Virginia State History -- 20th Century (1921 to 1940)

GDP 1920–1940

The Roaring ’20s

The Great Depression ’30s
1921 Benton MacKaye envisioned an Appalachian Trail running along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains from Springer Mt., Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine (2,015 miles) – 25% of the envisioned Trail is in Virginia

1923-1931 National HQ of the Pepsi-cola Company was housed in Richmond, VA

1925 Harry Flood Byrd of Winchester, VA was Governor until 1930 and went to the US Senate from Virginia in 1933
1925 Richmond’s First Radio Station (WRVA) went on the air

1926 Richard E. Byrd of Winchester, VA and Floyd Bennett became the 1st men to fly over the North Pole

1927 Charles Lindbergh makes 1st flight across the Atlantic (NY to Paris); Adm. Byrd becomes 3rd to make the flight
1927 A. P. Carter, his wife and sister of SW Virginia recorded their first record for Victor Records (i.e., “Wildwood Flower”)

1929 Richard E. Byrd of Winchester, VA and 3 companions became the 1st men to fly over the South Pole
1929 Wall Street “Crash” in October signaled the end of the “Roaring 20s” and the start of the “Great Depression”

1930 Massive, violent textile workers strike in Danville began when 4,000 workers were laid off in Sept. (it ended in Jan. of 1931 after the VA National Guard was called in)

1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt (a Democrat) was elected President of the United States

1933 Prohibition Ends in America by passage of the 21st Amendment to the US Constitution
1934 Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is formed

1936 Shenandoah National Park was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the Big Meadows, Skyline Drive, VA

1937 John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers and Founder of the CIO, moved to Alexandria, VA

1938 Pearl S. Buck, a 1914 graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
1939 The WPA completed work on the Norfolk Botanical Gardens which converted 120 ac of marshland into the “Gardens”

1940 FDR gave his “hand that held the dagger” Speech at Univ. of Virginia Commencement (June 1940)

1919-1940 Prelude to WWII (Development of Axis Powers: Italy, Germany, and Japan)
Appalachian Trail

Central VA

South-western VA
Benton MacKaye (which rhymes with "sky") sometimes claimed that the idea for the A.T. was born one day when he was sitting in a tree atop Stratton Mountain in Vermont. But, after graduating from Harvard, he eventually went to work in the new U.S. Forest Service and began carving out a niche as a profound thinker and an advocate for wilderness.

His initial 1921 "project in regional planning" was a proposal for a network of work camps and communities in the mountains, all linked by a trail that ran from the highest point in New England to the highest point in the South.

He called it the Appalachian Trail.
“Appalachian Trail” (1921) painting by Rakeman
One-fourth of the Appalachian Trail lies in Virginia. It varies from easy hiking to very difficult rock scrambling, from busy national parks to isolated wilderness areas.

In northern Virginia, the A.T. follows a long, low ridge, including a notoriously strenuous “rollercoaster” section south of Snickers Gap.

Shenandoah National Park, with 104 miles of well-graded and well-maintained Trail and climbs rarely exceeding 500 or 1,000 feet, is excellent for beginning hikers and is noted for its many vistas and abundant wildlife.

South of Shenandoah, the A.T. parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway. The farther south it goes, the more difficult the hiking becomes; the tread-way is well-graded, but includes a number of 2,000- and 3,000-foot climbs.

Throughout the Mt. Rogers region in southwest Virginia, where the Trail moves into the southern Appalachians, the floral displays of rhododendron and azalea in June and July are outstanding. The state’s highest mountain, Mt. Rogers, an area of spectacular highland meadows, routinely receives snowfall from October to May, making it considerably colder, wetter, and snowier than other areas of Virginia.
Clockwise from top left: Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, VA; McAfee Knob, VA; Phacelia bordering the Appalachian Trail on Whitetop Mountain, VA; Crossing the Shenandoah River Bridge near Harper’s Ferry, WV
“Barnstorming” Provided Public Amusement with Airplanes Across America after WWI (With Little Regard for Safety)
Harry Flood Byrd Sr. (1887-1966) was the most powerful political leader in twentieth-century Virginia. He served as governor from 1926 to 1930 and as a United States senator from 1933 to 1965.

Byrd's political organization and pay-as-you-go philosophy kept taxes and public spending low in order to make Virginia attractive to business and industrial investors; but as a consequence, road construction and support for public education and public health programs remained below national standards. For three decades, Byrd's political allies dominated politics in the state.

