

## Chapter 17 - Day 2

### Section 2 Life During the Depression

- By 1913—9,000 banks failed and 30,000 companies went out of business
- People went hungry, stood in breadlines and line for soup kitchens supported by charities
- Lost homes—people put up shacks in alleys or vacant lots, these shantytowns were called “Hoovervilles”
- Dust Bowl—farmers already struggling economically in 1920 hurt even more during depression and then a long period of drought starting in 1932. From the Dakotas to Texas became known as the “Dust Bowl”. Many families packed up everything and moved to California. Oklahomans became known as “Okies”
- Entertainment allowed Americans to escape the depression for a short time
- Movies became very popular—comedies, dramas with optimism
- 1937—1<sup>st</sup> animated movie—Walt Disney’s *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*
- 1939—MGM’s *The Wizard of Oz*
- Radio became more popular with a wide variety of shows, news, sports, comedies like Jack Benny, adventure shows like *The Lone Ranger* or *The Green Hornet*, and daytime dramas, 1<sup>st</sup> soap opera was *The Guiding Light*
- Art and Literature flourished. Grant Wood (*American Gothic*) emphasized traditional American values, John Steinbeck wrote *The Grapes of Wrath* about Okies. Photojournalists like Dorothea Lange and Margaret Bourke-White documented the depression in pictures.

### Section 3 Hoover Responds

- Hoover downplayed conditions to the public but was seriously worried about the economy
- Hoover increased public works (gov’t funded building projects) He urged governors and majors to do the same. It wasn’t enough.
- People blamed Republicans for depression and they lost control of the House and controlled the Senate by 1 vote
- Hoover asked Federal Reserve to put more money in circulation, they refused.
- Set up the Reconstruction Finance Corp. to make gov’t loans to banks, railroads, and agriculture but it was overly cautious. Economy continues to decline.
- Hoover opposed to the federal gov’t giving direct handouts believed state and city gov’t should do this. By 1932 they were running out of money
- 1932 Congress passed Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Act providing \$1.5 billion for public works and \$300 million to loans to states for direct relief. Too little too late