

Franklin Delano Roosevelt and New Deal:

Key words: *The person of F.D. Roosevelt, New Deal 1, 2, Interventionism, Alphabetical Agencies*

Dictionary: New Deal – Nový Údel, unemployment benefit – podpora v nezamestnanosti, trade unions – odbory, traitor – velezradca, prosecute – zažalovať, súdne stíhať, industrialist – priemyselník, subsidy – podpora, subvencia, consumer spending – spotrebiteľské výdaje, surplus – nadbytok, prebytok, unit of account – účtovacia jednotka

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945):



Roosevelt was born into a wealthy family.

In 1910, he became a **Democratic** Senator for New York.

In 1921, he was partially paralyzed by polio.

Presidency: in the office from 1933 to 1945 (**quadruple President - elected in 1933, 1936, 1940, 1944**)

He is **the only American president elected to more than two terms**, actually he won **4 Presidential elections in a row**. The American Constitution was then changed to limit a President to a maximum of 2 terms of office. **US Constitution: Amendment XXII: SECTION 1:** “No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice [...]“

After winning the 1932 election, he promised the American people a „**New Deal**“ which seemed partly influenced by socialist ideas.

During WWII:

In March 1941, the USA decided to **loan military equipment** free of charge to Britain to win the Allies win the war.

In August 1941, Roosevelt together with **W. Churchill** drew up the **Atlantic Chart**, document that established a **vision for a post-World War II world**, despite the fact that the United States had yet to enter the war. Some points of the document were: 1. No territorial gains were to be sought by the United States or the United Kingdom, 2. All peoples had a right to self-determination, 3. Disarmament of aggressor nations, postwar common disarmament.

After Japan attacked **Pearl Harbor** - the main American military base in the Pacific – on 7 December 1941, **Roosevelt signed the declaration of war against Japan on 8 December, 1941**. On 11 December, the USA also declared war on Japan’s allies, Germany and Italy.

The Tehran Conference (1943): was the first meeting of Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill - the Big Three – during the WWII. The chief discussion was centered on the **opening of a second front in Western Europe**.

The Yalta Conference: (February 1945): another meeting of the Big Three

The Potsdam Conference (July – August 1945): New US President **Harry S. Truman** attended this conference. Roosevelt died two months before it started.

Roosevelt died in **April 1945**, few months before the WWII was over. **2 September 1945 – the end of WWII.**

Answer the question correctly:

- Roosevelt was a: 1. Democrat, 2. Republican, 3. other political party, 4. Independent
- He was the only US president to be elected: 1. more than two times, 2. more than five times
- The New Deal was influenced by the: 1. left-wing ideas, 2. economic liberalism – laissez faire
- The USA entered the WWII on the side of: 1. Japan, Germany, Italy, 2. Great Britain, France, USSR
- Pearl Harbor: 1. was attacked by the USA, 2. was naval base of the USA, 3. The attack of Pearl Harbor led the USA into entering the WWII
- Roosevelt attended: 1. The Tehran Conference, 2. Potsdam Conference, 3. Yalta Conference, 4. was not a member of the Big Three
- Roosevelt: 1. died right after the WWII, 2. is still alive – like Elvis, 3. died in 1945 few months before the WWII ended

The First New Deal: 1933-1935

Roosevelt thought that the **government would have to intervene and spend money in order to help the American economy.** Roosevelt promised the people a “New Deal” in which the American **government would use all its powers to get country out of the Depression.**

New Deal: a set of economic programs designed to produce "**3 Rs**": relief, recovery and reform:

Relief: to help to improve the lives of people

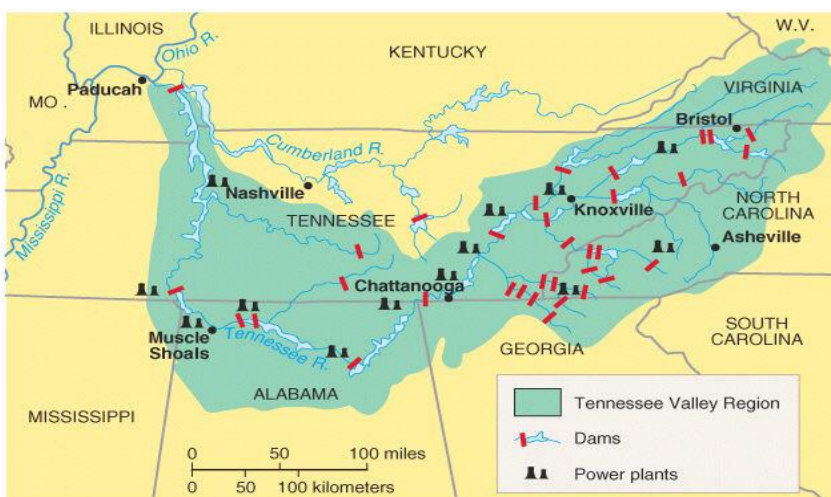
Recovery: of the economy through **intervention/laissez faire** (*choose the correct one*) of the government

Reform: through **regulation/deregulation** (*choose the correct one*) of Wall Street, banks and transportation

The First Hundred Days: 100 days period of Roosevelt in the office during which he introduced many of his acts to tackle the problems of the Depression.

Alphabetical Agencies: 16 new government agencies to fight with the Depression, e.g.: Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), National Recovery Administration (NRA), Public Works Administration (PWA), ...

FERA: gave \$ 500 million of food and aid to the hungry and homeless.



PWA: provided work for those with skills, by financing the construction of schools, hospitals, railways, bridges, airports and dams.

NRA: made child labor illegal

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA): federal body to help the area get out of

poverty and both flooding and soil erosion. *How did TVA help?*.....

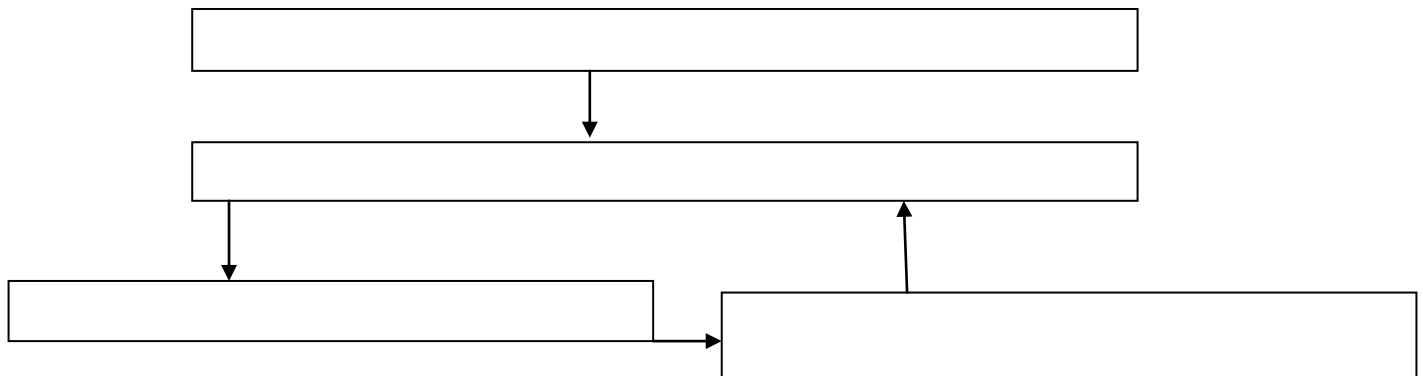
Effects?

Look at the map and write down the states of Tennessee Valley region:.....

- **Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA):** this act paid farmers subsidies and set quotas to produce less, even to destroy surplus corps and livestock. Why all that? To **increase** to food prices.
- **National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA):** attempt to get employers to set fair wages and prices, and to get employers to improve working conditions and to recognize trade unions.
- **Banks:** weak banks re-organised under Federal supervision, laws introduced to insure deposits and limit speculation, the stock market was to be monitored more closely, the USA was taken off the **gold standard - is a system in which the value of the currency is linked to a fixed amount of a gold.**

Fill out the scheme correctly so that the scheme fits. Use the following sentences:

1. Government spends money on building roads, damns, electric powers,...
2. Demand for the goods is higher.
3. People have more money to spend
4. People work for the government companies, the rate of unemployment is lowered

