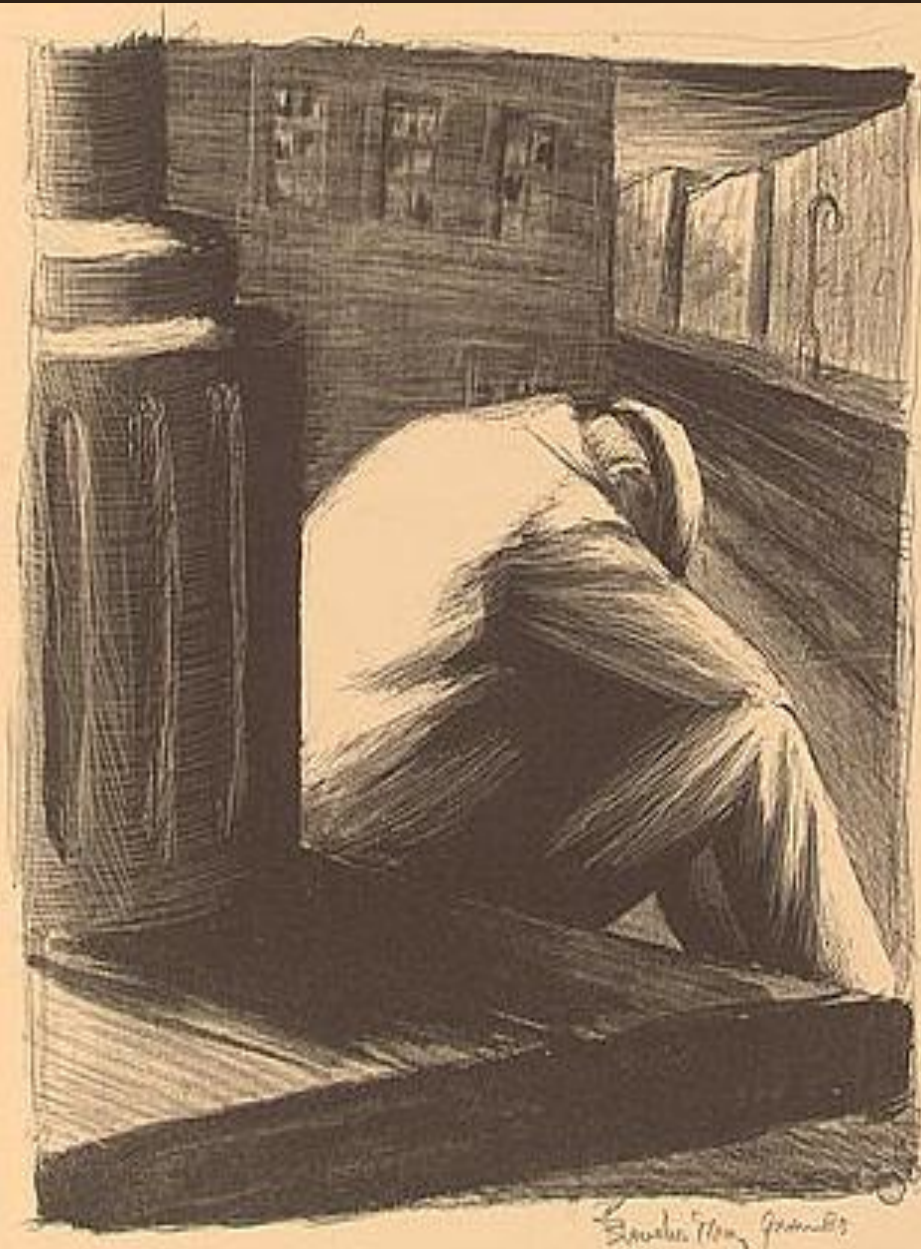


In this photograph of Herman Goertzen's one-room school, you can almost tell which girls are sisters by the similar patterns of their dresses. Herman says their mother would sew the dresses from the same flour sack.

## Children

- Lacked proper diet and health care
- Less tax revenue caused nearly 300,000 schools to close down by 1933
  - Many found jobs or left home in search of work or “adventure” (became

# Social and Psychological Effects



- Many are demoralized by the hardships they face and lose the will to survive
  - Suicide rate increased by 30%
  - More people admitted to mental hospitals
  - Stop going to the doctor or dentist (because they had no money)
  - Fewer attend college
  - Have fewer children (if any at all)
- People are more pessimistic in general
- For many, the fear of poverty and hardship never disappeared (even

# Hoover's Response



- No system of direct relief at this time (cash payments provided by the government to the poor)

- Hoover believed the government should have a limited role in providing relief-Loans to business

- He thought that giving people a handout would weaken their self-respect and morality

- He tried to find solutions to the crisis, but most people felt he was doing nothing to help and even blamed him for the depression itself

- Will Rogers summed up the mood of the nation: “If someone hit an apple and found a worm in it”



# Blaming Hoover



- People blamed Hoover for the depression

- Developed slang to show their dislike (even hatred) for the president...

“Once upon a time, my political opponents honored me as possessing the fabulous intellectual and economic power by which I created a worldwide depression all by myself.”

