

The Significance of the New Deal

The Great Depression

**EQ: How does the New Deal Program change the role of
government?**

The Roosevelt Coalition

- While Republicans were still relying on their traditional base of political support (big business, big farmers, and conservatives), Democrats broadened their constituency by appealing to **small farmers** in the Midwest, **urban political bosses**, **ethnic blue collar workers**, **Jews**, **intellectuals**, and **African Americans**.



Protection of New Deal Accomplishments

- Steps FDR took to protect New Deal accomplishments (both failed):
 - **Court-Packing Plan** (proposed increasing Supreme Court from 9 to 15 members, caused in revolt in Dem. Party)
 - **Purge of the Democratic Party** in the Election of 1938 (came out strongly in favor of liberal Dem. Candidates, evidence that he interfered in a state campaign, Republicans gained strength in both houses of Congress)

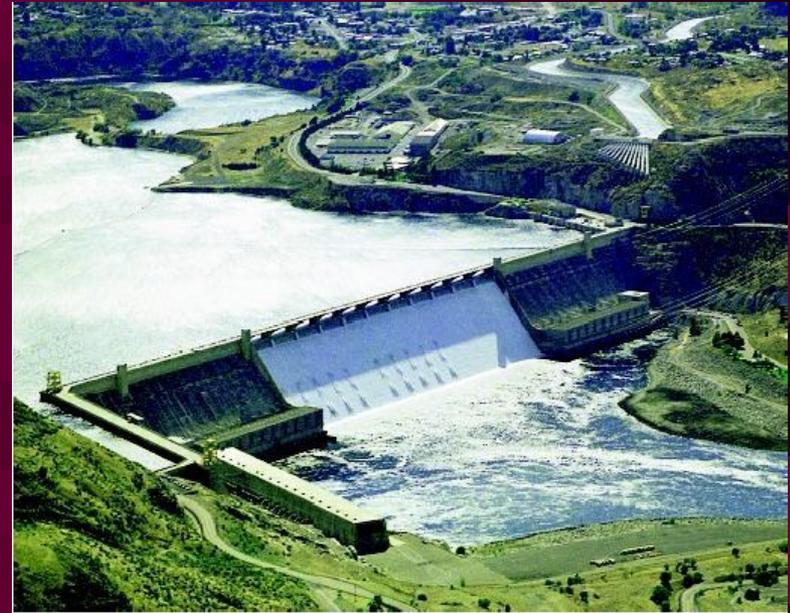


Decline of New Deal Reform after 1937

- Reasons for decline of New Deal reform after 1937:
- **Court-packing plan** made Congress irritable.
- **Recession of 1937-38** weakened confidence in New Deal measures. Republicans gained strength in both houses.
- **Attempted purge of Democratic party** failed.
- **Conservative Democrats** were elected to office. Resentful of attempted party purge, they joined ranks with Republicans to block New Deal legislation.
- Increasing **focus on foreign affairs**.

