

America's Nightmare: The Great Depression (Best. Nr. 4760)

Hinweise zu dieser Einheit

Auf das öde Vermitteln von Fakten wurde bewusst verzichtet; wesentliche Informationen über die Lebensumstände verschiedener Bevölkerungsgruppen sind den Texten (vgl. Dateinamen) zu entnehmen. Fast durchgängig enthalten diese Texte Elemente, die betroffen machen, somit die Schüler zum Sprechen veranlassen.

Die unter EXTRA1.TXT zu findenden Texte geben zusätzliche Informationen, die evtl. zu Beginn der Reihe die Schüler zu Spontanäußerungen motivieren sollten.

Mit den Texten NATIONS, WAR, PROBLEM, HOMELESS und EXTRA2 soll die Verbindung der Problematik der 30er Jahre zu heute hergestellt werden.

Das unter POVERTY.VOC beigefügte Beispiel stellt eine Möglichkeit der auch in der Sek.II noch notwendigen Wortschatzarbeit dar. Ähnliche Wortfelder ergeben sich aus den entsprechenden Aufgaben der anderen Texte.

Ansonsten ist die Behandlungsreihenfolge der Texte beliebig, es empfiehlt sich allerdings ein chronologisches Vorgehen. Fast die gesamte Breite an Textsorten, fiktional wie nichtfiktional, ist abgedeckt, was zu einer z.T. recht hohen Motivation (gegen Eintönigkeit) geführt hat.

Die Auszüge aus literarischen Ganzschriften bieten dem Lehrer die Möglichkeit, das Ganzwerk selbst zum Gegenstand eines Referates werden zu lassen.

Ein Teil der Dateien enthält Karikaturen aus amerikanischen Zeitschriften der 30er Jahre. Nähere Erläuterungen hierzu finden Sie in der Datei CARICAT.DID.

Hingewiesen sei hier noch auf die original Abiturvorschläge (vgl. das folgende Inhaltsverzeichnis). Für den Einsatz als Klausur (unabhängig vom Abitur) haben sich alle bewährt.

Der Autor wünscht Ihnen und Ihren Schülern bei der Arbeit mit dieser CD-ROM viel Vergnügen!

Gesamtdatei

034_Poverty.ges [Alle Texte, Arbeitsblätter und Lösungen in obiger Reihenfolge in einer Datei](#)

Die Einzeldateien

001_Didakt.txt [Didaktische Anmerkungen](#)

1. Introduction

002_Intro.arb ['No one has starved' - Some facts and figures on the Great Depression](#)

003_Plenty.arb ['Poverty amid Plenty'; Bericht vom Februar 1932 vor dem Congress über die Situation Arbeitsloser](#)

004_Children.arb ['Hungry Children'; Bericht in der New York Times vom 18.12.1932 über die Auswirkungen der Unterernährung](#)

005_Extra1.txt ['Selling Apples and Shining Shoes' und 'The President's Monuments'; Berichte der New York Times v. 05.06. und 22.09.1932 über die Auswirkungen auf das Leben in New York](#)

2. Hoboes, tenant farmers and migrants

006_Hoboes.txt [Tom Kromer - Waiting for Nothing \(1935, Romanauszug\); zur Situation von hoboes](#)

007_Hoboes.arb [Arbeitsblatt zum Text](#)

008_Hoboes.loe [Lösungshinweise](#)

009_Tenants.txt [Erskine Caldwell - Tobacco Road \(1932, Romanauszug\); zur Situation von tenant farmers](#)

010_Tenants.arb [Arbeitsblatt zum Text](#)

011_Tenants.loe [Lösungshinweise](#)

012_Migrants.arb [Woody Guthrie - Talking Dust Bowl; Song über die Situation von Wanderarbeitern](#)

013_Okies.txt [John Steinbeck - The Grapes of Wrath \(1939, Romanauszug, Kap. 21\); zur Situation von Farmern aus Oklahoma auf dem Weg nach Kalifornien](#)

014_Okies.arb [Arbeitsblatt \(LK-Abiturvorschlag NRW\)](#)

015_Okies.loe [Erwartungshorizont \(LK-Abiturvorschlag NRW\)](#)

3. Miners and workers

016_Miners.arb	Eidesstattliche Zeugenaussage eines Bergarbeiters vom November 1931 über das antigewerkschaftliche Vorgehen der Polizei
017_Workers.txt	Clifford Odets - Waiting for Lefty (1935, Dramenauszug); agitprop drama zum Klassenkampf
018_Workers.arb	Arbeitsblatt (GK-Abiturvorschlag NRW)
019_Workers.loe	Erwartungshorizont (GK-Abiturvorschlag NRW)

4. Poverty

020_Nations.arb	Michael Harrington - The Other America (1962 - 1969); Sachtext zur Armut in den USA in den 60er Jahren
021_War.arb	Neujahrsansprache des amerikan. Präsidenten Lyndon B. Johnson v. 08.01.1964 zum 'unconditional war on poverty'
022_Problem.txt	Robert Bendiner - Poverty is a Tougher Problem than Ever (1969); Sachtext über den Zusammenhang von Armut in den 30er Jahren und heute
023_Problem.arb	Arbeitsblatt (GK-Abiturvorschlag NRW)
024_Problem.loe	Erwartungshorizont (GK-Abiturvorschlag NRW)
025_Extra2.txt	'Poverty by the Numbers' - Armutsentwicklung unter Präsident R. Reagan 1982 - 83
026_Homeless.txt	'Left Out in the Cold', Time Magazine; Artikel v. 19.12.83 zur Situation der Obdachlosen im aktuellen Amerika
027_Homeless.arb	Arbeitsblatt (GK-Abiturvorschlag NRW)
028_Homeless.loe	Erwartungshorizont (GK-Abiturvorschlag NRW)
029_Poverty.voc	Wortfeld Armut - Verarmung (Wortschatzarbeit)

