

# Bell Ringer

“We are too solicitous (concerned) for government intervention...first, that the people themselves are helpless, and second, that the government has superior capacity for action. Often times both of these conclusions are wrong.”

*Coolidge*



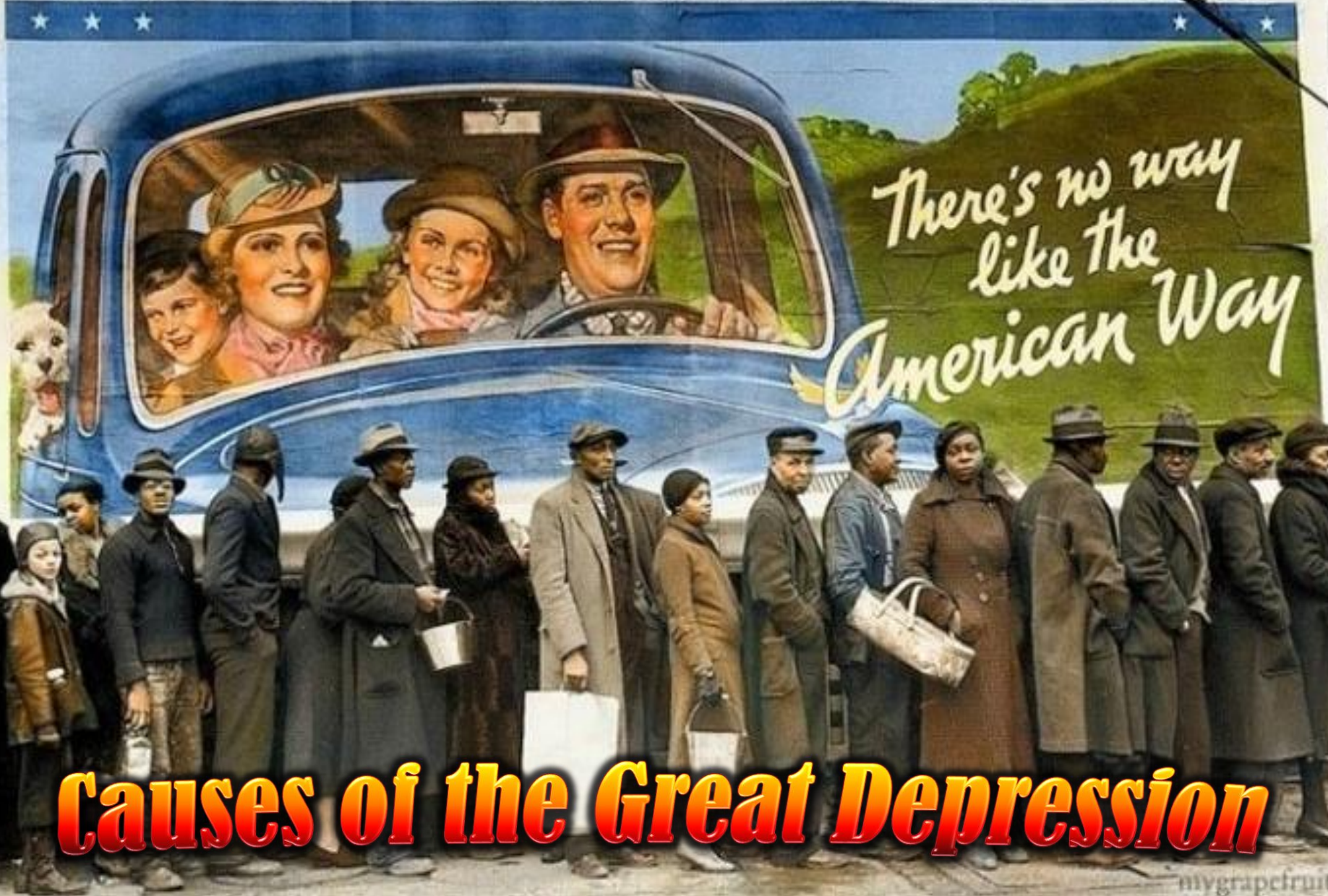
*Obama*



“If the people cannot trust their government to do the job for which it exists - to protect them and to promote their common welfare - all else is lost.”

Which quote about government intervention do you agree with more? Explain

**WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING**



**Causes of the Great Depression**



Gap  
between  
rich &  
Poor

Reduction  
in  
purchasing

Stock  
Market  
Crash

Causes  
of the  
G.D.

Buying on  
credit in  
the 20s

Bank  
Failures

Dust Bowl

Hawley  
Smoot  
Tariff

# Buying on Credit in the 20s

## CAUSE

- Buying on credit was a huge problem in the 1920s. Since the 20s was a period of great economic boom, not many people took the future into consideration.
- Many people bought refrigerators, cars, etc. with money that they did not have. This system was called installment buying.
- With this system, people could make a monthly, weekly, or yearly payment on an item that they wanted or needed.
- This happened until Black Tuesday, when the stock market crashed. The two systems, installment buying and buying on credit, left millions of people in debt .
- When many lost their jobs, they could not pay back the debts they had incurred.

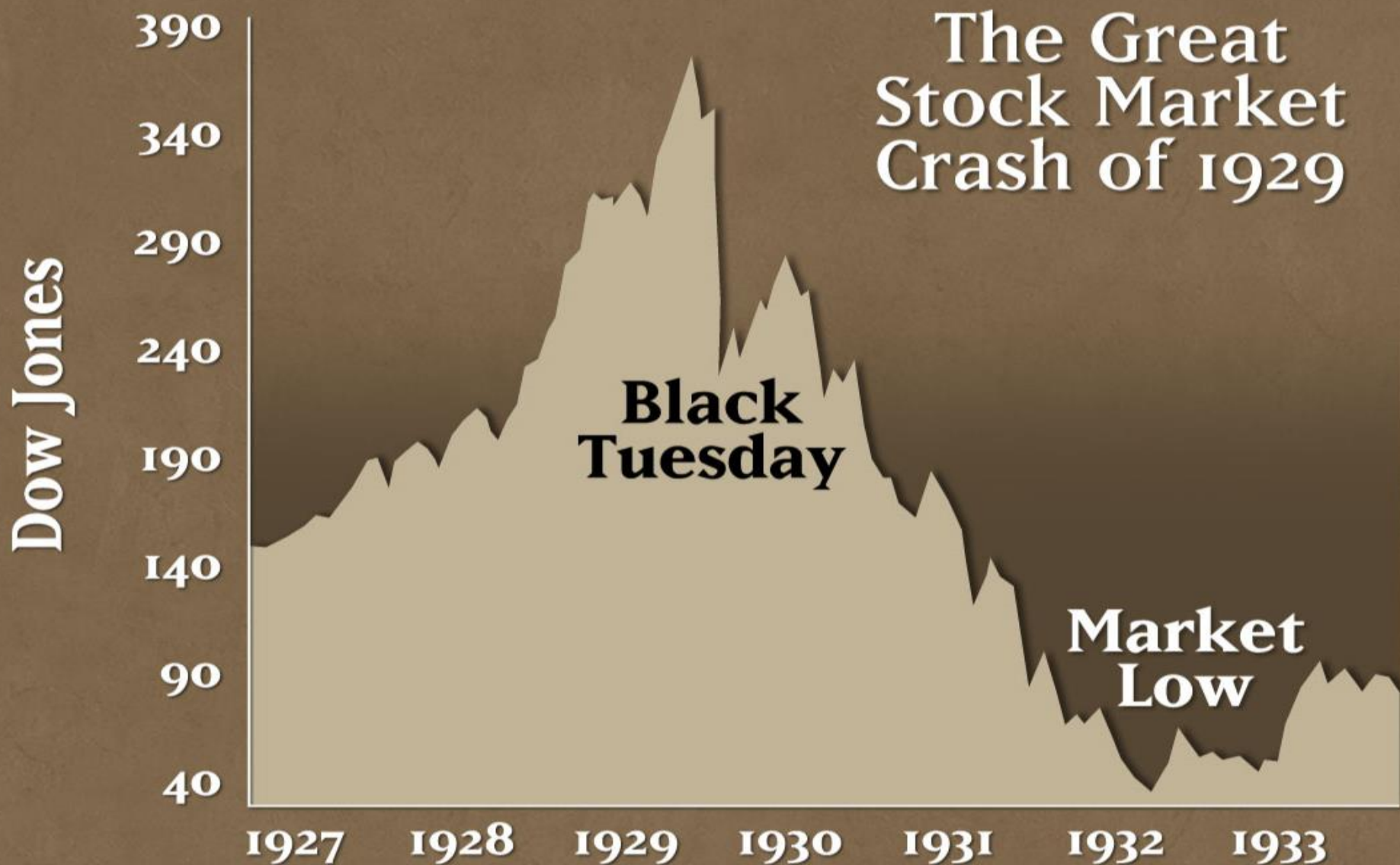
# Stock Market Crash

## CAUSE

- Many people believe that the stock market crash on October 29, 1929 is the same as the Great Depression. However, the crash was one of the major causes of the Depression, and 2 months after the crash, it is estimated that stockholders lost more than \$40 billion dollars.
- Although the market regained some of its losses by the end of 1930, the gain was not sufficient to prevent the economic downturn.

