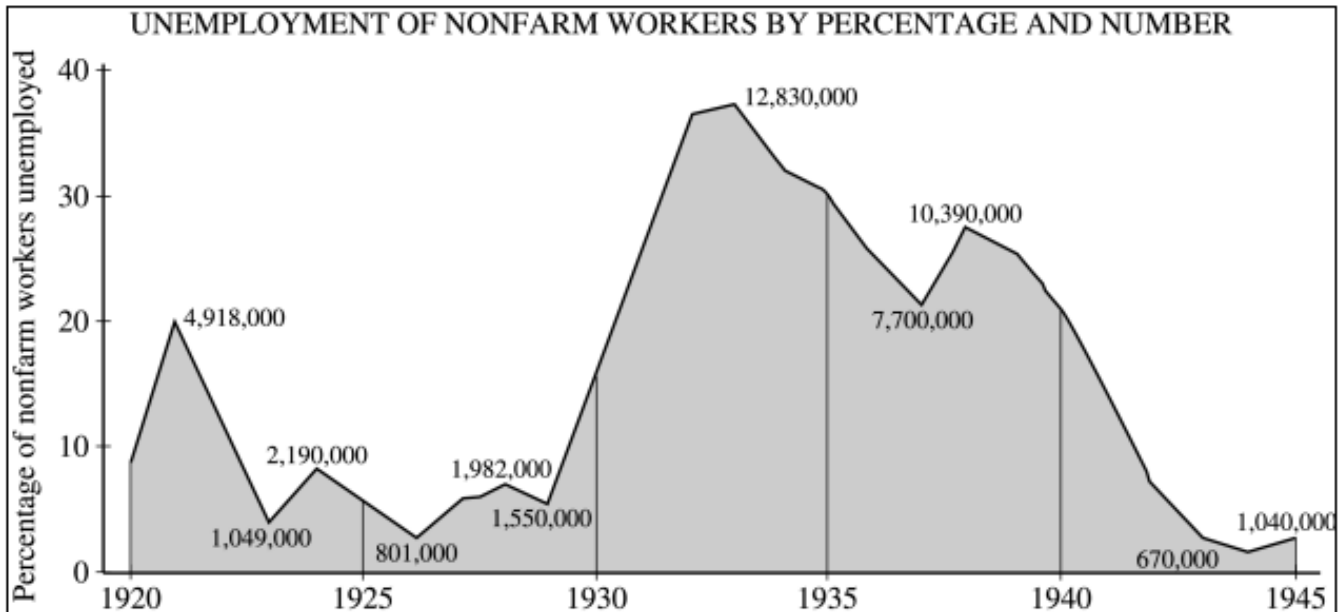


1. Analyze the ways in which the Great Depression and the New Deal altered the American social fabric in the 1930's.

#### Document A



#### Document B

“... Values have shrunken to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone...”

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely ... It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself ... but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.

Hand in hand with this, we must ... endeavor to provide a better use of the land for those best fitted for the land. The task can be helped by definite efforts to raise the values of agricultural products and with this the power to purchase the output of our cities. It can be helped by preventing realistically the tragedy of the growing loss through foreclosure of our small homes and our farms.

Finally, in our progress toward a resumption of work we require two safeguards against a return of the evils of the old order; there must be a strict supervision of all banking and credits and investments; there must be an end to speculation with other people's money, and there must be provision for an adequate but sound currency.”

**-Franklin D. Roosevelt, *First Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1933**

### Document C

My father walked the streets everyday. . . . My mother went to work. I even worked, playing the piano for dancing class on Saturday mornings for fifty cents an hour. My mother would find a few pennies and we would go to the greengrocer and wait until he threw out the stuff that was beginning to rot. We would pick out the best rotted potato and greens and carrots that were already soft. Then we would go to the butcher and beg a marrow bone. And then with the few pennies we would buy a box of barley, and we'd have soup to last us for three or four days. I remember she would say to me sometimes, 'You go out and do it. I'm ashamed.

**Source:** Clara Hancox, 11 years old when the Great Depression

### Document D

Those families who had lived on a little piece of land, who had lived and died on forty acres, had eaten or starved on the produce of forty acres, had now the whole West to rove in. And they scampered about, looking for work; and the highways were streams of people, and the ditch banks were lines of people. . . . The great highways streamed with moving people. . . .

And this was good, for wages went down and prices stayed up. The great owners were glad. . . . And wages went down and prices stayed up. And pretty soon now we'll have serfs again. . . .

And the little farmers . . . lost their farms, and they were taken by the great owners, the banks, and the companies.

. . . As time went on, there were fewer farms. The little farmers moved into town for a while and exhausted their credit, exhausted their friends, their relatives. And then they too were on the highways. And the roads were crowded with men ravenous for work, murderous for work.

