

Roosevelt and the New Deal

In 1933 the new president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, brought an air of confidence and optimism that quickly rallied the people to the banner of his program, known as the New Deal. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," the president declared in his inaugural address to the nation.

1. Who became president of the United States in 1933?

2. The new president's program was called the ____.

- a. Alliance for Progress
- b. Four Freedoms
- c. New Deal
- d. Square Deal

In one sense, the New Deal merely introduced social and economic reforms familiar to many Europeans for more than a generation. Moreover, the New Deal represented the culmination of a long-range trend toward abandonment of "laissez-faire" capitalism, going back to the regulation of the railroads in the 1880s, and the flood of state and national reform legislation introduced in the Progressive era of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

3. The New Deal pre-dated social and economic reforms in Europe.

- a. True
- b. False

4. The New Deal represented a commitment to traditional laissez-faire capitalism.

- a. True
- b. False

What was truly novel about the New Deal, however, was the speed with which it accomplished what previously had taken generations. Many of its reforms were hastily drawn and weakly administered; some actually contradicted others. Moreover, it never succeeded in restoring prosperity. Yet its actions provided tangible help for millions of Americans, laid the basis for a powerful new political coalition, and brought to the individual citizen a sharp revival of interest in government.

5. New Deal legislation was enacted speedily.

- a. True
- b. False

6. The New Deal revived individuals' interest in government.

- a. True
- b. False