7,19	-0,06
12,14	+0,56
27,07	+0,17
21,18	+0,26
27,33	-1,14
13,53	+13,53
51	+0,82
32	+0,41
29,81	+0,28

# Stock Market before and after Black Tuesday



# Banking Failures

## CAUSE

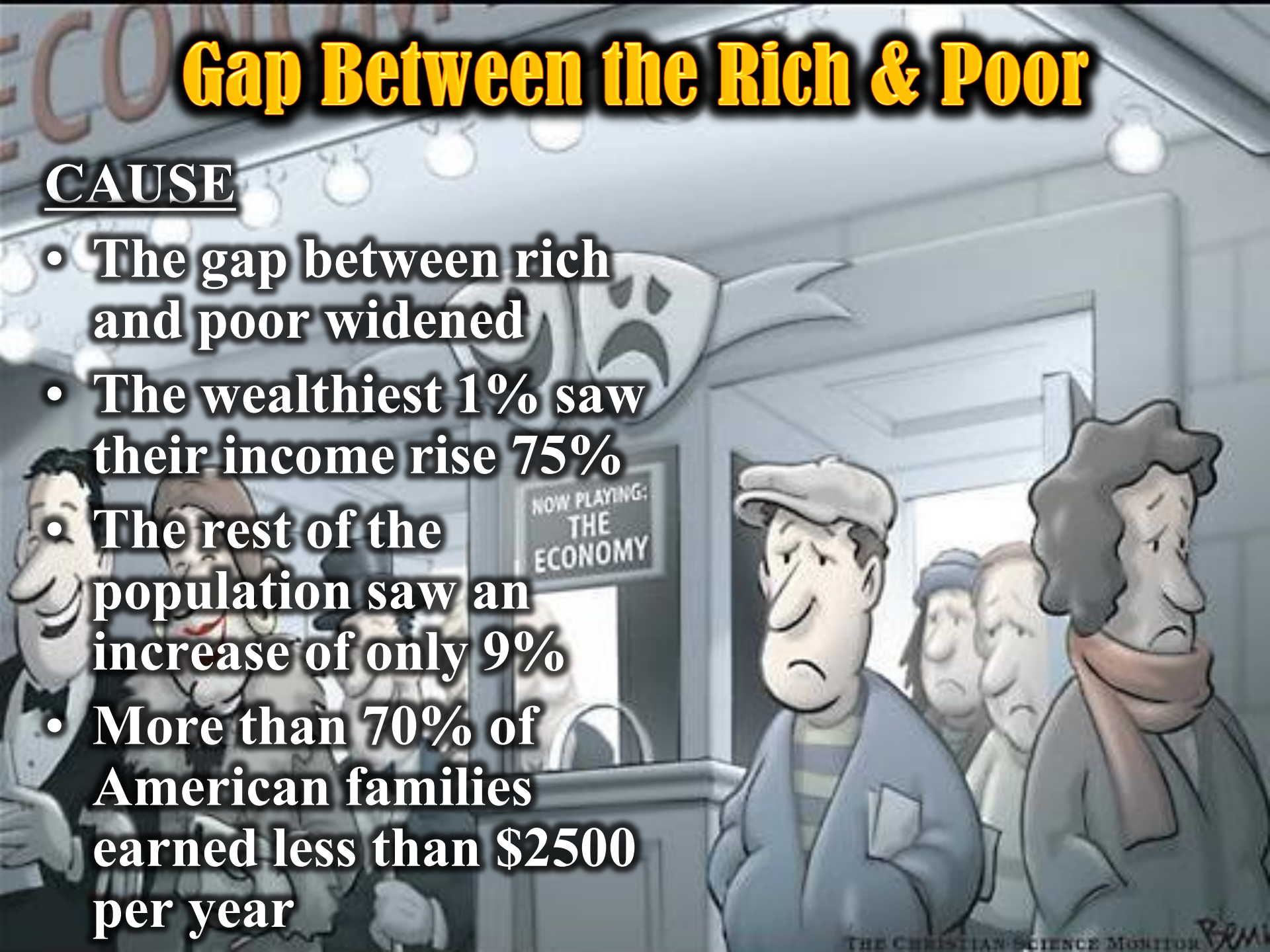
- Throughout the 1930s over 9,000 banks failed. Bank deposits were uninsured and thus as banks failed people simply lost their savings.
- Surviving banks, unsure of the economic situation and concerned for their own survival, stopped being as willing to create new loans.
- This intensified the situation leading to less and less expenditures.



