

CRASH COURSE: U.S. History

TIME-STAMPED EPISODE 33: THE GREAT DEPRESSION

1. What event is strongly associated with the start of the Great Depression, though it wasn't its sole cause? (1:04)
2. Why was the spending and consumption of the 1920s ultimately unsustainable? (1:25)
3. How did World War I help but then eventually hurt American farmers? (2:00)
4. What two kinds of investments were many people "betting" on by 1929? (2:27)
5. What two things made the Great Depression so devastating? (2:53)
6. What does it mean to buy stock "on margin"? (3:24)
7. The Great Depression had many causes. Which one does the host single out when he pushes himself to name one? (3:35)
8. How did people react at this time when there was a financial panic – and how did this reaction make the crisis worse? (4:10)
9. Why is deflation (falling prices) actually worse than inflation (rising prices)? (4:48)
10. What could the Federal Reserve (basically, the central bank of the United States) have done to help improve the economy during this crisis? (5:09)
11. Why didn't President Hoover use these kinds of Keynesian strategies to combat the Great Depression? (5:39)
12. What was Hoover's explanation for why the Depression happened? (5:52)
13. How were the economies of France, Britain, Germany, and the U.S. closely tied together at this time? (6:23)
14. How did trade policies enacted in the wake of the stock market crash make things worse? (6:56)
15. Currencies at this time were based on a certain item, which limited what governments were able to do with their money systems. What was it – and who abandoned and refused to abandon this standard, resulting in trade freezing up still further? (7:42)
16. Hoover did a terrible job handling the Depression, but what can be said in his defense? (8:33)
17. Hoover did try to help, but rather than have the federal government help people directly, he took what approach? (9:24)
18. How did the Reconstruction Finance Corporation help banks, railroads, and farm corporations? (10:23)
19. How bad was the unemployment situation by early 1932? (10:48)
20. When Americans needed relief, what was Hoover's basic solution? (11:02)
21. Why was the combination of private charity and local government relief ineffective? (11:27)
22. What John Steinbeck novel depicted that harsh struggles experienced by farmers fleeing the Dust Bowl? (12:48)
23. What did the Bonus Marchers want? (13:11)
24. Why is the Great Depression still relevant? (13:34)