

Reactions to the Great Depression



Hoover vs. Roosevelt

Hoover's Presidency

I. 1928 Election Results

Hoover (R) – Popular vote = 21.4 million

Electoral vote = 444

Smith (D) - Popular vote = 15 million

Electoral vote = 87

“A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage”

- Herbert Hoover; campaign promise...means?

Hoover's Reaction to the Depression

A. Hoover's strong belief in RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM

* The idea that people should succeed through their own efforts. They should take care of themselves and their families, rather than depend on government.

- Hoover believes that individual charities and local organizations should pitch in to help. Also talks with business leaders and asked them not to cut wages or lay off employees.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS HOOVER RIGHT?



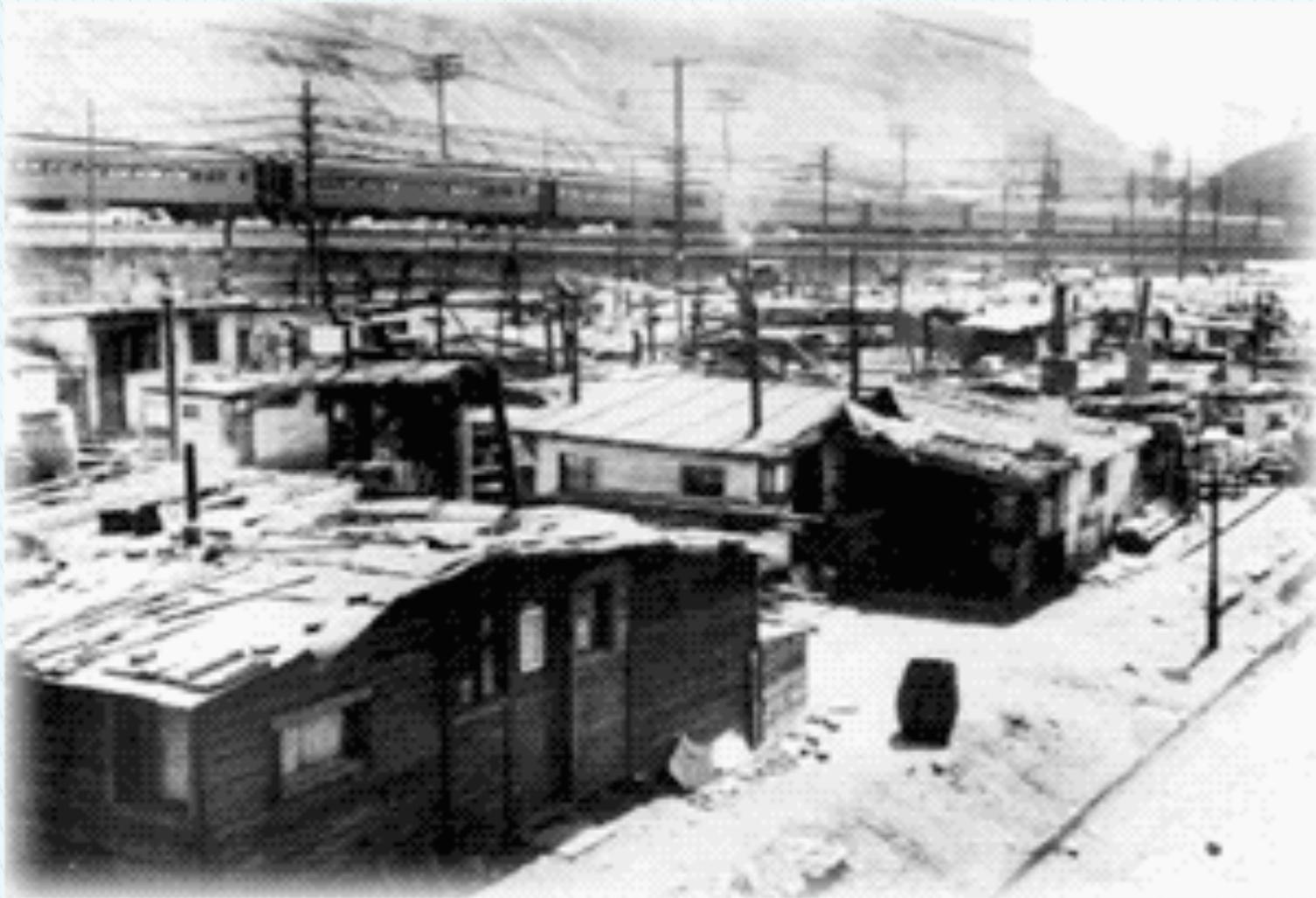
VS.



What was the outcome of the 1930 Midterm Elections?

- The Democrats gained seats in the House and Senate.
Why??
- By 1930 people were calling the shantytowns in cities **Hoovervilles**. (Hoover Blankets & Hoover Flags)
- Hoover still refused to support direct relief to the poor.





A Hooverville





HISTORY CLOSE-UP

Life in a Hooverville

As desperate poverty engulfed people from coast to coast, many formed makeshift communities that they nicknamed Hoovervilles.

The lack of running water and power made tasks such as cooking and cleaning much more difficult and messy.

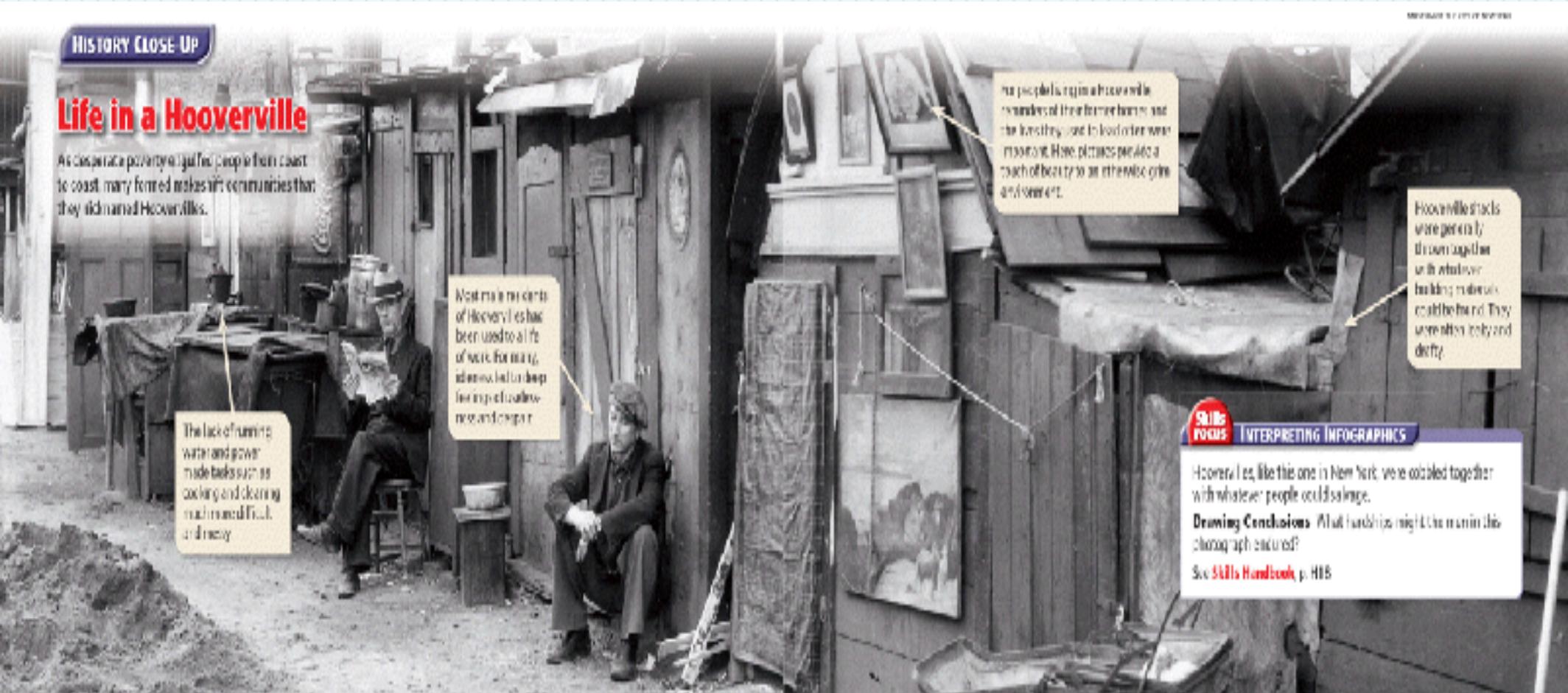
Most materials made of Hoovervilles had been used to a life of work, for many, ideas were to keep living just a little more and longer.