~Herbert Hoover~

# “Hooverilles”



Shantytowns became “Hooverilles”

Newspapers became “Hoover Blankets”

Empty pockets turned inside out became “Hoover Flags”

Armadillos fit for eating became “Hoover Hogs”

Rail cars converted into homes became “Hoover Pullmans”



“Hard Times Are Still “Hoover-ing” Over Us



# The Boulder Dam



- Hoover still opposed federal welfare, but established building programs to help the economy and create jobs

- The Boulder Dam (often called the Hoover Dam) was the most famous of these projects

- Created jobs

- Provided flood control and regular access to water

- Helped economy by improving agriculture

- Hoover created other programs as well but it was “too little, too late”

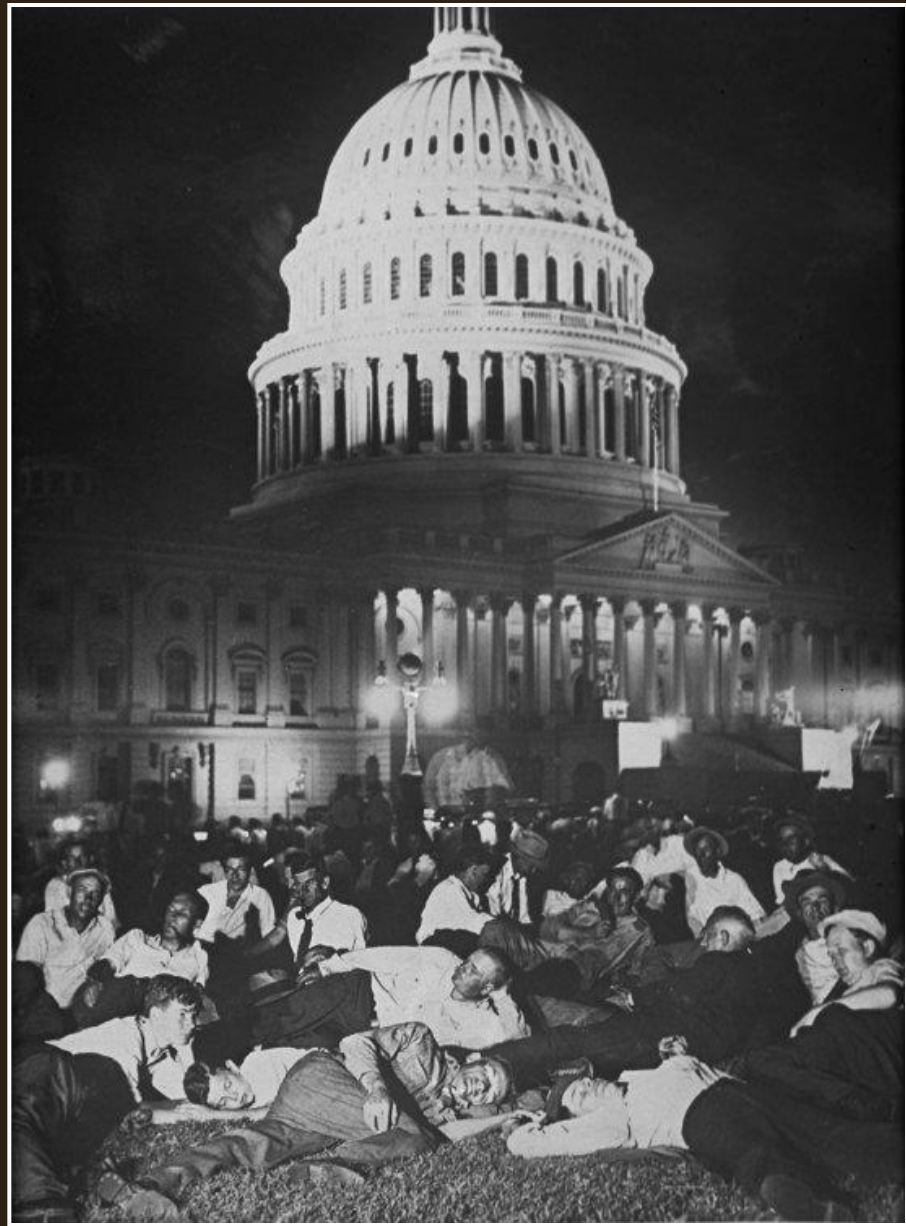


# The Bonus Army



- In 1932, nearly 20,000 veterans, calling themselves the “Bonus Army,” marched on Washington, D.C.
- Marched to support a bill that would give them approximately \$500 as a bonus for their service during World War I
- The bonus was supposed to be paid to them in 1945, but they argued that it was needed NOW instead of later







# The Bonus Army



Soldiers set fire to marchers' camp



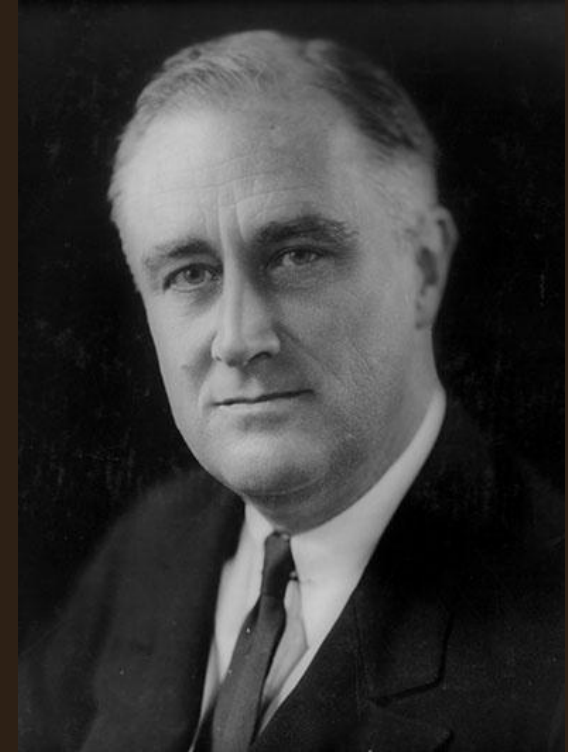
- The bill was struck down and Hoover ordered the marchers to go home--he feared violence

- When nearly 2000 refused to leave (mostly those belonging to the Communist party--threatened violence), Hoover called in soldiers who released tear gas into the crowd

- An 11-month old was killed, an 8-year old was partially blinded, 2 were shot, and many more were injured

- Hatred for Hoover became stronger than ever...

