

Surname

Instructor

Course

Date

Back on Their Feet Again

1. Dust Storms in Oklahoma



Life drastically changes for farmers during the Great depression. A decade of drought and erosion from over-farming led to huge dust storms that destroyed what few crops existed. These Dust storms filled the air and made it hard to breathe, and with farms not habitable many opted to sell the farms and try finding jobs elsewhere.

2. Farms for Sale



Without crops to sell, farmers were unable to make enough money to feed their families or pay a mortgage. Many were forced to sell property. Farm foreclosures became rampant during the Great Depression, farmers had initially taken out loans for land or machinery and when the depression hit, and they could not pay back the loans banks foreclosed on the farm.

3. Arkansas Squatter Near Bakersfield, California



After selling farms and migrating, some migrant workers made more permanent housing for themselves by using wood scraps, metal sheets, and anything they could find. The aim was to survive a hard time by focusing on small moments at a time. Most of these migrants had no employment and had been bankrupt.

4. A Homeless Tenant-Farmer Family Walking Along A Road



Some men went out alone to find a better environment and opportunities for their families but others choose to travel with their entire families. Those who had no car packed whatever they could carry and hit the road with hope that they would find better works and an environment that would allow the family to stay together as a whole.

5. Packed And Ready For The Long Trip To California



Other families were fortunate enough to have a car, and they would pack everything into the car and head west hoping to find jobs in the farms of California. In the picture above a woman is seen sitting next to her child while behind her the car is over-filled with beds among other things.

6. Breadlines In New York City



On the other hand, large cities also suffered the same challenges and were not immune to the hardships of the great depression. Most people were wiped out and lost their jobs becoming unable to feed themselves. As in the picture, such people lined up in long breadlines. The breadline was not sustainable as they were run by private charities who lacked enough funds to feed all the unemployed.

7. Christmas Dinner



Christmas did not mean a lot of decorations, large trees or huge meals. It can be noted that the family above do not own chairs or a large enough table to enable all of them to sit down for a meal together. They share a simple meal, happy that they at least have food. From the way the children and the father are dressed, one can conclude that they had not so many options to choose from.

