

Directions: Using the documents packet provided you will make decisions in groups of 3-4 about certain issues during the Great Depression. Answer the questions about each of the 4 documents and problems using your own personal opinion and facts you find. Answer the questions on this page first, then do the Critical Thinking Question on the other page.

A. Economic Briefing A: Overproduction of goods

1. What does this mean? _____ _____ — _____ —	2. What is the problem with this? _____ _____ — _____ —
3. How would you handle the situation? _____ (a,b,c). Summarize how: _____ _____ Why? _____ _____	

B. Economic Briefing B: Unequal Distribution of Wealth

1. What does this mean? _____ _____ — _____ —	2. What is the problem with this? _____ _____ — _____ —
3. How would you handle the situation? _____ (a,b,c). Summarize how: _____ _____ — Why? _____ _____ —	

C. Economic Briefing C: High Unemployment

1. What does this mean? _____

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2. What is the problem with this?

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—

3. How would you handle the situation? _____ (a,b,c). Summarize how:

—

Why?

—

D. Economic Briefing D: Massive Poverty

1. What does this mean?

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2. What is the problem with this?

—

—

3. How would you handle the situation? _____ (a,b,c). Summarize how:

—

Why?

Now look back over all of the A answers for the 4 scenarios. How would you describe these actions? _____

Now look back over all of the B answers for the 4 scenarios. How would you describe the actions? _____

Now look back over all of the C answers for the 4 scenarios. How would you describe the actions? _____

Directions: See the attached sheet on Conservative, Liberal, and radical solutions to the Great Depression. Which one did you most fit with, in your decision making and why? _____

Conservative, Liberal, and Radical Solutions to the Great Depression.

Conservative Solutions

- Provide tax relief, loans, and encouragement to businesses. Business prosperity and the accumulation of wealth at the top will “trickle down” to those in need by creating more jobs.
- Discourage federal aid to the poor. Instead, encourage private charities and local and state governments to organize and provide poverty relief.
- Balance the budget to maintain financial stability
- Ask for voluntary cooperation from businesses to stabilize wages and hours in an average workday
- Increase the fed govts commitment to public works. Blame economic problems on the natural business cycle, and buoy public confidence through optimistic public statements.
- Increase tariffs to protect American businesses from foreign competition.

Liberal Solutions

- Increase taxes on the income of the wealthy and corporations.
- Provide direct federal relief to the poor.
- Make a massive federal commitment to public works to provide jobs and encourage economic growth. Govt spending will get economy moving again.
- Provide aid to farmers in the form of loans and payments to take crops out of production until prices for agriculture

stabilize.

Radical Solutions

- Seize the income and property of the wealthy and redistribute it so that all Americas share equally.
- Have the govt, rather than private business owners, control all business enterprises.
- Guarantee employment to all workers through govt control of industries.
- Reorganize the farming industry into cooperatives to eliminate the disastrous effects of competition and market forces.

Next: Read the following Document: “President Hoover and the Failure of Conservatism to ease the Great Depression”

Vocab words-

Rugged Individualism-

Hoovervilles and Hoover flags-

Reading Questions:

1. What happened to the Midwest? _____

2. What group from the previous page would you consider the communists described in the reading? _____

3. Why did Hoover not want to give “aid” to the poor? _____

4. What did Hoover do the combat the Depression (be general and short) _____

5. Did Hoover want to spend lots of federal income? Why or why not? _____

6. Explain the reasons for Hoovervills and Hoover Flags: _____

7. What happened to Hoover? _____

8. What did Roosevelt offer? What can you infer the differences are between the Hoover and Roosevelt Plans? _____