Relief and Resistance

How New Deal policies changed government and sparked debate

USH.C.4.3 "Analyze the impact of the New Deal in addressing the challenges of the Great Depression by transforming the federal government's role in domestic economic policies..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two federal responses and the problems they addressed, circle two limits or objections, and number a Dust Bowl cause, effect, and response from 1 to 3.

A Larger Federal Role

1. In 1933, banks were failing and millions were jobless. In his First Inaugural Address, Franklin Roosevelt called for "action, and action now" and asked Congress for broad executive power if the emergency required it. The New Deal expanded federal responsibility beyond limited crisis aid to ongoing economic security. The FDIC insured bank deposits to rebuild trust; the CCC hired young men for conservation work, and the WPA paid people to build public projects. Social Security provided old-age benefits and unemployment insurance. These programs also reflected an idea associated with economist John Maynard Keynes: during a slump, government could borrow and spend to boost demand.

2. On the Great Plains, drought and high winds met soil exposed by plowing and the loss of native grasses. Dust storms ruined crops, drove families west, and reduced farm income and spending across the country. The Farm Security Administration offered loans to struggling farm families. Elsewhere, TVA dams produced electricity and helped control floods. Federal action also reached Tribal governments. The 1934 Indian Reorganization Act sought to halt allotment, restore land to Tribal trust, and support Tribal constitutions. Oklahoma Tribes were excluded from that act, but a similar 1936 law extended key options to the state's thirty-nine Tribes.

3. New Deal relief did not reach everyone equally. Many African Americans found jobs through federal programs, but discrimination limited access. Mary McLeod Bethune, a member of Roosevelt's informal "Black Cabinet," pressed officials for fairer treatment. Support from workers, many African American voters, and Southern Democrats helped form the New Deal coalition. Critics called the programs socialism or warned that centralized planning threatened business and liberty. In 1937, Roosevelt proposed adding justices to the Supreme Court after it struck down some New Deal laws. His plan failed in Congress and weakened his political support, even as the Court upheld key New Deal laws.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Roosevelt's request in his First Inaugural Address support a larger federal role? Give one example of that role from the passage.

2. Trace one natural cause and one human cause of the Dust Bowl. Then explain an economic effect and a New Deal response.

3. How did the Indian Reorganization Act seek to change federal policy toward Tribes? Why do Oklahoma's thirty-nine Tribes need a separate explanation?

4. Why could the New Deal gain a coalition of supporters while also facing opposition? Include the court expansion plan and one other concern.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence newspaper editorial judging whether the expanded federal role was worth its risks. Use evidence from two different paragraphs, explain one benefit and one limitation or criticism, and state your judgment.

ANSWER KEY

Relief and Resistance

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two federal responses and the problems they addressed, circle two limits or objections, and number a Dust Bowl cause, effect, and response from 1 to 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Roosevelt's request in his First Inaugural Address support a larger federal role? Give one example of that role from the passage.	**Roosevelt asked for broad executive power to meet the emergency. The FDIC shows the larger role because the federal government insured bank deposits.**
2	Trace one natural cause and one human cause of the Dust Bowl. Then explain an economic effect and a New Deal response.	**Drought was a natural cause, while plowing that exposed soil was a human cause. Ruined crops reduced farm income, and the Farm Security Administration offered loans to struggling farm families.**
3	How did the Indian Reorganization Act seek to change federal policy toward Tribes? Why do Oklahoma's thirty-nine Tribes need a separate explanation?	**The act sought to halt allotment, restore land to Tribal trust, and support Tribal constitutions. Oklahoma Tribes were excluded, but a similar 1936 law extended key options to them.**
4	Why could the New Deal gain a coalition of supporters while also facing opposition? Include the court expansion plan and one other concern.	**Workers and many African American voters supported New Deal programs, but critics feared socialism or centralized planning. Roosevelt's failed court expansion plan also weakened his political support.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The expanded federal role was worth its risks because the FDIC protected deposits at insured banks. Farm Security Administration loans also helped families hurt by Dust Bowl crop losses. Still, discrimination kept some African Americans from receiving equal access to relief. Roosevelt's failed court expansion plan showed why people worried about concentrated power. Congress should protect useful programs while demanding fair treatment and preserving the courts' independence.

Accept other passage-supported examples and judgments. For the Dust Bowl question, high winds and the loss of native grasses are also valid causes when identified correctly.