

Objectives

- Describe how the New Deal affected different groups in American society.
- Analyze how the New Deal changed the shape of American party politics.
- Discuss the impact of Franklin D. Roosevelt on the presidency.



Terms and People

- **Black Cabinet** – African American leaders who served as unofficial advisers to FDR
- **Mary McLeod Bethune** – educator and member of FDR's Black Cabinet
- **Indian New Deal** – program that gave Native Americans economic assistance and greater control over their own affairs
- **New Deal coalition** – diverse group of southern whites, northern blue-collar workers, midwestern farmers, and African Americans that united behind FDR and the New Deal

Terms and People (continued)

- **welfare state** – government that assumes responsibility for providing for the welfare of children and the poor, elderly, sick, disabled, and unemployed



How did the New Deal change the social, economic, and political landscape of the United States for future generations?

The New Deal affected people of many different backgrounds and ways of life.

It also brought fundamental changes to the role of the federal government.

Eleanor Roosevelt inspired many women in her leadership role during the New Deal.

- Transformed the role of **First Lady** from ceremonial to political activist
- **Traveled** widely
- **Campaigned** for FDR
- Offered **policy advice**
- Wrote a **newspaper column**



Other women also played important roles in the administration, such as Secretary of Labor **Frances Perkins**, the first female Cabinet member.

However, the New Deal did not fight to end gender discrimination in the workplace.

- The WPA and other agencies made an effort to **employ men first**.
- **Women could not work for the CCC.**

African Americans were hit especially hard by the depression.

- The **unemployment rate** for African Americans was **nearly 50%**.
- Many people urged FDR to help end racial discrimination.

Roosevelt asked advice of members of his **Black Cabinet**, such as **Mary McLeod Bethune**.

But he did not always listen. FDR refused to support an **antilynching law**, fearing political fallout.

Some New Deal measures **unintentionally hurt African Americans.**

- Farm subsidies led landowners to **evict sharecroppers.**
- African Americans often did **not receive equal wages.**
- Domestic and farm workers were **exempted** from New Deal programs.

The New Deal's Commissioner of Indian Affairs, John Collier, tried to improve living conditions for Native Americans.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs encouraged native religions, languages, and customs.

The **Indian New Deal:**

- Provided funds to build schools and hospitals
- Created an Indian Civilian Conservation Corps

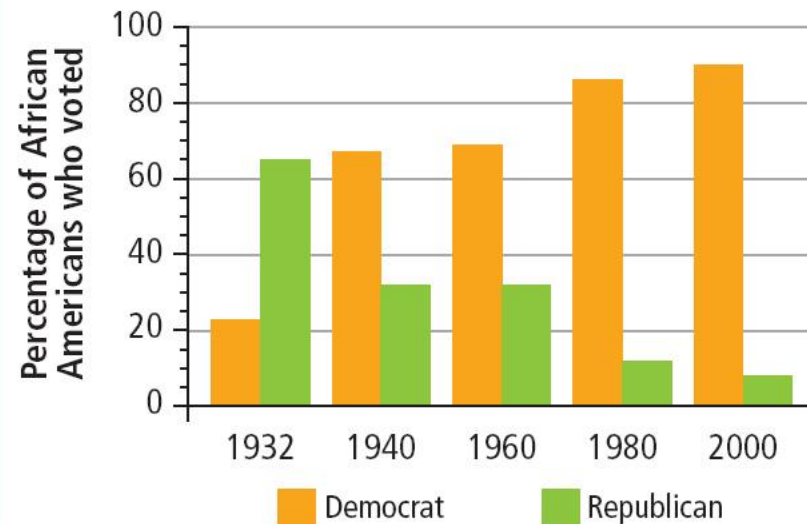
The **Indian Reorganization Act of 1934** was considered the centerpiece of the Indian New Deal.

This law restored tribal control over native lands.



Roosevelt and the New Deal united diverse groups of Americans into a political powerhouse.

Presidential Vote of African Americans, 1932–2000



SOURCES: Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Donald L. Grant, *The Way It Was in the South: The Black Experience in Georgia*; Sean J. Savage, *Roosevelt: The Party Leader, 1932–1945*

The **New Deal coalition** included southern whites, northern blue-collar workers, midwestern farmers, and African Americans.

Democrats were now in the majority.

Roosevelt's New Deal programs also helped unify a struggling nation.



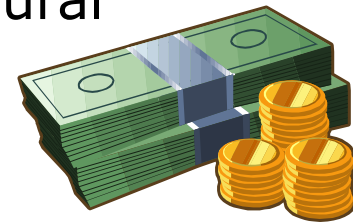
- Social and ethnic divisions diminished.
- Immigrant communities gained a greater sense of belonging.
- Programs such as the WPA and CCC allowed people of different backgrounds to get to know one another.

With the New Deal, FDR broke from the tradition of laissez-faire and greatly expanded the role of government.



New Deal measures strengthened capitalism and encouraged the post-WWII economic boom.

