#5) Compare and contrast Herbert Hoover's economic policies with those of Franklin Roosevelt. (Those designed to solve the Depression)

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Thesis

- When comparing Hoover's policies with those of FDR, Hoover's policies were more conservative and were developed in a later time period than those of FDR. FDR's policies, on the other hand, were implemented at reasonable times and resulted in more effectiveness. Moreover, the institutions set up by FDR were much better in organization and in resolving better issues such as bank problems and unemployment. However, both presidents were closely related in their aims of eradicating the depression.

Herbert Hoover and the Mexican Reparation Program

- Hoover had long been a proponent of the concept that public-private cooperation was the way to achieve high long-term growth.Hoover feared that too much intervention or coercion by the government would destroy individuality and self-reliance, which he considered to be important American values. Both his ideals and the economy were put to the test with the onset of the Great Depression.He was also a firm believer in balanced budgets, and was unwilling to run a budget deficit to fund welfare programs. However, Hoover did pursue many policies in an attempt to pull the country out of depression. In 1929, he authorized the Mexican Repatriation program to combat rampant unemployment, reduce the burden on municipal aid services, and remove people seen as usurpers of American jobs. The program was largely a forced migration of approximately 500,000 Mexicans and Mexican Americans to Mexico, and continued until 1937.

Hoover's Policies and the Hawley Smoot Tariff

- At the time of the stock market crash, no one knew how long the nation would face the severe economic conditions. At first, Hoover was wrong in thinking that the country would attain prosperity again. President Hoover believed that the nation could get through the difficult times if people took his advice about exercising voluntary action and restraint. Hoover urged businesses not to cut wages, unions not to strike, and private charities to increase their efforts in helping the needy and jobless ones. Until the summer of 1930, he hesitated to ask Congress for legislative action of the economy since he was afraid that government assistance to individuals would destroy their self-reliance. As a result, in the summer of 1930, Hoover signed and passed the Hawley Smoot Tariff, which consisted of some of the highest tax rates in history. This tax set tax increases ranging from 31% to nearly 49% on foreign imports.

Policies by FDR and the New Deal

- President Roosevelt's approach to solving the problem of economic depression consisted of a different approach from that of Hoover. In his campaign for the 1932 presidential election, FDR made promises to improve the economy. In his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention in 1932, Roosevelt stated his plan of the New Deal. During his early years as president, FDR's New Deal program served under the 3 R's: relief for the people of our work, recovery for business and economy as a whole, and reform for American economic institutions. Overall, Roosevelt was willing to do more than Hoover to combat the depression by getting the government more involved in the economy.

Differences between Hoover and FDR

- Overall, there are two major differences in how President FDR and Hoover approached the problem of depression in the US economy. Although Roosevelt was willing to do more, his approach involved more government interaction. Another way that Roosevelt differed from Hoover was that he did more to boost the morale of the people by convincing the public that throughout his presidency things would get better and that the government was there to help. Hoover on the other hand, didn't do much to improve the public morale. Though Hoover did a lot of things that he isn't given credit for, his approach to solving the problem of Great Depression is not nearly as aggressive as that of Roosevelt's.

Conclusion

- Overall, Presidents Hoover and FDR had contrasting approaches when it came to the Great Depression. Hoover believed that the United States' infallible economic system would bounce right back and did not need government support. When this was proven wrong, Hoover proceeded to put into place one of the worst tariffs in history. FDR believed that the government needed to step in and pass unprecedented policies that would help dig the people out of the rut known as the Great Depression. Both intended to help the American people, but in the end, FDR was more successful.