

Unit 3 - Debating the government's role in the economy - the 1920s and 1930s

Key Question:

What is the government's role in creating a just, fair and equitable economy?

Major Assessments

1. 4 Quizzes
2. Great Depression newspaper project (25 points)
3. Advertising project (30 points)
4. Short answer and essay exam (100 points)

Section 1 - Economic policy in the 1920s: Mellon, Harding, Coolidge and a return to Normalcy

Readings:

The Americans, pp.419-424

Terms:

Assembly lines
Henry Ford
Bull Market
Andrew Mellon
Calvin Coolidge
Revenue Act of 1924
Supply side economics
Fordney-McCumber Tariff

Questions:

- How was the government's economic policy similar to or different from the policies of the progressive presidents of the previous 20 years?
How are Mellon's policies similar to Republican efforts today?

Section 2 - The Rise of Consumer society

Readings:

The Americans pp. 425-427

Terms:

The automobile
Electric appliances (how did they change life?)
Modern advertising
Buying on credit/installment plans
Consumer society

Question:

How does what you buy shape who you are in both the 1920s and today? Provide examples to support your argument.

Section 3 - The Causes of the Great Depression

Readings:

The Americans pp. 464-471

Terms:

Industries in trouble
Herbert Hoover
Stock Market Crash
Buying on margin

Question:

What factors led to the Great Depression? Of these factors, which was the most significant?

Section 4 - The impact of the Great Depression

Readings:

The Americans pp. 472-477

Terms:

Shantytowns
Unemployment
Bank and business failures
The Dust Bowl
Effects on children and families
Social and psychological effects

Question:

To what extent is it the government's responsibility to ease the suffering of those devastated by economic downturn?

Section 5 - Responding to the Great Depression: Two presidents and two philosophies

Readings:

The Americans pp. 478-483 (Hoover), 488-501 (FDR)

Terms:

Herbert Hoover
Reconstruction Finance Corporation
Franklin Roosevelt
The New Deal
Fireside chats
Relief, Recovery and Reform
Glass-Steagall Act
Agricultural Adjustment Act
Civilian Conservation Corps
Federal Emergency Relief Act
Works Progress Administration
Wagner Act
Social Security Act
Fair Labor Standards Act

Question:

How did the role government plays in creating a fair, just and equitable society change as a result of the Great Depression?

Lecture Outline

- I. The roaring twenties
- II. Government economic policy in the 1920s
 - A. “A return to normalcy”: Economic policy under Harding and Coolidge
 1. Regulation
 2. Tariffs
 3. Unions
 4. Andrew Mellon and tax cuts
- III. The Rise of Consumer society
- IV. The Great Depression
 - A. Causes
 - B. Impact of the Great Depression on America
 - C. Two political responses to the Great Depression
 1. Hoover and the minimalist approach
 - a. Philosophy of Hoover’s response
 - b. Government programs under Hoover
 2. FDR and the the New Deal
 - a. Philosophy of the New Deal
 - b. New Deal programs
- V. The legacy of the Great Depression and the New Deal