The Byrd organization collapsed following his death and the disastrous attempt by means of Massive Resistance to obstruct federal court orders in the 1950s and 1960s that were issued in order to desegregate the state's public schools.

His son, H.F. Byrd, Jr. was also a US Senator from Virginia. His brother Richard explored the poles.
Richmond, VA entered the broadcasting era in late 1925 when WRVA, originally known as the “Edgeworth Tobacco Station” and owned by Larus & Brothers, went on the air.

The white ballad singers and black gospel quartets that were popular on the radio at the time were often urban and sometimes even professional men. At the time, Richmond was particularly self-conscious about its southern roots, and such music was seen as culturally inferior.
The “Voice of Virginia” (WRVA) Radio Station Building in Richmond, VA
Richard E. Byrd – 1st to Fly over the North Pole (with Floyd Bennett in an F-VII Tri-motor airplane named the “Josephine Ford”)

Capt. Richard E. Byrd posing on the Fokker Tri-motor plane (at right) in which he made his historic flight to the North Pole and back (1926).
Competition for the Orteig Prize

**LINDBERGH**, then a 25-year old U.S. Air Mail pilot, emerged from virtual obscurity to almost instantaneous world fame as the result of his Orteig Prize-winning *First* solo non-stop flight in the “Spirit of St. Louis” on May 20–21, 1927, from Roosevelt Field located in Garden City on New York’s Long Island to Le Bourget Field in Paris, France, a distance of nearly 3,600 statute miles,

*Byrd’s Fokker VII Tri-Motor*

Clarence D. Chamberlin and Arctic explorer CDR (later RADM) Richard E. Byrd (of Virginia) were also in the race for the Prize.

Although they did not win, **CHAMBERLIN** made the *Second* successful nonstop flight from Roosevelt Field on June 4, 1927, two weeks after Lindbergh’s flight and landing in Eisleben, Germany near Berlin 43 hours and 31 minutes later on June 6, 1927.

**BYRD** followed suit making the *Third* nonstop flight in the Fokker F.VII tri-motor, “America,” from Roosevelt Field on June 29, 1927. Although he reached Paris on July 1, 1927, Byrd was unable to land there because of weather and was forced to ditch the tri-motor near the French village of Ver-sur-Mer.
Captain Charles Lindbergh stands beside his Ryan monoplane, the “Spirit of St. Louis”, after taking a test flight on May 14, 1927 in preparation for his solo attempt from New York to Paris.
In 1922, Amelia Earhart had set a new world altitude record for women. She did not, however, have any experience in flying over long distances and she had never piloted a multi-engine aircraft. Amy Guest sponsored a flight across the Atlantic and hired a crew: Wilmer Stulz as captain and Louis Edward Gordon as co-pilot and flight engineer. As a number of earlier attempts to fly the Atlantic had ended prematurely and fatally, the Guest family had the standard undercarriage on their Fokker Tri-motor replaced by a pair of floats. Amy’s flight departed from Trespassy, New Foundland on 17 June 1928. Friendship landed in a bog and the crew was surprised to find that the nearest place was Port Burry near Llanelli in Wales.
Fairchild aircraft Adm. Richard E. Byrd and 3 companions flew over the South Pole and used to map Antarctica in 1929 (i.e., called the “Stars and Stripes”)

Carter Family Singers

The Carter Family -- regarded as the “First Family of Country Music” -- were singers of great songs in the bluegrass style such as “Can the Circle Be Unbroken”. Their extended clan eventually grew to include the late great Johnny Cash.

Their discovery came in 1927, when A.P., Sara, and Maybelle Carter drove from their home in Maces Spring, Virginia to an open call for musicians in Bristol, Tennessee by record company producer Ralph Peer.

From Scott County, Virginia, the original group consisted of Alvin Pleasant Carter (A.P.) who played fiddle, sang bass, and wrote and collected songs. His wife, Sara Doughterty Carter, who played auto harp and sang alto lead, and Maybelle Addington Carter, sister-in-law of A.P. and Sara, on guitar and singing harmony. Their first hits included: "Keep On The Sunny Side," "Wildwood Flower," and "Single Girl, Married Girl."
“The Roaring Twenties” is a phrase used to describe the 1920s, principally in North America but also in London, Paris and Berlin. The phrase was meant to emphasize the period's social, artistic, and cultural dynamism. 'Normalcy' returned to politics in the wake of World War I, jazz music blossomed, the “flapper” redefined modern womanhood, Art Deco peaked, and finally, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 served to punctuate the end of the era, as The Great Depression set in.