# Gap Between the Rich & Poor

## CAUSE

- The gap between rich and poor widened
- The wealthiest 1% saw their income rise 75%
- The rest of the population saw an increase of only 9%
- More than 70% of American families earned less than \$2500 per year





**Low Sales**  
**Job Layoffs**

Downward  
Momentum of the  
Great Depression

**Less Income**

**Fewer Purchases**

**Lower Sales**

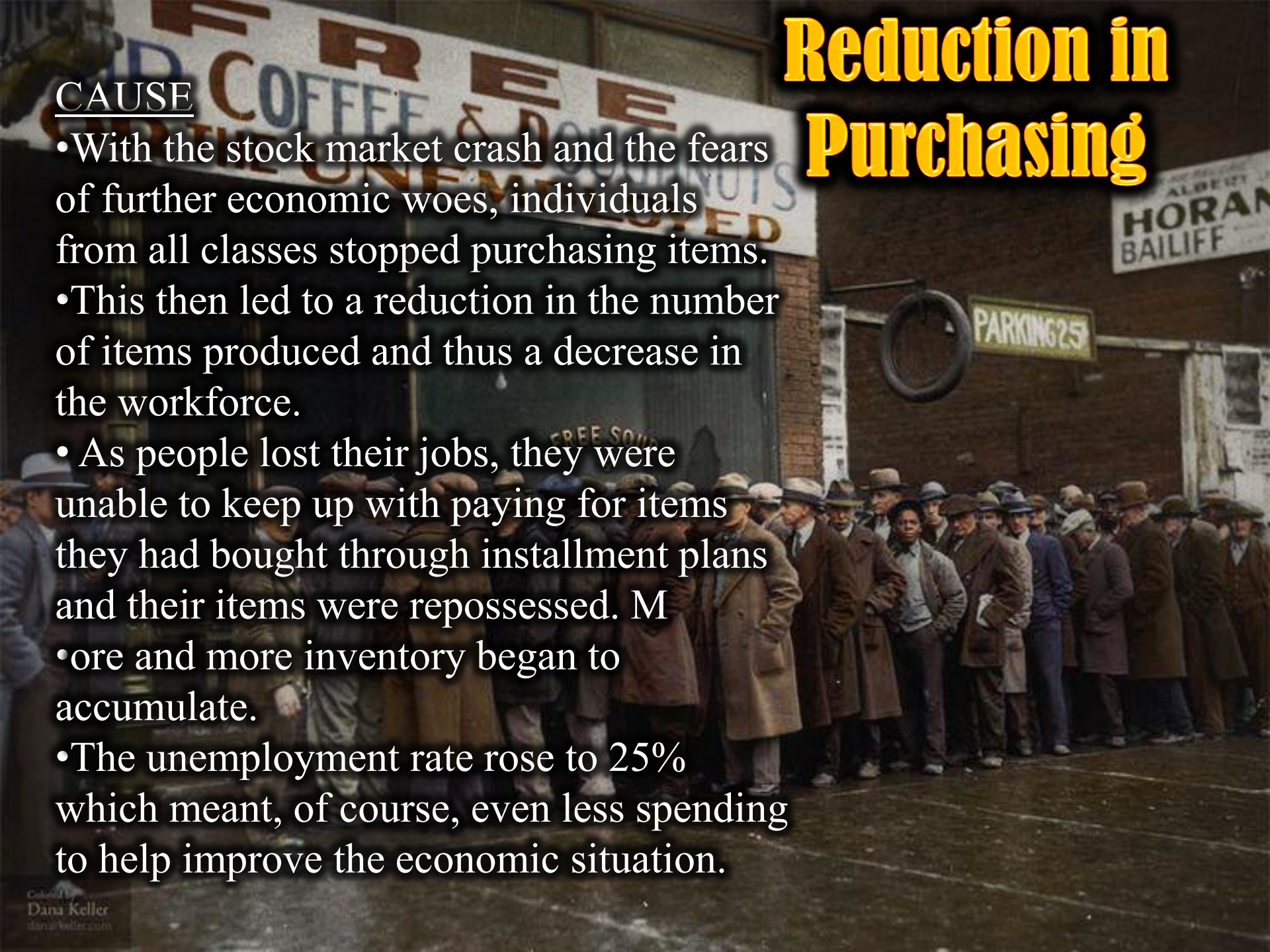
**More Layoffs**



# Reduction in Purchasing

## CAUSE

- With the stock market crash and the fears of further economic woes, individuals from all classes stopped purchasing items.
- This then led to a reduction in the number of items produced and thus a decrease in the workforce.
- As people lost their jobs, they were unable to keep up with paying for items they had bought through installment plans and their items were repossessed. More and more inventory began to accumulate.
- The unemployment rate rose to 25% which meant, of course, even less spending to help improve the economic situation.



