



## The Second New Deal

Though the First New Deal had instituted new laws and regulations, they weren't enough to make things better, and the Great Depression continued. So beginning in 1935, President Roosevelt passed a new series of laws which came to be called the Second New Deal.

One of those laws was the 1935 Social Security Act. Its purpose was to help retired Americans by providing them with a pension, to care for orphans and the disabled, and to create unemployment insurance.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was created to hire unemployed people to work on construction projects like airports, schools, roads, parks and bridges, providing employment for about eight million workers.

The National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935, guaranteeing certain rights to unions and workers and establishing a federal board to arbitrate wage agreements. This was followed by the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, which limited the work week to forty-four hours, outlawed child labor, and set the minimum wage at 25 cents an hour.

The Second New Deal also established the United States Housing Authority of 1937, charged with tearing down slums and replacing them with new, better housing for the homeless.

Finally, it was also during the Second New Deal that a new tax program was introduced which taxed the wealthy more than the poor, with the idea of redistributing wealth.

Historians and economists disagree about whether FDR's New Deal actually worked. Many cite the economic opportunities caused by America's entrance into World War II as the real reason for recovery. Others argue that the banking and stock market reform were key to the enduring stability of the recovered economy.