And the companies, the banks worked at their own doom and they did not know it. The fields were fruitful, and starving men moved on the roads. . . .

The great companies did not know that the line between hunger and anger is a thin line. . . . On the highways the people moved like ants and searched for work, for food. And the anger began to ferment.

**Source:** The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

### Document E

"Talking Dust Bowl."

"Back in nineteen twenty-seven  
I had a little farm and I called that heaven,  
Well, the price was up and the rain came down  
And I hauled my crops all in to town. . . .  
Rain quit and the wind got high,  
And a black old dust storm filled the sky,  
And I swapped my farm for a Ford machine  
And I poured it full of this gasoline. . . .  
We got out to the West Coast broke,  
So dad gum hungry I thought I'd croak,  
And I bummed up a spud or two,  
And my wife fixed up a 'tater stew."

**Source:** Woody Guthrie, 1940

## Document F

Source: Meridel Lesueur, *New Masses*, January 1932.

It's one of the great mysteries of the city where women go when they are out of work and hungry. There are not many women in the bread line. There are no flop houses for women as there are for men, where a bed can be had for a quarter or less. You don't see women lying on the floor of the mission in the free flops. They obviously don't sleep . . . under newspapers in the park. There is no law I suppose against their being in these places but the fact is they rarely are.

Yet there must be as many women out of jobs in cities and suffering extreme poverty as there are men. What happens to them?

## Document G

Source: Print and Photograph Division, Library of Congress, 1935.

*A monthly check to you -*

FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE . . . BEGINNING WHEN YOU ARE 65

GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER promptly

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED AT ALL WORK PLACES

Your monthly Social Security check

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE** - EVERYBODY WORKING FOR SALARY OR WAGES (WITH ONLY A FEW EXCEPTIONS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND GOVERNMENT WORK). APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH EMPLOYERS. IF YOU DO NOT GET ONE FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, ASK FOR ONE AT THE POST OFFICE.

**HOW TO RETURN APPLICATION**

1. HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR EMPLOYER
2. HAVE IT GO ANY LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
3. HAVE IT GO TO THE LOCAL POST OFFICE
4. HAVE IT RETURNED TO THE POST OFFICE OF YOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Social Security Board*

**INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT ANY POST OFFICE**

## Document H

Source: NBC radio broadcast, John L. Lewis, December 13, 1936.

It is the refusal of employers to grant such reasonable conditions and to deal with their employees through collective bargaining that leads to widespread labor unrest. The strikes which have broken out . . . especially in the automobile industry, are due to such "employee trouble."

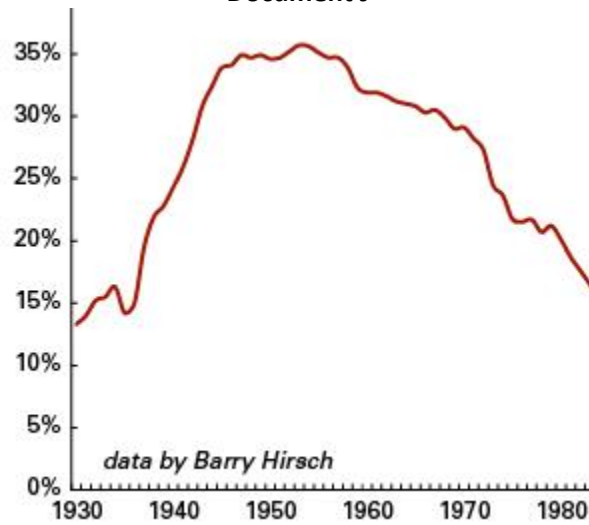
Huge corporations, such as United States Steel and General Motors . . . have no right to transgress the law which gives to the workers the right of self-organization and collective bargaining.

## Document I



Source: *The Evening Star* (Washington D.C.), April 26, 1934.

Document J



Private Sector Union Membership 1930 to 1980

Document K



Source: Swing Time (1936), movie poster

**Arnold, Schwinn & Co.**  
*Introduces*  
**The Streamline Aerocycle**



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FRAME—BUILT LIKE  
AN AEROPLANE FUSELAGE

Another basic and radical im-  
provement—in strength, beauty,  
and modern streamlined  
appearance.

It's a greater sales stimulator  
than the revolutionary balloon  
tire introduced last year by  
this leader of the industry.

WRITE AT ONCE FOR  
THE NAME OF YOUR  
NEAREST JOBBER

ARNOLD, SCHWINN & CO.  
1718 NORTH KILDARE AVENUE, CHICAGO  
7 EAST 17th STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Source: Arnold, Schwinn and Co. Advertisement, 1934