8. Migrants Living Out Of Their Car

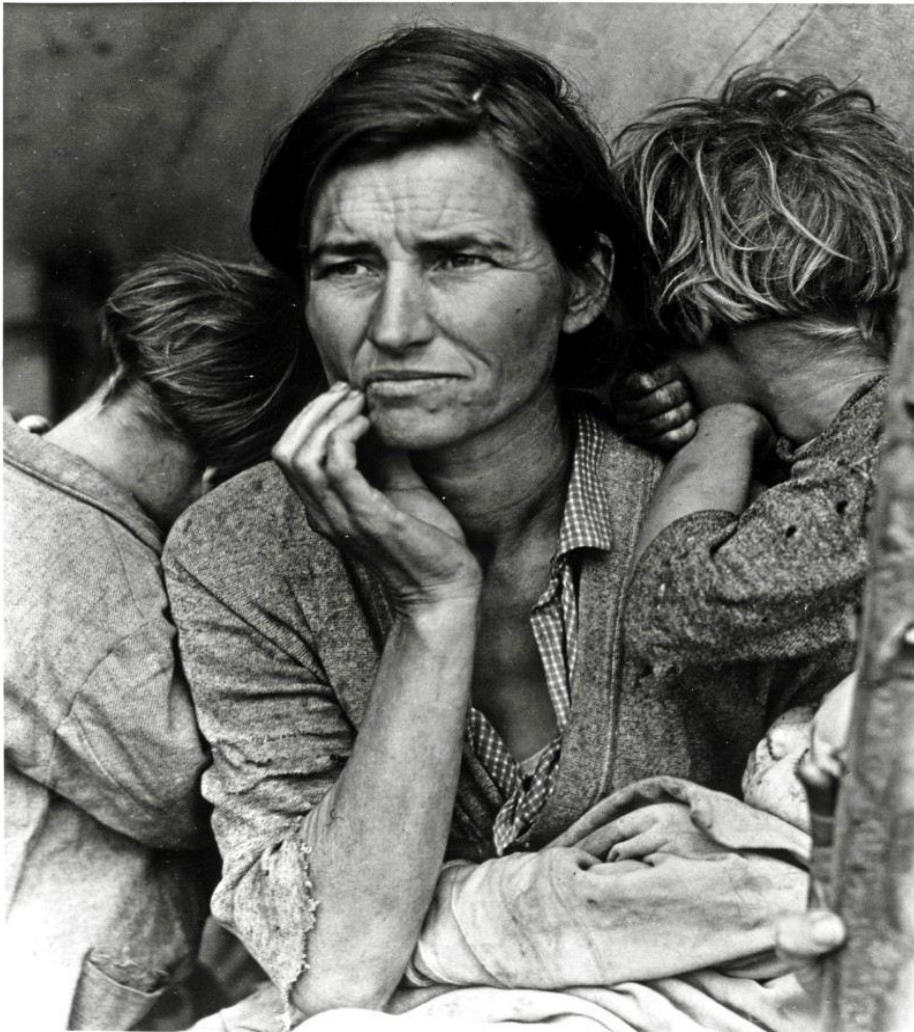


Some families have left their dying farms behind and finding no place to settle down, decided to live out of their car, driving up and down California searching for gainful employment to feed their families and sustain their upkeep. They have no place to call home as they are constantly on the move.

9. View Of A Hooverville

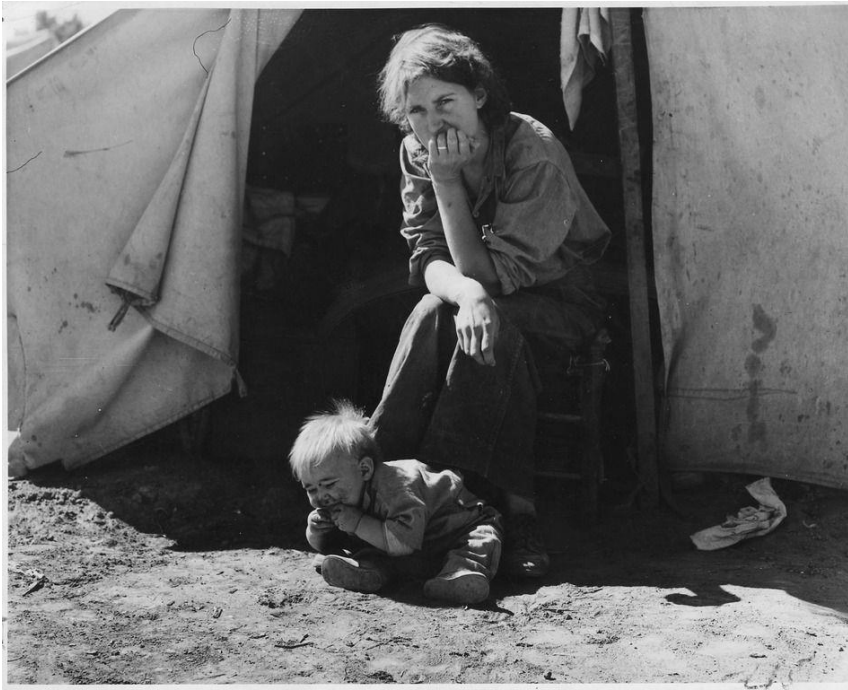


Temporary housing structures such as the collection displayed in the picture above were nicknamed Hoovervilles after President Herbert Hoover. Such houses were in poor conditions and posed a lot of challenges for the people living in them during the Great depression. Other people had nothing and were surviving by grace.

10. Migrant Mother (1936)

The woman in this famous photograph depicts desperation that the Great depression brought to so many people. This picture became a symbol of the depression as from the woman's facial; she is tired from all the hardships she has to go through to survive. She was one of the many migrant workers picking peas in California just to make money to enable them survive.

11. 18-Year-Old Mother From Oklahoma Now A Migrant Worker In California



To add on that, life as a migrant worker in California during the great depression was rough and hard. Jobs were so competitive, and many people became jobless being unable to feed their families. Most parents were struggling to feed their children as there was enough to eat. In the picture, the woman also seems tired of the hardships she faces to no end. The child eats something which we can only tell is not enough.

