

Culture in the 1930s



D. Challenges at Home and Abroad (ca. 1914-1945)

g. Evaluate the impact of the New Deal on various elements of American society (e.g., social, political, environmental, economic)

Eleanor Roosevelt

-Eleanor was FDR's wife. She took a major role in supporting various political goals while FDR was President.

-She fought for the rights of minorities and women. Eleanor wanted the New Deal programs to help the poor living in the USA.

-Eleanor supported Civil Rights for African Americans as well. She was upset that many New Deal programs seemed to discriminate against African Americans.



Eleanor Roosevelt standing with Mary Bethune. Bethune served with FDR to help African Americans.



**Eleanor Roosevelt
visiting a
children's
hospital.**

African Americans in the 1930s

-The struggle to give African Americans the rights they deserved grew in the 1930s.

-FDR appointed many African Americans to serve in government positions. Mary Bethune, an African American, was hired to serve in the National Youth Administration to help African American Youth.

-Bethune also helped create the “Black Cabinet.” This group assisted FDR on issues dealing with minorities.

Mary Bethune served in FDR's "Black Cabinet" to assist his administration to address the concerns of the African American community.



FDR and Civil Rights

- While the Roosevelt administration saw some improvement with Civil Rights, many offered criticism as well.
- For instance, FDR refused to sign a federal anti-lynching law, saying it was a “states matter.”
- The New Deal Programs that created jobs also discriminated against African Americans and even paid some workers less than whites.

**Warning:
Graphic
Images**

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, many African Americans became victims of mob lynching.



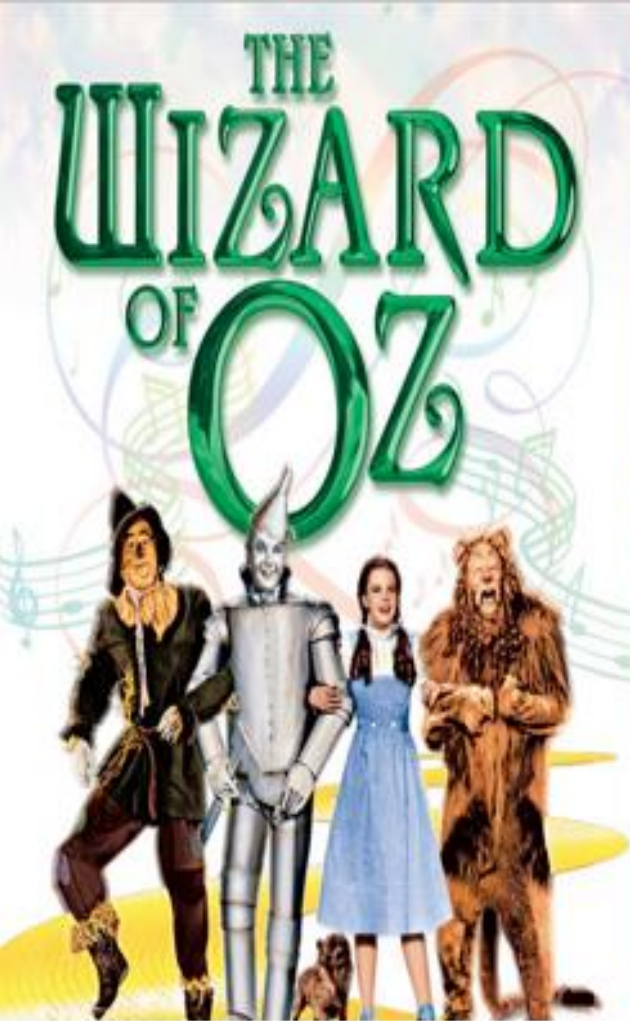


The New Deal Coalition

- While many argued FDR did not go far enough to help with Civil Rights, his modest advancement gained the support of many minorities.
- The New Deal Coalition was a mixture of Southerners whites, African Americans, unions, and others that supported the New Deal programs.
- The Wagner Act made unions and collective bargaining legal. Organized labor grew rapidly while FDR was President.

Entertainment in the 1930s

- Despite the poor economy, many flocked to the movies during the 1930s as an escape from the problems the nation was facing.
- Famous films like *Gone with the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and others gained millions of dollars across the nation.
- In his famous book, *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck depicted the impact of the Great Depression on those living in Oklahoma.



Despite the struggling economy, many Americans flocked to the movies during the 1930s as an escape from their difficult circumstances.

The Grapes of Wrath

COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED



Departure of the Joads BY THOMAS BENTON

by John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck's famous novel depicted what life was like for those living in Oklahoma during the Great Depression and suffering from the impact of the Dustbowl.

THE

END