

US History

The Great Depression & The New Deal

Learning Target:

I can identify and analyze American's reaction to Hoover's policies and their decision to move on and elect FDR.

7. Discontent and The Election of 1932

As the depression wore on, Herbert Hoover became one of the most hated men in America.

He responded to this by saying, *"This is not a showman's job. I will not step out of character."*

Radical Protests –

- As public confidence in Hoover eroded, radical groups such as the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, saw an opportunity to gain support
- They condemned capitalism and blamed it for the depression

Radical Tactics –

- Organized unemployed into Unemployed Leagues to demand work
- Encouraged involvement in labor unions
- Organized hunger marches

The Bonus Army –

What?

- One of the biggest protests during the depression

Who?

- Involved more than 10,000 WWI veterans and their families

Where?

- Came to Washington D.C.

Why?

- To support a veterans' bonus bill before Congress
- Would have granted them early payments from their pension bonuses owed to them from the war

Results –

- Bonus Army demonstrators lived in empty government buildings
- When Congress rejected the bill most veterans went home
- Some 2000 veterans remained and defied orders to leave the buildings
- Clashed with police and two veterans and two police officers died
- Hoover sent in the army and removed them with guns, tanks, and tear gas
- America shocked by this incident

The Election of 1932 –

The Candidates –

Republicans –

- Herbert Hoover
- Reluctantly nominated because no other Democrat would run
- Had little chance of victory

Democrats –

- Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR)
- Born into a wealthy family
- Political career seemed over when he was stricken with polio in 1921
- Fought back and became governor of New York in 1928
- Earned praise for his relief programs and unemployment benefits

The Campaign –

- Revolved around the depression
- Roosevelt was short on specifics about his plan and rather attacked Hoover
- Promised to seek a fairer distribution of wealth

The Result –

- FDR won in convincing fashion

- FDR – 23 million popular votes and 472 electoral votes
- Hoover – 16 million popular votes and 59 electoral votes

- Roosevelt was free to deliver his “New Deal” to America