

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM FOUR

PROGRAM FOUR 1929-1943

Caught up in the giddiness of furious speculation and the belief that nothing could go wrong, speculators continued to bet wildly on an out of control market. Journalist Vincent Sheehan wrote, “Everybody speculated, everybody believed prosperity was eternal and nobody I knew seemed to think that free speculation with the produce of a nation’s labor was criminal.”

In 1929, the klaxon of danger shrieked and was ignored. Six months earlier, slowing durable goods orders and other indicators showed that the U.S. economy was going into a tailspin. Abroad, nations struggled to remain solvent as their banking systems meandered from one crisis to another. Meanwhile, stocks doubled, tripled, quadrupled in values and then did it all again. Montgomery Ward’s stock topped \$447/share in early October. And then finally, they plummeted.

The fall of the Stock Market and the ensuing Great Depression shaped a generation more than any downturn in the U.S. economy had done before; nor were its lessons squandered on private and public leaders in the following decades. Up until 1929, the ‘boom/bust’ cycle of economics was considered normal. Beginning with Franklin Roosevelt’s administration, the government strove to smooth out the economic roller coaster that kept the rich wealthy, the poor in poverty and the growing middle class from achieving economic stability.

Over the next ten years, the United States would come to know a depth of despair few thought possible. This great nation of individualists and can do immigrants faced an economic crisis the likes of which the world had never seen. In the final analysis, the economic depression stretched but did not tear apart the fabric of American society.

Then, at the end of a decade long depression, the country faced a world gone mad in the ravages of war and destruction. A generation of American men and women, whose mettle was tested as never before, eschewed the isolationism of a previous generation and, rising to greatness, preserved the world for democracy.

Program Four covers Black Tuesday, the forerunner of the Depression, Roosevelt’s first ‘100 days,’ and the signing of the Social Security Act. It also relates the successes of a nation on the brink of destruction: Amelia Earhart’s transatlantic flight, the triumphs of Jesse Owens and Joe Louis. It explores the literature of writers who chronicled a lost generation. Finally, it covers the opening of a world at war with the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

Turning Point #1

1929 - “Black Tuesday” Foretells the Great Depression:

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- In the 1920’s America experienced an unprecedented boom cycle that lasted almost the entire decade.
- By October 1929, that boom cycle was about to come to a devastating end.
- At the time, the market was well behind the economy. Freight and shipping were down; unemployment was increasing; farming was undergoing a pre-depression depression.

- The boom/bust cycle of economics coupled with trickle down theory is what drove the American economy prior to 1929.
- Though most Americans respected and even idolized big business, the practice that destroyed the stability of the market was buying stocks on margin.
- The American economy spun into the bleakest turndown it had ever experienced--The Great Depression.

Points for Teachers:

- In the words of American journalist, Frazier Hunt, Calvin Coolidge played a shabby trick on Herbert Hoover. He handed him the toy balloon of inflated prosperity and then hurried up to Massachusetts and hid in the woodpile.
- It all came to a head on October 23, 1929. Stock prices tumbled so swiftly, that \$5 billion dollars was lost in five hours.
- By the end of the year, millions of men and women were out of work, walking the streets looking for nonexistent jobs.
- Facts and figures do not quite tell the bleakness that enveloped the American spirit as the stock market crashed. Many people committed suicide rather than face their creditors.
- Oscar Ameringer wrote that the country was a land of devastation and the depression struck high and low alike. Banks foreclosed on farms and then closed their doors; stores and factories shut down and boarded up their windows; bread lines got longer, and the roads were strewn with “hitchhikers, tin lizzies, atavistic covered wagons, fear-stricken men, women and children, whole families fleeing in every direction, as if pursued by unknown foes.”
- The United States, once the purveyor of good economic times and democracy, became the cauldron of unrest. Socialists, Marxists and Communists saw an opportunity to affect the revolution of the masses once prophesied by Marx and Engels. America hung on the brink of revolution, greater than Shays Rebellion in 1786 or the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1) 1789- Alexander Hamilton Becomes Secretary of the Treasury and Shapes America's Modern Industrial Economy
- 2) 1794 - The Whiskey Rebellion is Put Down
- 3) 1933 - President Roosevelt’s ‘One Hundred Days’ Begins his New Deal
- 4) 1935 - President Roosevelt Signs the Social Security Act
- 5) 1965 - President Johnson Signs the Medicare Bill

Turning Point #2

1932 - Amelia Earhart: Record-Breaking Woman Aviator

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Amelia Earhart was the first woman to make a solo flight over the Atlantic Ocean. She recorded many other firsts in aviation history as either pilot or copilot.
- In July 1937, as she attempted the first round-the-world flight via the equator with navigator Frederick J. Noonan, her plane mysteriously disappeared after takeoff from New Guinea.
- Perhaps Earhart’s greatest contribution was the ease she presented in performing her heroic flights. She was an inspiration to generations of American women.