5. Caricatures and politics

030_Caricat.did	Didaktische Hinweise zum Umgang mit den Karikaturen
031_Caricat.txt	Definitionen und Synonyme zum Wortfeld 'caricature'
032_Informat.txt	Erläuterungen zu wirtschaftlichen, politischen und kulturellen Aspekten der Depressionszeit (z.B. New Deal, Hoover, Roosevelt)

6. Literaturangaben

033_Litquell.txt	Literatur- und Quellenangaben
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Die Abkürzungen der Kurz-Dateinamen am Beginn jeder Dateibeschreibung bedeuten:

.arb/.txt	=	Arbeitsblatt/Textdatei
.ges/.voc	=	Gesamtdatei/Vokabeldatei
*.loe	=	Lösungshinweise/Erwartungshorizont
*.dot	=	Dokumentvorlage; diese Datei beinhaltet die Formatvorlagen für die vorliegende Einheit. Durch Änderung derselben können Sie das gesamte Erscheinungsbild einer Einheit Ihren Bedürfnissen anpassen.

Die Ikonen in den Dateien haben folgende Bedeutung:



„Didaktische Hinweise für Lehrer“



„Lesetext“



„Arbeitsblatt“



„Lösungsblatt“

VORSCHAU



DIDAKTISCHE ANMERKUNGEN

Die vorliegende Unterrichtsreihe über die Große Depression und deren Auswirkungen (Armut, Verelendung) bis in unsere Tage fühlt sich dem Ansatz der 'American Studies' verpflichtet. Literatur wird hierbei nur als ein Teilgebiet des Gesamtbildes von Amerika betrachtet. Sie dient zum einen dazu, literarische Studien zu betreiben, leistet darüber hinaus aber auch einen unmittelbaren Beitrag zum Verständnis dieses Landes; sie wird zum Bestandteil der Vermittlung von Landeskunde.

Daher sind die Texte so ausgewählt, dass sie im Allgemeinen beiden oben beschriebenen Funktionen entsprechen.

Die Literatur der 'Great Depression' eignet sich hierzu vorzüglich. Außerdem wird hier eine Thematik angesprochen, die bis heute für die Vereinigten Staaten kein Ruhmesblatt geworden ist. Daraus ergibt sich ein oft recht provokativer Gegensatz zur Philosophie des 'American Dream', lässt aber auch Bezüge zur Situation in Deutschland zu (Stichwort: Neue Armut).

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Evtl. empfiehlt sich die Behandlung eines Romans auch als anschließende Lektüre; so wurde in einem LK Steinbecks 'The Grapes of Wrath' und in einem GK Steinbecks 'Of Mice and Men' gelesen.

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"NO ONE HAS STARVED"

Nobody is actually starving. The hoboes, for example, are better fed than they have ever been. - Herbert Hoover (February 1931)

In his final message to Congress, delivered on December 4, 1928, Calvin Coolidge spoke in glowing terms of the state of the nation. He told Congress that the country could "regard the present with satisfaction and anticipate the future with optimism. ..." At home there was tranquility and contentment; abroad there was peace and the good-will which comes from mutual understanding. As was so often the case, Coolidge was wrong.

The Great Depression, of course, did not begin with the collapse of the stock market in October 1929. For one thing, the prosperity enjoyed by many Americans in the twenties was not shared by Europeans. Europe spent the twenties first trying to restore the losses suffered as a result of World War I, and then trying to maintain the fiscal balance; it was a futile attempt. Europe was unable to cope with the financial strains which continued to plague it; and, as a result, its stock prices began to decline months before the great crash. But the unrest and financial instability which permeated Europe seemingly had no more effect upon the optimism of America's leaders than did the cries of discontent which had for years been coming from rural America. America was prospering, and Europe was at peace; it was easy to ignore the signs of trouble.



The election of Herbert Hoover in 1928 was a foregone conclusion. He offered the American people dreams of a great society and they applauded him. In accepting the Republican nomination Hoover told his audience that unemployment, "in the sense of distress," was widely disappearing and that America was nearer to the final triumph over poverty "than ever before in the history of the land." And in the early months of his administration it might well have seemed that poverty was indeed soon to be banished from the nation. For until June of 1929 the American economy continued to boom, the high point being reached in April, May, and June. Then, suddenly, the economy began to decline, and continued to do so until October. Hoover was apparently distressed. He had watched the decline with care since the early summer; but, afraid to jar the confidence of the business world, he refused to admit publicly the gravity of the situation. When the New York Herald Tribune reported on October 24 that "Stocks Off 5 Billion in Severest Break of Wall Street History," Hoover would only say that "The fundamental business of the country ... is on a sound and prosperous basis."

