FDR's Second New Deal
- Roosevelt's first two years in office were mainly focused on achieving one of the three R's: Recovery
- Democratic victories in the congressional elections of 1934 gave FDR the mandate he needed to seek another round of laws & programs
- In the summer of 1935, the second New Deal was launched as this new legislation concentrated on the other two R's: Relief & Reform

Relief Programs

Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- A new relief agency was created that (Harry Hopkins) FDR's chief adviser headed was formed in 1935
- Much larger than the relief agencies of the first New Deal, the WPA spent billions of dollars between 1935 & 1940 to provide people with jobs
- It employed over 3 million people who had formerly been on the relief rolls of state & local governments
- It paid them double the relief rate but less than the going wage for regular workers
- Most WPA workers were put to work constructing new bridges, roads, airports, & public buildings
- Unemployed artists, writers, & actors were paid by the WPA to paint murals, write histories, & perform in plays
- One part of the WPA, the National Youth Administration (NYA), provided part-time jobs to help young people stay in high school & college or until they could get a job with a private employer

Resettlement Administration (RA)
- The Resettlement Administration provided loans to sharecroppers, tenants, & small farmers
- It also established federal camps where migrant workers could find decent housing

Reforms

National Labor Relations (Wagner) Act of 1935
- This major labor law replaced the labor provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act, after that law was declared unconstitutional
- The Wagner Act guaranteed a worker's right to join a union & a union's right to bargain collectively
- It also outlawed business practices that were unfair to labor
- A new agency, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), was empowered to enforce the law & make sure that workers' rights were protected

Rural Electrification Administration (REA)
- This new agency provided loans for electrical cooperatives to supply power in rural areas

FEDERAL TAXES
- A revenue act of 1935 increased the tax on incomes of the wealthy few
- It also increased the tax on large gifts from parent to child & on capital gains (profits from the sale of stocks or other properties)

The Social Security Act
- The reform that, for generations afterward, would affect the lives of nearly all Americans was the passage in 1935 of the Social Security Act
- It created a federal insurance program on the automatic collection of taxes from employees & employers throughout people's working careers
- The Social Security trust fund would then be used to make monthly payments to retired persons over the age of 65
- Also receiving benefits under this new law were workers who lost their jobs (unemployment compensation), persons who were blind or otherwise disabled, & dependent children & their mothers

The 1936 Election
- The economy was improved but still weak & unstable in 1936 when the Democrats nominated FDR for a second term
- Because of his New Deal programs & active style of leadership, FDR was now very popular among workers & small farmers
- Business, however, generally disliked him because of his regulatory programs & pro-union measures such as the Wagner Act

Alf Landon
- Challenging FDR was the Republican nominee for president, Alfred (Alf) Landon, the progressive-minded governor of Kansas
- Landon criticized the Democrats for spending too much money but in general accepted most of the New Deal legislation

Results
- FDR crushed Landon, winning every state except Maine & Vermont & more than 60% of the popular vote
- Behind FDR's New Deal, the Democratic Party could now count on the votes of a new coalition of popular support
- From 1936 to 1964, the Democratic base would consist of the Solid South, white ethnic groups in cities, Midwestern farmers, & labor unions
- New support for Democrats came from African Americans, mainly in northern cities, who left the Republican Party because of FDR's New Deal

Critical Thinking Question
Select TWO New Deal agencies & assess how well each satisfied the three R's of relief, recovery, & reform