



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 507

DEPRESSION AND WAR

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DEPRESSION AND WAR

The Stock Market Crash of 1929 started the Great Depression. This was the largest, deepest, and hardest depression in American history. Millions of people were out of work, not just in America, but all over the world. A new president tried all kinds of things to end the depression, but it was World War II that finally brought jobs and prosperity back to America again.

The Second World War started in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Like World War I,

America was isolationist and refused to get involved. However, when the Japanese (allies of Germany) attacked American soil in Hawaii in 1941, America got involved. The united American people gave the supplies and men needed to defeat the dictators and win the war. This LIFEPAC® will discuss both the Great Depression and the biggest war in the history of the world, World War II.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the problems of the Great Depression.
2. Describe the New Deal and FDR's actions as president.
3. Describe World War II: especially its beginning, turning point, and events that led to the end of the war.
4. Describe American participation and strategy in World War II.
5. Name the leaders of World War II.

VOCABULARY

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

abortion (ə bôr' shən). A medical procedure to kill a baby before it is born

aggression (ə gresh' ən). The first step or move in an attack or quarrel; action by the person or nation starting a war or fight

appease (ə pēz). To make calm or quiet; to give someone what they want to make them calm or quiet

charity (char' ə tē). A fund or organization for helping the sick, the poor or the helpless

code (kōd). An arrangement of words or figures to keep a message short or secret; system of secret writing

liberate (lib' ə rāt). To set free

prejudice (prej' ə dis). An opinion formed without taking time and care to judge fairly

radiation (rā' dē ā' shən). The rays or tiny particles that are given off by the atoms of a radioactive substance; radioactivity (This can be harmful to living tissue.)

ration (rash' ən or rā' shən). To allow only certain amounts to people; to distribute in limited amounts

refugee (ref' yə jē'). A person who flees from his home, often to another country, for safety from war or persecution

rivet (riv' it). A metal bolt with a head at one end; the end opposite the head is hammered to form another head after it is passed through the things to be joined; Rivets are often used to fasten heavy steel beams together

sabotage (sab' ə täzh). Damage done purposely to property, usually by enemy agents

veteran (vet' ə r ən). A person who has served in the armed forces

violation (vī' ə lā shən). A breaking of a law, rule, agreement, promise, or instruction

volcanic (vol kan' ik). Of or caused by a volcano; having to do with volcanoes

weld (weld). To join pieces of metal or plastic together by bringing the parts that touch to the melting point, so that they flow together and become one piece in cooling

Note: These words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in this LIFE PAC. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, review the definition.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



THE UNITED STATES IN 1945

I. THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The Great Depression was a huge shock to the nation. The Roaring Twenties had been so prosperous that no one expected such poverty to follow, but it did. Millions of people had no jobs, no homes, and little food. The nation was filled with despair.

In 1932 the nation chose a new president, Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt (a distant cousin of Theodore Roosevelt). Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) promised the nation a "New Deal." He tried all kinds of things to restart businesses and get jobs and food for people. His New Deal gave people hope and helped ease the worst losses of the depression.

However, the depression did not end until 1942.

War broke out in Europe again in 1939. The U.S. was still isolationist and tried to stay out of this war. However, as more and more of Europe and Asia fell to the dictators of the Axis Powers, Americans became concerned. FDR did everything he could to help Britain, which was fighting alone in Europe. The U.S. got involved when it began manufacturing needed war supplies for Great Britain. This action created jobs in America and finally ended the Great Depression in 1942.

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the problems of the Great Depression.
2. Describe the New Deal and FDR's actions as president.
3. Describe World War II: especially its beginning, turning point, and events that led up to the end of the war.
5. Name the leaders of World War II.

Restudy these words.

aggression
veteran

appease
violation

charity

Despair

Hooverilles. Herbert Hoover was president when the stock market crashed in 1929, starting the Great Depression. Hoover was an engineer who was famous for getting aid to people who were starving in Europe during and after World War I. He was a good organizer and a very popular president until the depression began. Everyone blamed him for the depression, and he became one of the most unpopular presidents in American history.

The Great Depression destroyed the Roaring Twenties idea that America would be

rich forever. At its worst point in 1933, one out of every four people did not have a job. That meant one out of every four families had no money for food, clothes, or housing. Many of the people who did have jobs had their pay reduced so that they had less money to spend for what they needed. Many of the people who had bought on credit could not pay for their goods. Hard working people all over the nation lost everything. The nation became poorer and poorer.

