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Roosevelt's Rescue

Amid the dark clouds of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt emerged as a beacon of hope, leading the nation with bold and innovative solutions to combat the economic crisis. Through his New Deal programs, Roosevelt implemented sweeping reforms that aimed to provide relief, recovery, and reform to a nation in turmoil.



One of the key components of the New Deal was the creation of relief programs to provide immediate assistance to those most affected by the Depression. Programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed millions of Americans in public works projects, building roads, bridges, and parks, and providing much-needed jobs and income to struggling families.

In addition to relief efforts, the New Deal focused on economic recovery by implementing measures to stimulate economic activity. The National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) aimed to boost industrial production and stabilize prices through the establishment of industry codes and regulations. The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) sought to address agricultural overproduction by paying farmers to reduce crop acreage, thereby raising crop prices and stabilizing farm incomes.

The New Deal introduced reforms aimed at preventing future economic crises and addressing underlying issues of inequality and insecurity. The Social Security Act established a system of retirement benefits and unemployment insurance, providing a safety net for the elderly and unemployed. Other reforms included the Securities Exchange Act, which regulated the stock market to prevent abuses and promote transparency, and the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established minimum wage and maximum hour laws to protect workers' rights.

Through these and other initiatives, President Roosevelt and the New Deal transformed the role of the federal government in American society and laid the groundwork for a more equitable and resilient economy. While the New Deal faced criticism and challenges, its legacy endures as a testament to the power of bold leadership and innovative policymaking in times of crisis.

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Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What was the purpose of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression?

- A) To reduce industrial production
- B) To employ millions of Americans in public works projects
- C) To stabilize crop prices
- D) To regulate the stock market

2. What was the goal of the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)?

- A) To stabilize industrial production and prices
- B) To provide retirement benefits and unemployment insurance
- C) To establish minimum wage and maximum hour laws
- D) To promote agricultural overproduction

3. How did the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) aim to address agricultural challenges during the Great Depression?

- A) By deregulating the agricultural industry
- B) By increasing crop production
- C) By lowering crop prices
- D) By paying farmers to reduce crop acreage

4. What did the Social Security Act establish?

- A) Minimum wage and maximum hour laws
- B) Industry codes and regulations
- C) Retirement benefits and unemployment insurance
- D) Transparency in the stock market

5. What was the overall impact of President Roosevelt and the New Deal on American society?

- A) Increased industrial production and stability
- B) Deregulated the stock market
- C) Promoted agricultural overproduction
- D) Addressed underlying issues of inequality and insecurity