

The Thirties: A Decade of Despair

We follow a theme of “causation” in history and a question of the inevitability of events.

Could WWII have been avoided?

Depression: Factors

1. Glut of wheat on the market. Prices start to fall in 1929.
2. Overproduction of manufactured goods leads to layoffs.
3. Less income equals less consumer spending
4. The U.S. imposes high tariffs starting a war of protectionism.
5. Buying stocks on margin
6. Germany's inability to pay war reparations.

Keynes theory on government intervention:

1. Mackenzie King believed that municipalities and provinces should provide relief.
2. Assistance to only the needy and by voucher.
3. Government did not understand the full repercussions of unemployment.

Political Parties:

CCF supported by the working person. Policies of public ownership. Social Credit led by “Bible Bill” Aberhart. Pay a monthly dividend. Union Nationale supported in rural areas. Believed English minority ran Quebec.

Rise of the Dictators:

1. Most European economies never recovered from WWI.
2. Unemployment was high, and social and labour unrest was common.
3. The Depression made matters worse. Many turned to Fascism and Communism
4. Communists advocated public ownership as the solution to economic problems