The era was further distinguished by several inventions and discoveries of far-reaching importance, unprecedented industrial growth, accelerated consumer demand and aspirations, and significant changes in lifestyle.
Jazz Music came Up from New Orleans to the rest of the US

Jazz moved from its birthplace in New Orleans up the river to Chicago, Kansas City, and New York – then, across the country. Jazz greats included such artists as: King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Kid Ory, and Duke Ellington. Jazz music influenced all aspects of society including: poetry, fashion, and industry.
The term “flappers” in the 1920s referred to a "new breed" of young women who wore short skirts or sexy dresses, bobbed their hair, listened to jazz, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered acceptable behavior. Flappers were seen as brash for wearing excessive makeup, drinking, treating sex in a casual manner, smoking, driving automobiles and otherwise flouting social and sexual norms.

Silent Screen Actress Norma Talmadge, a prototypical “flapper” of the Roaring ’20s.
“The Jazz Singer” was the first film (1927) to use spoken dialogue. It was the first full-length talking movie, and it was the first widely-seen, popular movie with words. Even then, most of “The Jazz Singer” was vocal musical numbers. The first non-musical talkie came the next year in 1928: “Lights of New York.”

Charlie Chaplin (shown above as the “Little Tramp”) was a favorite star of the Silent Screen in the 1920s and ’30s.

Warner Brothers used the new Vitaphone system to make the Jazz Singer. With this system, the soundtrack was not printed on the actual film as it would be later, but came separately on phonograph records that were played while the film was being projected.
Showing 1923 Paramount Film
“To the Last Man” Directed by Victor Fleming (Novel by Zane Grey)
In 1928, film began a bold new journey. The idea was that everything about a picture could be exactly as the director intended it to be. And, the big push was toward “animation” with the first sound appearance of “Mickey Mouse” in Walt Disney’s “Steamboat Willie.”

[This was the first time Mickey appeared with synchronized sound — that is, with sound on an actual recorded track wedded to the action on the screen]
The Byrd Theater in Richmond

GRAND OPENING: December 24, 1928
FIRST PICTURE: “Waterfront”
ADMISSION: Adults: $.25 Children: $.10
"It Happened One Night" (1934) - This screwball comedy about a runaway heiress and a newspaper reporter on the road from Florida to New York won all five major Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director for Frank Capara, Best Actor for Clark Gable and Best Actress for Claudette Colbert.

"King Kong" (1933) - Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack directed the legendary story about a monster gorilla discovered on a remote island and brought to New York against his will. Fay Wray, Robert Armstrong and Bruce Cabot co-starred.
Top 10 Films of the 1930s (by Yr):

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930)
City Lights (1931)
M Fritz Lang (1931)
King Kong (1933)
Modern Times (1936)

Grand Illusion (1937)
Gone With the Wind (1939)
The Wizard of Oz (1939) (Top)
The Rules of the Game (1939)
Mr. Smith Goes to Wash (1939) (Bottom Right)
ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

GONE WITH THE WIND

WINNER OF 2 ACADEMY AWARDS® - 1930
BEST PICTURE & BEST DIRECTOR

WINNER OF 10 ACADEMY AWARDS®
INCLUDING 1939
BEST PICTURE

DAVID O. SELZNICK'S PRODUCTION OF MARGARET MITCHELL'S
Cool Cars – Bad Roads

There were "hundreds of thousands" of Fords and Chevys on the roads in the 1920's, and even low wage earners could afford them.

“Chevy” at left
1935 Duisenberg Model SJ Supercharged Roadster (very expensive)
Art Deco is a decorative and architectural style of the period 1925-1940, characterized by geometric design, bold colors, and the use of plastic and glass.

[In French, “Art Deco” is from the “Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industries Modernes”, a 1925 exposition in Paris, France.

(above) Art Deco poster of the ’20s by M. Montedoro (left) The Chrysler building in New York City was completed in 1930 in the Art Deco style
Smith's image of the Central National Bank building, 219 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA was on the cover of the Jan. 1929 issue of the Richmond Magazine.