- Thousands of women followed in her footsteps becoming pilots in the Army Air Corps WASP program. From January 1943 to December 1944 these women transported B17 bombers across the United States and even to England.
- Others followed in her footsteps--Althea Gibson, Babe Didrikson and Wilma Rudolph.

Points for Teachers:

- On her around the world attempt in 1937, Amelia Earhart wrote these immortal words to her husband, George Putnam, "Please know I am quite aware of the hazards. I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others."
- In 1928, Earhart crossed the Atlantic with two men as part of publicity stunt. Of the flight Earhart wrote, "I was a passenger on the journey...just a passenger. Everything that was done to bring us across was done by Wilmer Stultz and Slim Gordon. Any praise I can give them they ought to have...I do not believe that women lack the stamina to do a solo trip across the Atlantic, but it would be a matter of learning the arts of flying by instruments only, an art which few men pilots know perfectly now..."
- When the French press ended an article about her accomplishment in 1932 with the question: "Can she bake a cake?" ...Amelia retorted, "I accept these awards on behalf of the cake bakers and all of those other women who can do some things quite as important, if not more important, than flying, as well as in the name of women flying today."
- There were many women pioneer aviators, Bessie Coleman, Ruth Nichols among them. But Earhart combined ambition and skills and a touch of recklessness to make a statement about women's abilities.
- Women athletes following in Earhart's footsteps: Olympians Jackie Joyner Kersey and Summer Sanders; tennis greats Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, Venus and Serena Williams; and golfer Michelle Wie.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1872 - Susan B. Anthony is Arrested for Voting
- 1903 - Wright Brothers Fly at Kitty Hawk
- 1920 - Women Gain the Right to Vote
- 1927 - Charles Lindbergh Flies Across the Atlantic
- 1936-38 - Jesse Owens And Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Claim of Aryan Superiority
- 1962 - Astronaut John Glenn is the First American to Orbit the Earth

Turning Point #3

1933 – President Roosevelt's 'One Hundred Days' Begins his New Deal

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- That the nation's Republican leaders and business leaders were befuddled by the depression following the stock market crash.
- Roosevelt offered the American people a 'New Deal.'
- In his first hundred days, Roosevelt tried more than most Presidents do in four years.
- Two policies set the pattern of national planning in his New Deal: the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the National Recovery Administration.

- But the most striking program and the one that demonstrated the New Deal's startling innovation and break from the laissez faire system under the Republicans was TVA-- Tennessee Valley Authority.
- When it was all said and done, Roosevelt's "New Deal" encouraged American confidence and introduced a new era of government involvement in the welfare of U.S. Citizens.

Points for Teachers:

- The World was in turmoil. Europe and Asia reeled under the effects of the Depression-- Germany, Italy and Japan embraced Fascism; England's crown flirted dangerously with it; Stalinist Russia survived only through brutal purges. America, beset by the same woes and what seemed to be an uncaring President, grew anxious as the despair of sullen men filled the country with gloom.
- Roosevelt told the people during his campaign, "The country needs, and unless I mistake its temper, the country demands bold persistent experimentation. Above all try something!"
- America stayed in the Depression with some minor gains in the economy until the start of World War II. What Roosevelt brought to the table was the boldness needed to inspire Americans with confidence in their leaders and in themselves. His policies provided hope in a country devastated by falling wages and prices, lack of food, failing banks (over 5000 banks had failed since 1929) and a shattered stock market.
- The use of the term 'first hundred days' derives from Napoleon's conquering France again after returning from exile.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1789- Alexander Hamilton Becomes Secretary of the Treasury and Shapes America's Modern Industrial Economy
- 1794 - The Whiskey Rebellion is Put Down
- 1929 - "Black Tuesday" Foretells the Great Depression
- 1933 – President Roosevelt's 'One Hundred Days' Begins his New Deal

Turning Point # 4

1935 - President Roosevelt Signs the Social Security Act:

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- The passage of the 1935 Social Security Act would prove to be FDR's greatest living testament.
- FDR wished for a social security system that protected Americans from "cradle to grave."
- The political climate of time would not allow complete security, so FDR opted for Social Security in old age.
- The core idea of the Social Security Act was that both employer and employee would contribute to a pool of money, held by the federal government, that the worker could tap in retirement.

