

SSUSH18 – Evaluate Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal as a response to the Great Depression and compare how governmental programs aided those in need.

b. Explain the passage of the Social Security Act as a part of the second New Deal.

Entering his second term as President, Roosevelt believed a Second New Deal was needed. He believed more needed to be done to address the needs of groups who did not directly benefit from the First New Deal. One such group was the nation's senior citizens. Most seniors did not have pensions and those who did saw them wiped out as a result of the Great Depression. The agencies of the First New Deal did not offer the elderly opportunities for work.

Roosevelt signed into law the Social Security Act in 1935. The new law provided for old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, and aid to the disabled. The first version of Social Security excluded many groups including agricultural workers, teachers, domestic help, and children. As a result, the act excluded many Blacks and women. These concerns were addressed in subsequent amendments to the Social Security Act. The program is still in effect today.

Define

Social Security Act

1. Describe the passage of the Social Security Act

SSUSH18 – Evaluate Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal as a response to the Great Depression and compare how governmental programs aided those in need.

c. Analyze political challenges to Roosevelt’s leadership and New Deal programs.

During his twelve-year presidency, Franklin Roosevelt faced many challenges to his leadership and had many critics. Opponents of the New Deal came from all parts of the political spectrum. Some conservatives thought he had made the government too large and too powerful. These conservatives also felt some aspects of the New Deal did not respect the rights of individuals and property. However, some liberals thought Roosevelt had not gone far enough to socialize the economy and eliminate inequality in the United States.

Perhaps Roosevelt's biggest critic was Senator Huey P. Long of Louisiana. Long was planning to challenge Roosevelt for the presidency in 1936 until he was shot and killed by an assassin the year before the election. Senator Long was one of those critics who believed the New Deal had not gone far enough in its efforts to help society. Instead of the New Deal, Long proposed what he called the "Share Our Wealth" program. The plan would guarantee a household income for each family in the United States, which would be paid for by high taxes on the wealthiest Americans. Long in effect was planning to take from the rich to give to the poor.

In addition to the New Deal challenges issued by Huey Long and others, the Supreme Court declared two pieces of the First New Deal unconstitutional in 1936. One was the National Industrial Recovery Act, which attempted to guarantee fair wages and hours for workers. The other was the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which was going to grant farmers subsidies to cut their production in an effort to stabilize crop prices. The Court struck down these two programs because they were perceived as Federal overreach into the operations of private businesses.

Roosevelt grew increasingly frustrated with the Supreme Court, which was composed of nine men, all over 60 years old and conservative. He felt the Court was "thwarting the will of the nation." Roosevelt informed his cabinet at a special meeting that he would send a message to Congress proposing the reorganization of the federal judiciary system. The plan was ostensibly designed to "improve the efficiency of the entire system" by adding judges to all levels of the federal courts and adopting procedures to expedite the appeals process. The actual intent of the plan was obvious. By adding a judge to the Supreme Court for every justice who refused to retire after the age of 70, Roosevelt could appoint enough justices to uphold his New Deal programs.

Franklin Roosevelt was criticized for wanting to "pack the court." His opponents believed he was attacking the independence of the judiciary and subverting the Constitution. Many of Roosevelt's longtime supporters deserted him on this controversial proposal. The opposition Roosevelt received to this proposal began to sour the nation on the New Deal.

Define

Political challenges to Roosevelt's New Deal

- 1. How did political challenges impact Roosevelt's New Deal?**
- 2. What was Huey Long's criticism of the New Deal?**
- 3. Why did Roosevelt try to "pack the court?"**

SSUSH18 – Evaluate Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal as a response to the Great Depression and compare how governmental programs aided those in need.

d. Examine how Eleanor Roosevelt changed the role of the First Lady including development of New Deal programs to aid those in need.
--

President Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, was very influential in her own right. She was the first president's wife to testify before a Congressional committee, the first to hold press conferences, to speak before a national party convention, to write a syndicated newspaper column, to be a radio commentator, and to earn money as a lecturer. Eleanor Roosevelt was interested in humanitarian causes and social progress. She was very vocal about these issues with her husband during his time in the White House and urged him to create reforms to help minorities and the poor. Eleanor traveled all over the United States to observe social conditions so she could keep the president informed as to the state of the nation. President Roosevelt referred to Eleanor as "his legs," since his mobility was severely limited by the crippling effects of polio.

As a vocal advocate for both women and Blacks, Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in ending discriminatory practices associated with New Deal legislation. As a supporter of women's activism, she was also instrumental in convincing President Roosevelt to appoint more women to government positions. Following World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt became known as "First Lady of the World" due to her service with the United Nations. Some historians credit Eleanor's actions with changing Black voters from supporting Republican candidates to supporting Democrats. She is also credited with changing the role of First Ladies from that of passive spouses to women who use their position of influence to address societal issues. Eleanor Roosevelt took action as a First Lady and that tradition has continued.

Define

Eleanor Roosevelt's

- 1. How did Eleanor Roosevelt change the Role of the First Lady?**