12. Man Laying Down At The New York Docks



Most people had it so rough that sometimes without food, a home, or a job prospect, a tired man would just lay down and ponder on what he has faced and what still lay ahead. The picture above depicts hopelessness and extreme hardship that signified the Great depression which ended only with war production that was caused by the start of the Second World War.

13. The Unemployed



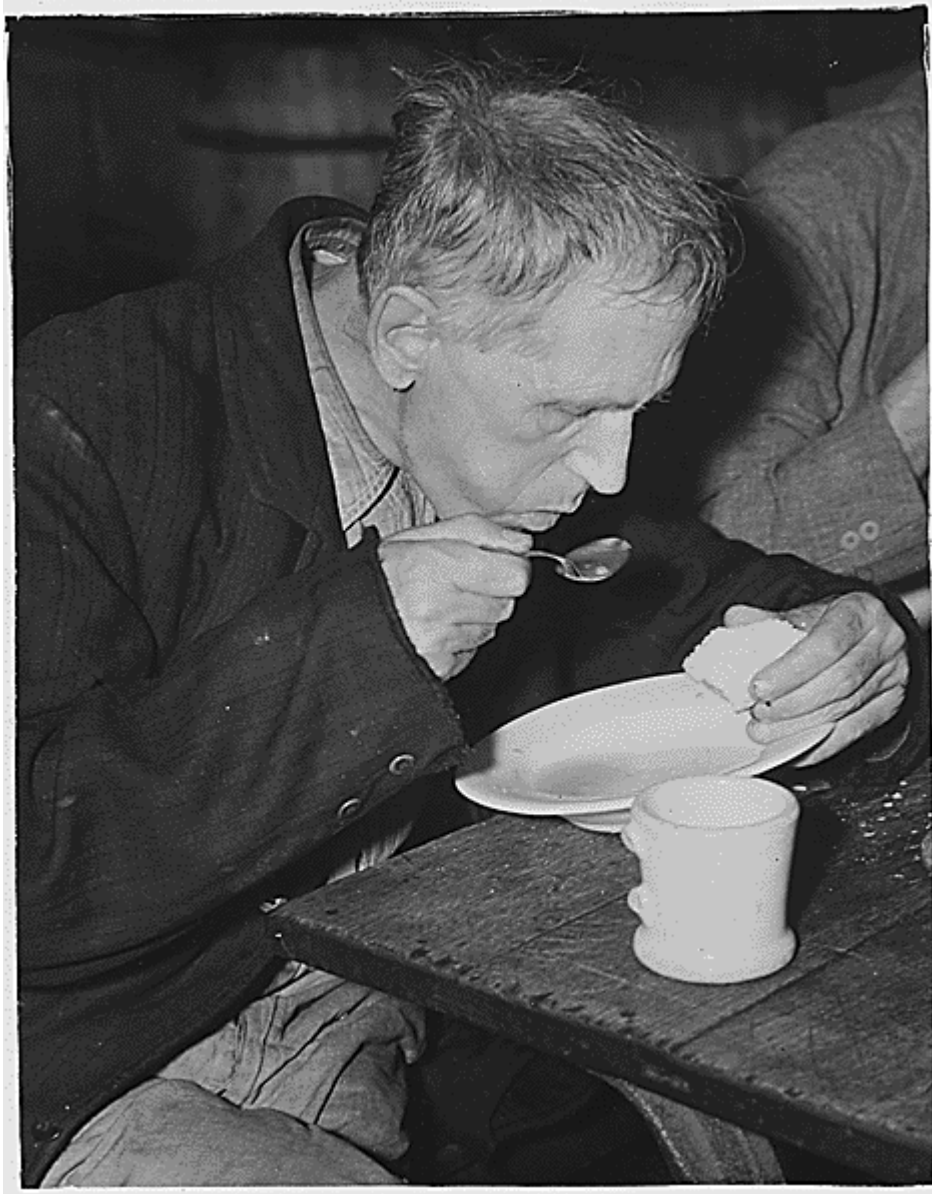
In the United States, before the Stock market crash the unemployment rate was at 3.14 percent but in 1933 I the depth of the depression this percentage rose drastically to 24.75. Most people were idle, hungry and homeless with no jobs. Despite the attempts by the then-president to recover the real economy change only came with World War II.

