

THE NEW DEAL

“The New Deal economic policies . . . implanted several ‘stabilizers’ that have been . . . successful in averting another such depression. . . . Such safeguards restored confidence in the discredited banking system and established a firm economic foundation that performed well for decades thereafter. The New Deal was also responsible for numerous other notable changes in American life. In the space of a decade government laws eliminated sweatshops, severely curtailed child labor, and established enforcement standards for hours, wages, and working conditions. . . . The New Deal’s safety net . . . firmly established the principle that the government had an obligation to assist the needy.”

Roger Biles (historian), *A New Deal for the American People*, 1991

“My principal problem with Roosevelt and the New Deal [is] not over specific reforms or his social programs, but with the failure of the United States to recover from the depression during the eight peacetime years that he and his policies governed the nation. . . . There were certainly positive contributions under the New Deal, but they may not have outweighed the negative aspects of the period. When one examines the full range of New Deal proposals . . . the outline emerges of a form of government alien to any definition of liberalism except that of New Dealers themselves. Historians need to weigh more thoroughly and objectively the implications for the United States if Roosevelt’s programs had been fully implemented. They also need to assess the costs in human misery of the delay in recovery, and of reduced [United States] influence abroad at a critical time in world affairs owing to its economic weaknesses.”

Gary Dean Best (historian), *Pride, Prejudice, and Politics: Roosevelt Versus Recovery, 1933-1938*, 1990

1. Using the excerpts above and your knowledge of United States history, answer (a), (b), and (c).
 - a) Briefly describe ONE major difference between historical interpretations of the New Deal presented by Biles and Best.
 - b) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event, development, or circumstance during the period 1929 to 1941 that is not specifically mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support the viewpoint of Biles.
 - c) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event, development, or circumstance during the period 1929 to 1941 that is not specifically mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support the viewpoint of Best.

Write your response to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page within the box. Use BLUE or BLACK pen only.

Q1

End of response area for Q1.