# Hawley Smoot Tariff

## CAUSE

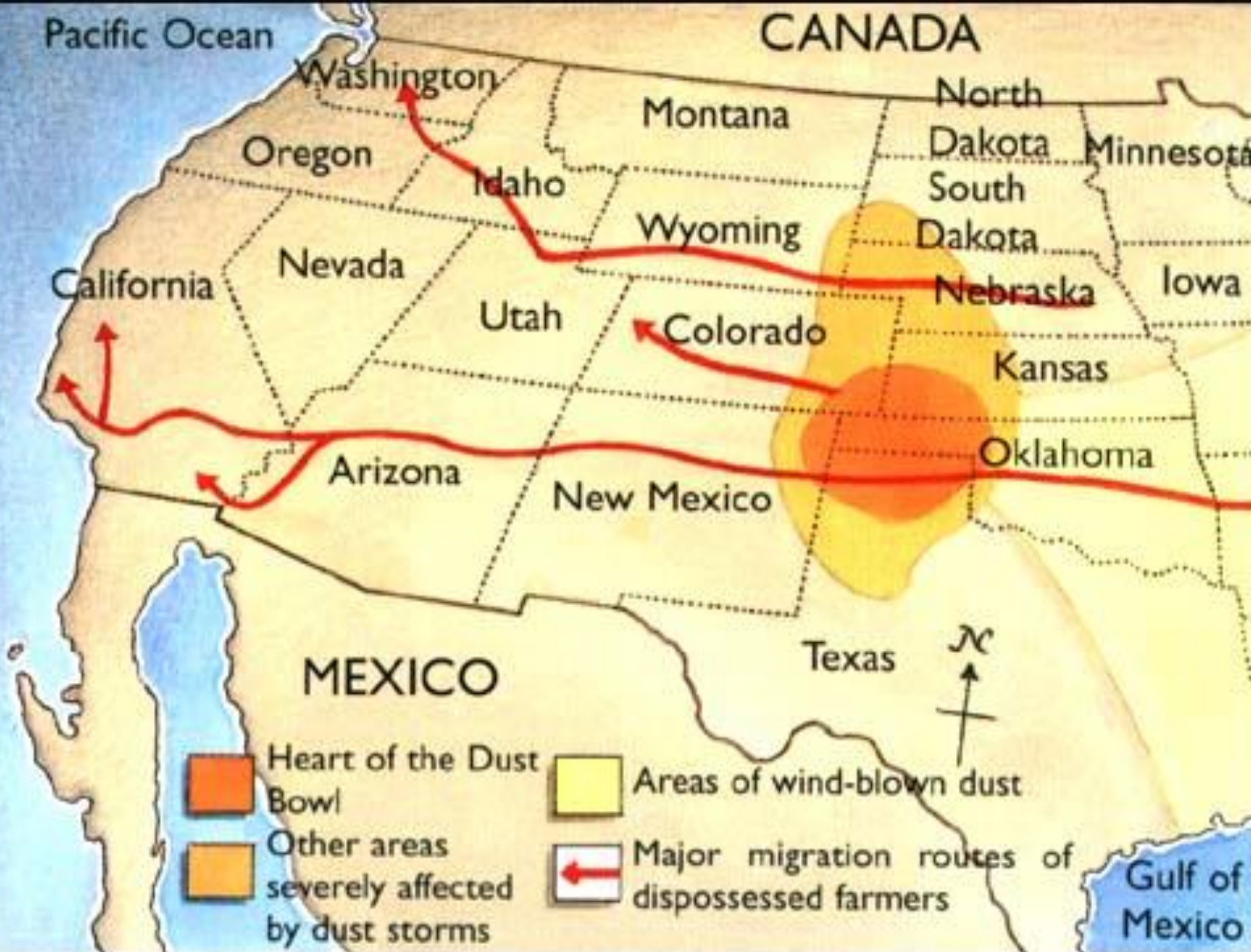
- As businesses began failing, the government created the Hawley-Smoot Tariff in 1930 to help protect American companies.
- This charged a high tax for imports thereby leading to less trade between America and foreign countries along with some economic revenge.



