Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

02/16/2021

CH 23 Focus Qs 1,2,5 and DTP # 1 (p 643)

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1. The domestic and international conditions that led to the Great Depression are clear and visible now. The Stock Market boom for the years prior to 1928, fueled by overspeculation and malpractices from banks and brokers, crashed horribly in the fall of 1928, when a dip led to margin traders losing almost everything, and a market depression. Following this crash, a Banking Collapse turned the pain to all Americans, leading to fortunes and savings lost as banks shut their doors, even affecting those whose banks stayed open, as the declining money created deflation. Another cause was the incredible wealth inequality of the time, and the lack of consumers to buy increasingly luxury products. Another international cause for the collapse was the pressure put on Europe to repay debts from the Great War, all the while the US increased tariffs. These main causes for the Great Depression were these structural and temporary problems, along with more mismanagement and natural disasters during the next few years.
2. Farmers, minorities, and women, like all other groups, were economically destroyed and marginalized during the Great Depression. The economic depression was not the only problem for farmers, however, as the Dust Bowl turns huge swaths of America into desert. Despite this, increasing production and lowering prices led many farmers into bankruptcy, and were forced to move west, as Okies. African Americans and other minorities often fared much worse than Whites, as their often-lower-class jobs were taken over by whites. Despite this, black organizers’ NAACP allowed some African Americans to bargain with employers and find a place in the labor movement. Despite many women losing jobs and being ostracized for their occupations during the Great Depression, economic necessity caused an increase in female employment, mostly among married women, over the depression. This happened despite wage reductions for women, as economic need led to poorer women, such as black women, to be employed at higher rates.

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1. American Culture heavily adapted to new mindsets under depression America. The rise of radio over the past decade became a crucial part of American culture, as even rural Americans became connected to national events. Escapist Programming, comedies, and soap operas dominated this channel of communication. Radio’s impact was profound, as it also hosted national news, celebrated games, and events. Along with radio, the movies continued to grow in popularity during the depression, as it also avoided controversy and avoided asking societal questions. Walt Disney’s entertainment empire grew greatly at this time, as people looked away from society’s problems. Literature was redefined again, as artists and intellectuals “discovered” rural poverty during the depression. Government funded organizations largely promoted this effort, bringing it to the masses. Popular journalism also continued to grow, as photographic, political, and economic magazines and journals grew. All of these forms of communications set up the stage for a new leftist movement, and the new deal.
2. The opinions of the cause and explanations for the Great Depression were greatly biased based on personal interest and values. Businessmen were quick to blame high taxes and government regulation. They said these practices decreased public investment and lowered confidence. This might have been a factor in the Great Depression, but was no major cause, as taxes and government interference were greatest during the Progressive Era, where no major depression occurred. It’s more likely that these businessmen hoped to convince the populace to lower taxes to increase their own wealth. Many of them promoted “Self-Help” as a solution to lower taxes, and to end the depression. New Dealers vehemently opposed this and believed that increased government spending could have saved the economy from a recession, despite the Hoover Administration creating some of the most expansive budget plans yet. The Hoover Administration, on the other hand, was unable to stop the incoming depression, and blamed the international forces on it. They did not want to take blame, and thus found a culprit to blame. The Tariffs of the Hoover Administration and previous administrations were just as much to blame in the instable International Debt Structure as much as the inability of European nations to pay back American banks for their debt. The New Dealers of the time, always wanting to reduce corporate power, blamed the depression on the wealth gap, and the underconsumption of goods. These people blamed the depression on the businesses. This was another cause of the depression, as the banks who gave out margin were the main cause behind “Black Tuesday” and the stock market crash. The inability of many to buy consumer goods was a serious problem. All these culprits were a cause of the depression, but the blame received by them varied greatly based on who was doing the blaming, all based on personal profit or values.

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