

B3: DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL: THE USA, 1929-41

SOURCES (A) TO (F) FOR QUESTION 3

SOURCE A: From a school text book about Roosevelt and the United States, 1991.

Hoover's Government had done very little to bring the USA out of the Depression. When he became President, Roosevelt made it quite clear that his Government would use its power to help US citizens make a better life for themselves. His Government would prevent starvation and give all people chance to have a fair share of the nation's wealth.

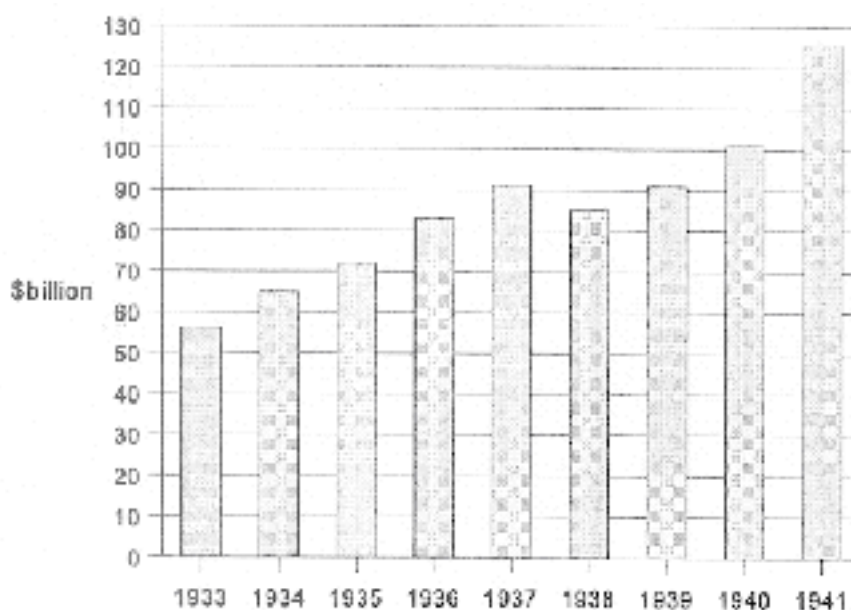
SOURCE B: From a speech by Roosevelt in 1932.

I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a New Deal for the American people. I am waging war against destruction, delay, deceit and despair. With confidence we accept the promise of a New Deal.

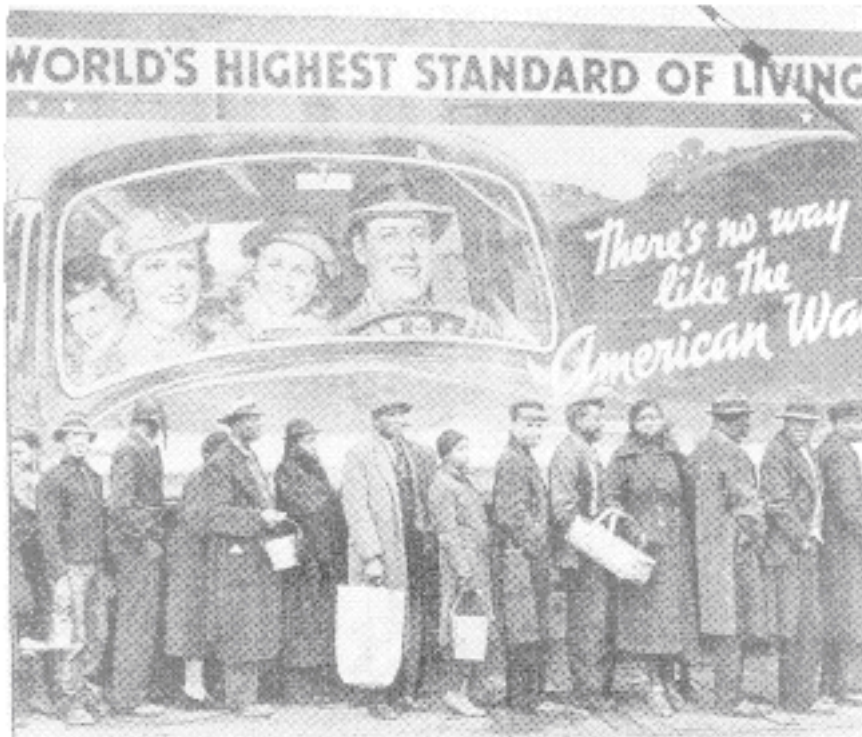
SOURCE C: From a history of the New Deal by a British historian writing in the 1980s.

By 1938 Roosevelt worried that his Government was spending too much money. He, himself, decided to sack thousands of people employed on the Works Progress Administration. Unemployment rose again. By the beginning of 1939, over ten million people were unemployed. It was the Second World War, rather than the New Deal, which brought prosperity back to the USA.

SOURCE D: A graph showing the Gross National Product (the total value of goods and Services produced) of the USA, 1933 to 1941.



SOURCE E: A photograph taken in the USA in 1937. The people are queuing for government relief. Behind them is a poster about prosperity in the USA in the 1930s.



SOURCE F: From an interview with someone who lived in the USA in the 1930s. The interview took place in the 1950s.

In the early 1930s it was the hopeful voice of F D Roosevelt that got us out of the mess. He did not have much to offer, but it was enough. By the late 1930s though, the New Deal was not working and things were getting worse again. In a sense, then, it was the Second World War that ended the Depression.
