

**DOCUMENT ANALYSIS**

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Meaning:

HAPP:

Outside Information:

**QUESTION:** Analyze the responses of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to the problems of the Great Depression. How effective were these responses? How did they change the role of the federal government?

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1929-1941 to construct your essay.

Brainstorm Outside Examples related to the New Deal: (see CH. 21 Key Terms)

CCC, AAA, TVA, NIRA, WPA, Wagner Act, Social Security Act, US Housing Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, UAW sit-down, CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations), FDR Court Packing Scheme, Keynesian Economics, Economy Act

<b>ESSAY</b>
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**INTRODUCTION** (THESIS must be here. A THESIS is your answer to the question in 1-2 sentences)

**PARAGRAPH 1:**

The New Deal was a response to the Great Depression. The stock market crash of 1929 sparked the Great Depression. It led to massive unemployment and poverty across the U.S. Americans suffered, some losing fortunes while others lost their home, job, and faced starvation. Economic security became a national crisis that FDR stilled with a "bank holiday" to assess the situation. He used the Emergency Banking Act to stop the bank runs and failures, followed by reforms such as the Glass-Steagall Act and the FDIC to stop risky banking practices and insure bank deposits. Ultimately, he used a series of measures that would provide initial relief from immediate hardships, followed by recovery and reform in the form of many pieces of legislation. FDR announced his plan to save the nation from this economic crisis in his inauguration speech following the 1932 Presidential election. His program was called the New Deal. It had mixed results because some programs were more effective than others, sometimes excluding women and African Americans. These programs or alphabet agencies also expanded the power of the federal government to regulate business, create jobs, and establish a new expectations for the role of government in society. Many New Deal programs gave the federal government extensive power to regulate and manage business, which was a change from the laissez faire methods used in the past. In addition, the growth of government to combat economic hardships led to job creation and economic assistance not seen before. Both were not had not been a part of the previous role of the government to this extent. These changes in the role of government and the mixed effectiveness of New Deal programs led to a mix of criticism and praise.

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**BODY:** Write paragraphs that answer the question (s) asked. Use all documents. Apply HAPP to 1/2 of the documents. Provide information outside of the listed documents (use list of key terms to help). Address all documents by their title or a description rather than saying, "In doc A". Cite the document at the end of the sentence that explains it.

**PARAGRAPH 2: New Deal programs had mixed effect.**

**A** - Write main idea of the magazine Meridel Lesueur, *New Masses*, Jan. 1932.

Analysis: Explain how this reflects that some programs exclude women, therefore they had a mixed impact.

Outside information: Explain what the economy act is and how it did the same thing.

Historical Context (HAPP): Explain how gender roles were a factor in how programs were applied in society.

**REPEAT process for DOCUMENTS D, E, F, I**

**PARAGRAPH 3:** New Deal programs expanded the power of the government to intervene in business and individual's lives in order to help end the economic crisis caused by the Great Depression. This intervention and expansion of power was a big change from the expected role of the government before and led to criticism.

**B -** Write the main idea or message behind the Letter to Senator Robert Wagner  
(Too much government power and regulation will hurt business and the economy.)

Analysis: Explain how criticism was born out of fear that the government was hurting business.

Outside information: Explain how the NIRA (National Industrial Recovery Act) allowed the NRA (National Recovery Administration) to work with business leaders to create industry codes of production. Ultimately this was a failure because the Supreme Court found it unconstitutional and it failed to actually work. In addition, it reflected a version of socialism that the writer of the letter to Senator Wagner worried about. Allowing the government to determine how much companies produce and set prices is intrusive and not capitalism.

Perspective (HAPP): This was done when I explained that the person who wrote the letter feared government intervention and its negative consequences.

