

New Deal DBO

Using your knowledge AND the documents provided write a well-reasoned essay on the following prompt:

To what extent did the New Deal fundamentally change American's relationship with their federal government?

Document A

Source: Message to congress reviewing the broad objectives accomplishments of the administration. June 8, 1934

On one side of relief we have extended material aid to millions of our fellow citizens. On one side of recovery we have helped to lift agriculture and industry from a condition of utter Prostration. But in addition to these immediate tasks of relief and of recovery, we have properly, necessarily and with overwhelming approval determined to safeguard these tasks by rebuilding many of the structures of our economic life and reorganizing it in order to prevent a recurrence of collapse.

Document B

Source: President Roosevelt, Fire Side Chat Radio Address



Document C

Source: Huey P. Long: Share Our Wealth, delivered via radio broadcast, 7 March 1935, in Washington D.C.

President Roosevelt was elected on November 8, 1932. People look upon an elected President as the President. This is January 1935. We are in our third year of the Roosevelt depression, with the conditions growing worse...

We must now become awakened! We must know the truth and speak the truth. There is no use to wait three more years. It is not Roosevelt or ruin; it is Roosevelt's ruin.

Hundreds of words were used by Mr. Roosevelt to make these promises to the people, but they were made over and over again. He reiterated these pledges even after he took his oath as President. Summed up, what these promises meant was: "Share our wealth."

So therefore I call upon the men and women of America to immediately join in our work and movement to share our wealth. There are thousands of share-our-wealth societies organized in the United States now. We want 100,000 such societies formed for every nook and corner of this country--societies that will meet, talk, and work, all for the purpose that the great wealth and abundance of this great land that belongs to us may be shared and enjoyed by all of us.

Document D



Document E

Source: letter to President Roosevelt.

"While more of my people are working than a year ago, the low wages and the rise in the prices of the necessities of life bring about a condition where those who work are little better off than those on relief. To date this problem seems to be increasing in seriousness. When so many people would like to eat better food and wear better clothes, it seems to us that there is something drastically wrong with a plan of procedure which limits production to raise prices. The problem of distribution and the excessive rise in prices from producer to consumer must be solved some day. A real solution of this problem would greatly benefit the working classes. It does seem as if a way could be found whereby it would be just as profitable for the farmer to produce more and find a ready market because prices are within the range of pocketbooks as for him to produce less and be unable to sell because those who desire his products cannot afford them. After eating hamburger for five years, my people would welcome a diet of pork chops."

Clayton R. Stoddard

Document F

Source:



Document G

Source: Walter Procter, Letter to FDR, October 10, 1935

" Things cannot go on indefinitely as they have been. They are bound to reach a breaking point. Human nature can endure much, but it ultimately reaches its limits, and that means revolution. Free men will finally revolt. The American worker-- manual or brain-- is not a dumb, brutalized serf. He is a man. He is emerging from the stage of dumb acquiescence in things as they have been. He is asking why should they continue? How come these conditions? Why should "opportunity" mean only opportunity for the privileged few to exploit the helpless many? What is the way out? The recent "Social Security Legislation" is an attempt to partly meet the situation. A small step, but nevertheless a step in the right direction-- the faint streaks of the dawn of the better day."

Document H

Source: Arne Swabeck, "The Passing of the NRA", July 1935, New International

IN THE NAME OF the ancient slogan of "states' rights" the US Supreme Court by unanimous decision in the Schechter Poultry Case declared the NRA unconstitutional. The reasons set forth in the ruling are not of great significance. The Supreme Court said that "the attempt through the provisions of the code to fix hours and wages of employees of defendants in their intrastate business was not a valid exercise of federal power". This is merely the legal way of justifying a decision to suit the requirements of the dominant sector of monopoly capital. It screened the judicial execution of a much ballyhooed measure of governmental regulation and restraint once accepted even by the large corporations as a necessary evil but now considered obnoxious by them. The general effect of this ruling, however, is bound to have far-reaching consequences. It is not at all unlikely that the collapse of the NRA will open the gates to much more terrific class conflicts over a vast area and thus help to speed the American workers in a revolutionary direction.

Document I

Source: Robert Miller's account of his experiences enrolled in the CCC, 1937

1. " These things I have mentioned are benefits derived by every young man who has been a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps. But my personal achievement is the one glorious gift I have received from my association with the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

2. I enrolled as a boy, unsteady, groping, unsure. I wanted something, but could not describe it or discover a means for attaining it. Then I discovered what it was I was seeking- it was the right to call myself a man. My life at camp has given me that right, and I shall be ever grateful to President Roosevelt and the C.C.C. Now that I am a man, with my feet firmly planted on the steps of life, I feel sure of a reasonable amount of success.

3. If, in my humble way I have made you realize what the Civilian Conservation Corps has done for me, I am very happy. I do not claim any honor for the change that occurred in me, it just had to be. I'm only deeply thankful that I had the change to get acquainted with the real me.

Document J

Source:

