

About the Great Depression

The Great Confession about the Great Depression

Everyone knows that FDR's New Deal policies and programs pulled America out of the Great Depression. We know that because we've been told that all our lives.

The problem is, it is not true. No one proves that quite as succinctly as Henry Morgenthau, Jr. Henry was FDR's Treasury Secretary, one of the most powerful men in America, FDR's neighbor and confidant. He was a financial expert, and a fountain of statistics on the American economy during the 1930s.

Henry made this startling confession after working closely with FDR for almost two full terms. In May 1939 the depression was still persisting, and it was getting worse in some ways. Unemployment in April 1939 was still above 20%. This is what he said to his political allies on the House Ways and Means Committee.

We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work. And I have just one interest, and if I am wrong . . . somebody else can have my job. I want to see this country prosperous. I want to see people get a job. I want to see people get enough to eat. We have never made good on our promises . . . I say after eight years of this administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started . . . and an enormous debt to boot.

Depressing Facts about the Great Depression

They are especially depressing for democrats, because they contradict their cherished myth that FDR pulled the country out of the Great Depression.

- o Average unemployment for the year 1939 was higher than the average for 1931.
- o No depression or recession had ever lasted half as long as the Great Depression.

- o The stock market improved some in the mid-1930s, but it plummeted again later in the decade. Between 1937 and 1939 the value of all stocks declined by almost 50%.
- o Car sales plunged by 33% between 1937 and 1939. They were lower in 1939 than they had been from 1923 to 1929.
- o Business failures increased by 50% from 1937 to 1939. Patent applications for new inventions were lower in 1939 than they had been in any year of the 1920s.
- o The national debt mushroomed from \$16 billion in 1931 to more than \$40 billion by the end of the decade. The national debt grew more from 1932 to 1939 than it had in the previous 150 years. If someone arranged to deposit \$100 per minute in a bank account starting the day Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, there still would not be enough in that account by 1939 to pay the national debt acquired during the 1930s alone.
- o Suicides increased in 1929 and 1930, and they remained high throughout the 1930s.
- o During the 1920s the nation's population increased by 16%. During the 1930s the birth rate dropped, and population increased by only 7%.
- o The life expectancy of Americans rose steadily from 1900 to 1933, and from 1940 to the end of the century. Only during FDR's New Deal years did life expectancy decline. Most nations of Europe fared better during the Depression than the US did.