Just how sound the American economy really was soon became all too clear. The day after Black Thursday (October 24) the New York Times told the story: "The most disastrous decline in the biggest and broadest stock market of history rocked the financial district yesterday." Despite the fact that five of the country's leading financiers hastily issued a statement of confidence in the soundness of the market (the crash, they claimed, had been caused "by technical rather than fundamental considerations"), the situation got worse. Tuesday, October 29, was to be the worst day in the market's history; an estimated 880 issues lost between eight and nine billion dollars.

Despite the obvious, attempts to give business confidence by decrying the facts continued. John D. Rockefeller expressed his belief in the soundness of the fundamental conditions of the

Annotations:

Herbert C. Hoover ¹	- (Rep.), 31st US-President, 1929-33
Calvin Coolidge	- (Rep.), 30th US-President, 1923-25, 25-29
to anticipate	- here: to look forward to, to expect
mutual understanding	- understanding on all/both sides
stock market	- institution where shares/stocks of companies are bought and sold
futile	- of no use, without result → futility
to permeate	- to fill/spread into every part → permeation
forgone conclusion	- ending that could have been seen from the beginning
to jar	- to rock, to strike
one billion	- 1,000 million
issue	- here: stocks/shares
to decry	- to belittle
to warrant	- to justify
unless he cannot	- unless he is forced to get out of it
New Deal	- program of the 32nd US-President Franklin D.
Roosevelt	- (Dem.), 1933-41, 41-45; to help economic situation to recover again; primary task to put people back to work; the 3 R's: Relief, Recovery, Reform; Social Security Act of 1935 → unemployment compensation; right of collective bargaining for trade unions



Questions:

1. What was the economical situation in the US like before the Great Crash/the Great Depression?
2. What reasons are given for the Great Crash?
3. How did the 'official' America react, i.e. the politicians and the business world?
4. How did the depression develop and how did it end?

¹ Abbildung von Herbert Hoover entnommen der Internetseite <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/hh31.html>



Why Can't We Have the Healthy Medium?
—Knott in the Dallas "News."



What a Family to Be Born Into!

—Talburt in the Washington "News."

Whereas some journalists welcomed 1933 slightly optimistically and witnessed a pronounced change for the better in the public attitude toward the problems of the depression, the extreme Left wing, Communist *Daily Worker* (New York) asserted:

"This whole agitation, without any base in fact, is a continuation and intensification of the campaign to try to arrest and cripple the mass movement against hunger and for immediate unemployment relief, for unemployment insurance, for relief for the farmers and for payment of the soldiers' bonus. - Before the facts of life these prophecies are blasted."

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Super-Corporations of America Trust Shares represent ownership in 30 leading American Companies.

INVESTORS of large means, who are able to diversify their holdings among many different securities, have always found good common stocks a safe and highly profitable investment, if bought outright and held over a term of years.

Now the fixed investment trust has opened this field to investors of moderate means as well.

A very modest investment in Super-Corporations of America Trust Shares will enable anyone to acquire a participating ownership in the stocks (all listed on the New York Stock Exchange) of 30 of America's largest, strongest and most successful corporations.

Large investors, too, find these

shares attractive because of their convenience.

Instead of handling 120 different dividend checks, holders of trust shares simply receive two dividend checks each year. Proxies, rights, warrants, and a dozen other troublesome details are all handled by the Trustee.

We strongly recommend the purchase of Super-Corporations of America Trust Shares at present prices. Safety, marketability, convertibility, good collateral loan value, liberal return and attractive possibilities of principal enhancement are a few of the advantages they offer to investors.

These shares are available in denominations of 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 2000 trust shares at a present market price of about \$10 per share.

Send for our new free booklet, "As Sound As the Future of America."

Tune in—"KALTENBORN EDITS THE NEWS" each Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8.30 P. M. Eastern Daylight Saving Time. Over 20 stations of Columbia Network.

S. W. STRAUS & CO.

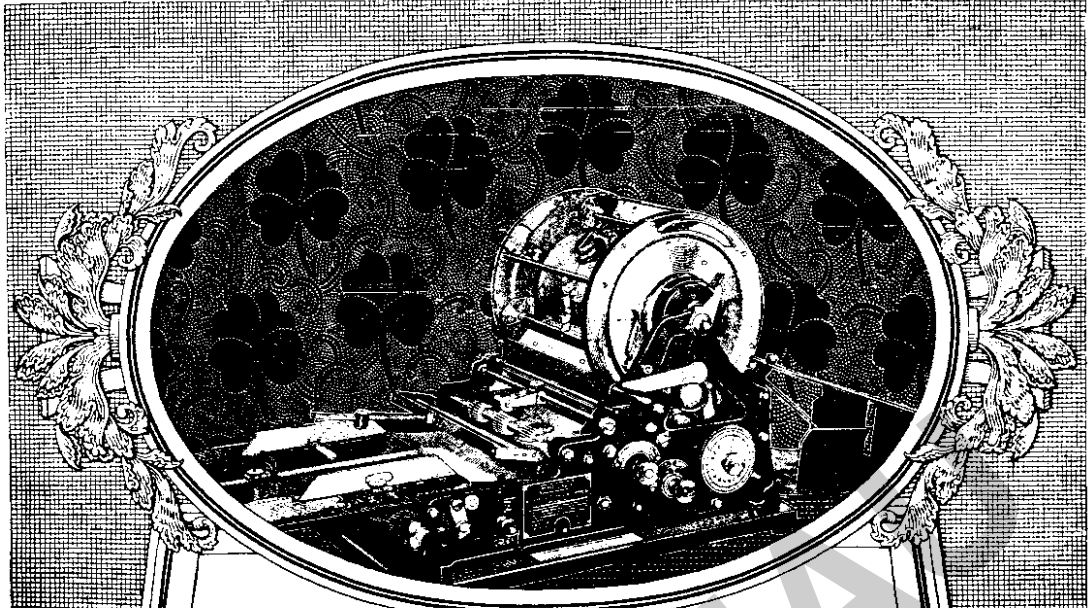
Established 1882 Incorporated
INVESTMENT SECURITIES
Straus Buildings, New York, 565 Fifth Avenue, Chicago, Michigan Avenue at Jackson Boulevard, San Francisco, 79 Post St. Offices in 36 principal cities.