### REPEAT process for DOCUMENTS C, G, H

### CONCLUSION

**PARAGRAPH 3:** Explain here how the New Deal was a response to the Great Depression. You can write your thesis again and see if you can do it better. Your goal is to not restate the question. Summarize your argument and that you believe the New Deal was beneficial (effective) for many, but failed to work for minorities and women due to the discrimination that existed during that time in the U.S. Inequality was still prevalent and Jim Crow laws continued to dominate the South, while similar attitudes were not uncommon in the North. Given this social inequality, it was not surprising that New Deal programs also reflected these realities. People like Eleanor Roosevelt actively tried to combat these social barriers. For example, Marian Anderson was denied the right to sing at Constitution Hall by the Daughters of Liberty. Eleanor, who was a member, withdrew from this organization and helped Marian Anderson sing at Lincoln memorial. In this way, she used her power as First Lady to press the limits established against women and African Americans. By 1941, the United States entered World War II, which had been going on in Europe since 1939. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States entered this global war and put many of its resources toward building war machines. The economy was organized to fight the war and created a lot of jobs in this effort, ending the depression. The New Deal had many successes and did decrease unemployment for many Americans. It started the recovery from the worst depression in history by putting the government in the business of creating jobs and empowering the federal government to control and regulate business for recovery.

FEEDBACK
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**WORKING THESIS:** You answered the question by restating the question. "The New Deal was sometimes effective and changed the role of government". Some were missing a thesis. Did you have one in your introduction -1 pt.

**THESIS:** The New Deal created many programs for economic recovery during the Great Depression. *Most programs were successful with recovery, but some failed to achieve this goal due to social barriers and too much intervention in business affairs. It also significantly expanded the power and size of government in the economy by putting it in charge of business and citizens economic welfare.*

**BACKGROUND / HISTORICAL CONTEXTUALIZATION:** Be sure to address why the New Deal was created and what the hardships were caused by the Great Depression . A good place for this is the introduction and conclusion.

**Social Norms:** Inequality, Discrimination, Jim Crow Laws, Segregation (Scottsboro case)

**Gender Norms:** (Males is the breadwinner. Women are expected to be domestic, reliant on male.) Even though this wasn't a reality for all people, it was a social norm or expectation/perspective. (Economy Act)

**OUTSIDE INFORMATION:** Use examples that are not the provided documents. Brainstorm after you read the question and add to that list as you read the documents. Those are essential to showing you understand the big picture. Evidence or Examples beyond the documents brings 2 out of 7 points. Try to think of at least 3.

**QUOTES:** Do NOT quote the documents. We all have the documents and have read them. You must show you understand these by explaining the message in your own words (paraphrase).

**CITATION:** Do NOT say, "In Document C". What is document C?

In 1934, a cartoon in The Evening Star illustrated the significant growth of the federal government as the New Deal created more and more alphabet agencies. The cartoon reflected a graduate who symbolized the Brain Trust or Columbia professors that advised FDR in the development of these federal agencies. Gradually, a sapling turns into a robust tree full of fruit that are these alphabet agencies (doc c). The creator was criticizing the fears of some businesses and people who didn't trust the massive intervention of government. Some felt it had become too much like socialism or a revolution of our capitalistic society. Fears of socialism and communism were in the recent memory of many Americans. The Red Scare and Palmer Raids during the 1920's created a fear of this system and criticism as a result. Certainly it can be argued that government intervention in business did go too far in some cases. The failure of the NIRA to actually stimulate business with its industrial codes and its unconstitutional status was also established by the Supreme Court in 1938. The judicial branch established in Schecher v United States that the National Recovery Act could not regulate local business like the poultry company in Brooklyn (doc F). Congress has the power to regulate interstate commerce, but the President cannot regulate local or within state trade.

**USE OF DOCUMENTS:** Do not simply write your analysis of documents one after the other like a list. Instead treat it like a piece of evidence to support your claim that the new deal was effective or ineffective.

1. Topic Sentence:
2. Argument about effectiveness of new deal
3. Document and Outside Examples to support your argument

Use all documents but one. Apply HAPP to 3 documents.