**Great Depression & New Deal**

Guided Notes

**Unit Essential Question:** What political, economic, and social issues impacted the lives of Georgians during the Depression and the New Deal?

**Lesson Essential Question #1:** How did the boll weevil and drought impact Georgia?

**What was going on…**

* WWI had created a huge demand for agricultural products to feed the ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**military**, benefiting farmers.
* Soldiers needing uniforms created a great demand for **cotton**, skyrocketing cotton prices.
* When WWI ended, cotton dropped from 35 cents/lb to **17** cents/lb. Hard times were coming for Georgia farmers.

**Roaring Twenties**

* For the middle and upper classes, the 1920s in the United States had been a time of excitement and for many **prosperity**. “THE **ROARING** 20s”
* **Stock** market was booming.
* 1920: **19th** Amendment gave women the right to vote.
* Electricity became **more** available.
* Other inventions included gas stoves, toasters, **sliced bread**, baby food
* Radio: WSB started in **Atlanta**
* 1927: first **talking** motion picture
* Walt **Disney** creates Mickey Mouse

**Boll Weevil**

* Migrated to the U.S. from **Mexico**
* **Introduce** in Georgia in **1915**
* **Destroyed** Georgia’s cotton fields
* Greatly affected Georgia’s long history of **cotton** production
	+ Damage occurs when female boll weevils deposit **eggs** inside the cotton buds.
	+ When the eggs hatch, the larvae **feed** on the bud.

**Boll Weevil (cont’d)**

* **Robbed** many small farmers of any prospect of making a living.
	+ Some abandoned their **farms** and moved to cities or out of state.
	+ Others forced off of their land by foreclosure became **sharecroppers** on terms dictated by large landowners.
* **Eliminated** as an economic pest in the **1990s**.
	+ Since elimination of the boll weevil as a pest, **insecticide** **use in cotton has been reduced by approximately 75 percent, and yield losses associated with insects have been reduced by 50 percent.**

**Boll Weevil (cont’d)**

* Today, all **cotton** growers in Georgia are required to participate in the Boll Weevil Eradication Program (BWEP).
* Cotton growers pay an annual fee on each **acre** of cotton planted to monitor for and eliminate **infestations** if they occur.
* **BWEP** has been a tremendous success from both an environmental and an economic perspective.

**Leading up to the Drought**

* 1920s: continued dependence on **cash-crop** agriculture.
	+ Placed enormous pressure on the farmers to plant every available acre of land with **cotton**.
		- Eventually depleted the **soil**
* Removal of much of the state’s natural forestland contributed to **erosion**.
* Georgia’s land, economy, and **farmers** were already wearing out.

**Drought in Georgia**

* Lasted from **1924** - **1927.**
* U.S. Weather Bureau reported in **1925** that the drought was especially **severe** in late summer when rivers in some places reached the lowest levels ever known and had a **profound** impact on **industrial** and **agricultural** conditions.
* Over **375,000** farm workers left Georgia between **1920** and **1925**.
* Number of working **farms** fell from 310, 132 to 249,095.
* When farms failed, banks that had **loaned** the framers money took **huge** losses.
* Many farm related businesses **closed**.
* This caused Georgia to go into a deep **depression**.

**Drought in Georgia (cont’d)**

* Things improved a little, but the **worst** drought in Georgia history would occur in **1930**.
* The drought, along with the impact of the boll weevil, led to the **Great** **Migration**: southern **black** tenant famers leaving the South to migrate north for work.

**Another Drought**

* **Worst** drought on record in **1930** - **1931**.
* The typical Georgia family farm had:
	+ **No** electricity
	+ No running **water**
	+ **Diets** were inadequate, consisting mainly of molasses, fatback, and cornbread.
* The **poverty** of the state’s most rural counties made the support of even minimal education standards **impossible**.
* **Few** rural clinics, **hospitals**, or health care workers.
* Some counties had **no** health facilities at all.

**Ticket out the Door**

Summary:

1. What two factors led to Georgia’s agricultural problems during the Roaring Twenties?
2. Explain how those two factors impacted Georgia.

**Lesson Essential Question # 2:** What factors led to the Great Depression and how did it impact Georgia?

**The Bottom Drops Out**

Stock **Market**: place where shares of ownership in corporations (stock) are bought and sold.

* “Black Tuesday” – October 29, **1929**: Stock market prices fall greatly; millions of people lost all of their wealth.
* Total losses by the end of the year: $40 **billion**
* Example: U.S. Steel was $262 per share -- **dropped** to $22 per share
* Some **stocks** worth less than **1ȼ**.

**Causes of the Depression**

* Many people had **borrowed** too much money
* Factories produced more goods that they could **sell**.
* As people and businesses had problems making money, banks did not get paid for **loans**.
* “**Speculation**” in the stock market: paying for only a portion of the price of the stock hoping that the value would go up.
* Runs on banks: people were afraid they would **lose** their money if it was left in the bank.
* laissez-faire: attitude that the economy would **fix** itself if left alone.

**Living through the Depression**

* **1932**: 13 million unemployed
* **9,000 banks** closed
* **31** Georgia banks failed
* **Hoovervilles**: named for President Hoover – shacks where homeless people gathered.
* Soup kitchens set up by **charities** and governments to feed hungry
* **Schools** were often forced to close or shorten schedules
* Georgians were already **suffering** from economic problems before Black Tuesday

**Easing the Burden**

* President Hoover’s plan: government would buy farmer’s crops to help raise the **price**
* Plan did **NOT** work, but the food and cotton were used to help the **needy**
* Another plan was to hire unemployed people to do **work** for the government
* Plan did not employ **enough** people to really help.

