

The American Yawp

Chapter 21 – The Great Depression

Quiz

1. What percent of Americans were investing in the stock market prior to the crash?
 - a. 2.5%
 - b. 10%
 - c. 33%
 - d. 66%
2. Which group of Americans benefitted the least from the economic changes of the 1920s?
 - a. Unionized manufacturing laborers
 - b. Southern farmers
 - c. Northern bankers
 - d. Female educators
3. What was the consequence of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930?
 - a. Lowered prices on international goods
 - b. Increased American exports
 - c. Loosened banking regulation to increase financial liquidity
 - d. International trade collapsed
4. How did the Federal Reserve respond to the financial collapse?
 - a. Overcorrected by raising interest rates and tightening credit
 - b. Flooded the market with low interest rates, increasing inflation
 - c. The Federal Reserve did not take any consequential action
 - d. Raised interest rates but increased subsidies for lenders
5. What is the definition of Herbert Hoover's "Associationalism?"
 - a. A belief that self-interest and greed are the surest routes to innovation and economic growth
 - b. An adaption of European socialism designed to redistribute wealth
 - c. A system where businesses would voluntarily limit harmful business practices for the greater economic good
 - d. The use of Progressive Era regulation to protect workers and consumers
6. What was the Bonus Army?
 - a. Bankers who were criticized in the press after receiving massive bonuses during the Great Depression
 - b. The men under the command of General Douglas MacArthur who forcibly cleared the Hooverville that had formed in Washington D.C.
 - c. Hoover's team of financial advisers who designed the Reconstruction Finance

Corporation

- d. A group of World War I veterans who petitioned the government to make an early payment on bonuses scheduled to be released in 1945
7. The environmental catastrophe of the Great Depression was partly the result of agricultural mismanagement. Which of the following was the most consequential example of this mismanagement?
 - a. Farmers plowed up natural ground cover to grow more crops, cover that had taken ages to form in the relatively dry states of the Plains
 - b. Creating excessive windbreaks which ironically enhanced windstorms
 - c. Insufficient irrigation
 - d. Excessive fertilization that poisoned groundwater
 8. Which of the following statements regarding immigration during the Great Depression is true?
 - a. More people left the United States than entered it during the Great Depression
 - b. Herbert Hoover created a federal program to attract Mexican laborers willing to work in low paying agricultural jobs
 - c. The Mexican-born population living in Texas more than doubled during the Great Depression
 - d. The number of European visas remained constant while Mexican visas dropped
 9. Upon assuming office, how did Roosevelt respond to the collapsing bank system?
 - a. Waited for the Glass-Steagall Banking Act to take effect in June and then enforced new regulation
 - b. Declared a bank holiday and then pushed through the Emergency Banking Act
 - c. Closed all banks until the economy recovered from the Great Depression
 - d. Invested major public funds on the day after his inauguration to stabilize the banking systems
 10. Roosevelt tried to create relief for American farmers through the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA). What did the AAA do?
 - a. Aimed to raise the prices of agricultural commodities by offering cash incentives to voluntarily limit farm production, thereby increasing prices
 - b. Banned the development of certain kinds of low yield, high intensity crops that contributed to the ecological catastrophe of the Dust Bowl
 - c. Dropped dozens of tariffs on low cost foreign agricultural products in an attempt to lower the price of food for American consumers
 - d. Subsidized agricultural colleges to conduct research on improved agricultural techniques
 11. What did the Works Progress Administration do?
 - a. Gave grants to private corporations to build new manufacturing plants, thereby creating new manufacturing jobs

- b. Put unemployed men and women to work on projects designed and proposed by local governments
 - c. Coordinated employment through a new bureaucracy in attempt to discourage racial discrimination in hiring
 - d. Dismantled the first public housing program in favor of privatizing low income housing
12. What was the most dramatic result of the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act?
- a. The suspension of a minimum wage in attempt to encourage hiring
 - b. Created a vast physical infrastructure of roads, highways, and rail lines to fuel economic development in the South
 - c. Suspended collective bargaining rights for unions in industries deemed essential for national security
 - d. The creation of a national minimum wage
13. Louisiana Senator Huey long criticized Roosevelt's New Deal programs for _____
- a. Expanding the power of the presidency over the control of Congress
 - b. Failing to redistribute wealth
 - c. Damaging American business through high taxes
 - d. Falling into a Jewish plot to destroy the United States
14. Which of the following actions did FDR take to advance civil rights for African Americans?
- a. Abolished the poll tax
 - b. Ensured that African American farm workers had access to Social Security
 - c. Created a federal sentencing law to prosecute perpetrators of lynching
 - d. None of these occurred
15. What was FDR's "court-packing scheme"
- a. An attempt to unseat justices who ruled that the NRA was unconstitutional
 - b. The use of legal language in legislation to nullify the ability of the Supreme Court to overrule new proposed programs
 - c. An attempt to appoint up to six new justices who would be friendly to his interests
 - d. An economic agenda that created the "Roosevelt Recession"