Points for Teachers:

- In 1935, the economy was improving: was \$20 billion larger than in 1933, but still \$30 billion less than in 1929; four million more workers were employed in 1935 than in 1933, but nine million remained unemployed. With Congress and demagogues clamoring at him and

the economy not in full recovery, Roosevelt had to find some new means and new men to reenergize his economic policy.

- Perhaps no demographic of American society was greater impacted by the Depression than the elderly. Men like Huey Long, Father Coughlin and Charles Townsend saw in their plight the manifestation of the Depression and the inadequate policies of Roosevelt in dealing with the Depression's effects.
- Roosevelt revived his leadership and his policies with a second New Deal.
 - a. A \$4.8 billion relief bill, the Works Progress Administration;
 - b. The Wagner Labor Relations Act replaced the National Industrial Recovery Act.
 - c. The Public Utilities Holding Company Act--ended the concentration of public utilities in a single holding company.
 - d. Tax law of 1935 began estate taxes and a graduated income tax for corporations
 - e. Banking Act of 1935 gave the Federal Reserve control over the purchase and sale of government securities in order to regulate the money supply.
- But the most important act of the second New Deal was the Social Security Act passed in August of 1935.
- The Social Security Act of 1935 was intended to provide pensions for most retired commercial and industrial workers aged 65 years or more along the lines of a private insurance plan rather than social insurance.
- Over the years, however, amendments to the act changed the focus to universal and compulsory protection providing social adequacy.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1789 - Alexander Hamilton Becomes Secretary of the Treasury and Shapes America's Modern Industrial Economy
- 1794 - The Whiskey Rebellion is Put Down
- 1901 - McKinley is shot and Theodore Roosevelt becomes President
- 1902 - 140,000 Mine Workers go out on Strike
- 1914 - Clayton Anti-Trust Act passed
- 1929 - "Black Tuesday" Foretells the Great Depression
- 1935 - President Roosevelt Signs the Social Security Act

Turning Point #5

1936-38 - Jesse Owens and Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Claim of Aryan Superiority

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- Jesse Owens and Joe Louis were sports heroes who transcended race. Yet at the same time, they gave hope to Black Americans.
- For Black Americans every victory, every first was a justification for equality. On the sporting field, the individual's superiority is shown in his effort and his victory. Blacks could point to their own and say they won by virtue of their ability.
- Since sports winners were by definition heroes, successful Black athletes helped break down the racial stereotypes that had existed since the days before the Civil War.
- Black heroes emerged in sports, literature, business, government and the law.

Points for Teachers:

- Black athletes in the first part of the 20th century were reviled by whites when they competed against whites.
- When Jack Johnson became the first black heavyweight champion of the world in 1908, his victory had white sports reporters obsessed with finding 'the great white hope.'
- Jim Jeffries was called out of retirement. In their title fight in 1910, Johnson knocked out Jeffries. Race riots occurred throughout the United States for several days afterwards.
- In the 1930's, the atmosphere for the Black athlete was bleak if not dangerous. The 'Separate but Equal' clause set down by Plessy v. Ferguson in 1895 affected all aspects of sport.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1739 - Black Uprising in South Carolina
- 1793 - Congress Enacts a Fugitive Slave Law
- 1865 - Formation of the Ku Klux Klan
- 1881 - Booker T. Washington Open Tuskegee Institute
- 1896 - Plessy v. Ferguson Case Upholds Segregation
- 1954 - Brown v. Board of Education
- 1955 - Rosa Parks is Arrested
- 1963 - Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" Speech

Turning Point #6

1940 - Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" is Published

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- America's great age of literature, in the two decades between the world wars, embraced the wild times of the roaring '20's and the despairing misery of the Great Depression.
- They were the voices of what Gertrude Stein christened "the lost generation". These voices included such literary lights as Eugene O'Neill, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway--five authors who produced the most remarkable American literature since Mark Twain.

Points for Teachers:

- The Roaring Twenties were an age of excess--millions spent on lavish parties, art and illegal booze, while the Depression was an age of desperation--millions unemployed, fortunes lost and a nation brought to the brink of fascism. The two contrapuntal ages served as the milieu for a generation of authors.
- Historian Page Smith calls this era of American history, "The Age of Literature, since it brought the most notable or remarkable effusion of literary activity since the 1850's."
- Other authors included E.E. Cummings, William Saroyan, Josephine Herbst, John Dos Passos, Thomas Wolfe, Theodore Dreiser and Sherwood Anderson.
- These men and women sought seclusion abroad as expatriates in Paris and London and Madrid and Rome.
- They wrote of Americans from a distance, giving them a cynical perspective, perhaps, but a means of cutting through the chaff and finding the reality of a gritty life beneath.