Gentlemen: Please send me, without obligation, Booklet L-106, "As Sound As the Future of America." I am considering investing \$_____

Name _____
Street _____
City _____




This advert for *Super-Corporations of America Trust Shares* clearly reveals an example of the American business corporations not being able/not wanting to see the financial situation realistically. Roughly 8 months after the collapse of the Great Crash they advertised their shares hoping to influence the economy positively. But America's future was not going to be as sound as they predicted it.



LUCK IN BUSINESS

Of course there is something of luck in every success. But certain it is that luck comes most to him who has the necessary ability and equipment to profit by it. In today's strenuous competition the Mimeograph is a factor of good luck. Sales letters, bulletins, charts, questionnaires, direct mail circulars, house organs, price quotations, stock lists, reports, etc., it produces in limitless quantities, with unmatched dispatch—written or typewritten, and illustrated as desired. But not merely speed and accuracy are the Mimeograph's forte. Real economy is its big virtue. And its famed stencil sheets—Mimeotype, and the new Cellotype—give mimeographing today at less cost than ever before. Reach out for better luck—save time, make money with this great business getter and organization welder. For particulars write A. B. Dick Company, Chicago, or branches in principal cities.

M I M E O G R A P H



This advert for the *Mimeograph* (copy machine) gives an example of the American ethos believing in technological progress as the basis of success. The advertised copy machine promised to save time and to make money thus avoiding to rely on luck in business.



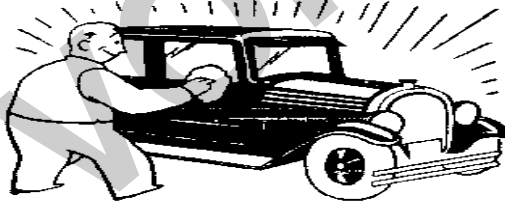
Are you
STRETCHING
YOUR DOLLARS?

Then read . . .

MANY OF US are making KOZAK
...the auto Dry Wash cloth...
stretch a dollar even to fifty.

It's a specially woven cloth...scientifically treated . . . used by several millions of owners and chauffeurs to Dry Wash their fine new cars. Lincolns, Buicks, Chevys and Fords... all kinds of car dealers and owners use KOZAKs.

All you do is wipe the dry car off with the Kozak Cloth. It's hard to believe muddy splashes and spatters disappear like magic...but the guarantee on every KOZAK ever sold says "...try it on approval and if unsatisfactory for any reason, your dealer



will cheerfully refund the purchase price of \$1.

Kozak will save 80% of your car washing...not 100%...as once in a while the car will need wet washing. Kozak will save its cost...twice over...every time.

Kozak will save hours of time in waiting for a wet wash.

Kozak will save 25 to 50 times its cost before the surface of the fabric loses its protecting and dirt absorbing qualities.

In addition to the entire resources of Kozak Inc., there stands behind every Kozak Cloth... identified by the red camel on the label sown

across the corner... some 40,000 dealers in the United States and Canada, including such tremendous retail organizations...where you can buy KOZAKs...as every gasoline station owned and operated by Colonial...Cities Service (Ohio, Mich., Wisconsin)...Indian...Goodyear...Shell Pacific Coast...10,000 Rexall community drug stores...all Liggett and Owl, as well as thousands of hardware and automobile dealers everywhere.

If you can't find a Kozak, by phone, in your own community, order direct by coupon below. Your order will be promptly filled from the factory and the name and address of a reliable local Kozak dealer sent you for future supplies.

Most of us are trying to make a dollar go just as far as possible these days...and the last thing most of us want to do is to drive around in a dirty looking car, as long as we can get hold of a Kozak Cloth.

The new Kozak is a great improvement over last year's. Get a new one today and you'll almost hear your car laugh at wet weather, when the sun comes out.

This is one of the biggest dollar's worth of anything anybody ever bought...and is guaranteed without reservation. You can invest \$1 and save fifty by mailing this coupon.

