The New Deal was a critical response to the Great Depression and one of the most ambitious programs of social and economic reform in American history. By creating new jobs, providing relief to millions of Americans who were struggling to make ends meet, and investing in infrastructure and public works projects, the New Deal helped to stabilize the economy and to restore hope and confidence in the future. More broadly, the New Deal represented a commitment to the idea that government has a vital role to play in promoting the general welfare and in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to live lives of dignity and purpose.