

The Great Depression DBQ

Historical Context: The Great Depression in the United States started in 1929 when the stock market crashed. The depression last over ten years and had long-term social, economic, and political effects on American society.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history and government, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Using your answers from Part A you will write an essay (Part B) in which you will be able to:

- Discuss the social, economic, and political effects on American society during the Great Depression.

Part A: Short Answer

Document #1

"Houses were shut tight, and cloth wedged around doors and windows, but the dust came in so thinly that it could not be seen in the air, and it settled like pollen on the chairs and tables, on the dishes...

In the roads where the teams moved, where the wheels milled the ground and the hooves of the horses beat the ground, the dirt crust broke and the dust formed. Every moving thing lifted the dust into the air: a walking man lifted a thin layer as high as his waist, and a wagon lifted the dust as high as the fence tops, and an automobile boiled a cloud behind it. The dust was long in settling back again."

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Chapter 1

1. What is the author, John Steinbeck, referring to in this quote from his 1939 novel?

Document #2

The demonstrators were part of a growing army of veterans and their families heading to Washington [D.C.] from across the country to collect payment from the “bonus,” promised in 1924 to soldiers who had served in the Great War, but deferred until 1945 because of wrangling over the federal budget. Now, deep in the Depression, the vets had dubbed the delayed payment the Tombstone Bonus, for the only way to get cash before 1945 was to die, in which case the payment would be made to the next of kin as a death benefit.

In 1932, a year in which unemployment had soared to almost 25 percent, leaving roughly one family out of four without a breadwinner, two million people wandered the country looking for work. But unlike most of the men, women, and children on the move, the veterans knew where they were going and why they were going there. Washington [D.C.] was a goal, a place to stay while they lobbied Congress for immediate payment of their bonus...

- Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen, *The Bonus Army* (2004)

2a. According to the authors, what was the only way World War I Veterans could receive their Bonus check before 1945?

2b. Where did the Veterans go in order to demand their bonus check?

3c. *What happened to the veterans who protested?*

Document 3a



Document 3b



3. Based on these two documents, name two different items that were be given away for free to the unemployed?

Document #4



THE WAY TO PROSPERITY.

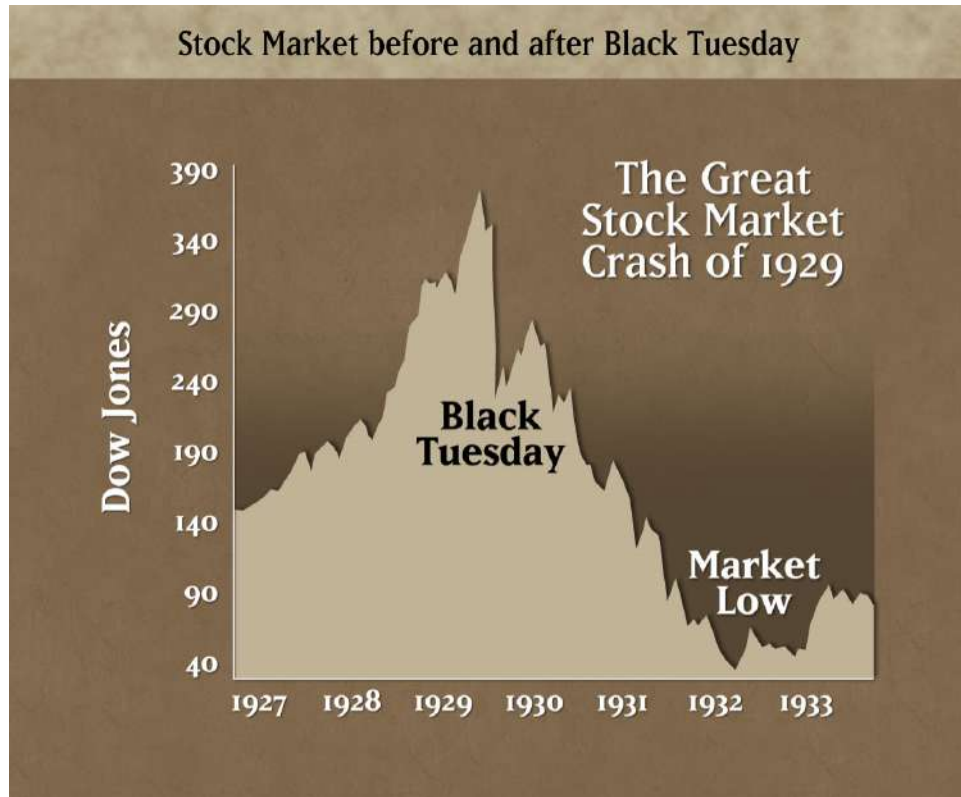
4. According to this 1931 cartoon, what are three different ways the man should follow to achieve prosperity?

