**Unit 3b Vocabulary – The 1930s**

1. Deficit spending: when the government spends more than it receives in revenue. Used most during a military or economic crisis. Depending on perspective, this practice can be seen either as an investment or just debt.
2. Direct relief: government assistance to the needy in the form of money, food, shelter, or medical care.
3. Dust Bowl: Large portion of the Midwest affected by dust storms during the Depression. The storms were made worse by drought and overfarming in the 20s, which dried out the soil and removed root systems. Farmers had to abandon their land and often became migrant farmers in other parts of the country.
4. Fireside chat:  FDR’s use of informal radio talks to explain his New Deal policies directly to the people in clear, simple language.
5. New Deal: FDR’s domestic reform program to alleviate the problems of the Great Depression. Focused on the 3 Rs: Relief, Recovery, and Reform.
6. Public works program: government program created to provide jobs for citizens. These jobs also provide a public service like building roads or schools.
7. Rugged individualism: belief that people should succeed based on their own efforts, without assistance from the government. If you fall on hard times, “pick yourself up by your bootstraps.”
8. Shantytown: a neighborhood of makeshift shelters for people who would otherwise be homeless. Often made of scraps of discarded materials like wood, rubber, and metal. In the 1930s, they were called “Hoovervilles”.
9. Social Security: government insurance program established to help provide benefits to citizens in the event of unemployment, death of a family member, disability, or retirement. A portion of every paycheck goes towards the Social Security fund.
10. Soup kitchen: a place where people could get a warm meal, usually just soup and bread. People could also stand in breadlines to receive some basic food to take home. Until the mid-30s, only church and charities provided these services.

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