



# **The Great Depression and The Dustbowl**

**“...the worst hard time...”**

**America in the 1930s**

# THE GREAT DEPRESSION



1918

World War I ends on November 11<sup>th</sup>. US production slows as national spending grows, on credit instead of cash.

1929

The Stock Market crashes in late October, sending Wall Street into a panic and wiping out millions of investors on the day known as Black Tuesday.

1924

The Stock Market skyrockets on January 1<sup>st</sup>, due to industrialization and consumer spending on credit, meaning a decrease in actual money being spent

1930

Marks the year that the first Bank Panic occurs, in early January. The Dust Bowl began this year also, which ruined many US farmer's crops and led to national food panics and stealing, especially in urban areas, such as New York City.



1931

After a second Bank Panic in early January, the Reconstruction Finance Corp, also known as the RFC, is created under the guide of President Herbert Hoover to provide financial assistance to local and state governments.



1939

World War II begins in Europe, marking a turnaround in the European economy, which was also in a Great Depression.



1933

The US Great Depression hit its worst point, with nearly half of all banks failed and 25% of people unemployed. Franklin Roosevelt, FDR, is elected President with his New Deal.

1941

After the attacks by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, The United States enters the war. This led the economy to recover due to the sudden rise in production of US goods. Thus ending the Great Depression after over 10 brutal years.

# **The American Great Plains**

**Native grassland prairie**

**No major river/stream systems**

**Prone to natural extended periods of drought and rain**

**High winds**

**Vast migratory herds of buffalo**



A black and white photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road or path leads towards the center. A wooden fence runs across the middle ground. In the background, a tractor is visible, pulling a piece of farm equipment. The sky is overcast, and the overall scene depicts a typical agricultural setting from the early 20th century.

**1862 Homestead Act**

**1914-1918 WWI wartime market for wheat**

**(200,000,000 acres converted from native grassland prairie to wheat)**

**1925 - gasoline engine introduces tractor farming**

**1930 - severe extended drought of the Southwestern Great Plains**

**1930 - Bank panics and the Great Depression**

**1939 – the rains finally come, The Grapes of Wrath published**

## Dust storm damage, 1930 - 1940





