

PRACTICE DBQ

Was it a “New Deal” for Everyone?

UNITED STATES HISTORY

SECTION II

Total Time --55 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

It is suggested that you spend 10 minutes reading the documents and 45 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following.

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.
- Use at least one additional piece of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
- For at least three documents, explain how or why the document’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt.

1. In what ways and to what degree did the New Deal address economic and social issues facing various groups of Americans during the great Depression?

Document 1

Source: "The Roosevelt Record," editorial in *The Crisis*, November 1940.

To declare that the Roosevelt administration has tried to include the Negro in nearly every phase of its program for the people of the nation is not to ignore the instances where government policies have harmed the race. . .

At Boulder Dam, for example, the administration continued the shameful policy begun by Hoover of forbidding Negroes to live in Boulder City, the government-built town. And in its own pet project, the TVA, the administration forbade Negroes to live in Norris, another government-built town at Norris Dam.

[The] most important contribution of the Roosevelt administration to the age-old color line problem in America has been its doctrine that Negroes are a part of the country and must be considered in any program for the country as a whole. The inevitable discriminations notwithstanding, this thought has been driven home in thousands of communities by a thousand specific acts. For the first time in their lives, government has taken on meaning and substance for the Negro masses.

Document 2

Source: Meridel Lesueur, *New Masses*, January 1932.

It's one of the great mysteries of the city where women go when they are out of work and hungry. There are not many women in the bread line. There are no flop houses for women as there are for men, where a bed can be had for a quarter or less. You don't see women lying on the floor of the mission in the free flops. They obviously don't sleep . . . under newspapers in the park. There is no law I suppose against their being in these places but the fact is they rarely are.

Yet there must be as many women out of jobs in cities and suffering extreme poverty as there are men. What happens to them?

Document 3

County Commissioners' Resolution, May 18, 1932

Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Boulder County, Colorado

May 18, 1932. Wednesday.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at nine o'clock A.M., . . . with commissioners E. B. Hill, S. D. Buster and William Mitchell present.

RESOLUTION, 1932-7

WHEREAS, A number of Mexican families in Boulder County are unemployed, some of which are public charges and there being no prospect of them finding employment and it appears that all of the said families will become public charges of Boulder County, and

WHEREAS, the Mexican Government has agreed to accept these families and take care of them if Boulder County will transport them to the Mexican border and the Railroad Company has agreed to transport said families for the sum of \$8.00 for each full fare and \$4.00 for each half fare.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that there be and is hereby appropriated out of moneys not otherwise appropriated, in the fund for the support of the poor of Boulder County, the sum of \$312.00 for the transportation of said families to the Mexican border.

Passed and made a part of the Commissioners proceedings this 18th day of May 1932.

From the Archives of the Boulder County Commissioners.

Document 4

Document 5

To begin with, let us face the undeniable fact that unemployment did exist and still exists. According to the conservative estimate of the Committee on Economic Security, in March 1933, at the end of four years of an economic toboggan slide, there were 15,071,000 workers in this country cut off from their jobs . . . Even if President Roosevelt's Administration succeeds in overcoming all the other causes of poverty and distress in the country, there still remains technological unemployment . . . The Women's Program, you must understand, is an integral part of the whole Works Program of the WPA. Throughout the history of its operation, a satisfying ratio has been maintained between the proportions of men and women employed. In relation to their numbers on the relief rolls. There has been no discrimination one way or the other. Probably the only distinction to be found is that training forms a more important part of our projects for women than is the case in projects for men . . . a large proportion of our unemployed women are without skills of any kind. We hope, by training, to equip them for the jobs which are arising with ever-increasing frequency these days in private industry.

Address delivered by Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward at the
Democratic Women's Regional Conference for Southeastern States,
March 19, 1936.

Document 6

After President Hoover appointed William N. Doak as secretary of labor in 1930, the Bureau of Immigration launched intensive raids to identify aliens liable for deportation. The secretary believed that removal of undocumented aliens would reduce relief expenditures and free jobs for native-born citizens. Altogether, 82,400 were involuntarily deported by the federal government.

Federal efforts were accompanied by city and county pressure to repatriate destitute Mexican American families. In one raid in Los Angeles in February 1931, police surrounded a downtown park and detained some 400 adults and children. The threat of unemployment, deportation, and loss of relief payments led tens of thousands of people to leave the United States.

The New Deal offered Mexican Americans a little help. The Farm Security Administration established camps for migrant farm workers in California, and the CCC and WPA hired unemployed Mexican Americans on relief jobs. Many, however, did not qualify for relief assistance because as migrant workers they did not meet residency requirements. Furthermore, agricultural workers were not eligible for benefits under workers' compensation, Social Security, and the National Labor Relations Act.

- Steven Mintz, Historian, University of Texas

THE task of reforming the administration of Indian Affairs was made at once far easier under the new administration through the passage by Congress in June, 1934, of the Indian Reorganization Act, also known as the Wheeler-Howard Act. The need for this legislation grew out of the experience of Indians and their friends under a policy which long proved unworkable. As finally adopted by Congress, it had the almost unanimous support of the organizations of Indians and of the established organizations aiding Indians. The vote in Congress showed how general was the approval of a new policy. The vote in favor of the bill was 258 to 88 in the House; and in the Senate not a single voice was raised against it.

The new policy and principle abandoned the attempt to "Americanize" the Indian, and set about to protect tribal life on the reservations. It contemplated decreasing control by the federal government and its agents and vastly greater self-government by the Indians themselves.

Briefly, the Indian Reorganization Act provides:

1. The allotment system is ended, and remaining Indian lands are protected from further loss.
2. Surplus lands heretofore thrown open to entry by white homesteaders which have not been entered, may be restored, and further land may be bought for Indians.
3. Tribes may organize themselves for their mutual benefit, and when so organized enjoy self-government under federal guardianship.
4. Tribes may incorporate for business purposes.
5. A fund is established for scholarship loans to enable gifted Indians to receive advanced education.
6. The Secretary of the Interior may establish special Civil Service rules to make it easier for Indians to enter the Indian Service.
7. A revolving loan fund is made available for incorporated communities to enable them to get started supporting themselves.

Excerpt from *The New Day for the Indians*, an analysis of the successes of the Indian Reorganization Act, published in 1938.