**Lesson Essential Question # 3:** How did the New Deal programs impact Georgia and American society?

**The New Deal**

* **1932:** Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President.
* New Deal: Roosevelt’s plan to end the depression through government **regulation** and support.
	+ Examined **banks** for soundness
	+ Give **jobs** to unemployed workers
* Paved the way for **recovery**, though all programs did not work

**New Deal Programs and their Impact**

* **CCC – Civilian Conservation Corps:** New Deal government agency that hired **unmarried** men ages **17-23\_**as well as war **veterans** of all ages to work on environmental conservation projects such as national parks, sewer systems, and bridges.
	+ **Impact** – Provided **work** for many unemployed citizens. It worked very well in Georgia due to so much rural land and unemployed farmers due to the boll weevil problem.
* **AAA – Agricultural Adjustment Act:** Law passed by congress to pay farmers to grow and **not** to grow certain crops. This was an effort by the government to **raise** farm prices by paying farmers to change from growing cotton to produce more diverse crops.
	+ **Subsidies** – Payments made to **farmers** by the government as incentive to produce or not produce certain crops.
	+ **Impact** – Encouraged farmers to produce crops such as peanuts, corn, livestock, and **not** grow **cotton**. Today, Georgia is a leading producer of those crops, as well as peaches, poultry, and chicken.

**New Deal Programs and their Impact (cont’d)**

* **REA – Rural Electrification Administration:** New Deal program that provided **electricity** to people in **rural** areas.
	+ **Impact** – Within **15** years most farms and people that lived in rural areas had electricity.
* **SSA – Social Security Act:** Anew deal program that provided **retirement** pay and other government benefits such as unemployment insurance to workers. The act passed in **1935** despite the opposition from then Georgia Governor Eugene **Talmadge**.
	+ **Impact** – People now had a government backed retirement and help if they lost their **jobs**.
	+ **Fact** – Social Security is the **only** New Deal program still in effect today.

**African Americans during the New Deal**

* Did **NOT** benefit from many New Deal programs
* WPA: Works Public Administration – did employ many **African-Americans**
* Roosevelt’s “Black Cabinet”: **influential** African Americans working with President Roosevelt.
	+ **Mary McLeod Bethune**
	+ **William Hastie**
	+ **Robert Weaver**
	+ **Clark Foreman**

**Georgia’s New Deal Governors**

* Richard B. **Russell**
	+ Worked to **reorganize** state government like a successful business
	+ Elected to U.S. Senate and served for **38** years
* **Eugene** Talmadge
	+ Did **not** like New Deal programs in Georgia
* Eurith “**Ed**” Rivers
	+ Worked with Roosevelt to increase New Deal **spending** in Georgia
	+ Began programs for public **housing**
	+ Term ended with **corruption** problems

**Georgia’s New Deal Governors (cont’d)**

* Talmadge re-elected in **1940**
	+ Began to use some **New Deal** programs
	+ Used his **power** as governor to remove state officials working to **integrate** Georgia’s state colleges
* Ellis **Arnall**
	+ Reformed Board of Regents and state **prisons\_**
	+ Removed **poll** tax
	+ New state **constitution**

**The Talmadge Years**

**Lesson Essential Question # 4:** How did the political career of Eugene Talmadge impact Georgia?

**Eugene Talmadge**

Eugene Talmadge served as **governor of Georgia** from **1933** to **1937** and again from **1941** to **1943**. His *personality* and *actions* polarized voters into Talmadge and anti-Talmadge factions in the state’s *one-party politics* of that era. His death in **1946** touched off the unprecedented “**three governors controversy.”**

**Eugene Talmadge (cont’d)**

* Political figure that rose about the same time as **FDR**.
* Served **4** ~~consecutive~~ terms as Governor starting in **1932**.
* Known as a tireless politician who gave **fiery** speeches and whose personality gave him the nickname “the **wild man** from **Sugar Creek.”**
* Appealed to **farmers** and took advantage of the **county unit system.**

**Eugene Talmadge (cont’d)**

* **Opposed** much of the New Deal
	+ Thought government should keep its hands **OUT** of state matters and **refused** to back any of Roosevelt’s policies
	+ Resulted in money from New Deal programs not reaching **Georgia** until Talmadge **left** office (1937)
		- Despite this, because he preached **white** supremacy and related well to “country folk,” Talmadge became the most **popular** rural candidate since the days of Tom Watson

**Eugene Talmadge (cont’d)**

* Ran for **4**th term as governor in 1942 and **lost**.
* Ran again in **1946** and was elected
	+ Promoting **white** supremacy
	+ Said “poor dirt farmers in Georgia ain’t got but three friends on this earth: God Almighty, Sears & Roebuck, and Gene **Talmadge**!”
	+ **Strengthened** **racism** in Georgia and reinforced the idea that the federal government was something for white Southerners to **fear**
	+ He **died** before he could take office (**1946**)

**Three Governors Controversy (1946-1948)**

* When Eugene Talmadge died shortly after being elected governor of Georgia, his supporters came up with a new plan allowing the legislature to elect his son, **Herman**, to fill the office.
* The newly elected Lt. Governor, Melvin **Thompson**, also claimed the office.
* The outgoing governor, Ellis **Arnall**, refused to leave the office.
* The Georgia Supreme Court chose **Melvin Thompson** to fill the role until a special election could be held to decide the remainder of the term.
	+ **Herman Talmadge** easily won the special election and served as governor from 1948 – 1951.
* The controversy was a source of great embarrassment for business leaders of Georgia and our national reputation took yet another **negative** blow.