The building was built in 1929 and known for decades to Richmonders as the Central Fidelity Bank building. At 22 stories, it was the tallest building in the city for decades. The building was Richmond’s only Art Deco skyscraper and was designed by John Eberson (1875-1964), a noted New York architect best known for his design of movie theaters. Local architects Carneal and Johnson shared in the work and design of the building. The large neon sign that stood on the top of the building changed colors according to the weather forecast for the next day.
Richmond was Pepsi HQ

The April 1929 issue of the Richmond Magazine featured the work of Charles W. Smith (1893-1987). The image at right is that of the headquarters of the National Pepsi-Cola Corporation at 1224 W. Broad Street in Richmond, VA. The 1920s era building housed the fledgling Pepsi-Cola company from 1923 until 1931. (Pepsi-cola logo below)
Alcohol Prohibition in the ’20s and ’30s (i.e., 1920 – 1933)

In the United States, there was an attempt from 1920 to 1933 to eliminate the consumption of alcoholic beverages through national prohibition of their manufacture and sale. This period became known as the “prohibition era”. During this period the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States made manufacture, sale and transportation of alcoholic beverages illegal throughout the United States. However, this project led to the unintended consequences of causing widespread disrespect for the law as many people sought alcoholic beverages from illegal sources, and of creating a lucrative business for illegal purveyors of alcohol (bootleggers), which led to the development of organized crime.

Prohibition became widely unpopular, leading to repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933. Prior to national prohibition, beginning in the late 19th century, many states and localities had enacted prohibition within their jurisdictions, and following repeal of the 18th Amendment, some communities in the United States (known as dry counties) still ban alcohol sales.

In Virginia, sales of alcoholic beverages were prohibited in 1916; and, since 1934, alcohol is only available in Virginia from government-owned or licensed Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) stores.
Crime in the ’20s & ’30s

One of the main gangsters of this era was **Al Capone** (top right). He got the nickname "Scarface" from facial scars he got in a bar fight.

In 1925, Capone became the “Boss” of the mob in Chicago when Torrio, the leader of the gang, surrendered control and retired.

Capone worked against the eighteenth amendment by selling alcohol in “speak easies” (illegal bars -- bottom right). This crime, along with many others, resulted in his serving over twenty years in Alcatraz prison for “tax evasion”.
In the Roaring 1920s, state police forces were being formed in several states to protect rural areas from lawlessness and to enforce Prohibition. The motorized vehicle of choice on rutted rural roads was the motorcycle. By 1920, Harley-Davidson was the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world. As mass production increased the numbers of cars and motorcycles on the road, and most speed limits were not enforced, highway fatalities skyrocketed. Being faster and more maneuverable than most cars on the road, Harley-Davidson motorcycles gave police the upper hand against speeders. By the end of the 1920s, more than 3,000 police departments and government agencies in America used Harley-Davidson motorcycles.
FBI’s Most-Wanted List of Criminals

Bank Robber/Murderer

JOHN HERBERT DILLINGER

WANTED

$10,000.00
$5,000.00

Outside Theater where John Dillinger was Killed by FBI Agents

Melvin Purvis, Chief FBI Chicago Office (Left) and FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover (Rt)

Purvis was thought to be responsible for the apprehension (and deaths) not only of John Herbert Dillinger, but of Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd and George "Baby Face" Nelson.
Herbert Clark Hoover (August 10, 1874 – October 20, 1964) was the 31st President of the United States (1929–1933).

Hoover was a professional mining engineer and author. As the United States Secretary of Commerce in the 1920s under Presidents Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge, he promoted government intervention under the guise of "economic modernization". In the presidential election of 1928, Hoover easily won the Republican nomination, despite having no previous elected office experience.

The nation was prosperous and optimistic at the time giving Hoover a landslide victory over Democrat Al Smith; but, during his term of office, everything changed for the worse.

Hoover’s “Brown House” retreat that he built at Camp Rapidan was in the Shenandoah National Park on the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia (Madison County, VA)

Hoover (an avid fly fisherman)
The Wall Street Crash of 1929 (October 1929), also known as the “Great Crash”, and the “Stock Market Crash of 1929”, was the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States -- taking into consideration the full extent and duration of its fallout. The crash began a 10-year economic slump (1929-1939) that affected all the Western industrialized countries.
Black Thursday (October 24, 1929) began the Crash which hit an all time record of sales on Black Tuesday the 29th of October when about 16 million shares were traded at a loss of over $14 Billion in value (i.e., down $30 Billion for the week).

Boom and Bust

The New York Stock Market crash was front-page news in Richmond the day after what is now known as Black Thursday, when the booming stock market of the late 1920s came to an end. On the morning of Thursday October 24, panicked investors flooded the market with stock, greatly reducing prices. Even though the market had begun recovering by that afternoon and continued generally upward on Friday and Saturday, the subsequent sellouts and dwindling prices on the following Monday and Tuesday heralded the Great Stock Market Crash that most historians pinpoint as the beginning of the Great Depression.
Loss from 340 to 200 = 47% Down in the month of October 1929

Gain from 230 to 380 = 39% Up in year from Oct. 1928 to Oct. 1929

Wall Street Crash on the Dow Jones Industrial Average, 1929

Boom Times

Bust Times
On Black Tuesday the 29th of Oct. 1929, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 38 points to 260, a drop of 12.8%. The deluge of selling overwhelmed the ticker tape system (at right) that normally gave investors the current prices of their shares.

With sputtering ups and downs, the American stock market was on a steady down-ward slide from Oct. 1929 to July 8, 1932 with a record shattering 89% decline from its peak.
People Out of Work – Soup Kitchens

Newport News, Virginia
Salvation Army Soup Kitchen
Danville Textile Strike (1930)
Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills (right) Inc. (i.e., Dan River Mills).

Success and growth continued in the early 1900s as the company turned out sheetings, gingham, and chambrays, but expansion ceased in the mid-1920s when difficult times hit the textile industry. Riverside and Dan River reported a loss for the first time in history in 1924, and the company struggled through the Great Depression of the 1930s with no growth.

Seeking higher wages and more autonomy, large numbers of Dan River workers joined the United Textile Workers of America in the late 1920s, eventually protesting (below right) over several months and finally walking out on strike over massive layoffs on September 29, 1930.

The dispute generated a considerable amount of violence and bitterness, especially as some strikers were evicted from their company-owned houses. After four months and intervention of the State Militia, the strikers returned to work, partly because of strike breakers and the union running out of money to help feed them.
The “Dust Bowl” Disaster

The catastrophe of The Great Depression was compounded by drought and then massive soil erosion in the mid-west. This new disaster became known as the “Dust Bowl.”

Most of the affected area usually averaged about twenty inches of rain per year, barely enough to sustain agriculture. But, in the early thirties, rainfall dropped by almost a third. Crop yields fell by up to seventy five percent; and, since the price of most farm commodities had already fallen as a result of the depression, net farm income was reduced to almost nothing.

Devastated, Dust Bowl farmers packed up everything they had and migrated to the West (e.g., to California).
By the end of his term, President Hoover, a Republican, tried to use the federal government to help those in need. But, by then, it seemed too late for limited measures, and his credibility was shattered. As his challenger, the Democrats nominated New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt (i.e., FDR) a wealthy American aristocrat and cousin of former President Theodore Roosevelt.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 – April 12, 1945) was elected as the 32nd President of the United States and became a central figure in world events during the mid-20th century, leading the United States during a time of worldwide economic crisis and world war.
Roosevelt’s platform called for:

- unemployment assistance,
- old-age pensions under state laws,
- legislation to protect labor,
- assistance for farmers,
- development of power plants,
- repeal of Prohibition, and a
- balanced budget.

Roosevelt promised a "New Deal" for the American people and this became the slogan for FDR's campaign and, later, his administration.

Roosevelt won the 1932 election in a landslide with 22.8 million votes to Hoover's 15.7 million.

Roosevelt won 42 states to Hoover's 6.
With majorities in both houses of Congress, FDR had strong support for legislation to implement his “platform” (i.e., the New Deal).

FDR’s progress on the economic issues (i.e., dealing with the Great Depression) is shown on the GDP graph (at left).

FDR took office at the bottom of the Great Depression and had worked through these economic problems by the time WWII started in 1941.
The “Alphabet” Agencies Established in FDR’s Administration

RRR. Briefly stated, the New Deal sought relief for the needy, economic recovery, and reform of American capitalism.

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT (Recovery)
Created in 1933, AAA paid farmers for not planting crops in order to reduce surpluses, increase demand for seven major farm commodities, and raise prices

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (Relief)
Created in 1933, the CCC took unmarried men aged 18-25 from relief rolls and sent them into the woods and fields to plant trees, build parks, roads, and fight soil erosion on federal lands.

CIVIL WORKS ADMINISTRATION (Relief)
Created in 1933, the CWA employed four million people--paid an average of $15 a week--many in useful construction jobs such as repairing schools, laying sewer pipes, building roads.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT (Reform)
The last major piece of New Deal legislation (1938), this important labor law set minimum wage and maximum hour standards (establishing the 40-hour work week).