# Dust Bowl

## CAUSE

- When settlers came to the area, they built farms and planted crops. Their crops replaced the natural grasses in the area
- Farmers also over grazed their animals
- These factors also hurt the soil and were causes of the Dust Bowl.
- In 1890 and 1910, major droughts occurred. New and more severe droughts followed in the period 1926-1934. The condition of the area became even more fragile.
- In 1934, windstorms covered the Great Plains. They easily uplifted the soil, blowing massive clouds of dust all over the plains.
- Thousands of people were forced to leave their homes because of the Dust Bowl.
- 89 million acres of land were severely damaged or destroyed.



Pacific Ocean

CANADA

Washington

Oregon

Montana

North Dakota

Minnesota

Idaho

South Dakota

Wyoming

Dakota

California

Nevada

Utah

Colorado

Nebraska

Iowa

Arizona

New Mexico

Kansas

Oklahoma

Texas

MEXICO



Gulf of Mexico

# Causes of the Dust Bowl



1. drought



2. high winds



3. overproduction of crops



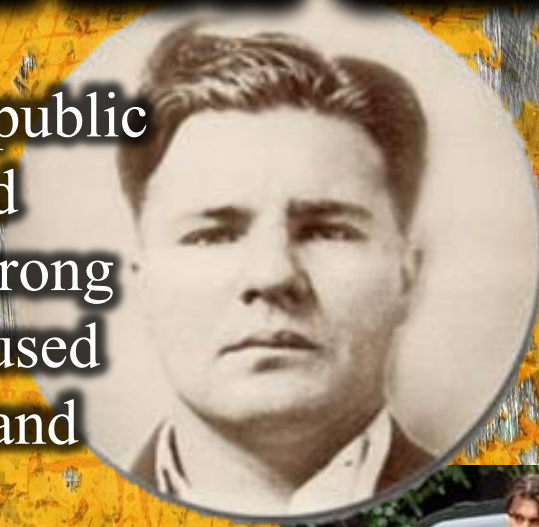
4. Loss of prairie grasses due to over plowing



**Many Americans  
couldn't "pull  
themselves up" some  
resorted to crime**

# Depression Era Criminals

- During the Depression the public sentiment against banks and financial institutions was strong because financial losses caused people to lose their homes and farms.
- The era opened the door for the 1930's gangsters to become folk heroes. Even though the gangsters were criminals, killers and robbers; honest citizens admired their ability to take what they wanted and needed.





# John Dillinger

- Of all the lurid desperadoes, one man, John Herbert Dillinger, came to evoke this Gangster Era, and stirred mass emotion to a degree rarely seen in this country.
- Gang terrorized the Midwest
  - killing 10 men,
  - wounding 7 others,
  - robbing banks and police arsenals staging 3 jail breaks
  - killed a sheriff



# Pretty Boy Floyd



- Come gather round me children, a story I will tell  
Of Pretty Boy Floyd, an outlaw, Oklahoma knew him well  
  
Was in the town of Shawnee on a Saturday afternoon  
His wife beside him in the wagon as into town they rode  
  
A deputy sheriff approached them in a manner rather rude  
Using vulgar words of language and his wife she overheard  
  
Well, Pretty Boy grabbed a long chain, and the deputy  
grabbed a gun  
And in the fight that followed, he laid that deputy down  
  
Then he took to the trees and rivers to lead a life of shame  
Every crime in Oklahoma was added to his name  
  
Yes he took to the trees and timbers on the Canadian river  
shore  
And the outlaw found a welcome at many a farmer's door  
  
Yes, there's many a starving farmer, the same story told  
How the outlaw paid their mortgage and saved their little  
home  
  
Others tell about the stranger who came to beg a meal  
And underneath the napkin left a thousand dollar bill  
  
It was in Oklahoma City, it was on a Christmas day  
Came a whole carload of groceries and a letter that did say  
  
Well, you say that I'm an outlaw, and you say that I'm a thief  
Here's a Christmas dinner for the families on relief  
  
Well, as through the world I've rambled, I've seen lots of  
funny  
men  
Some rob you with a sixgun, some with a fountain pen  
  
As through this world you ramble, as through this world you  
roam  
You'll never see an outlaw drive a family from its home

# Bonnie & Clyde

- Clyde Champion Barrow and his companion, Bonnie Parker, were shot to death by officers in Louisiana, on May 23, 1934, after one of the most colorful and spectacular manhunts the Nation had seen up to that time.
- Barrow was suspected of numerous killings and was wanted for murder, robbery, and state charges of kidnapping.