CARE WILL SAVE YOUR CAR

Kozak
The Dry Wash Cloth

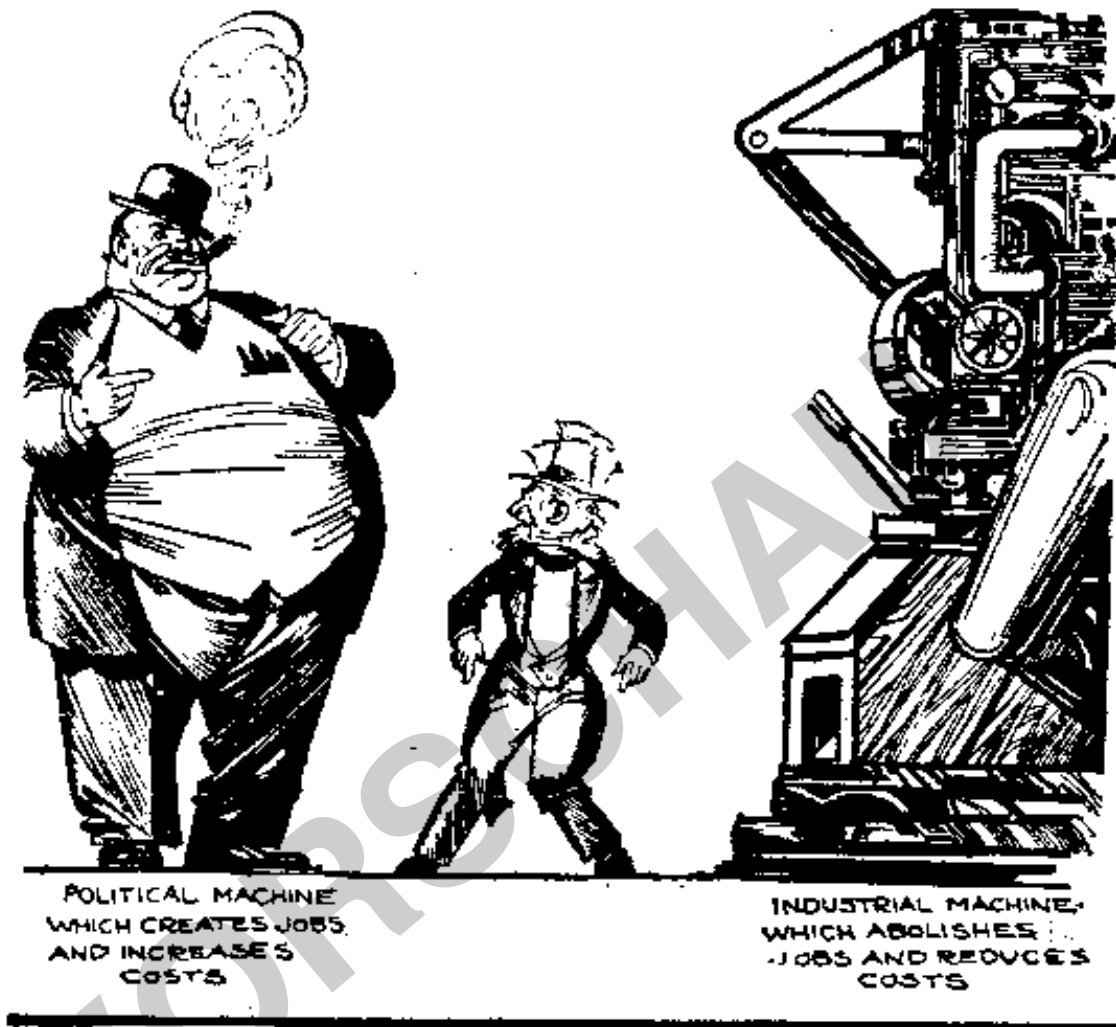
REG. PAT. OFF. U. S. & CANADA

KOZAK, Inc., 12 Park St., Batavia, N. Y.
Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for
Kozaks at \$1 each. If I wish, my money will be refunded
— and I'm the sole judge!

Name _____

Address _____

This advert for *Kozak-The Dry Car Wash Cloth* illustrates another example of America's naiveté as far as the real economic situation was concerned. The advert plays on the word 'stretching' referring to the quality of their wash cloth on the one hand and on people's stretching their dollars on the other hand. The necessity of stretching their money became all too clear.