# The Election of 1932



- Herbert Hoover is easily defeated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt

- “FDR” was a 2-term governor of New York who had helped improve conditions for the people of his state
- Distant cousin to Theodore Roosevelt and married to Teddy’s niece,

☆☆☆☆☆☆ 1932 Presidential Election Results ☆☆☆☆☆☆

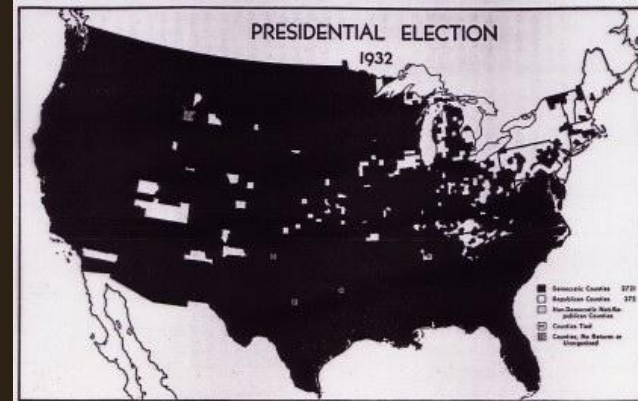
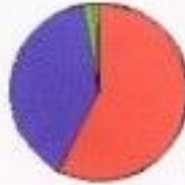
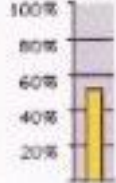
Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
Franklin Roosevelt	John Garner	Democratic	22,821,857	57.41%	472	88.89%
Herbert Hoover	Charles Curtis	Republican	15,761,586	39.65%	59	11.11%
Norman Thomas	James Maurer	Socialist	884,885	2.23%	0	0.00%
William Foster	James Ford	Communist	103,311	0.26%	0	0.00%
Other (+)	-	-	178,466	0.45%	0	0.00%



Map Key

> 40%	Red	Blue
> 50%	Red	Blue
> 60%	Red	-
> 70%	Red	-
> 80%	Red	-
> 90%	Red	-

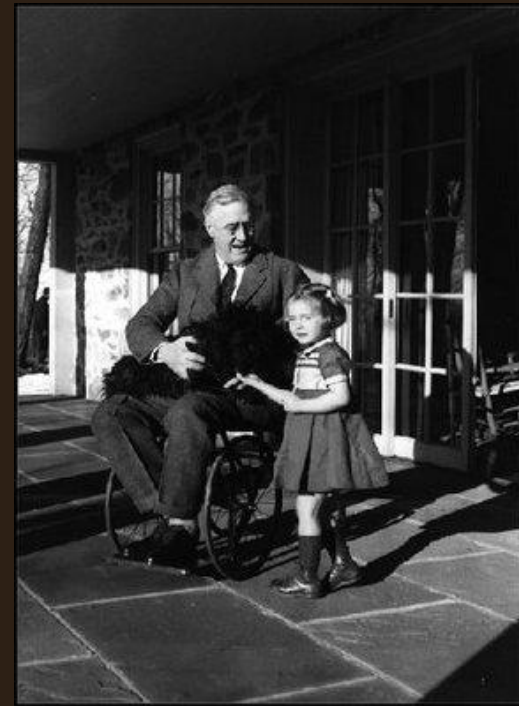
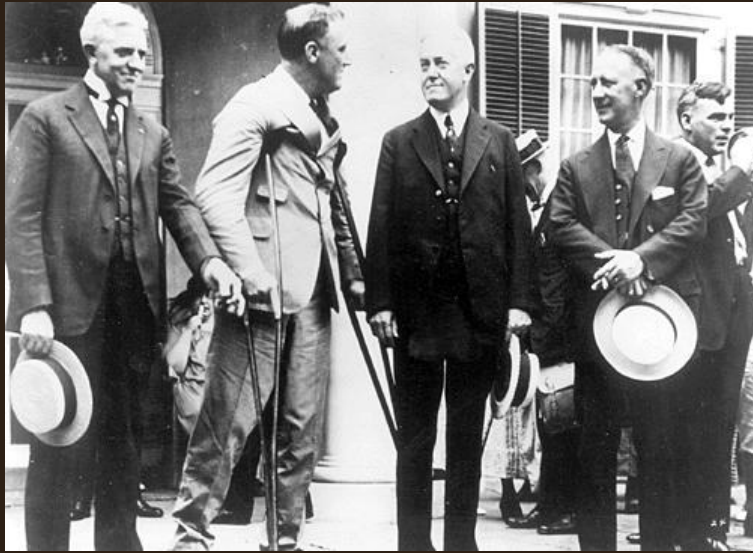
Turnout



County by county results (FDR-black, Hoover-white)



# Warm Springs, Georgia



FDR at the Little White House



FDR's Plymouth PA Phaeton

- Afflicted with polio (at times unable to walk)

