

The Great Depression and the New Deal

Part A: Analyze the documents and answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. These questions must be attached to your final copy of the essay.

Document 1: “Abandoned house, Haskell Country, Kansas”
Describe the conditions illustrated by this picture.

Document 2: New York Times Headline
According to the *New York Times*, what happened to the value of the American stock market in October 1929?

Document 3: Economic Impact on the Great Depression
Based on the chart, what effect did the stock market crash of 1929 have on the rate of unemployment in the United States?

Document 4: Franklin D. Roosevelt, *First Inaugural Address*
According to Roosevelt, what problems did the United States face in 1933?
What solutions does Roosevelt propose to end these problems?

Document 5: *United States History and Government: Constitutional & Geopolitical Patterns*
Why did Hoover follow a trickle-down theory in order to combat the Great Depression?
Why did FDR follow a theory of pump-priming to combat the Great Depression?

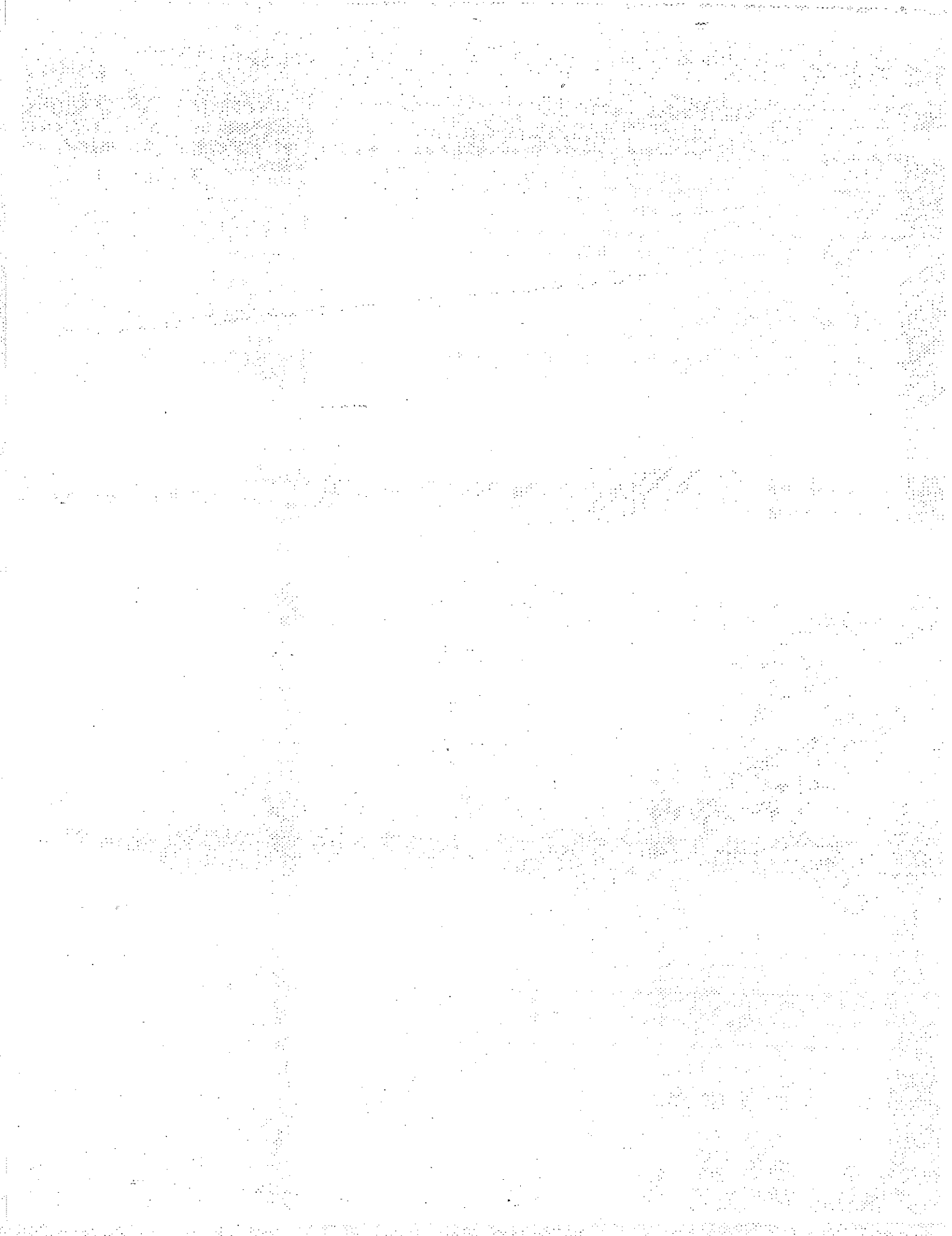
Document 6: Herbert Hoover’s Radio Address, Feb. 12, 1933
Based on Hoover’s Radio Address above, what was his view of the role of government in dealing with the economic crisis of the Depression?

Part B: Using the information from the documents, the answers to the above questions, and your knowledge of United States history (all those documents we have been looking at over the past week), to help write a response to the following prompts:

- Describe the economic problems that existed during the Great Depression.
- Discuss the strategies used by Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt to deal with these economic problems.
- Evaluate the overall effectiveness of the economic programs initiated by Hoover and Roosevelt.

Your response should be in essay format. Make sure you include a cohesive thesis. You have a clear introduction and conclusion. You use both information from the documents and previous knowledge as support for your answer. You will have the entire class period to complete the essay.

I will read this as a first draft; however that does not mean that spelling and grammar don’t count. It just means that I understand if there are a few errors. If your handwriting is not up to par I would suggest you take your time, because if I can’t read what you write than your grading will be effected.





