

51. Great Depression

Yoonjie Park [Section 4]

The Great Depression was a slump in the American economy that lasted from 1929 to 1939. This depression not only affected America, but also severely impacted the rest of the industrialised Western world such as Europe. It began when stock-market prices on the New York Stock Exchange collapsed critically in October 1929. Over the course of the next three years, stock prices in America continued to fall, and by late 1932, stocks were worth only a fifth of what they had been worth in 1929. In addition to ruining the lives of thousands of individual investors, the depression caused banks and other financial institutions, especially those that were intertwined with taxes, to struggle. By 1933, 11,000 out of the 25,000 banks in the United States were bankrupt. The failure of the banks, coupled with an overall loss of trust in the US banks, caused the economy to deteriorate as the demand for products declined and production therefore declined. In turn, unemployment grew; by 1932, the number of unemployed workers soared to 12-15 million people.

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/about.htm>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/dustbowl-great-depression/>

2. Okies / Migrant Farmers

HyeJoon Lee [Section 4]

Southwesterners, most of whom made a living out of agriculture, were some of the biggest victims of the dust bowl. In the 1930's, with constant crop failures and the added pressure of the economic depression, many moved out of their poverty stricken states to settle in places like California and Arizona where the economic situation was a little better. Although people from states such as Texas, Missouri and Arkansas were part of this migration, most of these migrants were from Oklahoma, from which the term "Okies" was derived. This term, that originally meant to denote a person from Oklahoma, soon became used by Californians as a derogatory term for poor migrants that moved from southwestern states. Because these "receiving" states were overwhelmed by so many migrant workers, locals soon had to compete with them for jobs and because of this, locals held contempt for these migrants workers.

http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/water_06.html

<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OK008.html>

<http://faculty.headroyce.org/~us2001/meredithc/okielifeincalifornia.html>

3. Dust Bowl

Ben Kim [Section 4]

The Dust Bowl was the nickname of a large region in the plains (specifically, southeast Colorado, southwest Kansas, and parts of Oklahoma and Texas) that was so dry many dust storms began to kick up and devastate the area. It officially received its name after the stock market crash on Black Friday. Ranchers had their cattle suffocate and their grazing land

destroyed. Without grass to root the topsoil, farmers lost their crops as the topsoil was blown away by high winds (and sometimes the crops themselves). In attempts to stop the dust, children wore masks and women used sheets to try to stop it from entering their house. Many people simply resorted to trying to leave the area. Because the Dust Bowl region couldn't grow crops, the Great Depression's longevity increased dramatically.

http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/water_02.html

<http://www.history.com/topics/dust-bowl>

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:a5YMno3zsB0J:www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/dustbowl.htm+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk>

4. Economic hardship in the U.S. in the 1930's

Daniel Choi [Section 4]

Economic hardship happened once the stock market crash on October 29, 1929 (Black Tuesday) which triggered the Great Depression. Many people during this time lost their jobs and also did not have a lot of money to be supporting themselves. The economy in America dropped a tremendous amount. This caused prices to drop and also made the other economies that depended on heavy industry to go down too. Debt deflation was also one problem because many of the people who were in debt were not able to return all the money they borrowed. If the people are not able to pay their taxes this also caused economic hardship for the government or the state.

<http://economics.about.com/od/laborinamerica/a/greatdepression.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression#Effects

http://www.ehow.com/facts_7813404_american-economics-1920s-1930s.html

5. John Steinbeck

Hyunna Yoo [Section 4]

John Steinbeck (1902-1968) was born on February 27th in Salinas, California within a moderate family and lived a relatively 'normal' life. Steinbeck lived happily with his three sisters and was shy yet smart. He gained appreciation of the land from his younger years in California which would later greatly influence his writing. It's said that at the age of 14, Steinbeck had decided to become a writer. To strive towards his goal, he achieved admission to Stanford University, yet dropped out of the university to travel to New York in 1925 and establish himself as a freelance writer. Despite his efforts, however, Steinbeck failed and returned to California, his career looking dim. It was back at his hometown where he wrote his first famed work, *Tortilla Flat* (1935), a series of humorous short stories. Afterwards, Steinbeck's works gained a certain amount of recognition. After his humorous works he moved onto darker topics such as *In Dubious Battle* (1936), and *Of Mice and Men* (1937). Steinbeck received the Pulitzer Prize in 1940. He also received the Noble Prize in Literature in 1962.

<http://www.mtycounty.com/pgs-mty-stnbeck/steinbeck-timeline.html>

<http://www.biography.com/people/john-steinbeck-9493358>

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html#

6. The Great Depression.

Elizabeth Mikhailova [Section 4]

The Great Depression(1929-1939)

The Great Depression in began with the Wall Street Crash of October, 1929 in America and is known as the deepest and longest-lasting economic downturn in the history of the Western industrialized world, but it did not affect everyone the same way. Many rich people felt no impact at all, and were oblivious to the suffering of others.

