**Chapter 24**

The New Deal

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Twenty-Four should enable the student to understand:**

1. The series of emergency measures designed to restore confidence and enacted during the first 100 days.
2. The New Deal programs for raising farm pries and promoting industrial recovery.
3. The first federal efforts at regional planning.
4. The New Deal program and reforming the financial system.
5. The federal relief programs and Social Security.
6. The political pressures from both the left and the right and casual Franklin Roosevelt to move in new directions from 1935 on.
7. The changes in organized labor during the New Deal period.
8. The effects of the Court-packing scheme, and of the recession of 1937 and 1938 on Roosevelt and the New Deal.
9. The impact of the New Deal on minorities and women.
10. The lasting significance of the New Deal to the American economy and political system.

**Chapter 24**

**Pertinent Questions**

**Launching the New Deal**

1. What sort of relationship did President Roosevelt develop with the press and the public?
2. Why was banking the new president’s number one order of business? What was done immediately and in 1934 and 1935?
3. What did the Economy Act of 1933 reveal about Roosevelt’s fundamental economic philosophy?
4. What was the principal feature of New Deal farm policy? How well did it work? Which farmers were served best?
5. Describe the goals and concepts of the National Recovery Administration (NRA). Why was it less that fully successful? How did it end?
6. What were the goals of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)? How well did it meet them?
7. What effect did taking the nation off the gold standard have on the economy?
8. How did the New Deal try to reform the banking and securities industries?
9. How did the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) help the states?
10. What assumption about relief was reflected in the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)? What was unique about the CCC?
11. What was done for mortgage relief?

**The New Deal in Transition**

1. Who led the conservative attack on Roosevelt in 1934 and 1935? How did the president react?
2. How successful were the socialists and communists in exploiting the unrest caused by the Depression?
3. Briefly explain the ideas of Huey Long, Francis Townsend, and Charles E. Coughlin and how they exploited popular apprehension. Who was probably the most important among them? How did Roosevelt respond?
4. What 1935 legislative initiatives by Roosevelt and others indicated Roosevelt’s changing attitude toward big business and the emergence of the Second New Deal?
5. Compare and contrast craft unionism and industrial unionism. What organization emerged to represent industrial unions?
6. Why did organized labor become more militant in the 1930s? How did the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) help? In what industries did unions make especially significant gains?
7. How did the Social Security Act try to maintain a distinction between “insurance” and “public assistance”? What programs did the act establish?
8. Describe the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and its accomplishments. How did it go beyond traditional public-works programs?
9. What were the elements of the New Deal-Democratic political coalition that Roosevelt built?

**The New Deal in Disarray**

1. What was Roosevelt’s objective in the “Court-packing” plan? How was the objective substantially accomplished? What were the political repercussions of the episode?
2. What seems to have been the main cause of the 1937 recession? What economic theory appeared to have been supported by the recession and the administration’s response to it?

**Limits and legacies of the New Deal**

1. What is meant by “broker state”? How did the New Deal create it?
2. What did the New Deal offer to black Americans? What role did Eleanor Roosevelt play, and what political change resulted?
3. What new direction in Indian policy was the objective of Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier? What were the results of the new policy?
4. What pushed the New Deal toward a greater role for women? What held it back?
5. Why was the New Deal’s impact greater in the West?

**Patters of Popular Culture: The Golden Age of Comic Books**

1. What did the popularity of superheroes, particularly Superman, reveal about American culture in the late 1930s and early 1940s?

**Where Historians Disagree**

1. Why did one leading historian call the New Deal a “halfway revolution”? Does this characterization still ring true in light of the work of later historians?