14. A Migrant Worker Standing Next to His Lean-to



Due to the high rates of unemployment that came with the depression, very few people could afford decent housing and so temporary housing came in different forms to enable people get by. In the above photograph the migrant worker has a simple structure to protect him from the elements while he sleeps.

15. Breadlines and Soup Kitchens



The high rates of unemployment rendered some people incapable of even feeding themselves, and so some charity organizations came up with soup kitchens to at least provide something to eat to those who could not. Due to the high number of poor and needy people such kitchen soups were not sustainable, and many people went without food.

Causes of Stock Market Crash

A stock market crash is a rapid and most often an unanticipated drop in stock prices over a few days. The stock market crash of 1929 involved a four-day collapse of stock prices and began on the 24th day of October. The stock market crash lost the equivalent of \$396 billion, which was more than the total cost of World War I and this crash led to the great depression. Several factors led to the 1929 stock market crash. To begin with, a stock market peak occurred before the crash with the U.S economy experiencing rapid expansion and the stocks hit record highs; hence the term the “the roaring twenties.” The stock market peaked so high that the public and the market became recklessly overconfident leading to an “asset bubble” as stocks were highly overpriced. (Williams, 2019) Moreover, during this period of rapid economic growth industries overproduced and oversupplied the market hence most products were later dumped at a loss and ultimately led to liquidation of entire portfolios as ordinary citizens had purchased stock on margin intending to sell them after prices had gone even higher. Equally relevant causes of the stock market crash of 1929 are the rising bank loans at the time as well as higher interest rates. All this made the once-booming economy to spiral down into depression, chaos, and losses.

Impact on Society

The impact of the stock market crash was huge, and it hit many people hard with some individual losing everything. After the crash, many people panicked and withdrew their funds from banks which led to massive bank failures making the situation even worse. Companies

went bankrupt making a large part of the workforce to become unemployed. All this led to massive poverty and suffering, and it affected American society for many years. (Takahashi, 2017) Debate exists whether the stock market crash directly led to the great depression, but it can be noted that it played a vital role. The market crash also led people to lose faith in Wall Street and altered an entire generation's perspective on financial markets.

Great Depression Experiences

The great depression of 1930 is still on the minds of those who lived through it, even to this day. One such experience involves an 89-year-old man named Louis Thomas, who at the time of the depression was just a teenager. He remembers that during this time they had an attitude of do-it-yourself whereby his family would raise pigeons in their backyard to supplement the food they did have. They were so poor that even affording clothes was a luxury, and he says that his mother used to sew underwear and some shorts from flour sacks. Most of the time he and his three brothers were shirtless. They lived in Ohio during the great depression. One evening he had gone with his father to check on the bank, they met hundreds of people out front many of them yelling and beating on the locked doors and windows. People had built fires in the street to keep warm, and several people always roamed downtown with nothing to do. People were self-sufficient in some way because they never had supermarkets in every corner of the street.

Unemployment rates must have been so high because Louis remembers many occasions that his family went without food, and this has taught him to break down life into moments and focus on just the smaller pictures. Louis had to quit school because he did not have pants, and this coupled with the hardships he was going through killed his ambition. At this time, the father lost jobs continually and once tried selling expensive bibles door to door, but even his customers could not afford the bibles he sold. He says the great depression taught him lessons that allowed

him to have different perspectives in life. He wishes that people understood how they dealt with things back then as it would help the world strength to things with a lot of courage today.

Work Cited

- Takahashi, Shingo. "The Effect of the Great Depression on the Institutional Economics of John R. Commons." *Contemporary Meanings of John R. Commons's Institutional Economics*. Springer, Singapore, 2017. 55-72.
- Williams, Philip. *The Great Depression of the 2020s: Its Causes and Who to Blame*. Philip Williams, 2019.