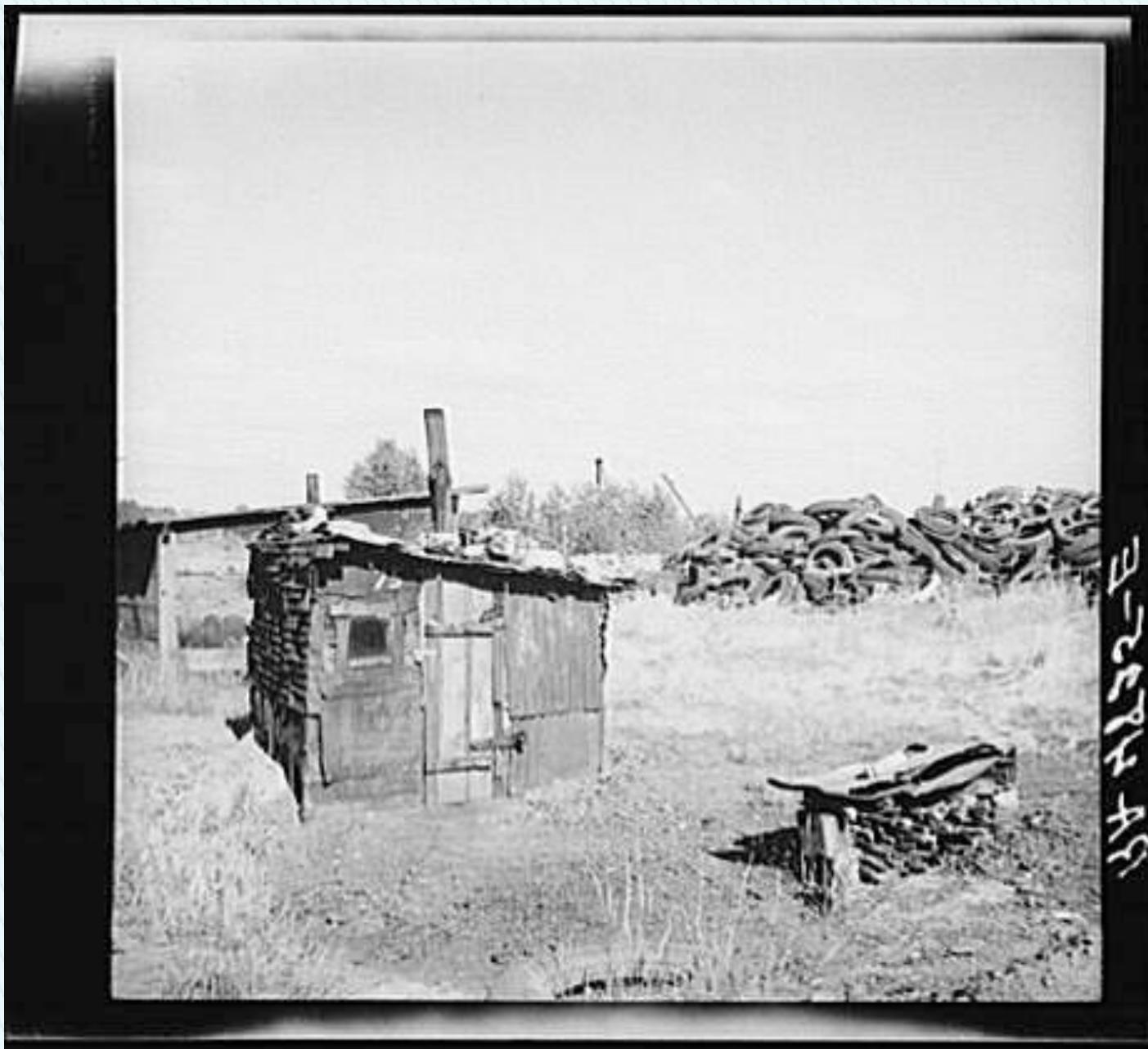
For people living in Hooverville, hundreds of their former homes and the things they used to hold dear were missing. Here, pictures provided a touch of beauty to an otherwise grim environment.

Hooverville shacks were generally thrown together with whatever building materials could be found. They were often leaky and dirty.

Skills Focus INTERPRETING INFOGRAPHICS

Hoovervilles, like this one in New York, were cobble together with whatever people could salvage.
Drawing Conclusions What hardships might the man in this photograph endure?
See *Skills Handbook*, p. H18





A Hooverville in Oregon

Too Little Too Late

- As the Depression goes on, Hoover began to slightly change his philosophy.

1) Began putting money into projects = Boulder Dam

- Designed to jump start economy and create jobs.