- Restored trust in the banks and the stock market
- Increased homeownership
- Protected workers
- Helped modernize rural America



Thousands of WPA and PWA projects benefited communities—and local economies—across the country.

INFOGRAPHIC

P.W.A. and W.P.A. PROJECTS

The Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) were New Deal government agencies that provided work relief for people who had lost their jobs during the depression.

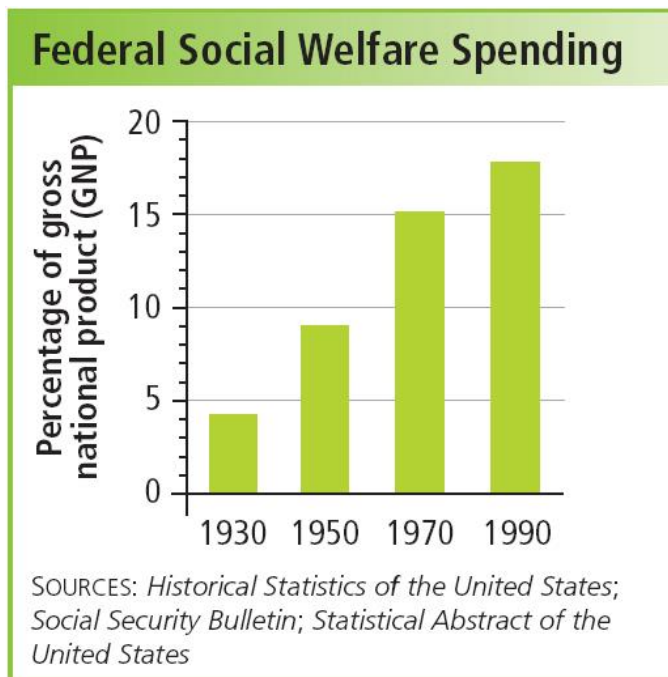
Both agencies focused on large public-works projects that benefited local communities across the nation. Their combined efforts produced thousands of schools, hospitals, parks, bridges, dams, housing developments, libraries, and other public buildings. They also built or improved thousands of miles of roads and highways, installed sewer systems, and conducted environmental-conservation projects.

Thinking Critically

Analyze Besides giving jobs to the unemployed, describe other ways that PWA and WPA projects might have helped local economies.



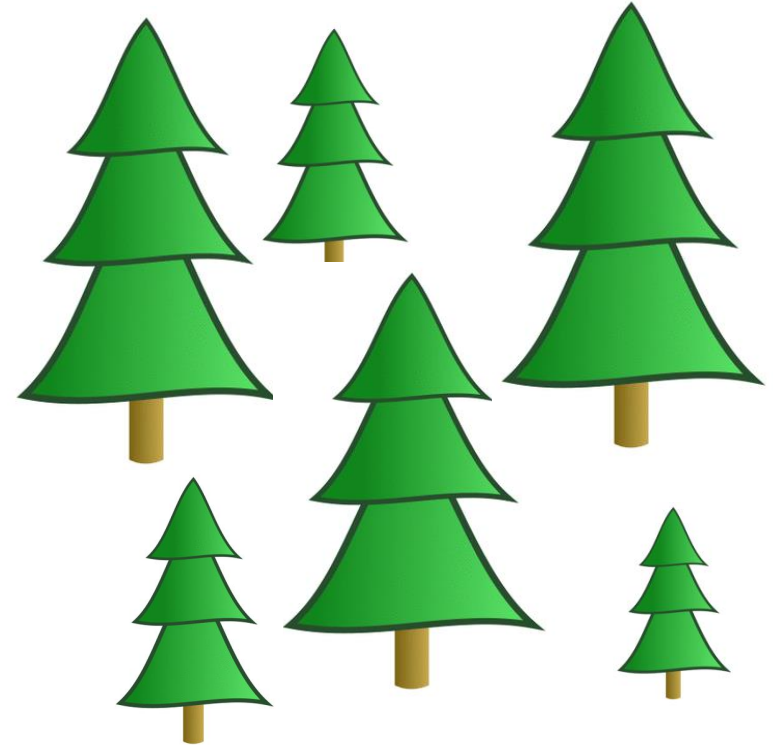
At the same time, the New Deal led to the rise of the **welfare state**.



In a major policy change, the New Deal established the principle that the federal government was responsible for the welfare of all Americans.

FDR also favored federal action to protect the environment.

- The government established 12 million acres of new national parks.
- The CCC restored forests and preserved the environment.



Despite its benefits, the TVA had a mixed environmental impact, disrupting natural habitats.

Finally, FDR and the New Deal **changed the nature of the presidency itself.**

FDR's Effect on the Presidency

- Increased power of the President and the executive branch
- Made mass media, such as radio, an essential tool in advertising and promoting policies
- Expanded role of the President in managing the economy
- Expanded role of the President in developing social policy
- Won third and fourth terms, leading to passage of Twenty-second Amendment, which limited Presidents to two consecutive terms