The Depression also resulted in an increase of emigration of people to other countries for the first time in American history. For example. some immigrants went back to their native countries, and some native US citizens went to Canada, Australia, and South Africa. Some extreme examples were cases of some Americans emigrating to the Soviet Union (some of whom died during Stalin's Great Purges).

<http://www.history.com/topics/great-depression>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression_in_the_United_States

7. Okies / Migrant Farmers

Hanna Ough [Section 4]

Drought and depression increased in the Great Plains as farmers either lost or were forced to leave their land. The invention of tractors made it possible for fewer farmers to cultivate and tend more land, and ultimately, those who could afford these tractors advanced and could buy out their neighbours. Those who could no longer own land in these areas migrated towards the west coast, and because so many of them were from Oklahoma, they were nicknamed as the "Okies." In the past, California had encouraged migrant workers to settle, and for this reason, over 7,000 new migrants were settling a month. Because these newcomers were constantly "taking away" the jobs of the original inhabitants, the term "okies" became one of disdain - aimed at economically demeaned farm labourers, regardless what state they were from.

http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/water_06.html

<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OK008.html>

8. John Steinbeck

Cullen Ogden (Section 4)

John Steinbeck was an American Writer, most famous for his Pulitzer-Prize winning novel *The Grapes of Wrath* published in 1939 and his novella *Of Mice and Men* published in 1939. In Total he wrote twenty five books, including sixteen novels, six non-fiction books and

several collections of Short stories. He grew up in the Salinas Valley region of California, a culturally diverse area that imparted a flavor on his writing that gave it a distinct sense of place. Most of his earlier work dealt with subjects he had been writing about for years, except his novel *Cup of Gold* which concerns a pirate named Henry Morgan whose adventures Steinbeck had dreamed of since childhood. He populated his stories with struggling characters and their lives, examining the lives of working class and migrant workers in the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. His later works branched out to a large range of interests.

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/585.John_Steinbeck

9. Great Depression

Juan Miguez [Section 4]

The Great Depression was the lowest and most elongated economic shut down in history of the United States. It began shortly after the stock market crash of October 1929, which was enough to throw Wall Street into chaos and eliminated millions of investors. Over the next couple of years, consumer spending and investment dropped by massive amounts. This caused deep declines in American output and made the unemployment rates skyrocket. By 1933, the Great Depression was responsible for between 13 to 15 million American citizens without jobs and half of the country's banks failing. President Franklin Roosevelt was able to soften the blow with reforms and relief, however, the nation's economy would not turn into its previous glory until 1939, where the second World War caused a giant increase of production for the United States.

<http://www.history.com/topics/great-depression>

10. John Steinbeck

Andrew Kim (Section 4)

John Steinbeck was born on February 17, 1902 in Salinas, California. He wrote a lot about the economic and social issues he saw around him and at that time. At the age of fourteen, Steinbeck decided he wanted to become a writer and used to lock himself in his room writing poems and short stories. He wrote about what happened in his life such as the time he went to Mexico with his marine biologist friend and ended up writing *Sea of Cortez* inspired from the marine life there. After writing and publishing twenty-nine books, he later died in New York City in 1968.

<http://www.biography.com/people/john-steinbeck-9493358>

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html

11. Dust Bowl

Daniel Joseph Lee (Section 4)

Dust bowl was a decade long drought during the 1930s in the southern plains of the United States. The combination of little rainfall, light soil, and high winds caused an agricultural devastation, forcing 2.5 million residents living in the area to move somewhere else. The

people who stayed in the area had to cover themselves in order to protect themselves from the ferocious dust and the farmers had to just watch their crops blow away. In addition, the dust choked and suffocated the cattle in the area. This famine helped lengthen the Great depression and also affected the economics around the whole world.

<http://www.history.com/topics/dust-bowl>

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/dustbowl.htm>

12. Dust Bowl

Nathan Cheung

The Dust Bowl, otherwise known as the Dirty Thirties, was a set of violent dust storms that caused agricultural and ecological damage to American and Canadian prairie lands. Studies show that the series of storms was caused by drought, and poor farming methods in dry lands that did not include wind-breaking trees to prevent wind erosion. The area that was generally affected the most by the dust storms was the Great Plains, located in the western side of the United States and Canada. Due to drought, failure to yield crops, and harmful dust storms, many families were forced to flee from their farms located in the Great Plains to neighboring states and start fresh.

<http://www.history.com/topics/dust-bowl>

<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1583.html>

13. John Steinbeck

Maddie Thies section 4

John Steinbeck: He was born in 1902 in Salinas, California and died in New York City in 1968. Through out his life time he published several novels and short stories. Some of his most famous works are Tortilla Flat (which he published in 1935), In Dubious Battle (published in 1936), Of Mice and Men (published in 1937), and The Long Valley (published in 1938). The Grapes of Wrath, published in 1939 was considered to be his best piece and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. As far as schooling, he went to Stanford University but didn't graduate. He was a manual laborer before he turned to writing as a job. During world war two he worked as a journalist. His most famous quote is "Give a critic an inch and he'll write a play."

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html

<http://www.biography.com/people/john-steinbeck-9493358>