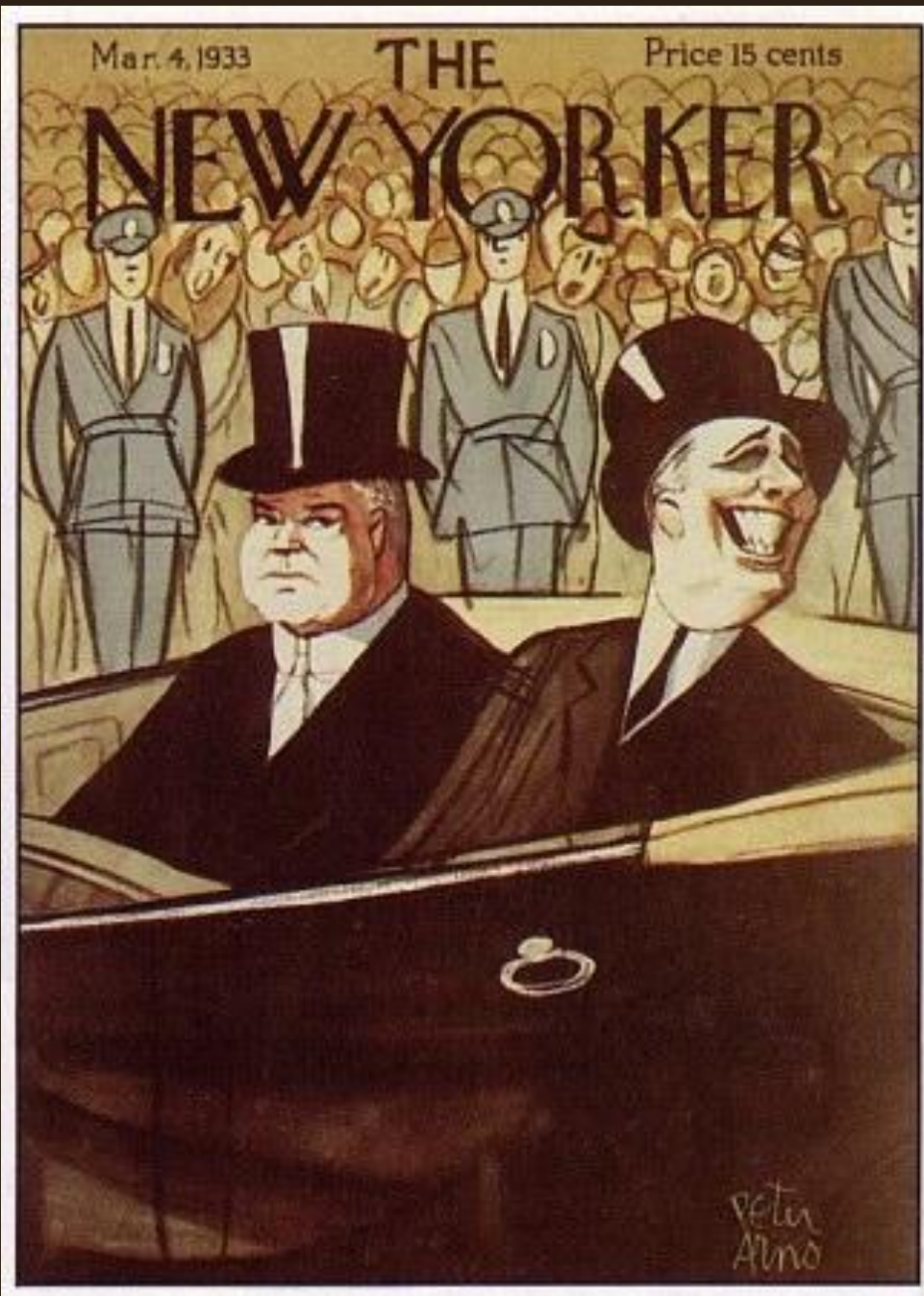
- “The Little White House” was located in Warm Springs, Georgia (because of the warm springs that were said to help with the disease)



Goodbye  
Hoover!







Inauguration Day





Washington, DC  
The morning of FDR's inauguration



- FDR was able to win in a landslide because of his “can-do” attitude and promise to make the government play an active role in bringing relief to the people of America

- His election became the greatest Democratic victory since before the Civil War “When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.”

~Franklin D. Roosevelt~

# FDR



“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

# President-Elect



- FDR was to be inaugurated in March 1933 (instead of January) because the 20th amendment had not yet been ratified
- Immediately after his election, FDR began working on his relief plans with his “Brain Trust”
  - Hand picked advisors made up of the “best and brightest” minds in the US-- professors, lawyers, journalists, economists, etc.
- His programs, called “The New Deal,” focused on 3 major goals:
  1. Relief for the needy
  2. Economic recovery
  3. Financial Reform



# “The Hundred Days”

March 9-June 16, 1933



- Refers to a period of intense activity by the Roosevelt Administration

- 15 major pieces of New Deal Legislation were passed in Congress
- These laws significantly expanded the federal government's role in the nation's economy

# Fireside Chats



- FDR gave his first “Fireside Chat” on March 12, the day before the banks reopened
  - In these radio addresses, FDR explained (in clear, everyday language) the New Deal Programs

# Fireside Chats



- The “chats” made Americans feel important and connected to their president, and reduced fear

- Addressed the audience as “my friends”

- Kept phone lines to the White House open to the public—guaranteed assistance from the president or a member of his staff

