

The Great Depression

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Summary

This book is about the Great Depression of 1929 and how it led to and was, in part, resolved by World War II.

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Before Reading

Think Ahead

Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

The image block contains three photographs with orange labels and arrows pointing to specific elements:

- march**: Points to a group of people walking in a protest. One sign reads "HOOVER'S STAGGER PLAN STARVATION".
- dissatisfied**: Points to a sign that says "WE AMERICAN WORKERS REFUSE to STARVE".
- debt**: Points to a "GUEST CHECK" with handwritten items like "1 Cheese burger 5.49" and "1 Chicken Wings 5.99".
- currency**: Points to several coins and a banknote.
- poverty**: Points to a slum area with many small, shabby houses and a lot of trash.

1. What is it called when a person owes money?

2. What is another name for money?

3. When people want to demand change, what kind of a walk do they sometimes go on?

4. When people are unhappy with something, how do they feel?

Vocabulary

A Read and match.

1.



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• a. symptom

2.



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• b. decrease

3.



•

• c. worthless

4.



•

• d. unemployment

5.



•

• e. invest

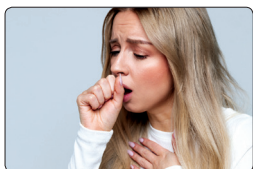
6.



•

• f. wage

7.



•

• g. invade

8.



•

• h. teenager

B Write the word for each definition.

wage

profit

devastating

worthless

share

1. _____ having no value
2. _____ the amount of money a person regularly gets for his or her job
3. _____ one of the equal parts that the ownership of a company is divided into
4. _____ money made by companies when sales are greater than costs
5. _____ causing great damage

C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.

1. These investment opportunities are pieces, or percentages, or a company.
 a. Invests b. Profits c. Teenagers d. Shares
2. People felt satisfied and fearless because the stock market was doing well.
 a. worthless b. confident c. devastated d. greedy
3. Taking a chance on the stock market is called guessing or hoping.
 a. debt b. savings account c. speculating d. unemployment
4. Roosevelt made laws to help protect and ensure industry, create jobs, and encourage recovery.
 a. stabilize b. invade c. willing d. decrease

Comprehension

A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.

- a. People spent money they did not have.
- b. The crash was named for the street on which the US stock exchange was located.
- c. People who still had money chose to save it.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

B Choose the best answer.

1. Traditionally, what is a safe way to save money?
 - a. Foreclose on your loans
 - b. Invest it in stocks
 - c. Purchase things on credit
 - d. Put it in a savings account
2. What happens if a company you invest in does not do well?
 - a. You get your money back.
 - b. You make money.
 - c. You lose money.
 - d. Your investments go into a new company.
3. What did the Great Depression ultimately lead to in Germany?
 - a. Adolph Hitler's rise to power
 - b. Large debts to the USA
 - c. The Jarrow Crusade
 - d. The introduction of the FDIC

C Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

- a. An unemployed man during the Depression
- b. Buying a home on credit
- c. A new deal of relief, recovery, and reform
- d. The location of the US stock exchange
- e. A child working to help his family



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____

D Read each sentence. Write “T” if it is true or “F” if it is false.

1. _____ People did not have money to spend before the Great Depression.
2. _____ A share in a company is worth what someone will pay for it.
3. _____ The Wall Street Crash was also called White Tuesday.
4. _____ Financial systems worldwide suffered during the Great Depression.
5. _____ President Hoover believed that the government needed to help unemployed Americans.

E Complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. During the Great Depression, the value of shares fell until they were .
worthless poverty
2. In the gold standard, a unit of was worth a certain amount of gold.
currency stock
3. The German people became with their government, and Adolf Hitler rose to power.
confident dissatisfied
4. The Wall Street Crash was a of greater problems in the financial system of the time.
symptom decrease
5. The IMF was founded to currency around the world.
invest stabilize

F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.

- a. Many people were investing in the stock market.
- b. No one had money to buy the goods that factories were producing.
- c. Roosevelt promised a new deal for the American people.
- d. World War II began in Europe.
- e. Stock prices collapsed and panic set in.

Think About It

A Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
It's natural for _____ to want more than what they have.	The _____ _____ was a period of financial panic felt around the world.	On _____, _____ stock prices collapsed leading to an event called "Black Tuesday."	The financial crisis was particularly devastating in _____ where many countries were still recovering from World War I.	During the Wall Street Crash, everyone wanted to _____ their shares and no one was _____.

B Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned _____

_____.

Before I read this book, I knew _____

_____.

Now I also know _____

_____.