

**The depression
GRIPS america**

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

A period (1929 - 1940) in which the U.S. economy plummeted and unemployment soared

IT WAS CAUSED BY FOUR FACTORS

TARIFFS & WAR DEBTS CUT DOWN THE SALE OF US EXPORTS

THE FARMING CRISIS OF LOW PRICES, DEBT, FORECLOSURE

THE AVAILABILITY OF EASY CREDIT

AN UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

FIRST, LET'S ANALYZE THE

GLOBAL EFFECTS

WORLD-WIDE COLLAPSE

By 1930, the **world economy** was **broken** and every nation was **hit hard**

The **European powers** recovering from WWI were **severely hurt**
US BUYERS COULDN'T AFFORD EUROPEAN IMPORTS & EUROPEAN ECONOMIES

CRUMBLING

LIKewise, EUROPE COULDN'T BUY US GOODS

Nations who **owed war debt** no longer had **the means to pay them off**

NATIONS WHO WERE OWED MONEY, LIKE THE US, WOULDN'T BE PAID \$\$ THEY RELIED ON

Currency values plummeted, **prices** rose, **unemployment** soared



NEXT, LET'S LOOK AT

EFFECTS IN THE U.S.*

BUSINESSES & BANKS

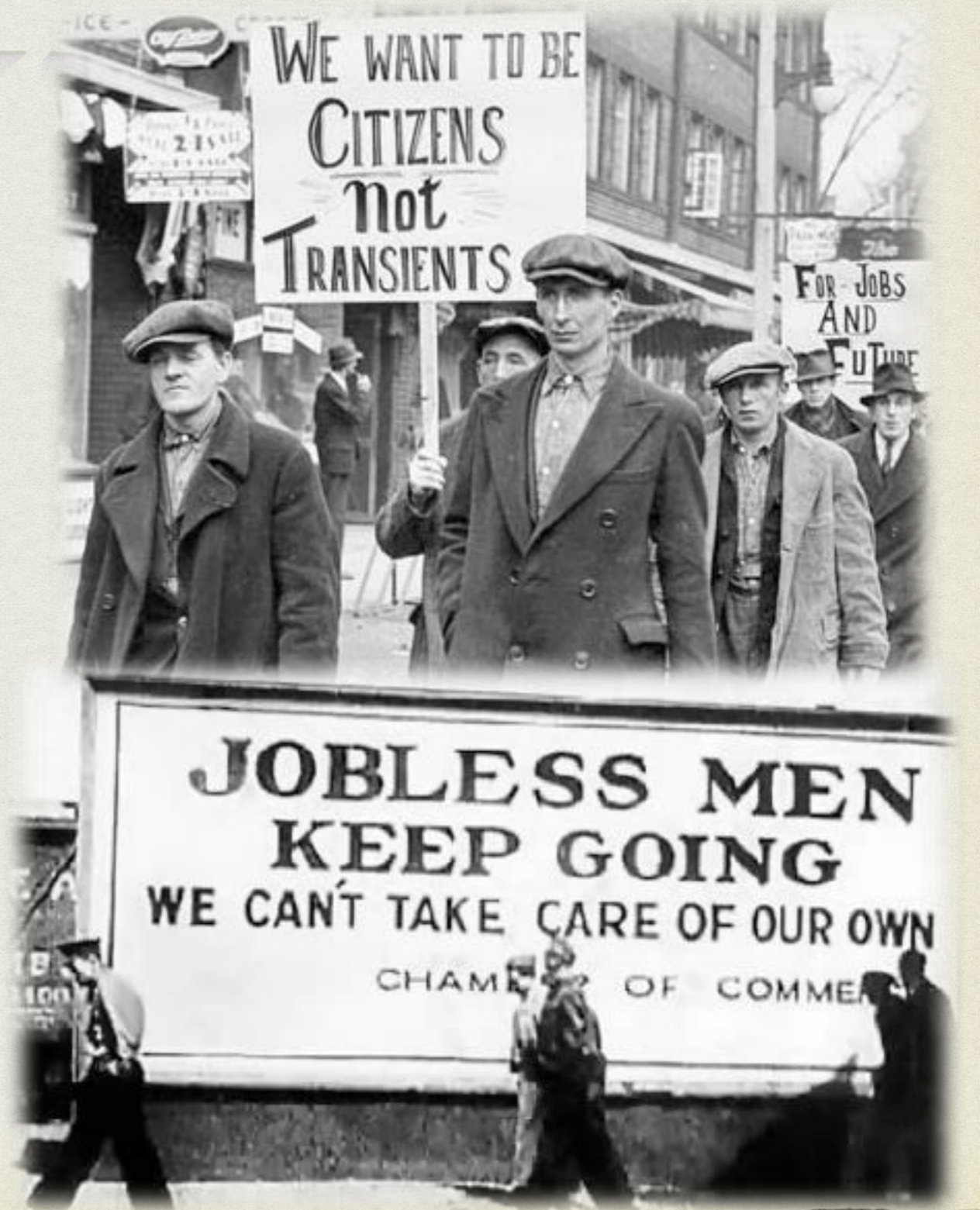
By 1932, **high costs** and **low revenue** had driven **90k businesses** bankrupt