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (Relief)
The FSA was created in 1937 (formerly called the Resettlement Administration in 1935) to aid sharecroppers.
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP. (Reform)
To restore confidence in banks and encourage savings, Congress created the FDIC to
insure bank customers against loss of their deposits if their bank should fail.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMIN. (Relief)
Created in 1933, FERA supported nearly five million households each month and funded
thousands of work projects for the unemployed.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION (Recovery)
The FHA was created in 1934 to stimulate the building industry by providing small loans
for home construction

INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT (Reform)
The Indian Removal Act of 1934 (called the "Indian New Deal") reversed the forced
assimilation policies in effect since the Dawes Act of 1887.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT (Reform)
The NLRA (also called the Wagner Act) of 1935 created the National Labor Relations Board
to protect the rights or organized labor

NATIONAL RECOVERY ADMINISTRATION (Recovery)
The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 created the NRA to promote economic
recovery by ending wage and price deflation and restoring competition.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION (Relief)
Created under the Emergency Relief Act of 1935, the NYA provided more than 4.5 million
jobs for young people.
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION (Relief/Recovery)
Established by the NIRA in 1933, the PWA was intended both for industrial recovery and unemployment relief. Eventually over $4 billion was spent on 34,000 construction projects.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION (Reform)
The REA (1935) gave low-cost loans to farm cooperatives to bring power into their communities.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Reform)
The SEC was created in 1934 to serve as a federal "watchdog" administrative agency to protect public and private investors from stock market fraud, deception and insider manipulation on Wall Street.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (Reform)
The Social Security Act of 1935 established the SSA to administer a national pension fund for retired persons, an unemployment insurance system, and public assistance programs for dependent mothers, children, and the physically disabled.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (Reform)
Perhaps the most ambitious undertaking of the New Deal, the TVA was a comprehensive federal agency created in 1933 for the economic development of the Tennessee River watershed.
The **NRA or National Recovery Act of 1933** was one of the many bills established under FDR and the New Deal. Its goal was to reduce the maximum amount of workable hours. This was done in an attempt to increase the employment rate.

Also, one goal of NRA was to bring the prices of goods down. The only problem was that this gave the President rights to regulate interstate commerce. This right was originally a Constitutional right of Congress. The NRA, while effective, was considered an act which brought America closer to socialism by giving unconstitutional powers to the President.

Two years after its establishment, the Supreme Court unanimously declared the **NRA unconstitutional** in the case of Schechter Poultry Corporation Vs United States.
Beginning in 1933, the CCC took unmarried men aged 18-25 from relief rolls and sent them into the woods and fields to plant trees, build parks, roads, and fight soil erosion on federal lands.
FDR visits CCC Camp Roosevelt Aug. 12, 1933 at Big Meadows, Skyline Drive, VA
Between May 15, 1933 and July 15, 1942, ten Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were established within, or on leased land adjacent to Shenandoah National Park.

During that time, more than 10,000 boys and young men lived in camps supervised by the Army and worked on projects directed by the Service and the Bureau of Public Roads.

Shenandoah National Park was dedicated on July 3, 1936 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the Big Meadows area to a crowd of thousands.
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Relief)

Established under the $4.8 billion Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, the WPA lasted until 1943 and employed at least 8.5 million people at an average of $2 a day.

The WPA built thousands of roads (1936 Highway construction top right), bridges (bottom right – a 1939 masterpiece), schools, post offices and other public construction projects. In addition, under the WPA's Arts Program, thousands of unemployed writers, musicians, artists, actors, and photographers temporarily went on the federal payroll, producing public projects ranging from murals to national park guidebooks, to academic research.
The cave derived its name from the Daugherty family, William Daugherty being the original owner, but is now owned by the Breedings. It is a very large cave, but it has never been developed or completely explored. It is thought to be a continuation of Bundy’s cave which is 6 1/2 miles southwest. The cave has many passageways and caverns of considerable height. The cave contains several springs. The stalactite formations are not as beautiful as those in the Bundy cave but are of considerable size and number and some of them are of unusual formation.
In 1938, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) awarded a grant to begin development of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. It began as an Azalea Garden project. Since most of the male labor force was at work with other city projects; a group of 200 African American women and 20 African American men received the assignment.

Laboring from dawn until dusk, the workers cleared dense vegetation and carried the equivalent of 150 truck loads of dirt by hand to build a levee for the surrounding lake. For a period of four years, the 220 original workers continued the back-breaking task of clearing trees, pulling roots and removing stumps. They worked in harsh conditions, long hours during all four seasons, regardless of the blistering heat, humidity, rain, finger-numbing cold, snow or frigid temperatures. They battled snakes, mosquitoes, ticks, and poison ivy.