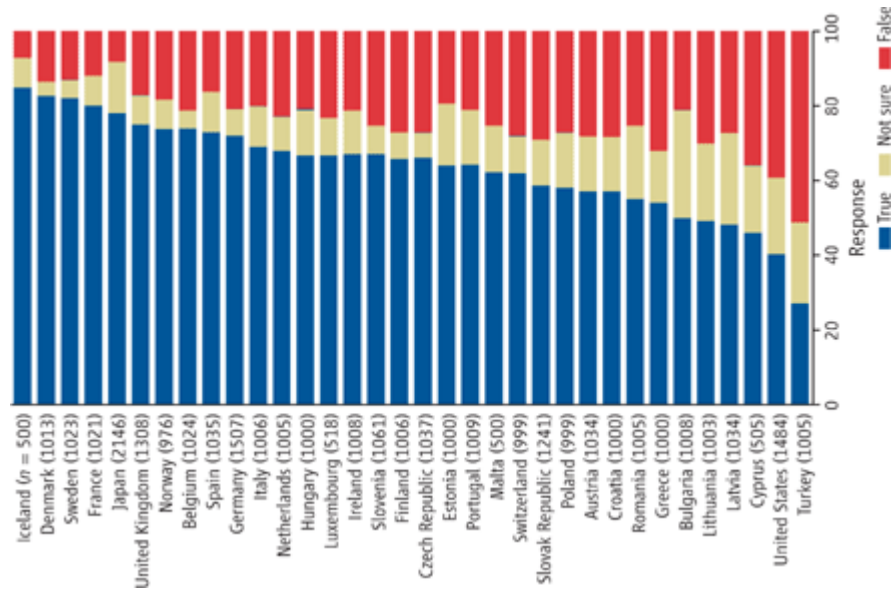


Opposition to New Deal:

..... – who had always disliked any government interference in business and increased taxation – saw the New Deal as a **form of socialism**, and accused Roosevelt of being a “traitor to his class”. The Conservative judges in the **Supreme Court¹** ruled several of the New Deal laws to be, because the federal government was attempting to tell individual states what to do. For instance, NRA was judged unconstitutional in 1935 in what became known as the “sick chickens’ case”, when federal officials prosecuted a farmer for selling diseased chickens.

¹ **Supreme Court:** the job of the Supreme Court judges is to make sure that the branches of the State – the legislative, the executive and the judiciary **stay separate** and do not try to exceed their powers. The Supreme Court has the **power to rule acts of the President or Congress unconstitutional, illegal.**

The history repeats? Compare the attitude to Roosevelt in the 30s and to Obama in the 21st century: Discuss:



Discuss: How conservative is the US? :

Reference: Jon D. Miller, Eugenie C. Scott, and Shinji Okamoto (2006) "Public Acceptance of Evolution" *Science*. Aug 11 2006, pp. 765-766. **Poll, SSAG, Law 2, 4th grade, 28.1.2011:** Evolution theory: 13 voted. True: 12 (92,3%), False (0%), Not sure: 1 (7,7%) **Poll, SSAG, Law 1, 4th grade, 11.2.2011:** Evolution theory: 12 voted. True: 9 (75%), False 1 (8,3%), Not sure: 2 (16,7%)

The Second New Deal: from 1935 to 1936

- **The Social Security Act (1935):** set up **for the first time** a **system of state pensions** for the old and for widows, and also worked with state governments to provide help for the sick and the disabled. It also established a **system of national insurance for unemployment benefits** to which both employers and employees contributed.
- **The Wagner Act (1935):** forced employers to **recognize trade unions** and the right of workers to have them negotiate wages and conditions on their behalf.

Give major benefits of the Second New Deal:

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Assessing the New Deal: (1-6)

1. Unemployment: New Deal **failed** to **fully** solve the problem of unemployment. **Rate of unemployment in the USA** in %: 1929: 5%, **1933: 25%**, 1937: 15%, **1941 (year when the US enters the WWII): 10%** **2. Consumer spending:** In 1937 it was still only 75% of what it had been just before the Wall Street Crash in 1929. **3.** Nothing was done to end **unequal pay** received by **women** and **black Americans**. **4.** Policies to help farmers by destroying **surplus food** and **animals** in order to keep up prices and farmers' incomes actually **made food too expensive for the really poor**. **5.** New Deal gave help to the needy **6.** New Deal helped to restore people's confidence in the banks and people began to deposit their money in them once again.

Work to do: assign the name of a president and give short description: **Laissez-faire X Interventionism**

