

Power and Protest

Examine how Eugene Talmadge challenged New Deal policies in Georgia.

SS8H8.c "Describe Eugene Talmadge's opposition to the New Deal Programs."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reason Eugene Talmadge opposed the New Deal, and circle each action he took to show that opposition. Use your marks to trace both his ideas and his public actions.

A Governor Challenges the New Deal

- ① In 1933, Eugene Talmadge became Georgia's governor as the Great Depression left many families without work or steady income. President Franklin D. Roosevelt responded with the New Deal, a group of federal programs meant to provide relief, jobs, and recovery. Talmadge did not simply disagree with one plan. He became one of the South's loudest critics of the New Deal. In speeches and newspaper statements, he warned Georgians that Washington was gaining too much control over state and local decisions.
- ② Talmadge's objections grew from his belief in states' rights, the idea that state governments should keep powers not given to the federal government. He said New Deal agencies and rules reached too far into Georgia's affairs. He also condemned some New Deal ideas as wasteful or dangerous to individual freedom. His language was often sharp. By attacking Roosevelt and federal programs in public, Talmadge built political support among Georgians who distrusted a larger national government, even while many residents needed Depression-era aid.
- ③ His opposition did not mean that Georgia received no federal help. New Deal projects brought money and work to parts of the state, and Talmadge sometimes accepted federal funds. Yet he continued to challenge the New Deal's direction rather than praising it. His position combined a political attack on Roosevelt with a warning about federal power. To describe Talmadge's opposition accurately, note both parts: he believed national programs threatened state authority, and he publicly criticized their policies, even when federal aid could benefit Georgia.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Talmadge fear the federal government was gaining through the New Deal?

2 What belief about government power shaped Talmadge's opposition to the New Deal?

3 Name two ways Talmadge publicly showed his opposition to the New Deal.

4 Explain the tension between Talmadge's criticism of the New Deal and Georgia's experience with federal aid.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence historical caption for a display titled *Talmadge and the New Deal*. State his main objection, describe one way he expressed opposition, and explain the tension between his criticism and federal aid to Georgia.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each reason Eugene Talmadge opposed the New Deal, and circle each action he took to show that opposition. Use your marks to trace both his ideas and his public actions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Talmadge fear the federal government was gaining through the New Deal?	He feared that Washington was gaining too much control over state and local decisions in Georgia.
2	What belief about government power shaped Talmadge's opposition to the New Deal?	He believed in states' rights and thought state governments should keep powers not given to the federal government.
3	Name two ways Talmadge publicly showed his opposition to the New Deal.	He spoke and made newspaper statements against it, attacked Roosevelt, and criticized federal programs and policies.
4	Explain the tension between Talmadge's criticism of the New Deal and Georgia's experience with federal aid.	Although New Deal projects brought money and jobs to Georgia and Talmadge sometimes accepted federal funds, he continued to criticize the programs because he opposed their federal control and direction.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Eugene Talmadge opposed the New Deal because he believed federal programs gave Washington too much power over Georgia. He publicly attacked Roosevelt and criticized New Deal policies in speeches and newspaper statements. Although Georgia received federal money and jobs, he continued to challenge the programs' direction.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Talmadge's states' rights argument, his public criticism of Roosevelt and New Deal programs, and the contrast between his opposition and Georgia's receipt of federal aid. In the open response, look for all three required ideas in exactly three sentences.