By March 1939, the men and women turned overgrown, swampy acres into a garden that stylistically expressed the national trend of landscape architecture during the late 1930’s. Neither the work nor the pay was great, but it was a means of putting food on the table, which would not have been possible otherwise.
WPA Projects

The Works Progress Administration (renamed in 1939 as the Work Projects Administration) was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads, and operating large arts, drama, media, and literacy projects. It also fed children and redistributed food, clothing, and housing. Almost every community in the United States had a park, bridge or school constructed by the agency, which especially benefited rural and Western populations. Expenditures from 1936 to 1939 totaled nearly $7 billion.

New Deal Art -- Post Office Mural of “Appalachia”, VA by Lucile Blanch (1940)
FDR Signs Glass-Steagall Banking Act of 1933
(VA Senator and Committee Chairman Carter Glass in white suit)
On December 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment was fully ratified and Prohibition was no more.
March 7, 1934 marked a decisive moment in Virginia history, when in response to the repeal of Prohibition, the General Assembly voted to adopt a "liquor control plan," creating the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The Pullman Company received the first ABC license in April 1934 and in 2009 (75 years later) there were more than 15,000 licensed establishments in Virginia. The first four ABC stores opened in May 1934 and in 2009 ABC operated 332 stores throughout the state.

In its first 75 years, ABC operations contributed more than $6 billion to Virginia’s General Fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspector J. A. Shelhorse</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 25, 1918</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspector William E. Payne</td>
<td>Friday, February 21, 1919</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspector Jefferson D. Lambert Jr</td>
<td>Thursday, October 18, 1923</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspector Luther Simeon McManamay</td>
<td>Thursday, April 24, 1924</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspector James Newton Wood</td>
<td>Friday, December 18, 1925</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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<td>Investigator Thomas M. Gravely</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 6, 1930</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigator Floyd Fenwick Vincent</td>
<td>Sunday, January 22, 1950</td>
<td>Gunfire</td>
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In the spring of 1935, Justices invalidated the Railroad Retirement Act. In May, the Court threw out a centerpiece of the New Deal, the National Industrial Recovery Act. In January 1936, a passionately split Court ruled the Agricultural Adjustment Act unconstitutional. In another case from 1936, the Court ruled New York state's minimum wage law unconstitutional. The upshot was that major social and political reforms, including social insurance programs, appeared headed for defeat. This despite the obvious will of the electorate who returned Roosevelt to office in 1936 with the largest landslide victory in election history.

In the end, the Court supported the New Deal and remained only 9 justices.

Roosevelt said that the “Nine Old Men” on the Court in 1937 should be increased in order to help with their workload. In fact, FDR wanted to “pack the court” with 6 new judges favoring his New Deal policies.

The Court itself made a sudden shift that took the wind out of the President's sails. In March 1937, the balance on the Court switched from 5-4 against to 5-4 in favor of most New Deal legislation.
John L. Lewis (February 12, 1880 – June 11, 1969) was an American leader of organized labor who served as president of the United Mine Workers of America from 1920 to 1960.

Lewis was a major player in the history of coal mining. He was the driving force behind the founding of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), which established the United Steel Workers of America and helped organize millions of other industrial workers in the 1930s. A leading liberal, he played a major role in helping Franklin D. Roosevelt win a landslide re-election victory in 1936.
Pearl S. Buck (born “Pearl Comfort Sydenstricker” in Hillsboro, WV) (June 26, 1892 – March 6, 1973) was a 1914 Graduate of Randolph Macon Women’s College in Virginia, a prolific writer, and a Pulitzer/Nobel Prize winner.

Her first novel, *East Wind: West Wind* was published in April 1930 and was in its third printing when *The Good Earth* was published on March 2, 1931.

*The Good Earth* was praised by critics and won the Pulitzer Prize for best novel by an American author in 1932. In 1938, Pearl S. Buck was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature for her epic portrayal of Chinese peasant life in several of her novels. She was the first American woman to be awarded both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes for literature.

King Gustavus V of Sweden Presents the Nobel Prize for Literature to Pearl S. Buck in December 1938
Neutrality Acts of the 1930s were laws passed by the United States Congress in response to the growing turmoil in Europe and Asia that eventually led to World War II. They were spurred by the growth in isolationism and non-interventionism in the US following its costly involvement in World War I, and sought to ensure that the US would not become entangled again in foreign conflicts.

