

Chapter 12 – Section 3



SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE DEPRESSION



Reality of Life in 1931/1932



- **Lost your job**
- **Money in bank is gone**
- **Can't pay rent or mortgage** so out on the street
- **Kids had to quit school** to help support family
- **Poor were hit the hardest**



Hoovervilles



- Those at the bottom who had no place to go moved in with relatives or drifted
- **Built shanty towns with cardboard or scrap metal**
- **Called “Hoovervilles” to mock the President, whom people blamed for the crisis**



Hooverville



Farmers



- Low farm prices so **couldn't pay mortgage**
- **Banks took their land** or foreclosed on farms



The Dust Bowl



- **Region of the Great Plains where drought and dust storms took place for much of the 1930's**
- Added to the already harsh conditions of the Depression



What did Dust Bowl families do?



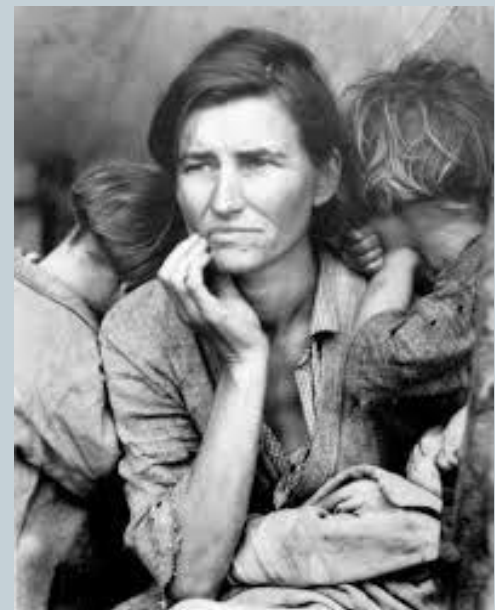
- **Left Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas** to go to find work on farms in California



Dorothea Lange



- **Photographer** whose **pictures** showed the **desperation and courage of the families** trying to feed their hungry children and babies
- **Got the public to demand the Govt. take action to help**



Psychological Effect on the Nation



- **Caused great anxiety** about losing your job
- Many became **depressed** and even **committed suicide**



Effect on people's health



- Those who couldn't afford food or shelter **got sick more easily, especially children**
- **Poor diet and no medical care**



How did people in the countryside survive? The city?



- **Grew food and ate berries** and other wild plants
- **In city sold apples**, pencils, etc.
- **Begged for food**
- **Fought over scraps** in restaurant garbage cans



Other stressors



- **As families moved in together crowded houses/apartments**
- **Had to give up even little pleasures like ice cream or movies**



How did many men feel? Why?



- **Like failures**
- **Couldn't provide for their families**
- **Ashamed** of being home during normal work hours
- **Didn't want to ask friends for help**



What happened to those women who had jobs?



- **Accused of taking jobs away from men**
- Would not hire married women and **fired if you got married**



Increased Discrimination



- Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians **lost low-paying jobs** (that whites usually didn't want)
- **Relief programs** (bread lines, etc.) **didn't help minorities**
- **56% blacks unemployed compared to 25% whites**
- **Worse in South** - lynchings increased



The Scottsboro Boys



- **Group of 9 black youth** riding the rails in Scottsboro, Alabama
- **Quickly convicted of raping 2 white women on the train and sentenced to die before they could even get a defense lawyer**



Depression mentality



- Those living during this time **learned not to waste anything**
- **If it's still usable you don't get rid of it and only spend what you absolutely must**



Homework essay



- Write a 1/2 - 1 page narrative telling your tale as a person trying to survive the Depression. Be sure to include at least 5 facts (numbered!) from the notes.