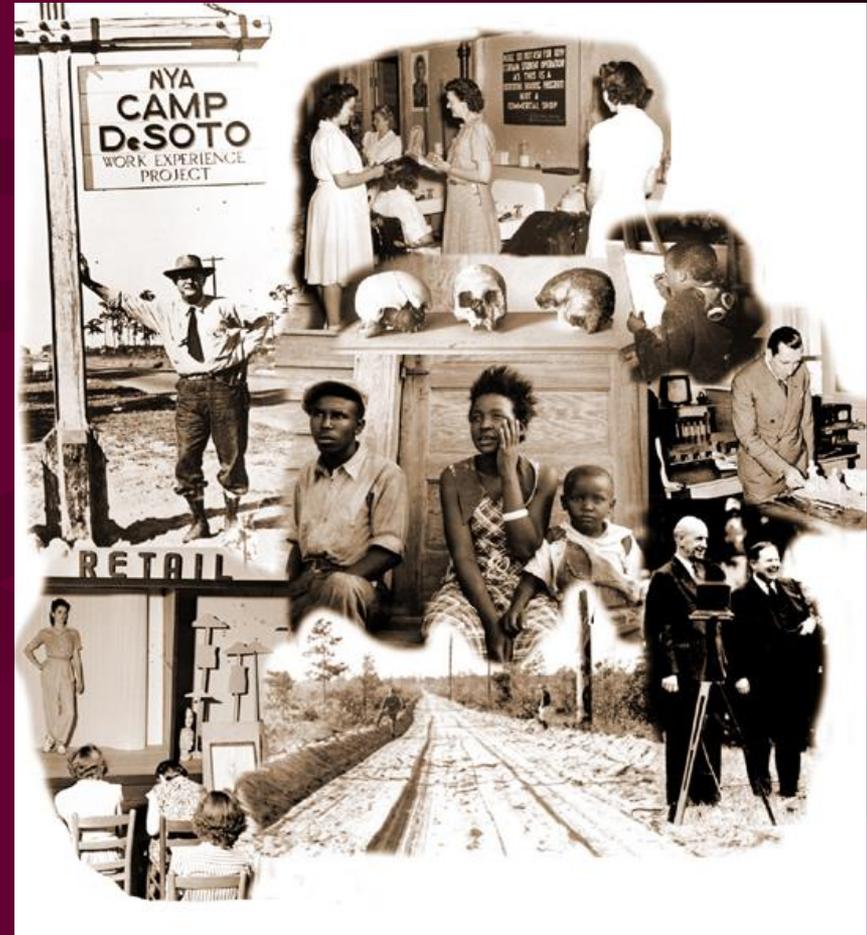
Physical Rehabilitation of Country

- Attacked soil erosion
- Built dams and planted trees to prevent floods
- Reclaimed the grasslands of the Great Plains
- Developed water power resources
- Encouraged regional reconstruction projects like the TVA and Columbia River project



Human Rehabilitation

- Established the principle that government has responsibility for the **health, welfare, and security**, as well as the protection and education of its citizens
- Embraced **social security, public health, housing**
- Entered the domain of **agriculture and labor**



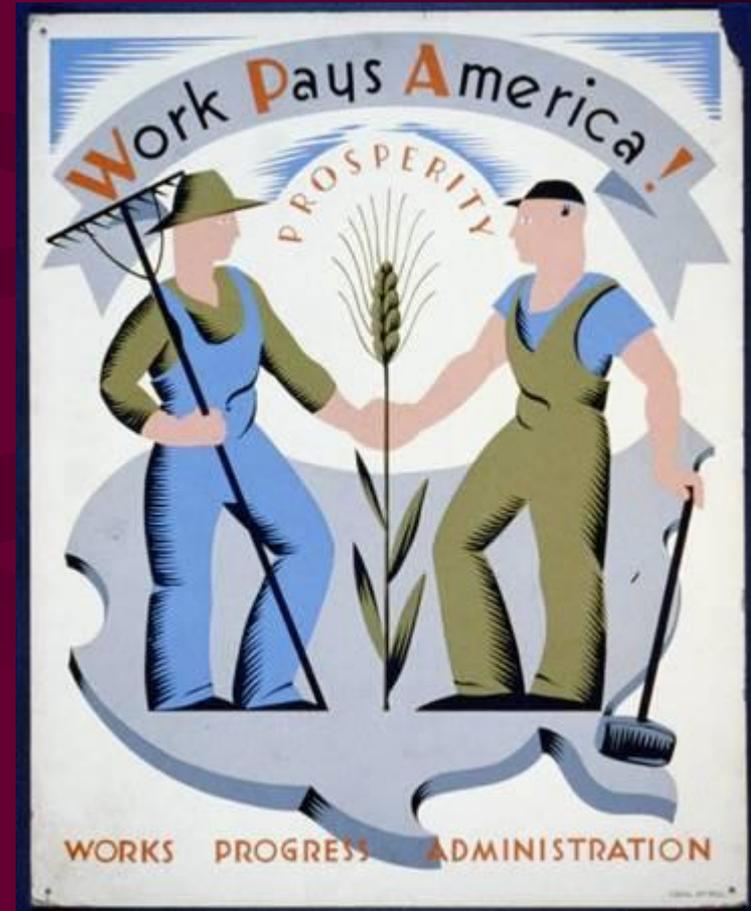
Revitalization of Politics

- Strengthened **executive branch**
- Reasserted **presidential leadership**
- **Revitalized political party** as a vehicle for the popular will and as an instrument for effective action.



Extension of Democracy

- Redefined the concept of democracy so that it included not only political rights but economic security and social justice as well.



Maintenance of a Democratic System

- The New Deal maintained a democratic system of government and society in a world threatened by totalitarianism.
 - Increased size and scope of government to meet needs of the depression
 - Provided the leadership that enabled Congress to put through the necessary relief, recovery, and reform measures.
 - Sponsored moderate legislation to neutralize the popularity of radical opponents