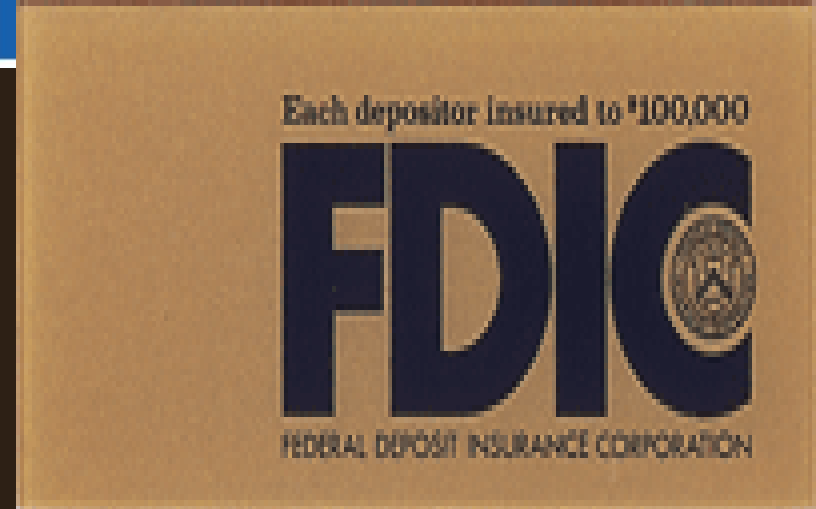


- In this first chat, FDR explained
  - the banking system
  - why large numbers of withdrawals hurt even the strongest banks
  - and what they (the public) could do to help
- Over the next few weeks, many Americans returned their money to the banks



FDR ended his first chat by saying,  
"It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail."

# Other Banking and Finance Measures



- Glass-Steagall Act (1933)

- Established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

- Set up federal insurance for individual bank accounts with less than \$5000 (reassured bank customers that their money was safe)

# The 21st Amendment



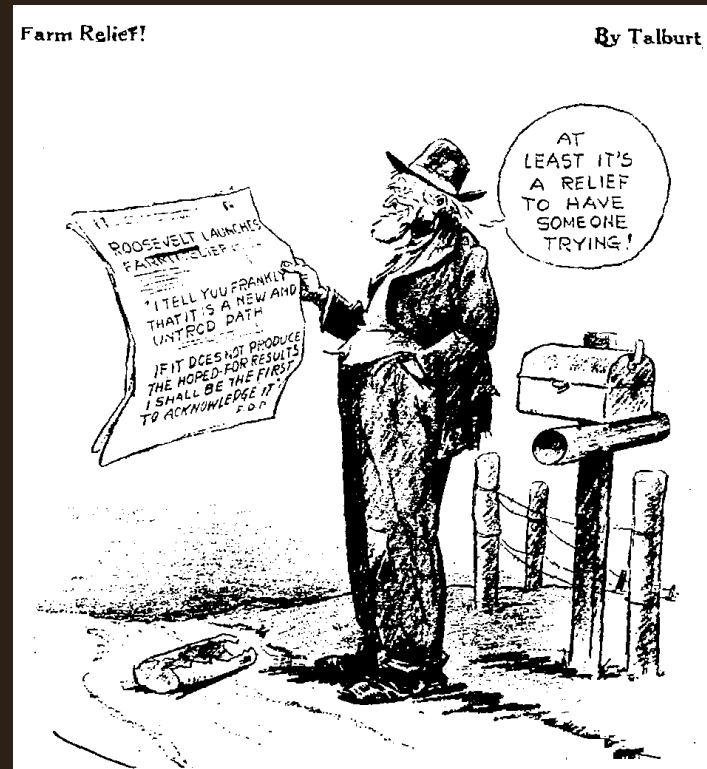
• FDR also persuaded Congress to pass the 21st amendment in 1933

• Repealed the 18th amendment

• Allowed the sale and manufacture of alcohol (within regulation)



# Agricultural Assistance



## • Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)

- Raised crop prices by lowering production
- The federal government paid farmers to plow under 10 million acres and slaughter 6 million pigs
  - The act upset many Americans because so many people were starving
- The act did what it set out to do, however, because crop prices rose and farmers had more money (to buy needed supplies and pay off their loans)

# Tennessee Valley Authority

A federal works program designed to  
relieve  
depression effects in the Tennessee Valley

- Established in 1933
- Built dams and power plants run by H<sub>2</sub>O  
power  
to generate electricity and prevent  
disastrous floods

# Building Dams For the TVA





# Work Projects



## • Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- Employ young men between the ages of 18 and 25 to build roads, parks, etc.
  - plant more than 200 million trees in the Great Plains area--to prevent soil erosion (and another dust bowl)
- Paid \$30 a month with \$25 automatically being sent to their families
  - Also given free food, lodging and clothing while employed by the government
- By the time the program ended in 1942, over 3 million young men had worked for the CCC



FDR at a CCC Camp  
August 1933



# Work Projects



- The purpose of the work projects was to provide meaningful work to restore people's pride and self-respect
- Some critics said these work programs only created jobs (that they thought were often unnecessary) and were a waste of money, but they enabled people to buy food and other needed supplies

*"The ablest man I ever met is the man you think you are."*

~FDR





WPA workers  
receive their first  
checks



# The 2nd 100 Days

“The 2nd New Deal”



• Because unemployment was still high and production lagged behind 1920 levels, FDR decided to launch a 2nd New Deal round

• This meant the government would have to go into deficit spending--- spending more money than the federal government brought in through taxes

# WAGNER ACT

1935 United States federal law that protects the rights of most workers in the private sector to organize labor unions, to engage in collective bargaining, and to take part in strikes and other forms of concerted activity in support of their demands.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM IS BACK



# Social Security Act



- 3 major parts to the act (created in 1935)
  1. Old age insurance for retirees aged 65 and older
  2. Unemployment compensation
  3. Gave aid to families with dependent children (children could collect social security benefits from a deceased parent's "account") and the disabled
- One of the longest lasting New Deal programs

# The 2nd 100 Days

“The 2nd New Deal”



• FDR appealed to Congress to extend previous New Deal programs and enlisted the help of his wife, Eleanor (a social reformer who encouraged FDR to appoint women to government positions)

• President Truman referred to her as “The First Lady of the World” because of the impact she had in regard to social progress, civil rights and Womens activism

• The 2nd New Deal helped farmers, young people, and other professionals

# Rural Electrification Administration



- The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) financed and worked with electrical companies to bring electricity to rural areas

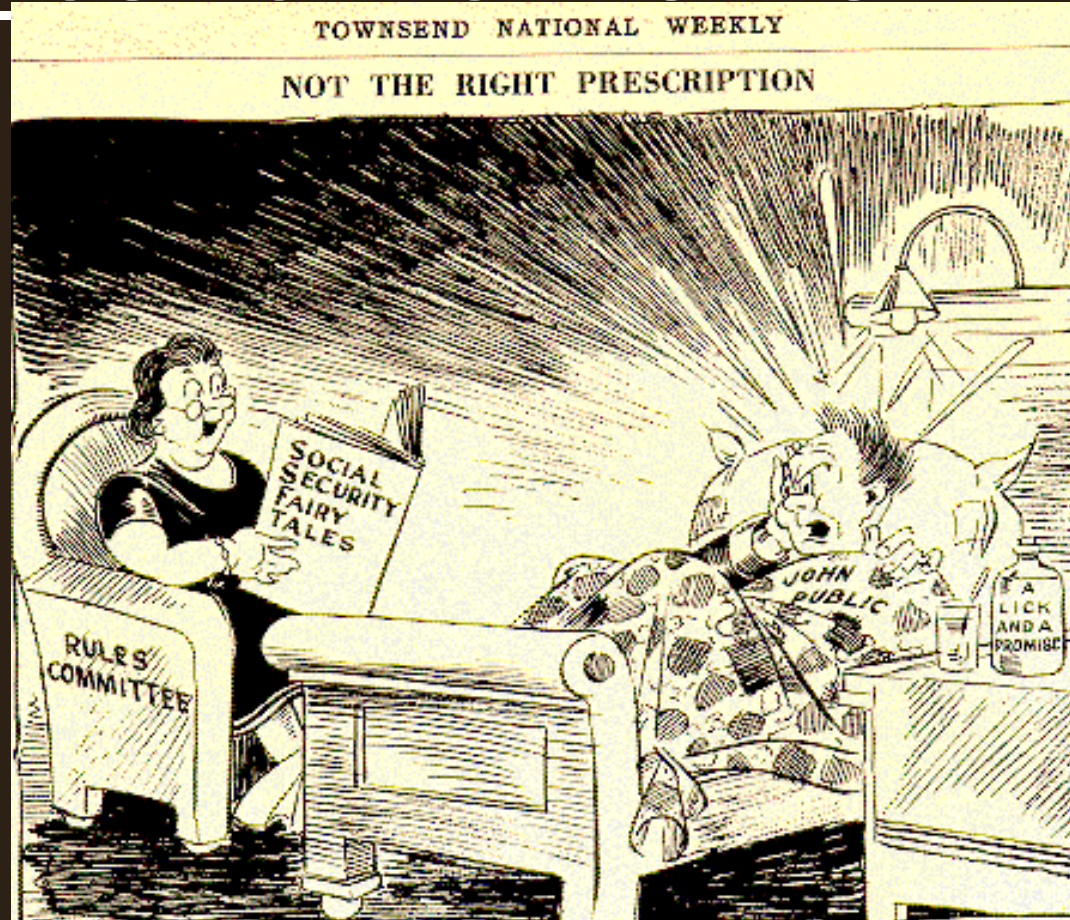
- In 1935, only 12.6% of those in rural areas had access to electricity

- By 1945, the number had risen to 48%





# Opposition to the New Deal



- By the end of the Hundred Days, millions of Americans had benefited from the New Deal and confidence rose
  - Opponents argued that while the New Deal helped, it didn't end the Depression
  - Some said the programs didn't do enough, others said they did too much





## Court Packing Scheme



- FDR feared the Supreme Court might try to dismantle the New Deal Programs and proposed what became known as the “Court-Packing Scheme”
  - Plan to reorganize the Judiciary System and add 6 new justices to the Court
- FDR gained widespread criticism in the press, Congress, and from the public--who believed the act violated the separation of powers
  - In the end, FDR got what he wanted and was able to appoint 7 justices to the court because members retired, resigned or died



# Opponents of FDR



## • Huey Long

• Most serious challenge to FDR (for president)

• Former Louisiana senator who was known for his dramatic speeches

• Gained widespread support with slogans such as “Share the Wealth” Opponents argued that he would rule much like a corrupt dictator

• He was assassinated in 1935 at the height of his popularity



“[Opponents] have not been content with attacks upon me, or my wife, or on my sons—  
no, not content with that, they now include my little dog, Fala.  
Unlike the members of my family, he resents this.”

—Franklin Roosevelt—

# The Election of 1936

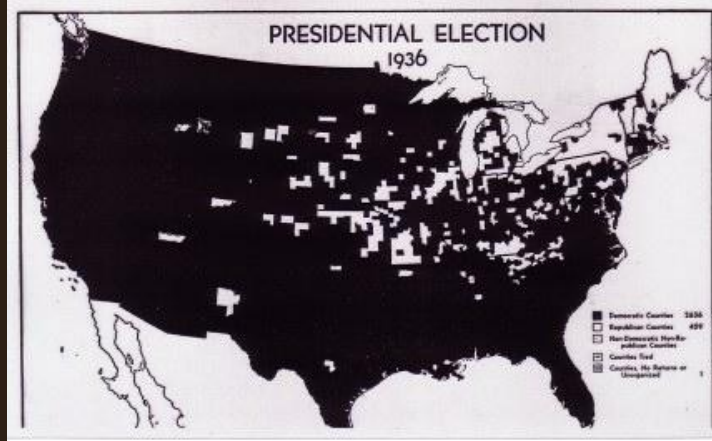
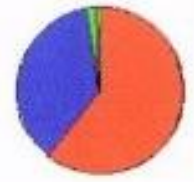
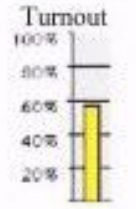


