U.S. in the Modern World Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Critics of FDR and the New Deal: Analyzing Political Cartoons**

FDR’s New Deal changed the functions and purpose of government dramatically. The introduction of the welfare state did not sit well with Americans that believed that government should play a much smaller role socially and economically. In this lesson, you will examine four political cartoons from various publications during the 1930s to assess the political mood of the times.

Cartoon 1: [“The Best They Have to Offer”](http://www.usd116.org/profdev/ahtc/lessons/SchachtFel09/Cartoons/schachtthebest.JPG)  N.Y. World-Telegram: Aug. 11, 1934

* Describe the three characters portrayed in the cartoon:
  + How does the artist depict the Republican Party (G.O.P.)?
  + Rugged individualism and Wall Street represent the 1920s…did they serve America well?
* Interpret the two slogans:
  + “Back to 1929”: Was the economy healthy then? Is this a new solution?
  + “Roosevelt is a Red”: In what way were FDR’s policies “communistic”? Is this a fair criticism? Does it provide any new solutions to the problems of the era?
* Does this cartoon criticize FDR or does it criticize the critics of FDR?

Cartoon 2: [“Follow the Leader”](http://www.usd116.org/profdev/ahtc/lessons/SchachtFel09/Cartoons/schachtleader.JPG) New York Herald Tribune: April 29 1933

* How does the artist depict FDR? How does that compare to the depiction of Congress?
* What are several of FDR’s early accomplishments depicted here?
* If FDR is getting things done, how can this cartoon be perceived as a criticism of him?
* What does this cartoon say about checks and balances?

Cartoon 3: [“Depression Mud Hole”](http://www.usd116.org/profdev/ahtc/lessons/SchachtFel09/Cartoons/schachtmudhole.JPG)  Birmingham Age-Herald: Oct 2, 1933

* Who are the three characters in this cartoon?
* What is the donkey (Democrat) doing? How is he doing it?
* Why does the elephant (Republican) criticize his methods? What does he mean by “artificial devices”?
* Which side does the public appear to be taking?

Cartoon 4: [“National Recovery Boat”](http://www.usd116.org/profdev/ahtc/lessons/SchachtFel09/Cartoons/schachtrecoveryboat.JPG)  Punch: June 5, 1933

* Who is the character in the boat? In the water?
* Is FDR taking “Uncle Sam” out of the water or throwing him back in?
* Interpret the quote: “I’m sorry, but the Supreme Court says I must chuck you back again.”
* Why did the Supreme Court find FDR’s National Recovery Act to be unconstitutional?
* How did FDR later try to remove this obstacle to his New Deal programs? (Read about FDR’s “Court Packing Plan.”)
* Is this cartoon more critical of FDR or of the Supreme Court?