CHAPTER 24: LIMITS AND LEGACIES OF THE NEW DEAL:
OBJECTIVES:

- We will examine how the New Deal fostered the influence of interest groups.
- We will examine the New Deal and how it affected various minority groups and regions in the United States.
- We will see how the New Deal expanded the role of the Federal Government and established the welfare state.
Isa_14:32  What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.
The Idea of the Broker State:

- The New Deal became what was known as a “broker state.”
- Instead of forging all elements of society into a single, harmonious unit, as some reformers had once hoped to do.
- The real achievement of the New Deal was to elevate and strengthen new interest groups so as to allow them to compete more effectively in the national market place.
The Idea of the Broker State:

- Thus the Federal Government was a mediator in that continuous competition a force that could intervene when necessary to help some group and limit the power of others.
- These interest groups would expand to racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, women and many others.
The Idea of the Broker State:

- Thus, one of the enduring legacies of the New Deal was to make the Federal Government a protector of interest groups.
- And a supervisor of the competition among them, rather than an instrument attempting to create a universal harmony of interest.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- One group the New Deal did relatively little to assist was African Americans.
- The administration was not hostile to black aspirations.
- On the contrary the New Deal was probably more sympathetic to them than any previous government of the twentieth century.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- Eleanor Roosevelt spoke throughout the 1930s on behalf of racial justice and put continuing pressure on her husband and others in the federal government to ease discrimination against blacks.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- Roosevelt also appointed a number of black officials to significant secondary level positions in his administration.
- They were called the Black Cabinet.
- Eleanor Roosevelt and Harold Ickles (Interior Secretary) made efforts to ensure that New Deal Relief Programs did not exclude blacks;
- By 1935, a quarter of all African Americans were receiving some sort of government assistance.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- As late as 1932, most African Americans were voting Republican as they did since the Civil War.
- But by 1936, 90 percent began to vote for Democrats beginning a political alliance that exists till this day.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- However Roosevelt did not attempt to address the plight of voting and Civil rights for African Americans for fear of alienating Southern Democrats.

- And much of the New Deal still heavily discriminated against African Americans.

- In fact, African Americans were the first to be released from their jobs once funds ran out.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- The New Deal policy towards American Indians shifted from assimilation with the efforts of John Collier, the commissioner of Indian Affairs.
- Collier introduced commitment to cultural relativism that challenged white cultural superiority.
- Collier promoted legislation that he hoped to reverse the pressures on Native Americans to assimilate and would allow them the right to live in traditional Indian ways.
African Americans and the New Deal:

- Colliers efforts lead to a shift of government policy towards Indians and restored the right for tribes to own land collectively.
- However Indians were still given land that whites did not want.
Women and the New Deal:

- Similar to African Americans, the New Deal was not hostile to feminist aspirations, but neither did it go a great deal to advance them.
- That was largely because such aspirations did not have sufficient widespread support.
Women and the New Deal:

- Roosevelt appointed the first female cabinet member in the nation’s history.
- Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins.
- He also named more than 100 other women to positions at lower levels of the federal bureaucracy.
Women and the New Deal:

- The New Deal generally supported the prevailing belief that in hard times women should withdraw from the workplace to open up more jobs for men.
- New Deal relief agencies offered relatively little employment for women.
- The NRA sanctioned wage practices that discriminated against women.
- The Social Security program at first excluded domestic servants, waitresses, and other predominantly female occupations.
The New Deal in the West and in the South:

- Two regions of the United States did receive special attention from the New Deal were the West and the South, both of which benefited disproportionately from New Deal relief public works programs.
- The West received more federal funds per capital through New Deal Relief programs than any other regions and other parts of the South were not far behind.
The New Deal in the West and in the South:

- The New Deal public works programs, the great dams and power stations were mainly in the West.
- Both because the best locations for such facilities were there and because the West had the most need for new sources of water and power.
The New Deal in the West and in the South:

- Most frequent criticism of the New deal involve its failure to genuinely revive or reform the American economy.
- New Dealers never fully embraced government spending as a vehicle for recovery, and their efforts along other lines never succeeded in ending the Depression.
- The economic boom was because of WWII.
The New Deal in the West and in the South:

- The New Deal created the basis of the federal welfare state, through its many relief programs and above all through the social security system.

- Conservative opposition would limit the New Deal’s impact in this matter but for all its limits,

- The new system marked a historic break with the federal government’s traditional reluctance to offer public assistance to its neediest citizens.
The New Deal in the West and in the South:

- FDR helped enhance the power of the federal government as a whole.
- By the end of the 1930s, state and local governments were clearly of secondary importance to the government in Washington.
- Roosevelt also established the presidency as the preeminent center of authority within the federal government.
Finally the New Deal had profound impact on how the American people defined themselves politically.

Expectations of the American people were now that the government was vital to the economy and had direct importance in their lives.