

XXXXXXX

Mr. Douglas

THESIS

TOPIC SENTENCE

CBA

INTRODUCTION TO SOURCE

USE OF SOURCE

03/27/19

The Great Depression

The stock market crash, on October 29, 1929, left millions of people impoverished, unemployed, and later on, homeless. The Great Depression ultimately began the day the stock market crashed. After this devastating event, President Hoover's reputation was ripped to shreds, people felt as if their government had failed them and that Hoover was a "do-nothing president." With a strong presidential campaign and promises to rebuild all economic losses, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected as President in 1932. He proposed and promised a New Deal to bring much needed hope to all Americans. Roosevelt claimed to focus on the three R's: relief, recovery, and reform. Although Roosevelt was unable to end the Great Depression, his promises helped ease the Depression for the American people and increased federal government's influence within the economy. How did the New Deal change the relationship of the American people to their federal government? The New Deal, even now, is affecting the lives of American people today. The New Deal positively impacted the lives of the American people; providing jobs and relief for those who were suffering, creating programs to ensure that the economy continued to rise, and stabilizing the economy.

The New Deal greatly impacted the lives of American people for the better by providing jobs and relief for those who were suffering. Before the New Deal was approved, Roosevelt sent

a message to congress explaining exactly how the New Deal was going to impact the lives of citizens. The message stated, "We have extended material aid to millions of our fellow citizens... by rebuilding many of the structures of our economy life and reorganizing it in order to prevent a recurrence of collapse" (Social Security). Roosevelt's views greatly contrasted the current president, Herbert Hoover. Hoover believed that the citizens needed to attempt to solve their own problems before turning to the government for help. Before the stock market crashed, Hoover was president; him not being involved in the lives of the American people wasn't a big deal because the economy was booming and everyone was well off on their own. As soon as the economy crashed, people were looking for a president who could provide help for all of those in need, and Hoover was unable to meet those standards. Roosevelt backed up what people already knew about Hoover in his presidential campaign, stating, "the only efforts by the Hoover administration to cope with the distress of the unemployment were to deny its existence" (Roosevelt). Roosevelt gave hope to the American people, ensuring that everything would be alright and the economy will level out with the plan he had in place. Within his New Deal, he promised to provide relief to those who were struggling. Citizens obtained hope in their government and believed that they would receive help in tough situations. Roosevelt's idea was to create programs that would provide jobs and security for all Americans.

The New Deal created programs to ensure that the economy continued to rise so that Americans didn't have to experience such sorrow again. These programs were able to help people find jobs, earn money, have security, and more. In particular, a man by the name of Robert Miller was able to share his thoughts on the New Deal and how it impacted his life. Miller states, "My personal achievement is the one glorious gifts I received from my association

with the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps” (Miller). The Civilian Conservation Corps, also known as the CCC, was one of the various programs that Roosevelt put in place to reconstruct the economy. This program was able to provide employment for millions of young men on environmental projects during the Great Depression. Several of the programs that Roosevelt created are continuing to affect the lives of U.S. citizens today. In a list of all the programs Roosevelt made, it stated the ones that continue to positively impact our lives. For example, the federal deposit insurance corporation, federal national mortgage association, social security, national labor relations board, and a variety of others (Bureau). Without these programs the economy may have never fully recovered from the Great Depression. As well, Americans wouldn't have been able to trust that the government could help them get out of this awful time in history.

The American people found that their economy was stabilized after the New Deal was established. In a graph of historical statistics of the U.S., the unemployment rate and federal spending before and after the New Deal was created can be seen. When Roosevelt became president, the government began participating in the everyday lives of Americans which led to the unemployment rate dropping and federal spending to increase. In 1930, the unemployment rate was roughly 3% and the federal spending was the same. When the stock market crashed in 1929, the rate of unemployment rapidly increased to 26% along with the federal spending, which increased to 10% (Bureau). As the economy began to stabilize, the unemployment rate slowly began to drop and the federal spending began to increase. As the government became more involved in Americans lives, the economy began to balance out. In a letter to Roosevelt, Walter Procter, discussed his thoughts on the programs that FDR had created, “The recent ‘Social

Security Legislation' is an attempt to partly meet the situation. A small step, but nevertheless a step in the right direction--the faint streaks of the dawn of the better day" (Procter). The New Deal contained a lot of trial and error. Not everything worked out the way it was intended to but the situation was unlike any other. No one had experienced a Great Depression before; Roosevelt did what he believed was right and it turned out for the better. People praised initiation and appreciated the steps he was taking to reestablish the economy.

How did the New Deal change the relationship of the American people to their federal government? The New Deal positively enhanced that relationship. After not being involved with the government under President Hoover, Roosevelt made it so that the American people could rely on their government to help them when there are challenges to overcome. The Great Depression was an obstacle that the government and Americans had to face together. The New Deal was able to provide relief, recovery and reform to the American people. Roosevelt was able to provide jobs and relief, establish programs and eventually balance out the economy. Without the New Deal, a handful of programs that were created wouldn't be impacting the everyday lives of American citizens. The New Deal will continue to increase the social welfare of America, forever changing the country for the better.

Works Cited

Bureau, U. (2019). Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970. [online]

Census.gov. Available at:

https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist_stats_colonial-1970.html

Miller, R. (2019). Civilian Conservation Corps - Sparta District. [online] Sites.rootsweb.com.

Available at: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~wibayf2/Families/Documents/CCC2622.html>

[Accessed 24 Mar. 2019].

Procter, Walter. *Letters to Franklin Delano Roosevelt*,

<http://www.americanradioworks.org/segments/letters-to->

Roosevelt, Franklin D. Speech by Franklin D. Roosevelt, New York Transcript. 1933. Pdf.

Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/afcca1000483/>.

“Social Security.” Social Security History, www.ssa.gov/history/fdrcon34.html.