

I. Franklin D. Roosevelt Adm. (1933-1945) -- The "New Deal"

A. Major Political Developments

1. Election of 1932

- a. Democrats on the forth ballot nominated Franklin D. Roosevelt
- b. Republicans -- even though the public blamed Hoover for the depression the convention re-nominated him
- c. Issues -- the candidates differed on how best to bring the country out of the depression; Roosevelt insisted that the government should take firm steps to ensure the well-being of the people, but Hoover argued for the continuation of only limited interference in the economy

2. Roosevelt: Background and Personality

- a. Family Background -- member of a wealthy NY family he was educated at Harvard and Columbia Law School
- b. Political Background -- served a term in the NY Legislation, was assistant Sec. of the Navy under Wilson, was nominated for VP in 1920, 1921 paralyzed by polio fought back but would never walk again, became Gov. of NY in 1928 where his adm. provided care for the aged and aid for the unemployed.
- c. Political Skills -- Roosevelt possessed personal warmth, self-confidence, tremendous energy, and zest for life, he was also a skilled orator.

3. Roosevelt's Leadership

- a. Introduction -- moral and political leadership thought the President should take the lead and not Congress
- b. Bank Holiday
 1. Philosophy -- Roosevelt had watched depositors, fearful of bank failures making "runs" on banks thus forcing banks to shut their doors
 2. Legislation -- upon taking office he called a special session of Congress and passed the Emergency Banking Act which declared a "bank holiday" and empowering the Treasury to examine banks before they could be reopened, this restored public confidence not only in the banks but also the federal government.
- c. The "Hundred Days" -- the first three months of FDR's presidency in which Congress was in special session and passed numerous New Deal pieces of legislation.
- d. Press Conferences -- first President to use the mass media, he wanted to test his ideas with the public and dominate the headlines.
- e. "Fireside Chats" -- first continuous use of the radio to reach the American public, he used it to calm and provided the listeners with support.

4. Roosevelt Constructs the New Deal

- a. "Forgotten Man" -- meaning he was not going to forget the average citizen (middle class) who was hit the hardest by the depression
- b. "Brain Trust" -- where a number of academic scholars who advised the president, most noted where lawyer - Sam Rosenman, and social worker - Harry Hopkins

- c. Laissez-faire -- government was committed to an ever increasing role in the economy, it was a transition to regulated capitalism
- d. Goals of the New Deal
 - 1. Relief -- to assist distressed persons through direct money payments, jobs and mortgage loans
 - 2. Recovery -- to lift the nation out of the depression through aid to farmers, businessmen, and workers
 - 3. Reform -- to eliminate abuses in the economy and to prevent future depressions through protection of bank depositors, investors, consumers, the aged, and the unemployed
- e. Growth of Federal Power -- government greatly expanded its role in society
- 5. Election of 1936 -- the American people overwhelmingly reelected Roosevelt over Republican candidate, Alfred Landon of Kansas (61% of popular vote)
- 6. New Deal v. The Supreme Court
 - a. Checks on the New Deal-- dominated by conservative justices
 - 1. National Industrial Recovery Act(Schechter vs U.S.) -- regarding "fair practice codes" and collective bargaining (Section 7A)/the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional because only Congress may make law and the federal government may regulate commerce but not business
 - 2. Agricultural Adjustment Act (U.S. vs. Butler) -- paid farmers to "set aside" a quarter to half of their land in hopes to raise prices, the farmers were paid subsidies from collecting taxes on food processors (middlemen) -- these taxes were often passed on to consumers -- declared unconstitutional because the Congress had no right to regulate farm production or tax processor to pay subsidies
 - 3. Trade Union v. the Court -- much of FDR's New Deal legislation favored unions and their rights to collective bargain, which the Supreme Court said was not a matter that should involve the federal government
 - b. Roosevelt's "Court Packing" Plan -- Roosevelt becomes impatient with the Court and their declaration of New Deal legislation to be null and void, he then proposes to add six new justices to the Supreme Court(the president appoints justices to the court) therefore adding justices who would support New Deal measures. Congress does not support FDR and he loses this battle over New Deal legislation.
 - c. Supreme Court Reverses Itself --Roosevelt's attempt at "court packing" coerced the court to take a more liberal position with New Deal legislation: the National Labor Relations Act and the Social Security Act where both held to be constitutional.
- 7. The New Deal Ends -- by 1937 the Democratic party began to split along the Southern line, there was some recovery which had occurred, and people began to focus on the international events which were developing --WW II

8. Evaluation of the New Deal
 - a. Arguments For
 1. Restored courage and optimism
 2. Provided work relief which allowed Americans to retain their self-respect/and provided the nation with roads and etc.
 3. Increasing government to take up the slack from the lack of private spending
 4. Reduced unemployment by 5 million and treating the rest humanely
 5. Successfully regulating capitalism
 6. Expanding federal power over our economic system and yet maintained democratic methods and personal freedoms
 - b. Arguments Against
 1. Failed to gain the confidence of the business community
 2. Wasting money on valueless make-work or "boondoggling"
 3. Unbalanced the budget and increasing the national debt/ through deficit spending
 4. Failed to eliminate unemployment which stood at 8 million in 1939
 5. Interfering with the "free enterprise" system and introducing a more socialist methods - constitutionality
 6. Increasing the number of federal employees and creating an unmanageable bureaucracy of agencies (non-elected)
 - c. Revolution or Evolution -- notes on board
9. Breaking the Two-Term Tradition --notes on board
 - a. Election of 1940
 1. Candidates - FDR and Wendell Willkie for the Republicans
 2. Issues -- the Nazis had overrun France, Japan had invade China, nationalization of important industries, and breaking the two term tradition
 3. Results -- Roosevelt's third term was chiefly concerned with foreign affairs and with how America was to participate and to what extent
 - b. Election of 1944
 1. Candidates --FDR and Thomas E. Dewey for the Republicans
 2. Issues - the 4th term and Roosevelt was tired and old
 3. Results - Roosevelt won but three month after the inauguration suffered a massive stroke and died, Harry S. Truman succeeded him
- B. Important New Deal Legislation and Agencies (Handout)
- C. Significant Foreign Affairs -- notes on board
 1. Good Neighbor Policy toward Latin America
 2. Recognition of Communist Russia
 3. from Isolation to Leadership