- FDR ran for re-election against Republican Alfred Landon with the slogan “Are you better off than you were 4 years ago?”
  - Most people could answer “yes” and FDR was able to win in another landslide
    - He carried all but 2 states
  - This election marked the first time that the majority of African-Americans voted Democrat (rather than Republican) in a presidential election

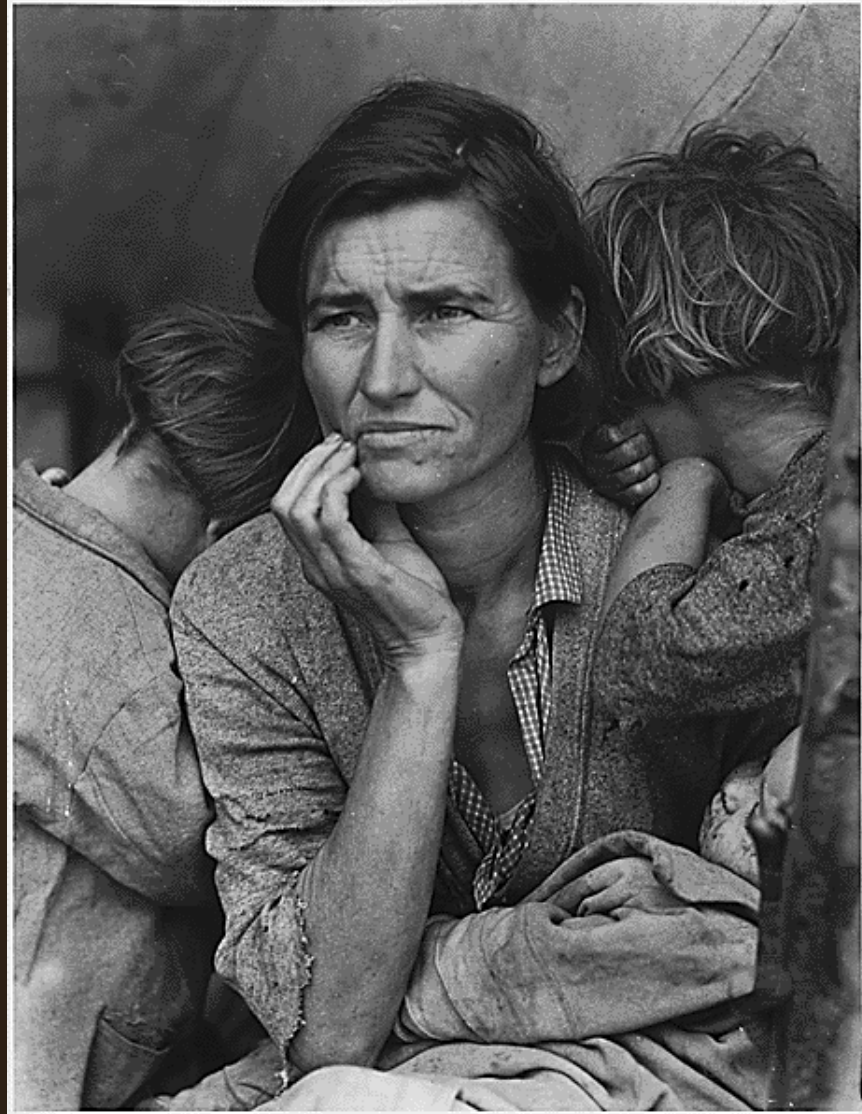


★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1936 Presidential Election Results ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
Franklin Roosevelt	John Garner	Democratic	27,752,949	60.80%	523	98.49%
Alfred Landon	Frank Knox	Republican	16,683,293	36.55%	8	1.51%
William Lemke	Thomas O'Brian	Union	892,380	1.95%	0	0.00%
Norman Thomas	George Nelson	Socialist	187,955	0.41%	0	0.00%
Other (±)	-	-	132,975	0.29%	0	0.00%



# “Migrant Mother”



•Lange’s photograph of the “Migrant Mother” gained her widespread fame and remains one of the most recognized photographs of the era



I did not ask her name or her history. She told me her age, that she was thirty-two. She said that they had been living on frozen vegetables from the surrounding fields, and birds that the children killed. She had just sold the tires from her car to buy food. There she sat in that lean-to tent with her children huddled around her, and seemed to know that my pictures might help her, and so she helped me. There was a sort of equality about it.

Dorothea Lange



# 1940 Election



FDR  
v.  
Wendell  
Willkie



- Gained more support than previous opponents of FDR
- Despite fierce opposition from many in his party (and the nation as a whole), Willkie gave FDR critical support for a peacetime draft---making it clear that he would rather lose the election than put national security on the line
  - Shortly before Willkie died, he told a friend, that if he could write his own epitaph and had to choose between "here lies a president" or "here lies one who contributed to saving freedom," he would prefer the later.

