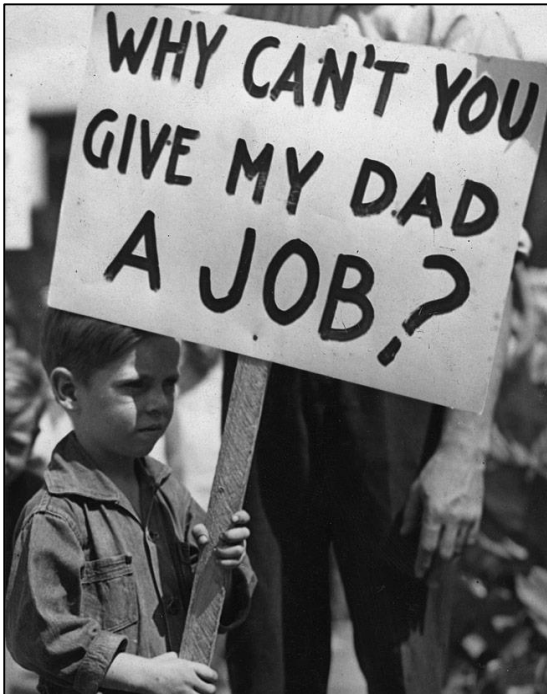


1. NEW DEAL OVERVIEW



A young boy helps during a protest

The New Deal was a series of programs and projects implemented during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to combat the effects of the Great Depression. The New Deal aimed to use the government to create new jobs and get the American economy growing again.

When Roosevelt took office in 1933, the United States was in crisis. Millions of families suffered as unemployment reached 25 percent. Roosevelt promised to use the federal government to help the nation recover from the Depression. He helped to create a series of federal legislative initiatives known as the New Deal. The programs were paid for with federal taxes on incomes and businesses. Numerous programs were created, but they can generally be grouped in the following five categories: Federal Work Programs, Environmental Improvement Programs, Farm Assistance Programs, Social Security, and Increased Rights for Labor.

The New Deal expanded the role of the federal government in the nation's economy. Although the New Deal did a lot to help the American people and get the economy back on track, it did not end the Great Depression. It took the beginning of World War II, and the industrial production it demanded, to ultimately end the worst economic period in American history.



Franklin D. Roosevelt signing New Deal legislation - 1933

2. FEDERAL WORK PROGRAMS

A major feature of the New Deal included Federal work programs, which were designed to get Americans back to work. Decreasing unemployment would not only help those individuals gaining a job, but would ultimately benefit the entire economy.

The Work Progress Administration, or WPA, was the coordinating agency for many of the government projects focused on providing work relief to unemployed workers. The WPA was a large and complex organization that often functioned at the Federal, state and local. WPA projects weren't allowed to compete with private industry, so they focused on building things like post offices, bridges, schools, libraries, highways and parks. The WPA also gave work to artists, writers, theater directions and musicians. The WPA lasted from 1935-1943. During the years it operated, it provided an estimated 8 million jobs.

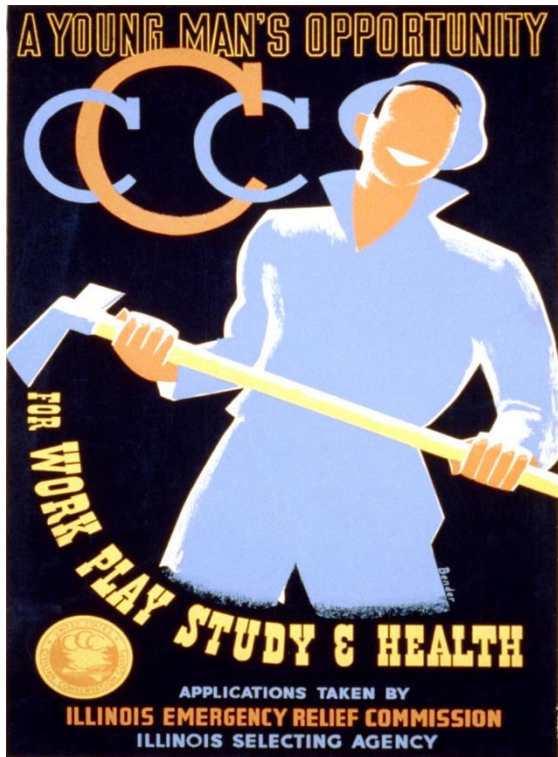
Another program that put thousands of Americans to work was the Tennessee Valley Authority, or TVA, which built hydroelectric dams to produce electricity for rural areas.



