



# BOOM, BUST, & BATTLE 1919-1945!

- ◆A. AMERICAN LIFE IN THE “ROARING TWENTIES”, 1920-1929 (AP-CH. 31) (CP-13)
- ◆B. POLITICS OF BOOM AND BUST, 1920-1932 (AP-CH. 32) (CP-12)
- ◆C. THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL, 1933-1939 (AP-CH. 33) (CP-14/15)
- ◆D. FDR AND THE SHADOW OF WAR, 1933-1941 (AP-Ch. 34.) (CP-16)
- ◆E. AMERICA IN WWII, 1941-1945 (AP-Ch. 35) (CP-17)



## “Varying Viewpoints”

William E. Leuchtenberg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal* (1963). A view of the New Deal as a “halfway revolution”:

“The New Deal achieved a more just society by recognizing groups which had been largely unrepresented—staple farmers, industrial workers, particular ethnic groups, and the new intellectual-administrative class. Yet this was still a halfway revolution. It swelled the ranks of the bourgeoisie but left many Americans—sharecroppers, slum dwellers, most Negroes—outside the new equilibrium....The New Dealers perceived that they had done more in those years than had been done in any comparable period of American history, but they also saw that there was much still to be done, much, too, that continued to baffle them.”

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Age of Roosevelt: The Coming of the New Deal* (1959). A view of the New Deal as a radical transformation:

“By bringing to Washington a government determined to govern, Roosevelt unlocked new energies in a people who had lost faith, not just in government’s ability to meet the economic crisis, but almost in the ability of anyone to do anything. The feeling of movement was irresistible. A despairing land had a vision of America as it might some day be.... ‘It’s more than a New Deal,’ said Harold Ickes. ‘It’s a new world. People feel free again. They can breathe naturally. It’s like quitting a morgue for the open woods.’ ‘We have had our revolution,’ said Collier’s, ‘and we like it.’ ”

## Key Concepts

1. A disillusioned America turned away from the idealism of the progressive period, after the Great War, and toward social conservatism, a new mass-consumption economy, and exciting new forms of popular culture that undermined many traditional values.
2. New technologies, mass-marketing techniques, and new forms of entertainment fostered rapid cultural change along with a focus on consumer goods. But the accompanying changes in moral values and uncertainty about the future produced cultural anxiety as well as sharp intellectual critiques of American life.
3. The Republican administrations of the prosperous 1920s pursued conservative, pro-business policies at home and economic unilateralism abroad.
4. The great crash of 1929 led to a severe, prolonged depression that devastated the American economy and spirit, and resisted Hoover’s limited efforts to correct it.
5. Roosevelt’s New Deal tackled the Great Depression with massive federal programs designed to bring about relief, recovery, and reform.
6. In the early and mid-1930s, the United States attempted to isolate itself from foreign involvements and wars. But by the end of the decade, the spread of totalitarianism and war in Europe forced Roosevelt to provide more and more assistance to desperate Britain, despite strong isolationist opposition.
7. Unified by Pearl Harbor, America effectively carried out a war mobilization effort that produced vast social and economic changes within American society.
8. Following its “get Hitler first” strategy, the U.S. and its allies invaded and liberated conquered Europe from Fascist rule. The slower strategy of “island hopping” against Japan also proceeded successfully until the Atomic bomb brought a sudden end to World War II.

## Essential Details

Red Scare  
Quota System  
Harlem Renaissance  
New Technology  
Flapper Style  
Prohibition  
Isolationism  
Unilateral Foreign Policy  
Stock Market Crash  
Great Depression  
Dust Bowl  
FDR  
New Deal  
Political Realignment  
Totalitarianism  
Fascism  
Pearl Harbor  
Great Wartime Migration  
Mobilization  
Holocaust  
Japanese Internment  
“Island Hopping”  
D-Day  
Atomic Bomb  
Wartime Conferences

## DEBATE TOPICS

1. Did the Women’s Movement die in the 1920s? (9<sup>th</sup>)
2. Was the New Deal an Effective Answer to the Great Depression? (9<sup>th</sup>)
3. Did President Roosevelt Deliberately Withhold information about the Attack on Pearl Harbor? (9<sup>th</sup>)
4. Was the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s an Extremist Movement? (10<sup>th</sup>)
5. Was Prohibition a Failure? (13<sup>th</sup>)
6. Was Franklin Roosevelt a Reluctant Internationalist? (13<sup>th</sup>)
7. Did the New Deal Prolong the Great Depression? (15<sup>th</sup>)
8. Were the 1920s an Era of Social and Cultural Rebellion? (15<sup>th</sup>)
9. Was the World War II Era a Watershed for the Civil Rights Movement? (15<sup>th</sup>)
10. Was it Necessary to Drop the Atomic Bomb to End World War II? (15<sup>th</sup>)