

---The Great Depression ---

SUMMARY

The Great Depression was a time of great economic crisis during the 1930s. It began in the United States, but quickly spread throughout much of the world. During this time, many people were out of work, hungry, and homeless. In the city, people would stand in long lines at soup kitchens to get a bite to eat. In the country, farmers struggled to grow crops due to a great drought that turned the soil into dust causing huge dust storms.



THE NEW DEAL

The New Deal was a series of laws, programs, and government agencies created to help the country recover from the Great Depression. These laws placed regulations on the stock market, banks, and businesses. They helped put people to work and provide homes and food for the poor. Many of these laws and programs are still in place today.

SOLUTION

The Great Depression ended with the start of World War II. The need for weapons put many people back to work in factories which boosted the economy and provided jobs that were desperately needed.

IMPACT

The Great Depression left a lasting impact on the United States. The New Deal laws increased the role of the government in people's everyday lives. Public work projects including the construction of roads, schools, bridges, parks, and airports helped to build up the country.

CAUSES

The Great Depression began with the crash of the stock market in October of 1929. Historians and economists list several causes for the Great Depression including drought, overproduction of goods, bank failures, and consumer debt.

LEADERS

Herbert Hoover was President of the United States when the Great Depression began. Many people blamed Hoover for the Great Depression. They even named the shantytowns where homeless people lived "Hoovervilles". In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president. He promised the people of a "New Deal".