Thousands of men wandered around the country searching for any work they could

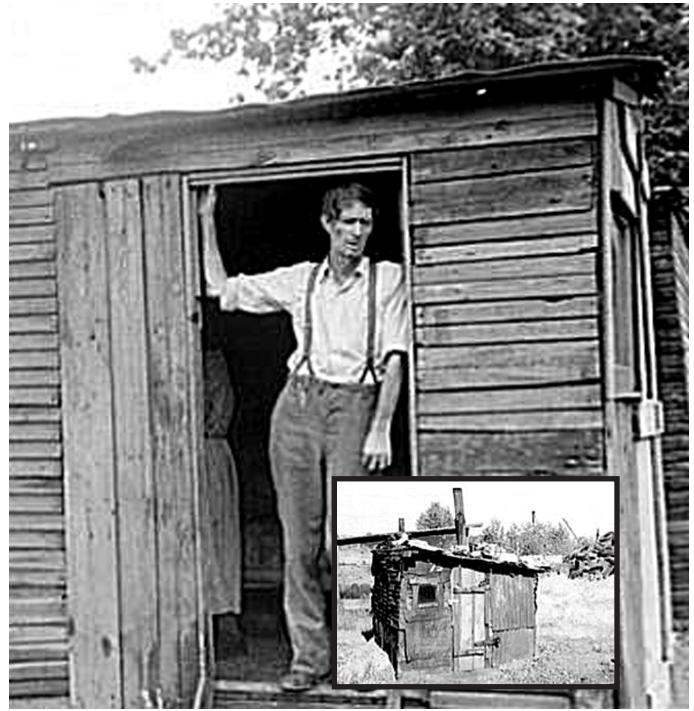
find. They slept covered with old newspapers they called “Hoover blankets.” Communities of shacks made of cardboard, wood, and tin were called “Hoovervilles.” People sold apples and shined shoes to get a few cents for a meal. When they could not earn even a few cents, they stood in long lines at **charity** or town aid stations to get a free piece of bread or bowl of soup.

Things on the farms had already been bad in the 1920s. Conditions got worse during the Great Depression. Prices for food fell so low that farmers could not make enough money to pay for seed or for shipping crops to market! Droughts in the Great Plains dried up the soil and created huge dust storms. Those rich lands became known as the “Dust Bowl.” Thousands of farmers lost their land, packed all their belongings in a car or cart, and traveled the country looking for work.

Thousands of banks failed between 1929 and 1933. People began to distrust banks and would withdraw their money from them. Without money, banks were forced to close. Every bank that closed caused hundreds of people to lose their savings. People who had worked hard and saved for years were left with nothing.

Herbert Hoover, a Republican, was not able to stop the Great Depression. He believed that American businesses were strong and should put themselves back to work, but this time they could not. The American people wanted a president who would use government money to feed people, create jobs, and help businesses. However, the U.S. government had never done this in any of the many depressions or panics that had hurt the nation in the past. Hoover would not use government money to give to people because he believed he could not. He did try some new things to help the people, but it was not enough to please a desperate nation. He quickly became a hated man.

Bonus Army. The soldiers who had fought in World War I were among the many Americans suffering in the depression. In 1924 the U.S. government had promised them a bonus for their service during the war. They were supposed to get the bonus in 1945. However, these men had no jobs and wanted



A “HOOVERVILLE” SHACK

their bonus right away. They were not willing to wait thirteen years when their families were hungry now.

In 1932, about 20,000 ex-soldiers marched on Washington. They came to ask Congress to give them their bonus right away, because they needed it so badly. They called themselves the Bonus Expeditionary Force. (Remember the U.S. army in World War I was the American Expeditionary Force.) The press called them the Bonus Army. They built a huge Hooverville in the capital and waited for Congress to grant their demand.

Congress refused to give the bonuses out early. Much of the Bonus Army, however, refused to leave. So, after some fighting broke out, Hoover sent the army in to remove the camp. The army commander, Douglas MacArthur, treated the **veterans** harshly, using tear gas and weapons to drive them out of Washington. Then, the camp was burned. The American public felt that the veterans had been treated unfairly, and they blamed Herbert Hoover.

FDR. The Republican party had been a supporter of businesses for a long time. By 1932 the American people believed big business and the Republicans had caused the Great Depression. Herbert Hoover ran for