

The Great Depression

Part Two



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





“I see nothing in the present situation that is either menacing or warrants pessimism.”

– Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon in December, 1929

At first, Hoover’s government assumed that the depression was a natural part of the economic cycle. Hoover told people to continue to spend normally.

Hoover believed that **welfare** systems made people reliant on the state and hindered their independence.

Instead, he encouraged private businesses not to fire employees and to organize relief efforts within their industry.



As the depression worsened, Americans began blaming Hoover for the crisis.

People evicted from their homes set up shanty towns nicknamed “**Hooverilles.**” Stray newspapers became “Hoover blankets” and empty, turned out pockets were known as “Hoover flags.”



In the midterm elections of 1930, voters expressed their dissatisfaction by voting overwhelmingly for the Democrats.



Too little, too late?



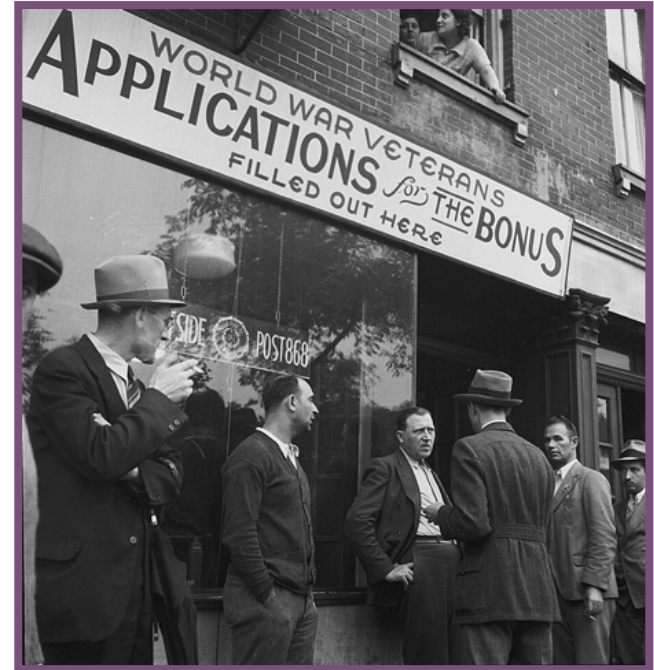


The Patman Bill

In 1924, Congress had approved a plan to pay \$500 bonuses to World War I veterans in 1945.

As the Depression set in, Congressman **J. Wright Patman** argued that the bonuses should be paid immediately.

In 1932, over 10,000 veterans and their families traveled to Washington, D.C. to support the **Patman Bill**.



They called themselves the Bonus Expeditionary Force, or **Bonus Army**.



Hoover believed that most of the men in the Bonus Army were criminals looking for a handout, but he supported their right to peaceful protest.

He allowed them to create a shanty town outside the Capitol. However, when the bill was voted down, he ordered them to depart.



Approximately 2,000 people remained. On June 28, Hoover sent 1,000 troops to remove them. The soldiers tear gassed the Bonus Army and burned the shanties. Americans were shocked and angered by Hoover's actions.



How are your opinions relevant today?