- Hemingway, along with writers such as Fitzgerald and Steinbeck, and artists like Georgia O’Keefe and Grant Wood, influenced a generation of authors and artists.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1702 - Cotton Mather Publishes, "The Ecclesiastical History of New England."
- 1735 - Peter Zenger Acquitted of Libel in New York
- 1783 - Noah Webster Issues "Blue-backed Speller"
- 1819 - Washington Irving Publishes “Rip Van Winkle”
- 1826 - James Fenimore Cooper Publishes “Last of the Mohicans”
- 1845 - Edgar Allan Poe Publishes “The Raven”
- 1852 - Harriet Beecher Stowe Publishes “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”
- 1885 - Mark Twain Publishes “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”
- 1906 - Upton Sinclair’s Novel “The Jungle” is Published

Turning Point #7

1941 - Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor

STUDENT GOALS - In this section the students learn:

- On December 7th 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, killing 2,400 Americans and sinking 19 U.S. ships, including six battleships.
- The war in the Pacific started years before Pearl Harbor as Japan continued her aggression in Asia, taking over Korea and much of China.
- Eventually the United States stymied Japan’s conquest of China.
- Isolated commercially and with an American led army south of her, Japan was convinced she had every reason to go to war with the United States.
- At first the Pacific war went badly for America and its allies.
- By the Spring of 1942, the tide began to turn for the U.S. with victories at Midway and the Coral Sea.
- Unable to defend or resupply its troops adequately over the next three years, Japan was pushed back to its main islands with a brilliant strategy of island hopping.
- The war with Japan ended dramatically on August 9, 1945.

Points for Teachers:

- In December 1940, Roosevelt declared that the U.S. must provide an “Arsenal of Democracy” for those opposing the Axis powers. One year later, Japan’s surprise attack brought America fully into the war.
- FDR addressed Congress on December 8, 1941: “Yesterday, December 7, a date that will live in infamy, the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”
- The United States went to war with Germany and Italy three days later.
- 90% of the United States’ war effort went to Europe. 10% of American supplies went to the Pacific.
- In the United States, non-Asian Americans turned on Japanese immigrants and their American born children, most of whom lived in California, Washington and Oregon. The U.S. indiscriminately rounded up Japanese Americans and sent them to internment camps in the interior.

- War production in the United States increased exponentially. In 1942 war production reached 60,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, 20,000 anti-aircraft guns and 8 million tons of shipping. The effect on the economy was enormous. Gross national product rose from \$100 billion in 1940 to \$213 billion in 1945.
- Perhaps the greatest result of the attack, outside of the war effort that followed, was the determination by Roosevelt and subsequent administrations, that the United States must take up the banner of a superpower and police the world.
- On December 9, Roosevelt told the nation, “In the past few years--and most violently in the past few days--we have learned a terrible lesson. We must begin the great task that is before us by abandoning once and for all the illusion that we can ever again isolate ourselves from the rest of humanity. We are going to win the war, and we are going to win the peace that follows.”
- The United States would become the world’s foremost super power, like Greece (4th century b.c.), Rome (1st Century a.d), Spain (16th century a.d.) France (17th century a.d.) and England (19th century a.d.) before it.

Related Segments from other Turning Points include:

- 1914-1917 - America Prepares for World War I
- 1917 - America Enters World War I
- 1944 - D-Day “Operation Overlord”
- 1950 - President Truman Sends American Troops to the Aid of South Korea
- 1950-1953 - The Korean War
- 1962 - Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1964 - Vietnam War: Congress Passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- 1968 - Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive
- 1973 – Vietnam War: Cease-Fire Ends War
- 1983 - The Grenada Conflict
- 1990 - The Gulf War Demonstrates American Military Supremacy

RESOURCES – INTERNET SITES

Turning Point #1

1929 “Black Tuesday” Foretells the Great Depression

1. Black Tuesday - October 29, 1929
http://mutualfunds.about.com/cs/1929marketcrash/a/black_tuesday.htm
2. Black Monday - 1929: Black Monday is usually considered a precursor to the worst day in stock market history http://mutualfunds.about.com/cs/1929marketcrash/a/black_monday.htm
3. The Stock Market Crash of 1929 <http://mypage.direct.ca/r/rsavill/Thecrash.html>