Macon, Ga City Hall garages under WPA construction - 1935

Source: "New Deal." *National Museum of American History*, 10 Jan. 2017, americanhistory.si.edu/American-enterprise-exhibition/corporate-era/new-deal.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS



A poster promoting the CCC

Environmental improvement programs were another feature of Roosevelt's New Deal. One of the most popular New Deal programs with the American public was the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC. The CCC provided thousands of conservation jobs to unemployed young men during the Great Depression. They worked to protect, or improve the environment through federally funded jobs on government lands.

The CCC would open camps for the young men to live in while working on projects. Tents were often used, but occasionally they were replaced by wood buildings the men built. More than a thousand CCC camps were opened the first year. Many of those that signed up for the CCC arrived at camp malnourished and poorly clothed. Once in camp, their condition improved tremendously with decent food, clothing, and work.

By the time the Civilian Conservation Corps ended in 1942, state and national parks had been improved, and over 17 million trees had been planted. Many of the projects built by the CCC can still be seen in America's national parks today.



CCC employees work to plant trees

Source: "Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal - American Memory." *Library of Congress*.

www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/depwwii/newdeal/.

4. FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Farmers also benefited from Roosevelt's New Deal. During the Great Depression they suffered from overproduction. They were producing more than what consumers could buy. As a result, the price they got for their crops was falling lower and lower, causing farmers' income to decline.

Farm assistance programs such as the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, or AAA, were designed to help farmers by increasing the price of farm products so that farmers could make a profit. The AAA developed a plan to pay farmers to leave some of their land unplanted. By paying farmers not to plant as much, they hoped it would help to eliminate surpluses, which would help to raise the prices farmers would receive for their crops.

The plan did help to bring the price of many crops back to a level that gave farmers a reasonable profit. The law that established the Agricultural Adjustment Administration was created in 1933, and was changed in 1938. There are still a large number of laws and government programs today that try to support farmers in numerous ways.



Farmers review their checks outside an AAA office



President Roosevelt meets with farmers

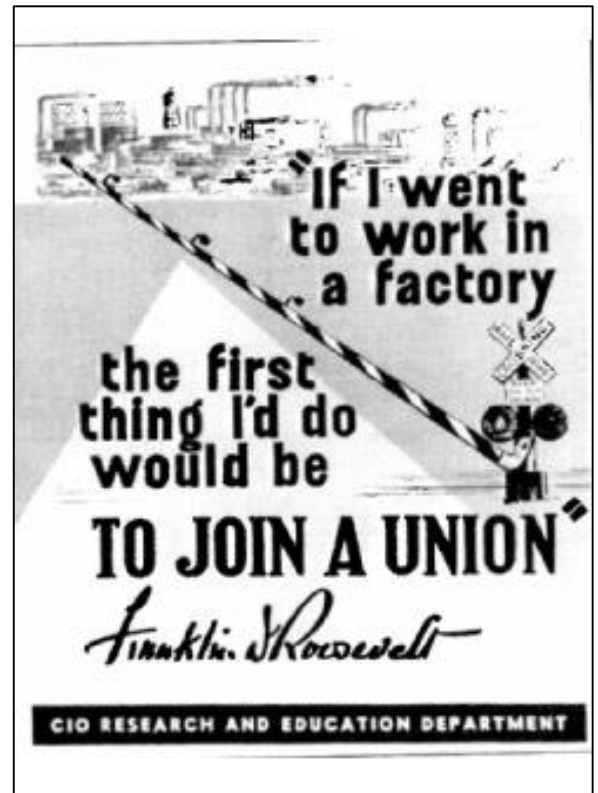
Source: "Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal - American Memory." *Library of Congress*.

www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/depwwii/newdeal/.

5. INCREASED RIGHTS FOR LABOR

Another major feature of the New Deal was increased rights for labor (workers). President Roosevelt pushed for new laws to protect American workers. In 1935, Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act. This new law guaranteed workers the right to organize and form unions. An important part of the new law allowed federal officials to supervise elections held by workers to set up unions. This was an attempt to protect workers from being bullied by their employers. As a result, many unions won higher wages and also extra pay if they were assigned to the night shift or worked overtime.

