



Huey P. Long

Governor of Louisiana and U.S. Senator

Originally, Huey Long was a supporter of President Roosevelt when he was elected in 1932. However, he began to criticize Roosevelt for not going far enough and trying to keep the rich happy. He suggested an alternative to the New Deal, called the "Share the Wealth" program. The idea was to take money from the rich and use it to give money to the poor.

HUEY LONG'S "SHARE THE WEALTH" PROGRAM

1. We propose that every family shall have a home and the comforts of a home up to a value of not less than \$5,000.
2. We propose that no family shall own more than 300 times the average family wealth, which means that no family shall possess more than a wealth of \$5,000,000.
3. In addition to the home which every family would own and the comforts of life which every family would enjoy, every family would make not less than \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year upon which to live and educate their children.
4. We propose that no family shall have an income of more than 300 times the average family income. Less the income taxes, this would mean an annual income of \$1,000,000 would be the maximum allowed any one family in 1 year.
5. We propose a pension to the old people, to be paid for with the money which the Government would rake off the big fortunes and big inheritances.
6. We propose to care for the veterans of our wars, including the immediate cash payment of the soldiers' bonus, and last, but not least, we propose that every child in America have a right to education and training, not only through grammar and high school, but also through colleges and universities.

How wonderful, how great, how fruitful to all this great land of ours can be. We only have to eliminate useless greed, provide that none shall be too big and none too small.



Upton Sinclair

Writer and Candidate for Governor of California

Upton Sinclair was a Socialist who wrote many novels, including The Jungle. During the Great Depression, he ran for Governor of California, offering an alternative to the New Deal called EPIC (End Poverty in California). Sinclair lost the election, as his opponents included the wealthiest and most powerful people in California, including the major newspapers.

UPTON SINCLAIR'S "E.P.I.C." PROGRAM

The EPIC plan proposes that the State of California shall set up land colonies in which the unemployed farm workers shall live and produce the food required by the million poor persons in our State. Operating thus upon a large scale, the farm workers can live in what will amount to new villages, with all the advantages of modern civilization: kitchens and cafeterias operated by the community, a social hall with opportunities for recreation, a church, a schoolhouse, a store, a library, a motion-picture theater, etc. Living thus, the people will have the benefits of mass production by machinery; they will have the advantages of country life without its loneliness and backwardness.

The factories will be great productive units owned and managed by the State. There also will be social buildings with kitchens, cafeterias, lecture halls, libraries, etc. The State will maintain a system of distribution, whereby the food is brought into the cities and the manufactured products are taken out to the land colonies, and all the products of the system are made available at cost. Those who produce will receive the full value of their product, so they will be able to buy what they have produced, and for the first time consumption will balance production. There can be no overproduction in such a system; when the system produces a surplus, the people will be on a vacation instead of out of a job. They will own the surplus.



Father Coughlin

Catholic Priest and Radio Show Host

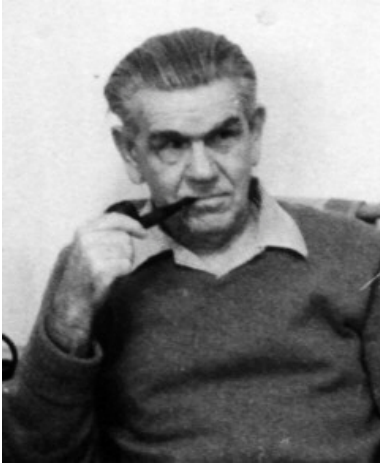
Father Coughlin was a priest with one of the most popular radio shows during the Great Depression. At first he used it to support Roosevelt and the New Deal. However, he felt that Roosevelt was too friendly with bankers. He created a National Union for Social Justice as an alternative to the New Deal. Over time, he became a supporter of fascist leaders like Hitler and Mussolini, because of their anti-Jewish views. Coughlin came to believe that Jews were responsible for the country's problems.

NATIONAL UNION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Establishing my principles upon this preamble, namely, that we are creatures of a loving God; that all this world's wealth of field, of forest, of mine and of river has been given to us by a kind Father. It is all ours except for the harsh, cruel and grasping ways of wicked men who first concentrated wealth into the hands of a few.