Turning Point #2

Amelia Earhart: Record-Breaking Woman Aviator

1. Official Amelia Earhart Web site: <http://www.ameliaearhart.com/>
2. Amelia Earhart - biography Amelia Earhart, 1897 to 1937, biography of achievements, the early years, the celebrity, the last flight, links, references, http://ellensplace.net/eae_intr.html

3. Amelia Earhart: Information about Amelia Earhart and the records held by the Navy concerning her last flight <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq3-1.htm>
4. Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum: <http://www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org/>
5. Amelia Earhart <http://www.ninety-nines.org/earhart.html>

Turning Point #3

1933 President Roosevelt's 'One Hundred Days' Begins his New Deal

1. They Don't Make Presidential Honeymoons Like They Did in FDR...
<http://www.igs.berkeley.edu/publications/par/summer2001/FDR.html>
2. FDR-The Man, the Leader, the Legacy, Part 1 <http://www.fff.org/freedom/0700f.asp>
3. FDR-The Man, the Leader, the Legacy, Part 12 <http://www.fff.org/freedom/0401f.asp>

Turning Point #4

1935 President Roosevelt Signs the Social Security Act

1. Social Security Through History <http://www.coursework.info/i/1000.html>
2. Social Security Online History Page
http://www.disabilitymuseum.org/search_lib.php?source=SSO
3. Social Security Number FAQ - History and Significance of the Social Security Number
<http://www.cpsr.org/cpsr/privacy/ssn/SSN-History.html>

Turning Point #5

1936-38 Jesse Owens and Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Claim of Aryan Superiority

1. The Official Jesse Owens Web Site <http://www.jesseowens.com/>
2. Jesse Owens: A quote by Benjamin Banneker describes the hypocrisy that Jesse Owens and other athletes of his time had to face <http://www.geocities.com/dblimbrick/owens.html>
3. Joe Louis Official Web Site <http://www.cmgww.com/sports/louis/louis.html>
4. Joe Louis: His punches were so compact that some in the media claimed a Joe Louis punch need only to travel six inches to render an opponent unconscious
<http://www.ibhof.com/jlouis.htm>
5. SIKIDS | BLACK HISTORY MONTH February is Black History Month..
<http://www.sikids.com/news/blackhistory/>
6. Black History Month: Quiz: Civil Rights Leaders; Quiz: Artists & Entertainers; Quiz: Black Athletes; <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html>
7. Black Athletes: Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers
<http://afroamhistory.about.com/cs/athletessports/>
8. AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN, BLACK MEN: Black Cultural Center. "Before Jackie...Prior to the Intergration of Major League Baseball, Black Athletes Made History." Ebony August 1992, p. 32. ... <http://www.purdue.edu/BCC/library/athletes.htm>

Turning Point #6

1940 Ernest Hemingway's 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' is Published

1. Hemingway Resource Center <http://www.lostgeneration.com/hrc.htm>
2. ERNEST HEMINGWAY HOME & MUSEUM - Key West, Florida
<http://www.hemingwayhome.com/>
3. Lost Generation: Lost Generation Bookstore provides information about the authors who constituted this period. <http://classiclit.about.com/cs/lostgeneration/>

4. The Lost Generation: The lost generation writers
http://users.rowan.edu/~lindman/lost_generation.html
5. American literature: The Lost Generation and After
http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/section/amerlit_thelostgenerationandafter.asp

Turning Point #7

1941 Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor

1. National Geographic: Remembering Pearl Harbor
<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/>
2. Five photos and the sequence of events.
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/pearl.htm>
3. Pearl Harbor Raid, 7 December 1941
<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/wwii-pac/pearlhbr/pearlhbr.htm>
4. Air Raid Pearl Harbor <http://www.navsource.org/Naval/arph.htm>
5. Today in History: December 7 <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/dec07.html>
6. Excellent archive of battle photos of WWII in Asia.
<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/pacificwar/>
and <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/pacificwar/timeline.htm>
8. Resource listing for WWII <http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/>
9. HyperWar: World War II on the World Wide Web <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/>
10. Pacific's World War II <http://www.geocities.com/pentagon/3758/>

SEE BLACKLINE MASTER 4A -TEST QUESTIONS

ANSWERS TO TEST QUESTIONS ON BLACKLINE MASTER 4A

1-a, 2-a, 3-c, 4-a, 5-b, 6-b, 7-b, 8-a, 9-d, 10-c, 11-a, 12 Hemingway – For Whom the Bell Tolls, F.Scott Fitzgerald – The Great Gatsby, Steinbeck – Grapes of Wrath, Faulkner – The Sound and the Fury, Mitchell – Gone with the Wind, 13-c, 14-b

BLACKLINE MASTER 4B –TIMELINE