

READING CHECK

How did the New Deal lead to the rise of a welfare state?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *gender* mean in the underlined sentence? The paragraph it appears in discusses the role of women in the New Deal. Use the subject of the paragraph to help you figure out the meaning of *gender*.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas How did the New Deal benefit different groups in American society?

The New Deal brought fundamental changes to the nation. Some women were provided with the opportunity to increase their political influence. Eleanor Roosevelt transformed the office of First Lady to a politically active position. She traveled extensively and advocated equal justice for all. The first female Cabinet member was Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, who played a leading role in establishing Social Security and a minimum wage. Despite this, the New Deal did not fight to end gender discrimination in the workplace.

President Roosevelt invited African American leaders to advise him. These unofficial advisers became known as the **Black Cabinet**. One member, **Mary McLeod Bethune**, was a powerful champion of racial equality. Even so, racial discrimination and injustice continued to plague African Americans.

The **Indian New Deal** was a program to help American Indians by providing funding for the construction of new schools and hospitals. In 1934, the Indian Reorganization Act restored tribal control of American Indian lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs also stopped discouraging the practice of traditional American Indian customs.

By his death in 1945, FDR had united a culturally diverse group of Americans into a strong political force called the **New Deal coalition**, which gave the Democratic Party a sizable majority in both houses of Congress. FDR and the New Deal also helped to unify the nation. Programs such as the WPA allowed people of varied backgrounds to get to know one another, breaking down regional and ethnic prejudices.

New Deal programs increased the size and scope of the federal government like never before. The government assumed responsibility for providing for the welfare of children and the poor, elderly, sick, disabled, and unemployed. This led to the rise of a **welfare state**.

The expanding role of the government, including the creation of many new federal agencies, gave the executive branch much more power. Roosevelt was elected President four times. After his death, there was a call for limiting the President's term of office. In 1951, the Twenty-second Amendment limited the President to two consecutive terms in office.

Review Questions

1. What effect did the New Deal coalition have on American party politics?

2. How did Franklin D. Roosevelt expand the role of the federal government?
