

THE NEW DEAL

the 30-second history

Amid the Great Depression, in

1932 Democrat Franklin Roosevelt won the US presidency. He immediately instituted a sweeping domestic agenda termed the New Deal. During the first 100 days of his administration he signed into law a staggering amount of legislation to aid the country's economic recovery. This legislation created numerous federal agencies to regulate the economy and provide jobs for the large numbers of unemployed people in the United States. For example, the Civilian Conservation Corps put people to work conserving and developing America's natural resources, particularly its national parks. The Civil Works Administration employed millions in improving infrastructure. Beyond providing immediate relief for the unemployed, Roosevelt wanted to give people economic security. The Social Security Act of 1935 helped meet this goal by establishing a federal pension system for the elderly and providing unemployment insurance and aid to families with dependent children. The act marked the rise of the welfare state in the United States. Ultimately, the New Deal did not pull the US out of the Depression, but it helped alleviate the suffering of millions of people and drive down the unemployment rate. Additionally, the federal government assumed greater responsibility for the economy and the well-being of Americans.

3-SECOND THRASH

The New Deal was a series of domestic initiatives taken by President Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s to address the effects of the Great Depression.

3-MINUTE THOUGHT

Roosevelt and his New Deal forged an impressive political coalition. This coalition brought together diverse groups in American society, including white southerners, African Americans, industrial labourers and farmers. With so many people committed to the New Deal agenda, the Democratic Party enjoyed a long period of political ascendancy that only came to an end in the late 1960s.

RELATED TOPICS

See also

THE JAZZ SINGER
page 38

FIVE YEAR PLANS
page 100

'PILE IT HIGH, SELL IT LOW'
page 104

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES
page 106

3-SECOND BIOGRAPHIES

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
1882–1945

32nd President of the United States who led America through the Great Depression and the Second World War

FRANCES PERKINS
1880–1965

American civil servant, staunch New Dealer, the first woman to serve in a president's cabinet and Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor (1933–45)

30-SECOND TEXT

Kristopher Teters

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal aimed to get Americans back to work in the face of the Great Depression.