

Yennhi Nguyen

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The Great Depression

In 1929, the economic collapse of the stock market set the beginning of the Great Depression. When the soldiers came back from WWII expecting to have jobs waiting for them, there were none available. The vast majority of them were left unemployed along with several other Americans.

Another contribution to the Great Depression was overproduction. Two-thirds of Americans were earning less than \$2,500 within a year, with little amount of disposable income. As the depression grew worse, farmers in the Great Plains had to face a terrible drought. With no rainfall, the overused soil dried to dust, and as the wind picked up the dry soil, it created a huge storm that was came to be known as the Dust Bowl. With withered fields and no money, families were forced to leave their homes, heading west in hopes of a better life in California.

In hopes of trying to get America out of the depression, President Hoover tried several things in attempt to help boost the economy. He set up the National Credit Corporation, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and also signed the Emergency Relief and Construction Act that Congress passed. Unfortunately, all of these attempts failed. However, after Roosevelt was elected as President, he passed the Social Security Act to help provide some security for the unemployed and the older Americans. Although this Act wasn't perfect, it still had its success by helping many Americans.

As America was facing the Great Depression, the world was in the middle of World War II. Although the United States wanted to remain neutral by isolating themselves, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor pushed them to join the war. After the attack, the United States rapidly increased war production. Job opportunities arose as American soldiers went off to fight the war. Industries and companies converted to war production and the United States became a nation of mass production.

The United States today is currently undergoing a growing recession. Lots of jobs are being cut, prices on food and gas are sky-rocketing, and many workers are being laid off because there simply isn't enough money to support the business. The only difference today is that it's only a recession, and it has not reached the extremity of a depression.