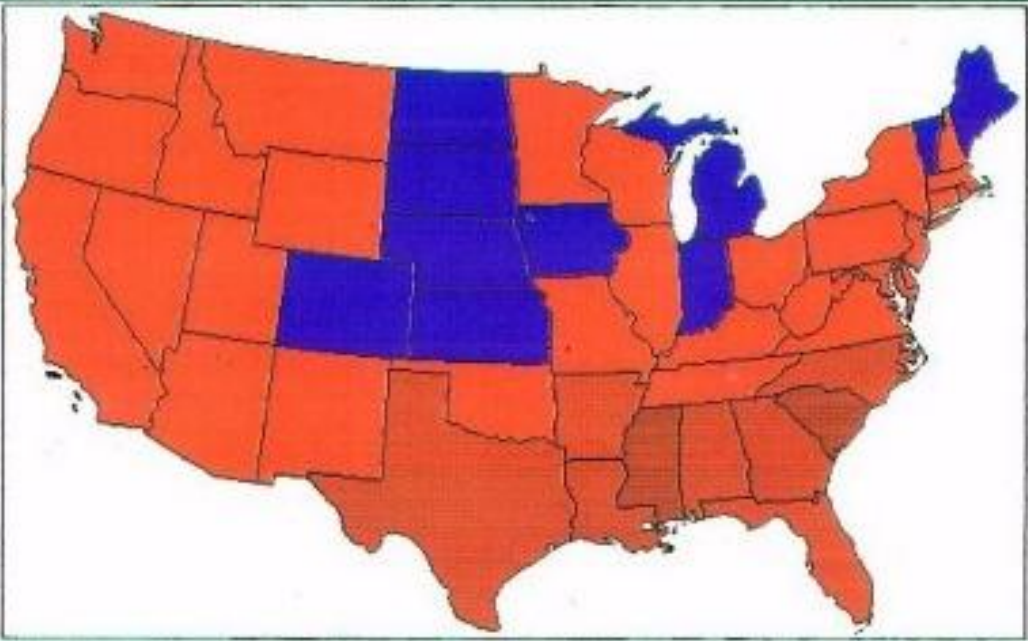
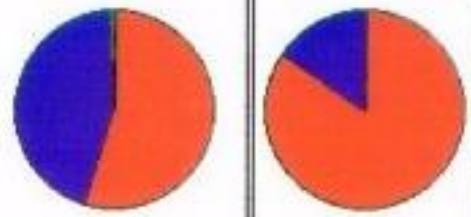
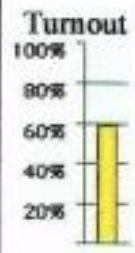
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1940 Presidential Election Results ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate	Political Party	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
Franklin Roosevelt	Henry Wallace	Democrat	27,313,041	54.74%	449	84.6%
Wendell Wilkie	Charles McNary	Republican	22,348,480	44.79%	82	15.4%
Other	-	-	238,897	0.48%	0	0%

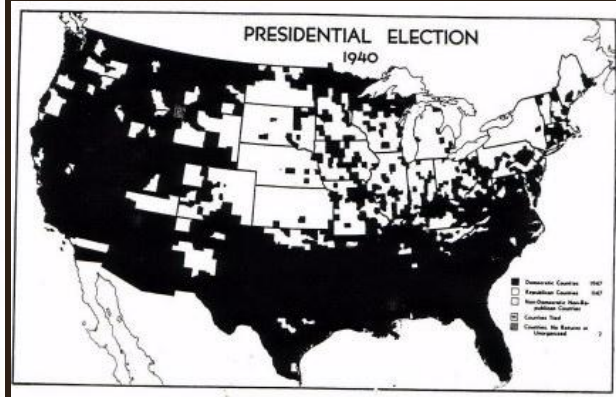


Key

<50%	Blue	Red
>50%	Blue	Red
>60%	-	Red
>70%	-	Red
>80%	-	Red
>90%	-	Red



FDR was elected to an unprecedented 3rd term



# The 3rd New Deal



- FDR decided against enacting a 3rd New Deal wave because the economy was improving
  - preferred to keep deficit spending at a minimum)
- Congress persuaded him to scale back some of his programs that were already in place
  - created a backlash and hurt the economy



# Impact of the New Deal



- Increased workers' rights
- Set precedent for Federal farm aid
- Made banking more secure
- Established Social Security
- Created more environmental programs

Note the picture above  
this couple's mantle...

# The End of the Great Depression

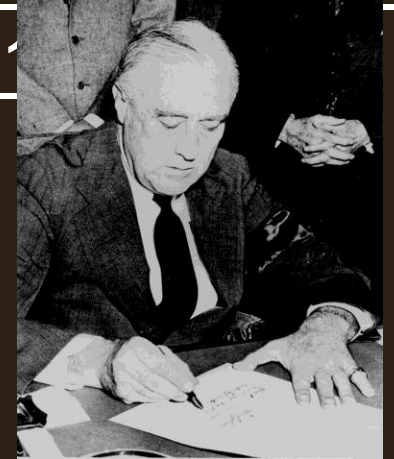


• Although the economy continued to experience ups and downs, overall the New Deal is considered a success

• The Great Depression does not officially end, however, until the United States enters World War II in December



FDR signs a declaration of war against the Empire of Japan



# US Isolationism



• Neutrality Acts-outlawed arms sales or loans to nations at war

- FDR did send aid to China in 1937 when they were invaded by Japan (not officially a war)





# Neutrality Acts

- 1st-1935 - Unlawful to ship or sell arms to Warring Countries
- 2nd -1936 - prohibits loans or credit to Warring nations
- 3rd-1937 - Made the 1st and 2nd permanent but flexible  
PANAY incident- Yangtze River Dec 1937 USS Panay attacked by Japanese while protecting oil tankers in China  
- Japan apologized (70% of Americans approved pullout of China)
- 4th -1938 - repealed arms embargo - could sell to Allies on a “CASH and CARRY” basis