Workers' **wages & hours** were cut in half, **consumerism** slowed to a trickle
CONSUMERS FACED HIGH PRICES FOR BASICS

As US industry collapsed, the US **unemployment rate** jumped to **25%**
NO WORK MEANT CERTAIN STARVATION,
HOMELESSNESS, NO INCOME TO GET BY ON

By 1933, **almost half** of the country's **banks** had failed

MILLIONS HAD LOST ALL THEY HAD, OTHERS HAD NO WHERE TO PROTECT WHAT THEY HAD LEFT



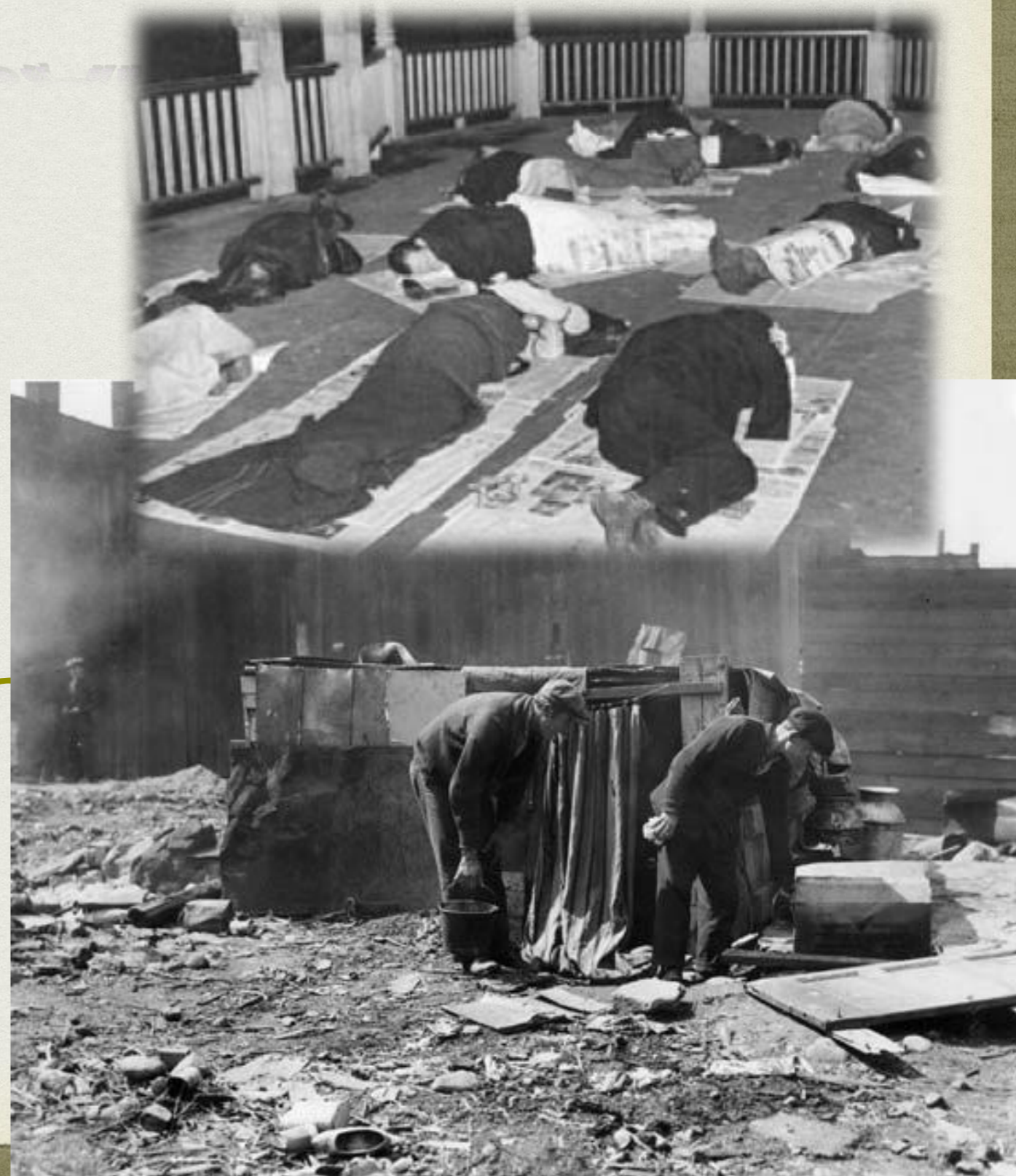
IMPACT ON URBAN LIFE

Cities were hit hard b/c the collapse of companies eliminated factory jobs

High unemployment in cities meant evictions, homelessness, hunger
FAMILIES LIVED IN PARKS & SEWERS AND
DUG THROUGH TRASH OR BEGGED TO EAT

High rates of homelessness in cities forced some to live in Shantytowns
FAMILIES LIVED IN LITTLE TOWNS OF MAKE-
SHIFT SHACKS MADE OF SCRAP MATERIAL

The hungry & unemployed resorted to selling whatever they could
SOME SOLD PRODUCE, OTHERS SOLD THEIR
CLOTHES, THEIR CARS JUST TO SURVIVE





RELYING ON CHARITY

At the outset of the Depression, there was no system of **direct relief** CASH PAYMENTS OR FOOD PROVIDED TO THE POOR BY THE GOV. AS A SAFETY NET

Some cities offered **meager relief**, but it **wasn't enough** & was scarce SO FAMILIES RELIED ON PRIVATE CHARITIES

BREAD LINES

Long lines of **poor people** waiting to **receive food** provided by charity

SOUP KITCHENS

Shelter offering **free or low-cost food**



WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING



*There's no way
like the
American Way*



**BUT THE RURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY WERE
HIT JUST AS HARD AS THE CITIES**

**one advantage: FARMERS COULD
GROW THEIR OWN FOOD TO SURVIVE**



**STILL, BY 1932, 400,000 FARMS WERE
FORECLOSED ON**



**ON TOP OF THAT, THE US WAS IN THE
MIDDLE OF A TERRIBLE DROUGHT**



WHICH LEADS TO...

