

## Why was FDR viewed as successfully handling/managing the Depression while Hoover was not?

### I. Introduction

- A. **What question?** – Once elected in 1928, Herbert Hoover did little for America. After the crash, Hoover's attitude was merely that "the ship will right itself. . ." – obviously not. Like current Presidents, FDR came into office with plans for new programs that could possibly heal a wounded nation.
- B. **What do you think?** – While he understood that many would fail, FDR actually instituted new programs and therefore successfully "handled" the Depression. FDR was successful by instituting the New Deal, identifying the causes and problems of the Depression and US economy, and by thoroughly transforming the American perception of government and the President as a leader.

### II. Supporting reason one – In FDR's campaign he promised the American people a bold New Deal. Even though the people, not FDR knew the details of this "New Deal," they were encouraged that ANY initiatives were being taken. Hoover had simply tried to ride out the crash, and FDR's New Deal therefore tremendously appealed to the people.

#### A. Supporting facts/examples/details

1. The CCC employed many young men and transformed the American landscape (Myakka cabins).
2. FDR cured the banking problem and took the US off the gold standard.
3. The PWA provided more jobs and the construction of public buildings and programs such as the SEC and NIRA regulated corrupt American business.

- B. **Transition out** – Simply, FDR took action and instituted new programs in the first 100 days – such initiative easily surpassed Hoover's failure and made FDR appear successful.

### III. Supporting reason two – While Hoover assumed the Depression was a natural turn in US business, FDR attempted to identify the real causes of the crash. Indeed the crash was not a natural event, but instead a buildup of issues that started in the 1920s. FDR sought to identify and reform these problems – one of his "3 Rs."

#### A. Supporting facts/examples/details

1. During the Bank Holiday, FDR investigated weak areas of the banks.
2. After uncovering corruption in the Stock Market, he instituted the Federal Securities Act to prohibit companies from giving false information to investors and insider trading.
3. The SEC further helped rectify corruption of American business and potentially prevent another disaster.

- B. **Transition out** – By identifying the underlying causes of the Depression, FDR's reform programs were successful. Hoover instead increased tariffs and blamed the Europeans instead of focusing domestically like FDR.

### IV. Supporting reason three – FDR's presidency forever altered American perception of government and the President. By doing so positively, he was also viewed as successfully handling the Depression. In the first 100 Days, Americans were shocked by the number of programs that FDR pushed through Congress. The American people required trust in the government and in Roosevelt. The previous three Republican presidents believed in rugged individualism and strictly prohibited the government's involvement with American citizens. FDR altered this.

#### A. Supporting facts/examples/details

1. While Hoover refused to give jobs and money to American people, FDR adopted Keynes's philosophy of providing money to those who will spend it.
2. FDR allowed government to get involved (note the AAA, CCC, PWA, and Social Security).
3. The American people now believed the government was there for their benefit and as President, FDR had led the country.

- B. **Transition out** – He provided reason and the American people needed a strong personality to embody. Hoover did just the opposite and gained little American acclaim, therefor proving that FDR (in the people's view) more successfully managed the Depression.

V. **Dissent** – While FDR took action and Hoover did the opposite, it is hard to blame Hoover for the situation he was placed in.

**A. Supporting facts/examples**

1. At the time, current economic theories indicated the crash was inevitable and things would right themselves naturally.
2. He attempted to lower income taxes and encourage volunteerism to aid the process; however, economic theories of the time were incorrect.
3. Hoover therefore took all the blame and his image suffered respectively.

VI. **Conclusion** – George Bush told the American people that he had ideas, new programs, and a plan to move forward. FDR told the people the same thing and successfully followed through. After Hoover sat back and waited, FDR instituted a myriad of New Deal programs that connected government with the people. FDR took action, he identified problems and created programs of reform, and he positively altered the American perception of government. FDR knew that many of his programs would not work, and while Bush might not yet have realized this, it's the thought that counts. . . .