# Escape from Reality

- Americans escaped the hardships of the Depression by going to the movies and listening to radio broadcasts.
- Stories tended to be about overcoming hardships and achieving success.



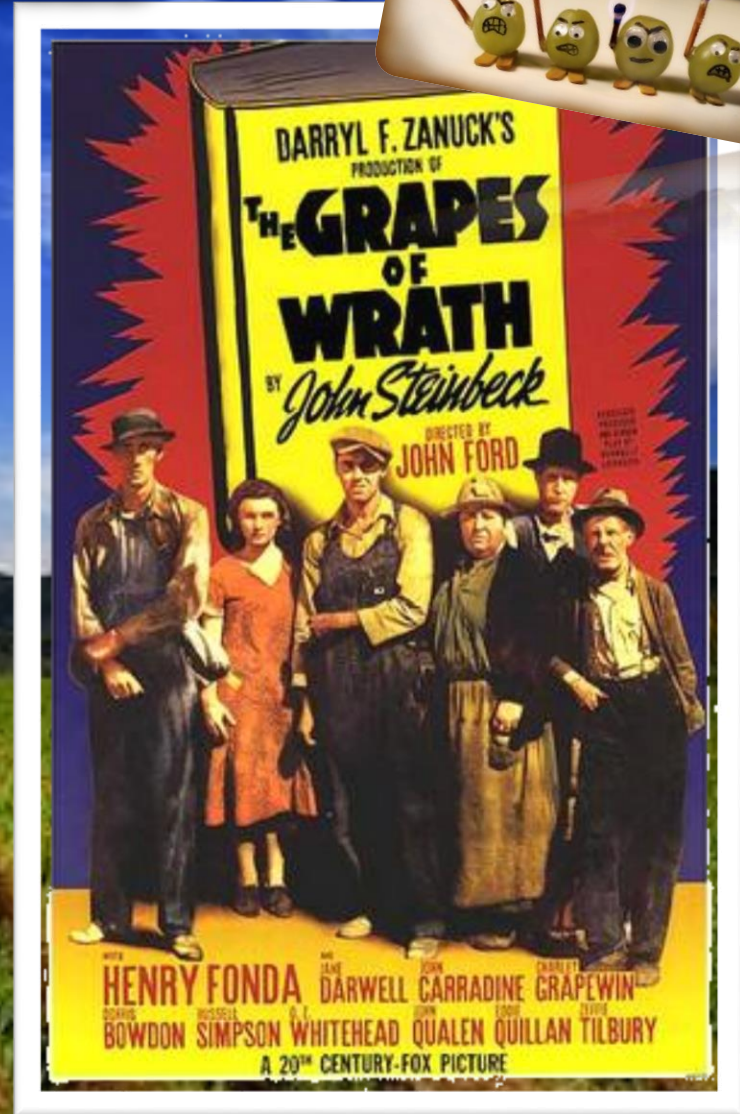
# Snow White

- Walt Disney produced the first feature-length animated film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, in 1937.
- Other films of the time contained stories of triumph over adversity and visions of a better life.



# Grapes of Wrath

- John Steinbeck's 1939 novel *The Grapes of Wrath* told the story of an Oklahoma family fleeing the Dust Bowl to find a new life in California. Steinbeck, like many writers of this time, wrote of poverty, misfortune, and social injustice.



# Checking for Understanding

## List 7 causes of the Great Depression

1. Stock Market Crash
2. Bank Failures
3. Hawley Smoot Tariff
4. Buying on credit in the 20s
5. Dust Bowl
6. Gap between Rich and Poor
7. Reduction in Purchasing- Over Production and Under consumption

# Checking for Understanding

What 3 Causes do you believe to be the most damaging?



# Checking for Understanding

A photograph of a small, weathered wooden building, likely a roadside diner or gas station, with various signs and a person standing near a red gas pump. The building has a sign that says "BARBEQUE & COLD BEER" and another that says "ICE CREAM". A person is standing near a red gas pump in the foreground.