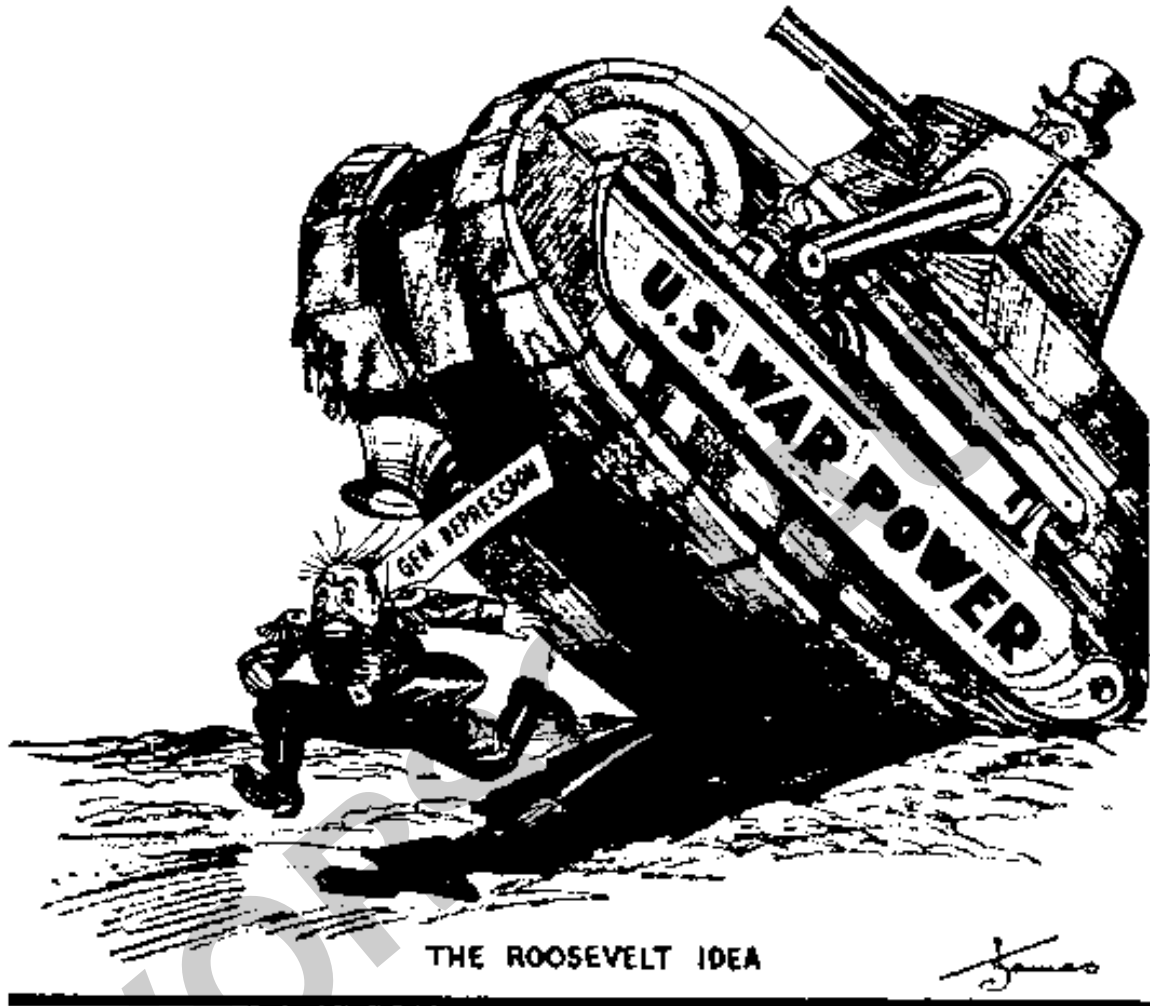
The Machine Age

—Thomas in the Detroit "News."

The longer the depression prevailed the more intensive the discussion about how to create new jobs became. There were those who saw research, invention, improvement of labor-saving devices as more important than ever before. Expenditures in these economic fields would create new employment opportunities and would increase the general welfare. Those technocrats put their deepest faith in the machine age. "On the whole, more employment is created than is destroyed by the machine. In other words, the machine is moving onward, and it is always an instrument in the hands of man for his progress; never can it be his master."

Their opponents on the other hand created the 'menace-of-the-machine' idea, hotly denying the omnipotence of the machine.

This machine-age 'menace' caused Simeon Strunsky's amused comment in *The New York Times*: "Only three years ago many of us thought the machine a menace because it made men too prosperous. The machine catered so well to our bodily needs that it was in danger of destroying our souls. Three short years, and the menace of the machine is envisaged in terms of want and poverty."



If We Decide to Get Rough

—Thomas in the Detroit "News."

This caricature clearly indicates that at least some Americans were playing with the idea of getting the economy going by preparing for military action. More and more reports filled American magazines describing what was going on in Germany. Hitler's Germany became a standard theme of American journalism in the 1930's.



Lösungshinweise:

1. Golden/Roaring Twenties; Jazz Age; Gilded Age; overall optimism; prosperity; wealthiness; booming economy
2. - disastrous decline in stock market
- no value/goods enough to balance the amount of debts
3. Secretary of the Treasury: no menace, no reason for pessimism
President Hoover: situation is beyond American control; 'abroad' is to be blamed → scapegoat
Henry Ford: it builds the character; people have to help themselves
Business World: decrying the facts (obviously afraid of worsening the situation)
4. Situation of workers: in March of 1930 = 3,5 million unemployed
in March of 1932 = 12 million unemployed
in March of 1933 = 14-16 million unemployed
end: because of - Roosevelt's New Deal
- preparations to enter war

VORSCHAU



"HUNGRY CHILDREN"

Grace Abbott, Chief of the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, reports in general terms about malnutrition among children; reprinted in The New York Times, December 18, 1932:

Even those with little imagination know how no employment or underemployment, the failure of banks and building and loan associations have affected many children whose parents faced the future self-reliant and unafraid a few years ago. In the millions of homes which have escaped the abyss of destitution fear of what may still happen is destroying the sense of security which is considered necessary for the happiness and well-being of children.

Great effort has been made to prevent suffering. Last year probably more than a billion dollars was expended by public and private agencies for the relief of the unemployed. Although this is probably some eight times as much as was spent for relief in normal times, no one who has been going in and out of homes of the unemployed in large urban centres or in the single-industry towns and mining communities has reported that it has been adequate to insure shelter, clothes and reasonably adequate diet for all needy children. ...



Although the death rate [of infants and children] is low, there is much evidence that the health of many children is being adversely affected by the prolonged depression. For example, hospitals and clinics report an increase in rickets among children; in New York City, where relief for the unemployed has probably been more nearly adequate than in any other of the largest cities, the city Health department reports that 20.5 per cent of the school children examined were suffering from malnutrition in 1932. ...