THE DUST BOWL

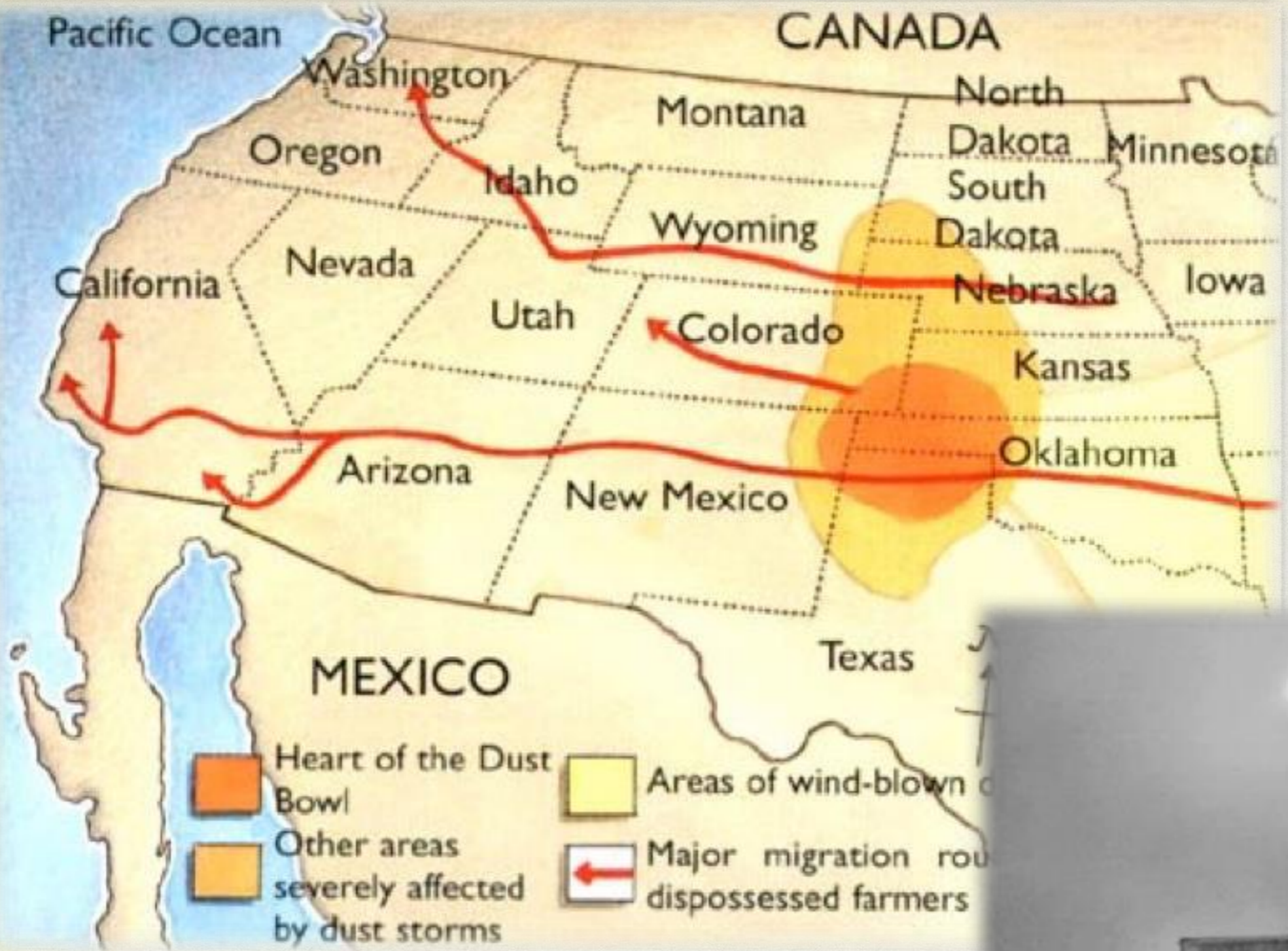
The **Great Plains** were left **dry** by heat, **drought**, and WWI over-farming **THRU OVERUSE**, FARMERS REMOVED THE **PRAIRIE GRASS THAT PROTECTED THE DRY TOPSOIL**

WIND STORMS picked up the **dry topsoil** and carried it to the Atlantic Ocean **LITERALLY, FARMERS' LAND WAS BLOWN AWAY**

With **land unsuitable to farm** & nothing left, farmers **migrated west** **TRAVELING ON ROUTE 66**, 100,000s **LOOKED FOR WORK AS FARMHANDS, SCRAPING A LIVING**

Most of these "**Okies**" migrated to **California** (Steinbeck's **Grapes of Wrath**)







LASTLY...

EFFECTS ON FAMILIES

FAMILIES UNDER STRAIN

While the family was a **source of unity** for most, some families **tore apart**