"Abandoned house, Haskell County, Kansas"

-Irving Rusinow, April 1941

Document 2

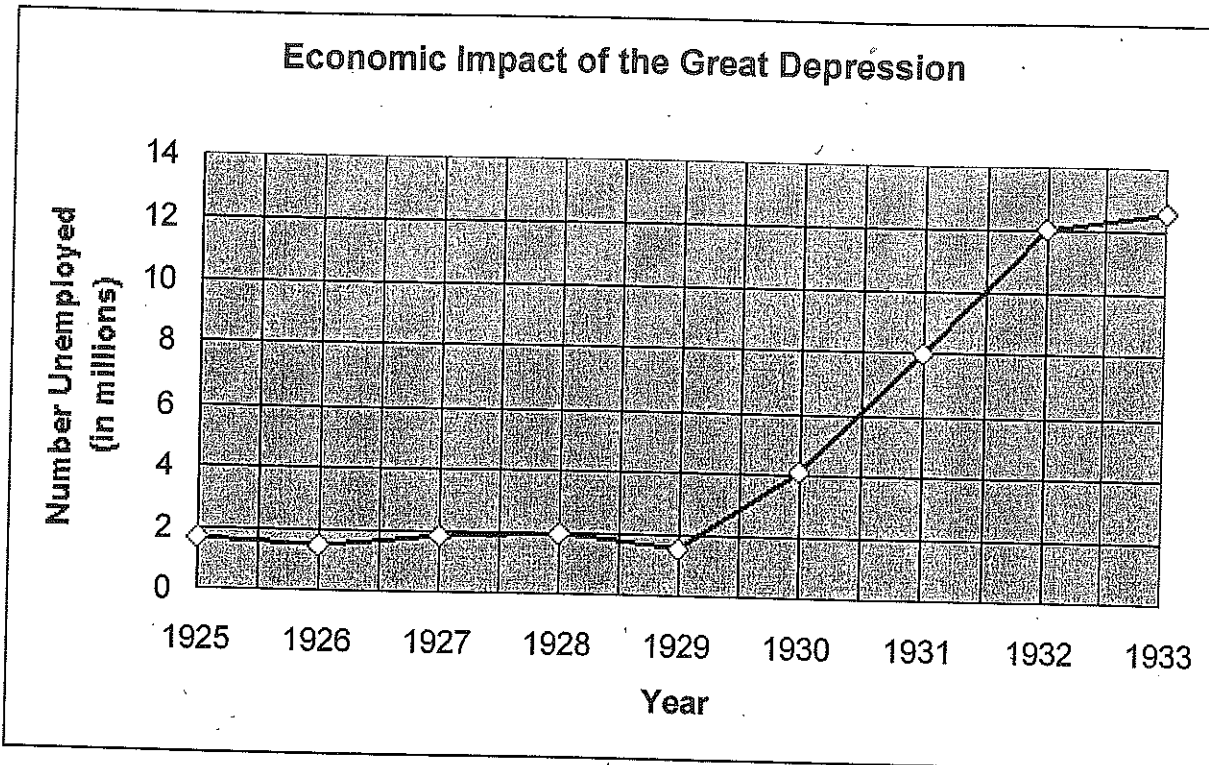
The New York Times

STOCKS COLLAPSE IN 16,410,030-SHARE DAY,
BUT RALLY AT CLOSE CHEERS BROKERS;
BANKERS OPTIMISTIC, TO CONTINUE AID

240 Issues Lose \$15,894,818,894 in Month; Slump in Full Exchange List Vastly Larger

-October 30, 1929, Page 1, Columns 6-8

Document 3



Document 4

"... Values have shrunken to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone...

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely ... It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself ... but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.

Hand in hand with this, we must ... endeavor to provide a better use of the land for those best fitted for the land. The task can be helped by definite efforts to raise the values of agricultural products and with this the power to purchase the output of our cities. It can be helped by preventing realistically the tragedy of the growing loss through foreclosure of our small homes and our farms.

Finally, in our progress toward a resumption of work we require two safeguards against a return of the evils of the old order; there must be a strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments; there must be an end to speculation with other people's money, and there must be provision for an adequate but sound currency."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt, *First Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1933

Document 5

“... Republicans followed a trickle-down theory... They reasoned that, if government legislation protected the wealth of big corporations and the well-to-do, their continued investments would expand the economy and a better life would ‘trickle down’ to workers and consumers in general.

FDR and his advisors viewed things differently. They felt that government would use pump-priming that government should take actions that would make the consuming public secure and optimistic... By increasing government programs, business activity would increase, thereby fostering consumer confidence and investment keeping the economy growing...”

-United States History & Government: Constitutional & Geopolitical Patterns, 2001

Document #6

... I am convinced that where Federal action is essential . . . it should limit its responsibilities to supplement the States and local communities, and that it should not assume the major role or the entire responsibility . . . To do otherwise threatens the whole foundations of local government, which is the very basis of self-government. That is to strengthen in the Nation a sense and an organization of self-help and cooperation to solve as many problems as possible outside of government. Due to lack of caution in business . . . We are projected into temporary unemployment, losses, and hardships. In a nation rich in resources, many people were faced with hunger and cold through no fault of their own. Our national resources are not only material supplies and material wealth but a spiritual and moral wealth in kindness, in compassion, in a sense of obligation of neighbor to neighbor and a realization of responsibility by industry, by business, and the community for its social security and its social welfare. The evidence of our ability to solve great problems outside of government action and the degree of moral strength with which we emerge from this period will be determined by whether the individuals and the local communities continue to meet their responsibilities. Throughout this depression I have insisted upon organization of these forces through industry, through local government and through charity, that they should meet this crisis by their own initiative, by the assumption of their own responsibilities. The Federal Government has sought to . . . avoid the opiates of government charity - Herbert Hoover, Radio Address, Feb 12, 1932 3.