Undernourishment is even more widespread in areas of extreme depression, where the available relief has been quite inadequate, such as the coal-mining communities and "one-industry towns", where there has been little or no work for several years, or in districts where the depression has been added to the economic losses brought by flood and drought.

In a recent report of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service on the rural healthwork in the drought-stricken areas in 1931, the reports of the health officers as to health conditions in the counties are summarized. Here one finds the health officers of Alabama and Arkansas, for example, reporting for county after county an increase in pellagra due to inability to purchase the necessary food; and "dietary diseases" and widespread undernourishment were frequently referred to in the reports for these and other States. The bulletin, "Health Briefs," of the Tennessee Health Department for August of this year says that "the increase in deaths from pellagra that has been forecast since the beginning of the reduced economic conditions is now beginning to show on the tally sheets of vital statistics." ...

Recently the director of the Child Hygiene Division of the Children's Bureau was called into a conference to discuss how the reduced relief budgets should be expended so as to insure the health of the children. Protective foods for children include milk, fruits, some fresh vegetables, and eggs, and the problem was how to purchase these as well as the foods that supply energy for

a family of five when the total income is \$11 a month. Some families are managing to exist on a smaller per capita than \$2 a month, but at the cost of greatly lowered vital capacity and resistance to disease.



It is the future effects of undernourishment among children that are to be feared. As Dr. William H. Welch has put it, "The ground lost by undernourishment in childhood may never be regained." That many children have suffered such losses during the past three years is certain.

Annotations:

- abyss of destitution - (hell of) complete poverty
- rickets - disease of childhood, marked by softening and malformation of the bones (deficiency of vitamin D)
- pellagra - disease caused by a deficiency of vitamin B; leading to infection of the skin, diarrhea, death
- tally sheets of - score sheets used to provide statistics vital statistics relating to population figures on births, deaths etc.

Questions:

1. Work out the effects of the depression on the physical condition of children.
2. To what extent were they affected psychologically?
3. Analyse the parents' situation with special regard to the question of what is necessary for a child to grow up in a good and happy way.
4. "The ground lost by undernourishment in childhood may never be regained." What was Dr. William H. Welch thinking of?
5. How does the text reveal that malnutrition of children is a social problem of utmost importance for the whole society?

Wordfield:

- Collect all the words and expressions from the field of 'hunger'.



TALKING DUST BOWL - WORDS AND MUSIC BY WOODY GUTHRIE

[from: RCA record no. PL 12099 - WOODY GUTHRIE - A legendary Performer, recorded on April 26, 1940]

I hit Pampa in the Panhandle of Texas, and stuck there a while. Then the dust storms begun blowing blacker and meaner, and the rain was getting less, and the dust more and more. I made up a little song that went:

Back in 1927, I had a little farm, and I called that heaven.
Prices up, and the rain come down;
I hauled my crops all into town, got the money -
Bought clothes and groceries - fed the kids
And raised a big family.

But the rain quit and the wind got high
Black old dust storm filled the sky;
I traded my farm for a Ford machine,
Poured it full of this gas-i-line
And started - rockin' and a-rollin'
Deserts and mountains - to California.

Way up yonder on a mountain road
Hot motor and a heavy load,
Goin' purty fast, wasn't even stoppin'
Bouncin' up and down like popcorn a-poppin',
Had a breakdown - kind of a nervous breakdown,
Mechanic feller there charged me five bucks
Said it was en-gine trouble.

Way up yonder on a mountain curve,
Way up yonder in the Piney Wood,
I give that rollin' Ford a shove,
Gonna coast just as far's I could,
Commenced a-rollin' - pickin' up speed,
Come a hair-pin turn - and I didn't make it.

Man alive, I'm a-tellin' you,
The fiddles and guitars really flew,
That Ford took off like a flyin' squirrel,
Flew half-way around the world.
Scattered wives and children
All over the side of that mountain.



Got to California so dad gum broke,
 So dad gum hungry I thought I'd choke;
 I bummed up a spud or two,
 Wife fixed up some tater stew.
 We poured the kids full of it -
 Looked like a tribe of ther-mometers a-runnin' around.

Lord, man, I swear to you,
 That was shorely mighty thin stew.
 So damn thin, I really mean,
 You could read a magazine
 Right through it - look at pictures too.
 Purty whiskey bottles - naked women.
 Always have thought, always figgered,
 If that damn stew'd a-been a little bit thinner,
 Some of these here politicians
 Could of seen through it.



from: *Woody Guthrie, Talking Dust Bowl*, in: Jack Salzman/Barry Wallenstein, (eds.), *Years of Protest, A Collection of American Writings of the 1930's, Indianapolis 1970*, pp. 72/73

Annotations:

purty	- (sl.) pretty
feller	- (sl.) fellow
I gonna	- (sl.) I am going to
to coast	- to roll downhill, not in gear
dad gum	- (sl.) really miserably
to choke	- to suffocate
to bum up a spud	- (sl.) to succeed in getting a potato by begging
tater	- (sl.) potato
shorely	- (sl.) surely
could of seen	- (sl.) could have seen

[Probably one of the greatest folk balladers, Woody Guthrie was born in Oklahoma where he spent his early years in a region called the Texas Panhandle. Guthrie was amongst the 100.000 people to leave the Dust Bowl when the dust storms came. During his life of ceaseless wanderings he played the songs he heard and made new ones on the people he met.]

