Development Of Our Current Welfare System

Student Name

Course Name:SOWK 6321 Discussion

Institution Affiliation

The assignment intends to trace the history of events that happened during the Great Depression, world war II and the civil rights movement. We will discuss these events with a professor in history and the experience he has concerning the events.

**PART ONE: - INTERVIEW: What are the most unexpected events you recall during the 1930s Great Depression?**

**PAUL KENNEDY:** One of the most unexpected aspects of the Great Depression, in my opinion, was that people responded in the most passive or submissive way conceivable. There was no rioting in the streets, despite the fact that, according to numerous observers at the time, the biggest crisis in American institutions since the Civil War was taking place, including Franklin Roosevelt. At least during the early years of the Great Depression, the people looked to be strangely and inexplicably obedient.

**PAUL KENNEDY:** This apathy has many causes, in my opinion. To begin with, the Great Depression was nothing new to many individuals. Not everyone benefited from the alleged wealth of the roaring twenties. Before the Great Crash of 1929, tens of millions of people were living in poverty. As a result, it didn't stand out to them as anything noteworthy, and their situation didn't drastically change.

**QUESTION: How was it like to experience the Great Depression and the impact it had on families?**

**PAUL KENNEDY:** People with limited savings and insecure jobs bore the brunt of the Depression's effects the most severely. That was a reference to people of African descent. It referred to any agricultural laborer. Immigrants from Southern Europe and Central, and those from Asia and Africa had arrived in the United States only a generation earlier, at the turn of the century. Because of their fragile economic situations, many of these communities were severely impacted by the Great Depression.

**QUESTION: what led to the outbreak of World War II?**

**PAUL KENNEDY:** World War II commenced with the Hitler invasion of Poland, and subsequently, this led to other countries like France and Great Britain declaring war on Germany in 1939. It was fueled by the unsettled scores in the versatile treaties of World War I. Germany was economically and politically unstable at this time.

**QUESTION: What was your experience during these war times and your opinion on its effects on the U.S. economy?**

**PAUL KENNEDY:** During World War II, the country's economy was under- or jobless in 1941, making it possible to transition to a military economy or a war economy without immediately impacting the economy of the civilian sector of a large number of idle people and material resources. The Great Depression, therefore, aided the shift to a war economy during World War II in an odd and twisted manner.

**QUESTION: Tell us how the Civil rights movement came about and your experience during this movement?**

**PAUL KENNEDY:** The civil rights movement arose when black Americans had enough of racism and violence. The movement fought for social justice and equal rights for Black Americans under the law. Achieving equality and voting rights was an important goal of the rebuilding era. There are still occasional instances of racism. Therefore the battle is not over.

**PART TWO: Do you believe that the social policies and programs that developed as a result of these events, such as the the GI Bill, New Deal, school segregation were practical?**

**PAUL KENNEDY:** To put it another way, the New Deal failed at reviving the 1930s economy. The New Deal never restored full employment. In the 1930s, the yearly unemployment rate was 17%. World war 2 ended the Great Depression. In terms of altering American culture and leaving institutional structures that altered the lives of millions of people, the New Deal was a tremendous success after World War II. This is a significant achievement that few previous administrations have accomplished.

**PAUL KENNEDY:** The GI Bill was practical because it stabilized the post-war economy and long-term economic growth. World war II veterans benefitted hugely, such as low-cost mortgages, unemployment compensation, and dedicated tuition payments.

**PAUL KENNEDY:** On the school segregation policies, I consider it ineffective because it led to mass protests by the civil rights movements demanding equal rights. This made Black Americans feel Inferior and neglected. The school segregation led to their delayed education and mental development.

**PART THREE: PERSONAL OPINION**

I think the Great Depression gave the generation who lived through it a sense of stability. The New Deal reforms are the Depression's lasting legacy. And the New Deal provided structural and institutional changes that kept us out of the 1930s for now. Our whole civilization has significantly benefited from social institutions that have averted a comparable catastrophe soon. I believe it was inevitable for civil rights movements. Prejudice, educational segregation disadvantaged Black Americans greatly. They had to fight for social justice, including voting rights. Never before have so many Black Americans occupied public office and led. The Great Depression influenced African-Americans and fueled African-American activism. The Great Depression paved the way for the 1950s and 1960s civil rights movements. Instability in Europe led to a more devastating conflict two decades later. Unstable economic and political circumstances in Germany gave rise to Adolf Hitler, head of the Nazi party, who would later invade Poland. Only then did France and Britain declare war on Germany. The war changed the American way of life and changed the American spirit. I condemn the mass devastation and death of thousands (Khanna,2021).

**PART FOUR: PERSONAL RESPONSES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

I have been able to trace the history of the United States policy response to human needs with the rise of the GI Bill that helped the Worl War II veteran in a failing economy. They were able to afford tuition payments, get low-cost mortgage's and get unemployment compensation. It helped a lot in cushioning the post-war Veterans and in rebuilding the economy. It also reserved human needs with the adoption of such a policy (Bass,2019).

When it comes to the Civil Rights Movement, it's clear that African-Americans had a long way to go and had to battle for their rights for decades. Some Americans saw African-Americans as the source of slavery and opposed the civil rights movement. Finally, they were granted the right to vote and to hold public office under U.S. law. Because it discriminated against African-Americans and made them feel inferior, school segregation was a bad policy. After the new agreement, policies like these were a massive success in altering the character of American society for the better. Such policies, later on, gave birth to current welfare systems that assist low-income families (Riches,2017).

**References**

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