

The Century: Peter Jennings Stormy Weather: Early 1930s

1. What was the Bonus Army? What did they want? What was the result?

The Bonus Army was made up of WW1 veterans and their families who wanted to be paid for their services in WW1. The government said they couldn't pay them until 1945 this led to fighting between the Bonus Army and the Washington police there were only three deaths but over one thousand were injured.

2. Describe the economic condition of America in the 1930's in terms of business activity and employment?

The majority of America's population was unemployed and often starving. Thousands of business's closed down because of the depression; soon the streets were filled with unemployed people and empty shops.

3. What happened to banks and savings accounts in the early 1930's?

What was the impact on average people?

Banks were forced to close and people couldn't get their money since the banks that were open didn't have enough money for everyone who needed it. Practically every American was penniless, homeless, and starving.

4. What was the Federal government's role in the lives of Americans in the early 1930's?

The government was now more involved in the daily lives of its citizens than ever before. The government conducted experiments to try and solve the major problems.

5. Why was the radio so important in the 1930's?

For the first time there were different stations to listen to on the radio and this gave people a way to forget about their troubles so despite the depression practically everyone still had a radio. It was one step at a time to get America back on its feet and the radio proved to be a very helpful step.

6. Describe the Dust Bowl and its impact on farmers? Where did farmers go and why?

Tragically during the Depression a massive dust bowl hit the midwest and literally blew away the land and the crops. Farmers couldn't live there

anymore because it was both pointless since the crops were all gone and they had nothing to eat and it was dangerous. People could be killed in the dust storms whether they were buried alive or if they breathed in too much dust it was deadly. They fled to California to build a new life.

7. Why were people interested in Communism and Socialism in the 1930's?

People believed that if the government they already and couldn't help them then maybe they should have a different government. Eventually more people were leaving the US than there were coming to it.

8. Why were the Nazis able to seize the government in Germany?

Hitler was the founder of the Nazi order and he simply used Germany's suffering to his advantage to make the people support his cause and the Nazis. As time past Hitler used his power to seize leadership of Germany and the Nazi party took over.

9. How had Herbert Hoover become synonymous with the Depression? Examples?

Across the country people were using the name Hoover to relate to failure. Slum cities were called Hoover towns, newspapers were called Hoover blankets, and empty pockets were called Hoover flags.

10. Why were people attracted to FDR? How did he make people feel?

Well for one thing FDR wasn't Herbert Hoover so that really helped his campaign. He usually used his charm to make people feel joyful giving them a feeling that the hard times may soon come to an end.

11. How did FDR utilize the federal government to help people? Give examples?

He had the banks closed so that the National Treasury could bring 2 billion dollars to the banks. He also focused on bringing back business's that were shut down and began helping the farmers.

12. What was the relationship between business and Unions in the 1930's?

Unions were made up of workers for better pay and working conditions and business's weren't exactly friends with these Unions leading to fighting between the Unions and police forces.

13. What was Huey Long's message and why did it resonate with some Americans?

Huey Long said that he would take from the rich and give to the poor. A message like this was loved by the millions of Americans living in poverty.

14. What was the 2nd Hundred Days and how did FDR change the way people looked at the Federal Government?

The 2nd Hundred Days introduced Social Security to help the elderly and unemployed it also forced employers to allow workers to form worker unions. More changes were made and they helped the people realize that the American government exists to help the people.

15. What was the situation in Germany by 1937?

Germany had pulled itself out of its depression but jobs were not simply to build homes and roads but to build weapons such as tanks and armored vehicles the army was also getting larger and stronger as well and soon German troops took entered the Rhineland which belonged to France. These were the beginning steps towards WW2.