Questions:

1. What was the economical situation like right at the beginning of the story?
2. When and why did this change?
3. Describe the author's experience on his way to California.
4. Analyse the function of metaphors in this song.
5. What function does the magazine (last stanza) serve?



HINWEISE ZU DEN KARIKATUREN

Die enthaltenen Grafiken sind allesamt Karikaturen in amerikanischen Zeitschriften der 30er Jahre. Die Datei **Caricat.txt** enthält als Einführung hierzu Definitionen und Synonyme des Begriffs 'caricature', wie sie in verschiedenen Wörterbüchern auf CD-ROM zu finden sind. Diese Informationen - evtl. verdichtet zu einem Wortfeld -, eignen sich insbesondere für die Hand der Schüler, um eine gewisse Verständnisgrundlage zu vermitteln.

Der Einsatz der Karikaturen im Unterricht kann losgelöst von jedweder Textvorlage geschehen. Die Karikaturen bieten sicherlich eine Bereicherung von Unterrichtsreihen zum Thema (politische) Satire. Zahlreiche weisen aktuelle Bezüge zur heutigen wirtschaftspolitischen Diskussion auf. Kopiert oder als Overhead-Folie können sie Sprechansätze bieten, bestimmte Wortfelder vorzuentlasten.

Auch Belege dafür, dass man aus der Geschichte lernen kann, finden sich: So verdeutlichen die Karikaturen z.B. wie man in wirtschaftlich schlechten Zeiten mit Ausländern umzugehen pflegt. Der direkte Bezug zu heute drängt sich ungewollt auf, andere verdeutlichen auf verdächtig aktuelle Weise, mit welchen Mitteln man der Wirtschaftskrise der 90er Jahre beikommen will. Pro und contra Keynes werden bemüht. Einerseits werden Lohnkürzungen vorgeschlagen, andererseits zeigen sich aber auch Unternehmer zu unkonventionellen Maßnahmen bereit. Wieder andere plädieren für die Umverteilung der Arbeit mittels des 6-Stunden-Tages. Wie glücklich wären die Gewerkschaften hierzulande über solchen Unternehmergeist. Manche spielen direkt auf die hohe Staatsverschuldung an. Über aktuelle Bezüge zu heute bieten sich somit motivierende Sprechansätze für den Unterricht.

In erster Linie sind sie jedoch gedacht, die Texte in o.g. Sammlung grafisch aufzubereiten. Sie können als Sprechansatz zum Einstieg in einen Text, in eine Problemstellung dienen.

Um die Karikaturen eventuell wieder aus ihrer Zuordnung zu den einzelnen Texten zu lösen, finden Sie nachfolgend eine Übersicht, welche Karikaturen in welcher Datei enthalten sind, und was sie inhaltlich darstellen. Ergänzend wurde nochmals die genaue Fundquelle vermerkt. Wenn Sie die Karikaturen aus dem Text lösen, vergessen Sie bitte nicht die Zitate von derselben Zeitungseite, von der die entsprechende Karikatur stammt. Beide Belege - Text und Grafik - repräsentieren nämlich authentische Dokumente des amerikanischen Zeitgeistes der 30er Jahre. Ein Auswahlkriterium war aber stets der aktuelle Bezug zu heute.

Name	Fundquelle	Textbezug	Inhalt
„Bottom“	The Literary Digest, March 18, 1933, p. 3	War.arb	Uncle Sam am Boden (in der Talsohle)
„Circle“	The Literary Digest, August 8, 1931, p. 6	Extra1.txt (Hoboes.txt)	Teufelskreis der Verarmung (nach Keynes)
„Communis“	The Literary Digest, August 1, 1931, p. 12	Miners.txt (Workers.txt)	Die Angst der Amerikaner vor dem Kommunismus
„Criminal“	The Literary Digest, August 22, 1931, p. 6	Hoboes.txt	Behandlung von (kriminellen) Ausländern - Abschiebung

Name	Fundquelle	Textbezug	Inhalt
„Tax“	The Literary Digest, February 11, 1933, p. 11	Problem.arb	Steuerlast des Bürgers
„Techno“	The Literary Digest, January 21, 1933, p. 6	Intro.arb	Vor- und Nachteile des Maschinenzeitalters
„Wages“	The Literary Digest, March 18, 1933, p. 9	Extra2.txt (Okies.txt; Homeless.txt)	Gegen Lohnkürzungen zur Ankurbelung der Wirtschaftsbelebung
„Warpower“	The Literary Digest, March 18, 1933, p. 5	Intro.arb	Rüstungsindustrie als Hoffnungsträger
„Works“	The Literary Digest, July 15, 1933, p. 10	Problem.arb (Intro.arb)	Öffentliche Aufträge gegen den Pleitegeier

Falls Sie nicht die gesamte Unterrichtseinheit verwenden wollen, können Sie einzelne Karikaturen auch anderen Texten zuordnen. Dies ist in Klammern vermerkt.

In der Datei **Informat.txt** befinden sich in prägnanter Form Erläuterungen zu den wirtschaftlichen, politischen und kulturellen Aspekten der Depression (z.B. zum *New Deal*, zu den Präsidenten *Coolidge*, *Hoover*, *Roosevelt*).