Following this preamble, these shall be the principles of social justice towards the realization of which we must strive:

1. I believe in liberty of religion and liberty of education.
2. I believe that every citizen willing to work and capable of working shall receive a just annual wage.
3. I believe in **nationalizing** those public resources which are too important to be held in the control of private individuals.
4. I believe in private ownership of all other property.
5. I believe in upholding the right to private property but in controlling it for the public good.
6. I believe in the abolition of the privately owned banking system and in the establishment of a Government owned Central Bank.
7. I believe not only in the right of the laboring man to organize in unions but also in the duty of the Government to protect these organizations.
8. I believe in preferring human rights above property rights; for the chief concern of government shall be the poor because the rich have the means to care for themselves.



Communists

A variety of beliefs, parties, and people

Throughout the Great Depression, Communists helped organize workers, both unemployed and employed, to fight for their rights. They allowed African Americans to participate on the same level as white Communists. Many, especially the wealthy and middle class, saw Communists as a threat to the country and to the American way of life. However, while some saw all Communists as the same, they varied in their beliefs and often disagreed with each other. Some believed that supporting Roosevelt and the Democrats was the best way to help workers, while others, like Paul Mattick (whose writing is below) felt differently.

“THE MASSES AND THE VANGUARD” BY PAUL MATTICK

Of first importance is the destruction of the wage system. It is not enough to take over factories and farms. It is necessary to abolish wage slavery. First is the question of the seizure of power by the workers. The idea of the masses holding onto power must be emphasized. Communism cannot be introduced or achieved by a party. Only the workers as a whole can do that. Communism means that the workers have taken their destiny into their own hands; that they have abolished wages.

The political parties are powerless. They will do nothing, because they can do nothing. Capitalism has organized for oppression and terror and is at present politically very strong. The workers alone can fight it, for only they can destroy the power of the government.

With a system of factory committees and workers' councils the workers can control production, distribution, and all the other functions of life. In other words, the government's power is taken away, and the workers run society.

CREATING A PAMPHLET DIRECTIONS

1. You will be creating a pamphlet for one of the alternatives to the New Deal. A pamphlet is a small, multi-page “brochure” or mini-magazine, that people sometimes use to convince others to think or feel a certain way about a political issue. (If you want, you can also create a pamphlet arguing why the New Deal is better than any of the alternatives).
2. You will fold your paper so that there is a front cover, back cover, and two pages inside. Here’s what I expect:
 - Front cover with title and image
 - One page summarizes the alternative in your own words
 - One page explains why it is better than the New Deal
 - Back cover explains why people who are against this alternative are wrong
3. Be ready to discuss your opinions with the whole class. This will not be a presentation, but I will be calling on people to share their thoughts.



WHAT DID THE “NEW DEAL” DO?

- * **AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT:** Created in 1933, the AAA paid farmers for not planting crops in order to reduce surpluses (extras) and raise prices. Farm income rose, but many sharecroppers were pushed off the land.
- * **CIVIL WORKS ADMINISTRATION:** Created in 1933, the CWA employed four million people--paid an average of \$15 a week--in jobs such as repairing schools, laying sewer pipes, building roads. Roosevelt got rid of the program after less than a year.
- * **FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:** The FSA was created in 1937 to aid sharecroppers. The FSA set up temporary housing for Dust Bowl refugees from Oklahoma and Arkansas who migrated to California in hope of finding work.
- * **FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.:** Congress created the FDIC to insure bank customers against the loss of up to \$5,000 their deposits if their bank should fail.
- * **NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT:** The NLRA of 1935 created the National Labor Relations Board to protect the rights of unions to organize.
- * **NATIONAL RECOVERY ADMINISTRATION:** The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 allowed businesses to work together to set prices and wages. In 1935 the Supreme Court declared the NIRA unconstitutional.
- * **NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION:** Created under the Emergency Relief Act of 1935, the NYA provided more than 4.5 million jobs for young people.

- * **PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION:** Established by the NIRA in 1933, over \$4 billion was spent on 34,000 construction projects including public buildings, highways, bridges (for example, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge), and dams for water and power.

- * **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION:** The SEC was created in 1934 to watch over the stock market fraud. The SEC is still in existence.

- * **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:** The Social Security Act of 1935 established the SSA to run a national fund for retired persons, an unemployment system, and programs for mothers, children, and the physically disabled. exists to this day as the nation's most important and expensive domestic program, covering over 40 million Americans.

- * **WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION:** Established in 1935, the WPA lasted until 1943 and employed at least 8.5 million people at an average of \$2 a day. They built thousands of roads, bridges, 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 worked for the government, producing public projects ranging from murals to national park guidebooks.