

How Successful Was Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal?

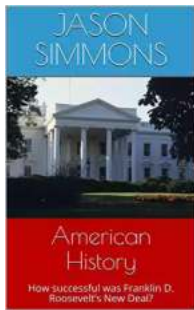


The Great Depression and the Need for a New Deal

The Great Depression of the 1930s is considered one of the darkest periods in American history. The stock market crash in 1929 led to widespread unemployment, poverty, and despair. In the midst of this crisis, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the newly elected President, introduced his groundbreaking economic recovery plan known as the New Deal. This article aims to explore the success and impact of Roosevelt's New Deal policies on the nation's economy and society.

Reviving the Economy: Relief, Recovery, and Reform

Roosevelt's New Deal aimed to provide immediate relief to those suffering from the effects of the Great Depression. His administration implemented numerous programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which helped create jobs and improve infrastructure across the country. These initiatives brought relief to millions of unemployed Americans and injected much-needed funds into the economy.



American History: How successful was Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal? by Jason Simmons (Kindle Edition)



5 out of 5

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Furthermore, the New Deal introduced long-term recovery plans to stimulate economic growth. The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) aimed to stabilize farm prices and support struggling farmers, while the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) sought to regulate industrial production and raise wages. These measures contributed to a gradual economic recovery, although their effectiveness remains a subject of debate among historians.

Social Impact: Expanding Social Welfare and Empowering the People

One of the most profound impacts of Roosevelt's New Deal was its social ramifications. The administration created the Social Security system, which provided financial support to the elderly and disabled, establishing a safety net that continues to this day. Additionally, the New Deal promoted labor rights by enacting laws allowing collective bargaining and fair working conditions.

KEY New Deal Programs

Directions: After reading the information on the placard and analyzing the picture, predict what words complete the sentence frames, write a brief description on how the program looks today and then determine if it was a Relief, Recovery or Reform program.

	Program	Description of Program	Program Today	Relief, Recovery or Reform?
A	Aid to the Elderly Social Security (SS)	SS provides financial support for the elderly. The government imposed a 1% tax on incomes. SS also proved \$ for disabled, mothers of dependent children, the unemployed	Most forms of Social Security established by the New Deal exist today, including aid to the elderly. Today, American workers and their employers pay a Social Security tax of 6.2 percent each, approximately 12 percent total. The maximum monthly payment for a retiree is \$2,642. Full retirement age is 66.	Relief
B	Aid to Farmers Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)	Through AAA the government <u>paid farmers to plant fewer crops</u> . Farmers were convinced to <u>destroy their crops</u> . The AAA also helped by <u>lending money to farmers</u> .	Today, the <u>farm bill</u> is the primary agricultural policy in the United States. The bill is passed every 5 years or so and deals with both agriculture and all other affairs under the management of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Beginning in 1973, farm bills have included titles on commodity programs, trade, rural development, farm credit, conservation, agricultural research, food and nutrition programs, marketing, etc. The agricultural subsidy programs mandated by the farm bills are the subject of intense debate both within the U.S. and internationally.	Recovery
C	Direct Relief Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA)	The FERA provided <u>direct aid</u> . States would use the \$ for <u>food kitchens, housing camps, cash payments for living expenses</u>	Today the government continues to provide direct relief to American families in need through federal and state welfare programs. Public assistance programs included monthly payments to poverty-stricken families, low-cost or free healthcare, and food stamps.	Relief
D	Regulation of Banks Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)	FDIC monitored banks to make sure <u>their practices were profitable and fair</u> . FDIC also <u>guarantees deposits</u>	Today, the FDIC continues to operate, insuring bank depositors' money for up to \$250,000. As of September 30, 2012, the FDIC insured deposits at 7,181 institutions. Since its foundation in the 1930s, the FDIC has never had to borrow money from the government, and it has successfully reimbursed all insured depositors whose banks have failed.	Reform
E	Investment in Youth National Youth Administration (NYA)	The NYA oversees <u>work programs</u> and <u>educational grants for youth 16-25</u> . The goal of the NYA was to provide financial & work assistance for <u>High School & College students to continue their education</u> .	Today, the government continues to support a variety of programs dedicated to providing youth with a solid future. For example, financial aid programs provided college students with educational grants and work-study opportunities, and job-training programs give young people the skills they needed to make a living.	Recovery
F	Jobs Programs Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC)	The CCC provided economic relief to <u>men</u> by providing <u>employment</u> . Most of the jobs were in <u>construction</u> . Like <u>buildings, parks, swimming pools</u> . The CCC also employed some women.	Government-created jobs programs existed in some form until the 1970s. However, during the 1980s and 1990s, jobs programs were all but eliminated as conservative politicians pushed for a reduction in government-sponsored relief programs. In the late 1990s, some federal jobs programs were reestablished into small, "workfare" programs, in which welfare recipients worked at low-skill jobs in return for benefits.	Recovery

The New Deal's emphasis on empowering the people was reflected in its support for arts and culture. The Federal Art Project and the Federal Writers' Project employed thousands of artists and writers, preserving the nation's heritage and creating lasting works of art that still enrich American society.

Criticism and Limitations: Assessing the New Deal's Shortcomings

While the New Deal undoubtedly made significant contributions to the recovery efforts during the Great Depression, it also faced criticism and limitations. Some argue that the New Deal did not go far enough in

addressing racial and gender inequalities, as minority groups often faced discrimination in accessing relief programs. Additionally, opponents of the New Deal criticized it as being too interventionist, claiming that it excessively expanded government control over the economy.

The New Deal's Legacy: Lasting Reforms and Lessons Learned

Despite its limitations, the New Deal left behind a lasting legacy. It fundamentally transformed the relationship between the government and the economy, introducing a range of regulations and welfare programs. Roosevelt's attempts to stabilize the economy set a precedent for future administrations and shaped the way we understand the role of the government in times of crisis.

**WHEN
GOVERNMENT
WAS THE
SOLUTION:**

**THE NEW DEAL'S
FORGOTTEN
LEGACY,
THEN & NOW**

**JUNE 8, 2017
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Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Union Hall
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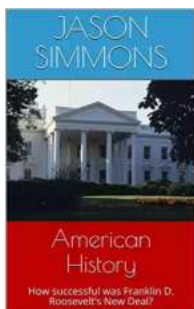
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Moreover, the New Deal paved the way for various economic and social policies that continue to benefit American citizens. Its enduring reforms, such as the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) and the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission), aimed to prevent future financial crises and protect investors' rights.

Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal was a bold and ambitious response to the economic devastation caused by the Great Depression. While opinions may differ on its overall success, there is no denying that it had a significant impact on American society and laid the groundwork for numerous reforms that endure to this day. The New Deal exemplified the government's willingness to intervene to assist the American people during times of crisis, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to shape our nation's economy and social welfare systems.



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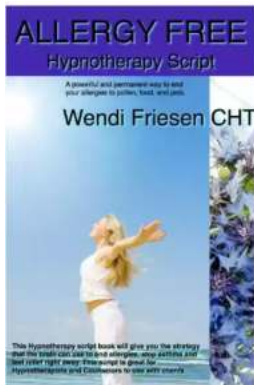


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The New Deal was introduced in the United States of America (USA) following the Great Depression. Historian Edsforth states “Gross domestic investment fell from \$16bn in 1929 to just \$1bn in 1932. Private construction, automobile production, and steel output fell to less than one-quarter their 1929 levels” . The Depression left many people struggling to feed themselves and to buy even the most fundamental and necessary items.



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