

AIM: Restore confidence in Government (**POLITICAL**)

YES

- Roosevelt personally received thousands of letters from grateful citizens. Hoover received c800 a day, Roosevelt c8000.
- His fireside chats made Government seem more relevant - US citizens felt informed (unlike the aloofness of Republicans esp. 'Silent Cal!' (Coolidge)
- The 100 Days saw 15 pieces of federal legislation- all bring immediate relief'. He seemed serious about the problems- unlike empty promises of Republicans. (Prosperity is just around the corner)
- Took quick action to restore faith in banks with the 1933 Banking act = confidence
- The TVA project demonstrated how effective Federal government could be.
- Faith in Roosevelt's schemes' won him 4 terms in office - including a landslide victory in 1936 (at heart of the New Deal)
- The New Deal involved billions of \$ - but there were no corruption scandals (like teapot dome in early 20s under the Republicans)
- e.g Harry Hopkins i/c CWA responsible for \$10 billion public money - never received more than his \$15,000 salary (no bribes)

NO

- There were critics - such a bold initiative was bound to divide the nation.
- Accused of being a communist and a dictator! (When he tried to 'pack' the Supreme Court with his judges.
- Big business owners - accused him of wasting tax payers money - conducting an experiment he didn't know would work.

AIM: ECONOMIC - tackle unemployment + kick start the economy

YES

- Alphabet agencies created millions of jobs (e.g WPA created 8 million jobs building US infrastructure)
- It stabilised the banking industry - giving federal backing. People put their money back into the banks.
- Business failures were reduced.
- The TVA project - Huge success creating electricity for 10 million homes (good for economy)

NO

- Unemployment remained 'high' - and increased in 1937 when Roosevelt cut the New Deal budget. Many AA jobs were temporary- still 17% unemployment in 1939. Only went down to 4% when US joined war in 1941.
- US economy took longer than Europe to recover.
- Level of investment was down 25% compared to pre 1929

AIM: Improve society (**SOCIAL**)

YES

- Protect workers rights in industry - NIRA, improving relations between business owners and workers. 7 million in recognised unions by end of 1930s (Wagner Act - regarded as THE most significant piece of legislation in the 20th century)
- Social Security Act - providing old aged pensions through employer / employee contributions (to avoid poverty in old age)
- Greater equality + opportunity for African Americans: New Deal provided 2 million jobs in alphabet agencies (e.g 450,000 in WPA) slum clearances + new schools and buildings. All public facilities free from segregation. Roosevelt appointed African Americans to 'high positions' in federal government.
- Greater equality + opportunity for women: women appointed to government positions ("At last women had their foot inside the door") Frances Perkins became the U.S. Secretary of Labor and the first woman to be appointed to a cabinet-level position - many appointed to administer the Alphabet Agencies.
- C 750,000 women provided work relief by New Deal agencies.

NO

- Strong tension between business and Trades Unions remained (some e.g Ford, used 'thugs' to break up strikes.
- No major legislation specifically from FDR to tackle Black Civil Rights - segregation continued (even in the CCC) + employment opportunities remained unstable. Many in domestic help - not included in the Social Security Act)
- New Deal focus was on assisting men - only 8,000 women in the CCC.

How successful was Roosevelt's 'New Deal' for the American people?

