

CONS OF THE NEW DEAL (NEGATIVES)



Size of the Federal Government:

Many people worried about the increased power of the Federal Government. Many business leaders complained that the government should not be able to tell them what to pay their workers and what to charge for their products. These Americans felt that the New Deal threatened their personal freedoms.

Cost: Another criticism of the New Deal was the enormous debt government was building up. During the New Deal, the government was spending much more on programs than it was taking in through taxes. The national debt (how much our government owes through loans and bonds) grew from about \$16 billion in 1930 to about \$39 billion in 1939.

Success?: Lastly, despite its vast spending and popularity, the New Deal didn't end the Great Depression. The New Deal programs, although costly to taxpayers, did not produce enough jobs or pay well enough to end the hard times.



PROS OF THE NEW DEAL (POSITIVES)



Immediate Help: Supporters of the New Deal felt that FDR's programs had saved our nation. First, they argued, the New Deal provided for the basic needs of the disadvantaged. The New Deal had ended the banking crisis, protected farmers, and provided food and a small wage for tens of millions of people.

Hope: The biggest criticism of Herbert Hoover was that he did not use the powers of the government to help the people. What FDR did by passing 15 new laws during the "100 Days" and explaining them through Fireside Chats was to restore people's faith and confidence in our government. Americans began to feel more confident in the economy, and this faith encouraged them to spend more money.

Freedom: Elsewhere in the world, people were turning to dictators to lead them out of hard times. Adolf Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy had created jobs by forming huge armies, limiting the freedom of their own people and causing war. FDR, on the other hand, created jobs by introducing building projects without becoming a dictator or taking us immediately to war.



Benito Mussolini (left), dictator of Italy stands to review troops with German dictator Adolf Hitler.