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# GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1A/D: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality

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## Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

**Interpretation A** John Gates, in his book 'The Story of an American Communist' published in 1959.

In the early 1930s Gates was a student. He had discovered the writings of Karl Marx in which he said that 'he found the answers to the causes of the Depression, socialism and a world brotherhood of man'. Soon afterwards he joined the Young Communist League.

We planned a demonstration of the unemployed during President Roosevelt's inauguration on March 4, 1933. I was chosen to open the demonstration and was arrested because we didn't have a permit to hold it. Listening to the broadcast when I was in jail, it did not sound exactly like a New Deal to me. I did not believe the President and had no confidence in him. He announced the closing of the banks and the introduction of a New Deal for the American people. It sounded to me like a possible dictatorship.

**Interpretation B** Rexford Tugwell in his book 'The Democratic Roosevelt' published in 1957.

Tugwell was a member of the Democratic Party and a close friend of Franklin D Roosevelt. In 1932 he joined a team to advise Roosevelt during the presidential election. Roosevelt consulted Tugwell about the banking crisis and the New Deal.

When Roosevelt died our society was much further forward than when he became President. It is true that there was a change from the old rugged individualism and laissez-faire ideas towards more government regulation. And a move away from individual responsibility for sickness, unemployment and old age to security for all. This helped those with the least power to bargain. We are a lucky people. If it had not been for this democrat we might have fallen to a dictatorship. For that was being talked about when he took charge.

## END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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