2) Federal Home Loan Bank Act

- Lowered mortgage rates and allowed farmers to refinance their farm loans (get lower interest rate; owe less money)

3) Reconstruction Finance Corporation

- Authorized emergency financing to banks, life insurance companies, railroads and other large businesses. (bailouts)

What happened during the 1932 Election?

1) Under Hoover's watch the Bonus Army (Group of WWI vets) was punished under his watch.

- "This will elect me." - FDR

2) Results

Hoover (R) – Popular Vote = 15.8 million

- Electoral Vote = 59

Roosevelt (D) – Popular Vote = 22.8 million

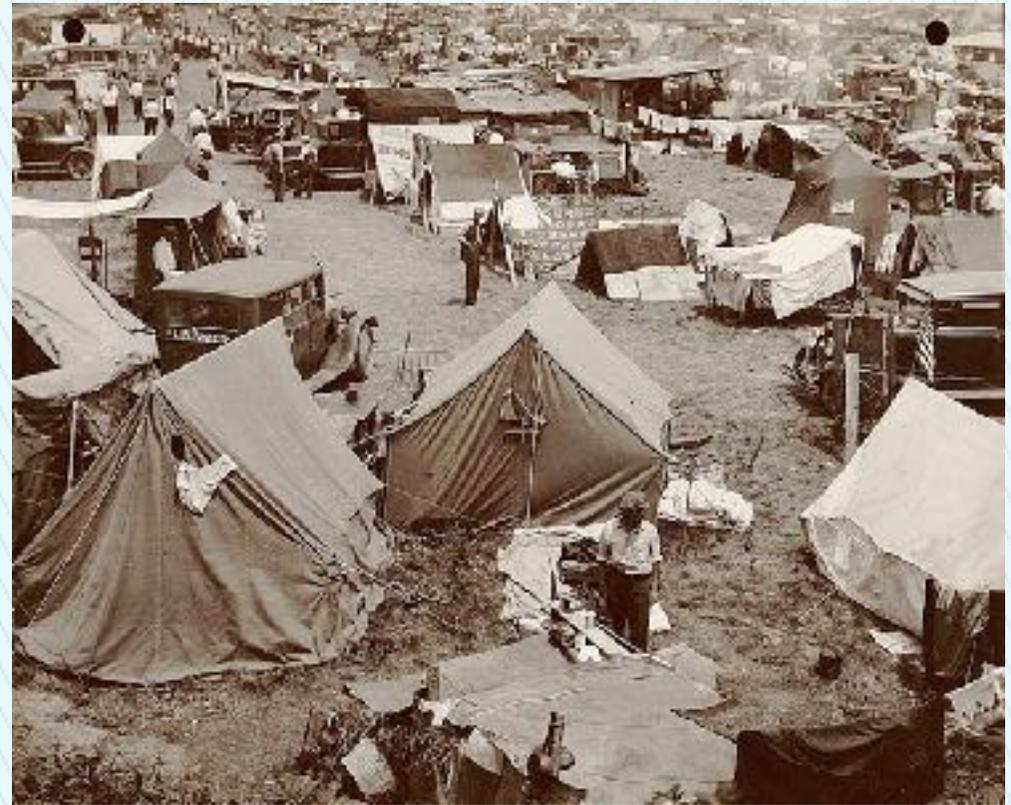
- Electoral Vote = 472

The Bonus Army Catastrophe

- ▶ Congress voted to give WWI veterans a bonus (extra money)
- ▶ 1932: 20,000 soldiers marched to Washington demanding their bonus
- ▶ Became known as the **Bonus Army**

Why was the Bonus Army Incident Important?

- ▶ Senate did not pass the bill—hurt chances to recover
- ▶ Hoover told the Army to destroy their shacks
- ▶ The **LAST STRAW** with American people





Bonus Army soldiers camped outside the Capitol building



Bonus Army riot



Bonus Army site destroyed after military intervention

Question

How did Hoover's belief in "rugged individualism" shape his policies during the depression?

Think about:

- What that belief implies about government action?
- Hoover's policies—were they consistent with his original beliefs?



The New Deal

The New Deal: FDR's program to alleviate/fix the problems of the Great Depression.

* GOALS:

- 1) Relief for the needy
- 2) Economic recovery
- 3) Financial reform

EXAMPLES:

CCC (1933) – Provided unemployed men between 18-25 with work. (Mostly on National Parks)

Social Security Act (1935) – Provided a pension for retired workers and their families.



New Deal Programs Foldable

Using page 515 in your textbook you will create a foldable outlining 21 New Deal programs.