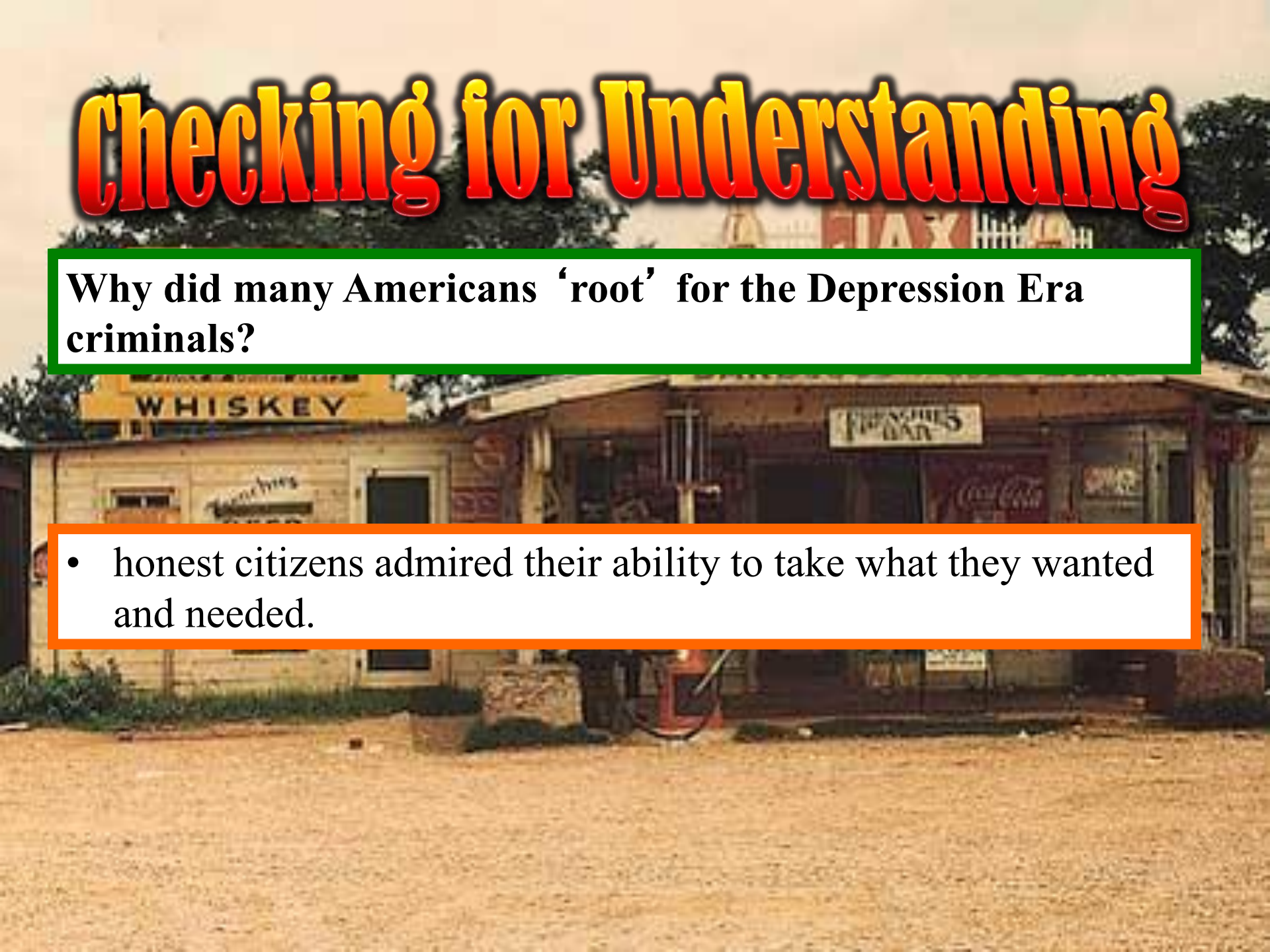
What was the government's intent with the Hawley Smoot Tariff?

Protect America business but it backfired

# Checking for Understanding

**Why did many Americans 'root' for the Depression Era criminals?**

- honest citizens admired their ability to take what they wanted and needed.



# Checking for Understanding



**Who was Public Enemy #1?**

**John Dillinger**

# Checking for Understanding



**What was a cheap way to escape from reality?**

**Movies or Radio**

# Checking for Understanding



**What was the first feature-length animated film?**

**Snow White**

# Checking for Understanding

The background image shows a dusty street scene with a building. A sign on the building reads 'JAX' in large letters. Below it, there are signs for 'BEER' and 'WHISKEY'. The scene is set in a rural, dusty environment, likely during the Great Depression.

**Who wrote the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* about the grim lives of Oklahomans fleeing the Dust Bowl during the Depression ?**

**John Steinbeck**



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