QUALIFYING TEST FOR SUPREME COURT JOBS



5a. According to this document, what job are the 6 people behind the bench all testing for?

5b. What has President F.D.R. thrown away in this hiring process?



6a. According to the chart, which year saw the Dow Jones hit its lowest mark?

6b. What year did the stock market crash?

“The **Smoot-Hawley Tariff** was more a consequence of the onset of the Great Depression than an initial cause. But while the tariff might not have caused the Depression, it certainly did not make it any better. It provoked a storm of foreign retaliatory measures and came to stand as a symbol of the "beggar-thy-neighbor" policies (policies designed to improve one's own lot at the expense of that of others) of the 1930s. Such policies contributed to a drastic decline in international trade. For example, U.S. imports from Europe declined from a 1929 high of \$1,334 million to just \$390 million in 1932, while U.S. exports to Europe fell from \$2,341 million in 1929 to \$784 million in 1932...Smoot-Hawley did nothing to foster trust and cooperation among nations in either the political or economic realm during a perilous era in international relations.”

- *US Department of State on the Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930*

7a. According to the Department of State, was the Smoot-Hawley Tariff an initial cause of the Depression?

7b. What was one problem that came about from the Smoot-Hawley Tariff?

New Deal Programs Created under President Roosevelt

Program	Initials	Begun	Purpose
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	FDIC	1933	Insured savings accounts in banks up to \$5,000.00 in 1933
Works Progress Administration	WPA	1935	Employed men and women to build hospitals, schools, parks, and airports.
Social Security Act	SSA	1935	Set up a system of insurance for elderly, unemployed, and the disabled
Civilian Conservation Corps	CCC	1933	Provided jobs to young men to plant trees, build bridges, parks, and set up flood control projects
Securities Exchange Act	SEC	1934	Set up the Securities and Exchange Commission to oversee the stock market and advisors

8a. Up to how much money did the FDIC guarantee savings accounts in 1933?

8b. What was the purpose of creating the SEC?

...Hoover's agency conserved without resort to rationing, another example of the efficacy of voluntary action. And the postwar European relief effort saved upward of 100 million lives. Hoover had much of which he could be justly proud. After the Versailles conference, John Maynard Keynes signaled out Herbert Hoover as "the only man who emerged from the ordeal of Paris with an enhanced reputation..." The word "Hooverize," meaning to economize for a noble purpose, entered the language for a time. *Hooverstrassen* and other variants of streets named for him appeared in many European towns. Such uses of his name provide a graphic illustration of how different his reputation was in 1919 from what it became in 1933, when the most common derivative was "Hooverville."

- The Great Depression: America, 1929-1941, Robert S. McElvaine

9. According to the document, was Herbert Hoover always known as a failure to the people?

One Meat Ball

A little man walked up and down,
To find an eating place in town.
He read the menu through and through,
To see what fifteen cents could do.

One meat ball,
One meat ball,
He could afford but one meat ball.

He told the waiter near at hand,
The simple dinner he had planned.
The guests were startled one and all,
To here that waiter loudly call,

One meat ball,
One meat ball,
This here gent wants one meat ball.

The little man felt very sad,
For one meat ball was all he had,
And in his dreams he hears that call,
Ya get no bread with one meat ball.

One meat ball,
One meat ball,
Ya get no bread with one meat ball.

-Ry Cooder

10. According to these lyrics, why did the man only buy one meat ball?

Part B: DBQ Essay

Historical Context: The Great Depression in the United States started in 1929 when the stock market crashed. The depression last over ten years and had long-term social, economic, and political effects on American society.

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Be sure to:

Include outside information

Use at least 6 documents