The legacy of the Neutrality Acts in the 1930s was widely regarded as having been generally negative: they made no distinction between aggressor and victim, treating both equally as "belligerents"; and they limited the US government's ability to aid Britain against Nazi Germany.

The America First Committee (AFC) was the foremost non-interventionist pressure group against American entry into World War II. Peaking at 800,000 members, it was likely the largest anti-war organization in American history. Speaking at a rally above, Charles Lindbergh was its most famous member.
Prelude to WWII – Development of Axis Powers: Italy, Germany, and Japan
March 23, 1919 - Mussolini founds the Fascist party in Italy.

Benito Mussolini, an Italian World War I veteran and publisher of Socialist newspapers, breaks with the Italian Socialists and establishes the nationalist *Fasci di Combattimento*, named after the Italian peasant revolutionaries, or "Fighting Bands," from the 19th century. Mussolini and his “Black Shirt” supporters (top) gather and (below) take power in a march on Rome.
Italy Builds its Military and Attacks Ethiopia
The Italians had claimed Ethiopia as their territory.

With economic conditions worsening at home, Mussolini needed to take actions that would distract the Italian people.

In 1936 with modern weapons, the Italians (bottom right) fought and defeated poorly-armed Ethiopian troops (top right) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia's capital).

The League of Nations censured Italy, but that was the extent of the world’s reaction to Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia.
Italy invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in 1936, using chemical weapons and adopting a widespread policy of attacking civilians. His goal was to create a New Roman Empire in the Mediterranean and East Africa.
Hitler’s Plan for Germany (i.e, in the book “Mein Kampf” = “my struggle”) was written and published in 1938. (Chancellor Hitler and President Hindenburg pictured on poster at left).
Germany Re-builds Military; Annexes Rhineland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia; and, Attacks Poland

In a meeting with his leading generals and admirals on 3 February 1933, Hitler spoke of "conquest of Lebensraum in the East and its ruthless Germanization" as his ultimate foreign policy objectives.

In March 1933, the first major statement of German foreign policy aims appeared with a memo submitted to the German Cabinet by the State of Secretary which advocated:

• re-uniting with Austria,
• restoration of the frontiers of 1914,
• rejection of Part V of the Versailles Treaty,
• return of the former German colonies in Africa, and
• a German zone of influence in Eastern Europe.

German troops cross the Rhine River during the remilitarization of the Rhineland, March 7, 1936.
Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini during Hitler's visit to Venice from 14 to 16 June 1934
Britain Negotiates Germany’s Claims to Territory in Eastern Europe (i.e., Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia) – Chamberlain Signs Munich Agreement
During the years between 1938 and 1941 the Germans, through a mixture of diplomacy and military conquest, dominated most of continental Europe.

The Germans entered Austria (top right) and annexed it – without resistance.

Following the Sudetenland becoming part of the Reich in September 1938 by the Munich Agreement, the Germans marched into Prague (btm right) on 15 March 1939 and Hitler declared that “Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist”.
Germany and Russia Sign “Non-aggression” Pact (Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov signs the German-Soviet non-aggression pact; Joachim von Ribbentrop (behind him) and Josef Stalin (in light jacket), Moscow, August 23, 1939
Germany Attacks Poland on 1 September 1939; and, after Germany ignored an ultimatum to withdraw its troops, Britain, France, Australia, and New Zealand declared war on Germany.

Germany’s Blitzgreq Attack on Poland
FDR said: “On this tenth day of June, 1940, the hand that held the dagger [i.e., Italy] has struck it into the back of its neighbor [i.e., France]”

[i.e., FDR’s reaction on hearing of Italy’s decision to engage itself in the European war on the side of Germany against France.]
“Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” was a concept created and promulgated during the Sho-wa era by the government and military of the Empire of Japan. It represented Japan’s desire to create a self-sufficient "block of Asian nations led by the Japanese and free of Western powers".

The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere comprised Japan, Manchukuo, China, and parts of Southeast Asia, that would, according to imperial Japanese propaganda, establish a new international order in Asia for countries that would share prosperity and peace, free from Western colonialism and domination.
Japan, Italy, and Germany form an alliance of “Axis Powers”

“Tripartite Pact” signing on Sept. 27, 1940. Seated from the left: Saburo Kurusu (Japan), Galeazzo Ciano (Italy) and Adolf Hitler (Germany)
The “Axis” Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan) in 1940-41
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