MEN

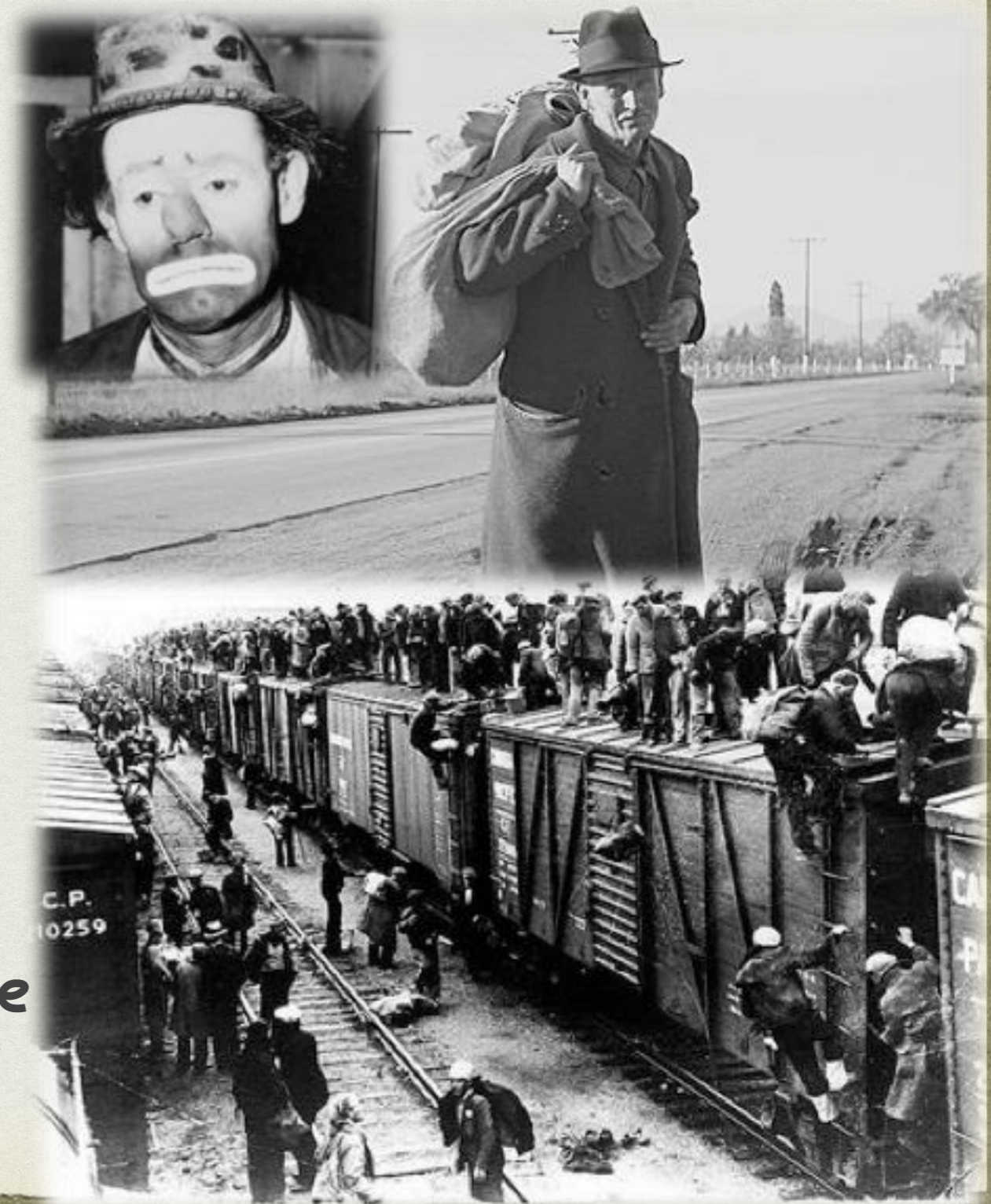
Some couldn't **cope w/ failure** to provide for the family and **ran away**
LOOKS OF "HOBOES" LIVED UNDER BRIDGES, RODE TRAINS, WANDERED THE COUNTRY

WOMEN

Forced to deal w/ **NO INCOME**, women **canned foods, made clothes, budgeted**

CHILDREN

Faced **malnutrition, school cuts, disease**
TEENAGED "WILD BOYS" ROAMED THE COUNTRY
LOOKING FOR WORK, ADVENTURE, ESCAPE



CLOSURE

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

Why would the suicide rate have INCREASED IN the U.S. DURING the DEPRESSION?

Why would the GENERATION that LIVED through the DEPRESSION (YOUR GRANDPARENTS) have developed a SENSE of FRUGALITY and THRIFTINESS?