Workers' rights were also strengthened by the Fair Labor Standards Act. It mandated a 40-hour work week with time-and-a-half pay for overtime, set an hourly minimum wage, and restricted child labor. Many of the rights provided to workers during the New Deal still exist today.



Union advertisement



Women protesting for a 40-hour work week

Source: "New Deal." *National Museum of American History*, 10 Jan. 2017, americanhistory.si.edu/American-enterprise-exhibition/new-deal.

6. SOCIAL SECURITY

MORE SECURITY FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

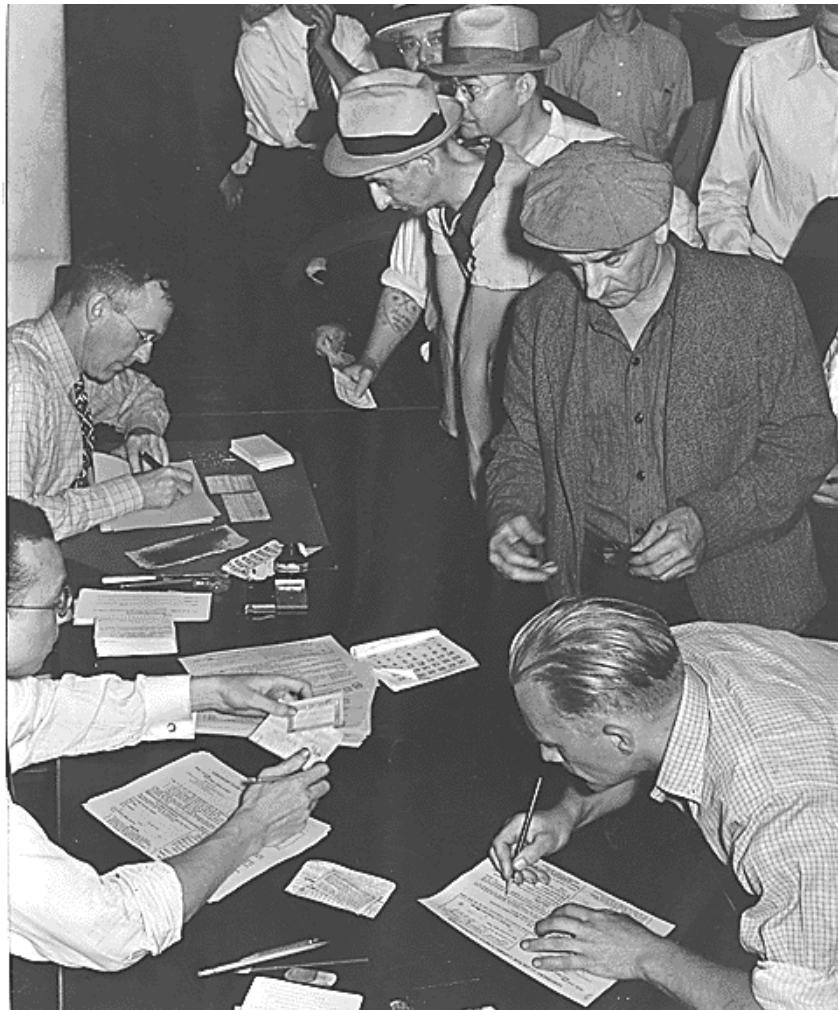


Social Security advertisement

In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress created the Social Security Act. The Social Security system is essentially a government-run insurance program that helps to protect vulnerable American citizens.

The act requires workers and businesses to pay taxes to the Social Security trust fund. The fund provides monthly checks to workers once they reach retirement age. It also gives payments to disabled workers, or spouses and children when a worker becomes disabled or dies.

Social Security is still important today. Many Americans depend on the money it provides as an important part of their total retirement income. The program also still provides incomes for spouses and children when a worker becomes disabled or dies.



Americans signing up for Social Security

Source: "New Deal." *National Museum of American History*, 10 Jan. 2017, americanhistory.si.edu/American-enterprise-exhibition/corporate-era/new-deal.