

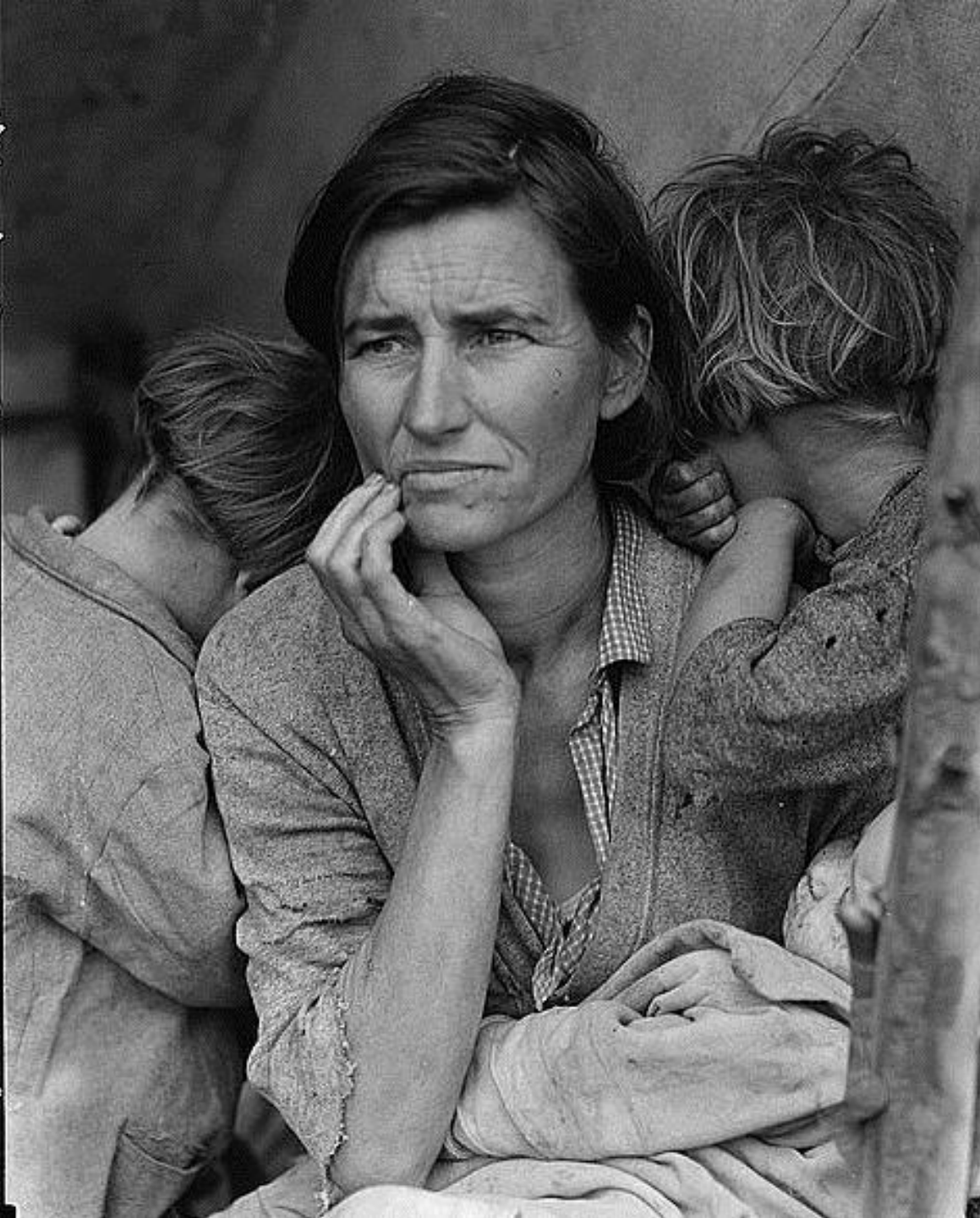
**Objective:** To examine the effects of the Great Depression.

USHC 6.3

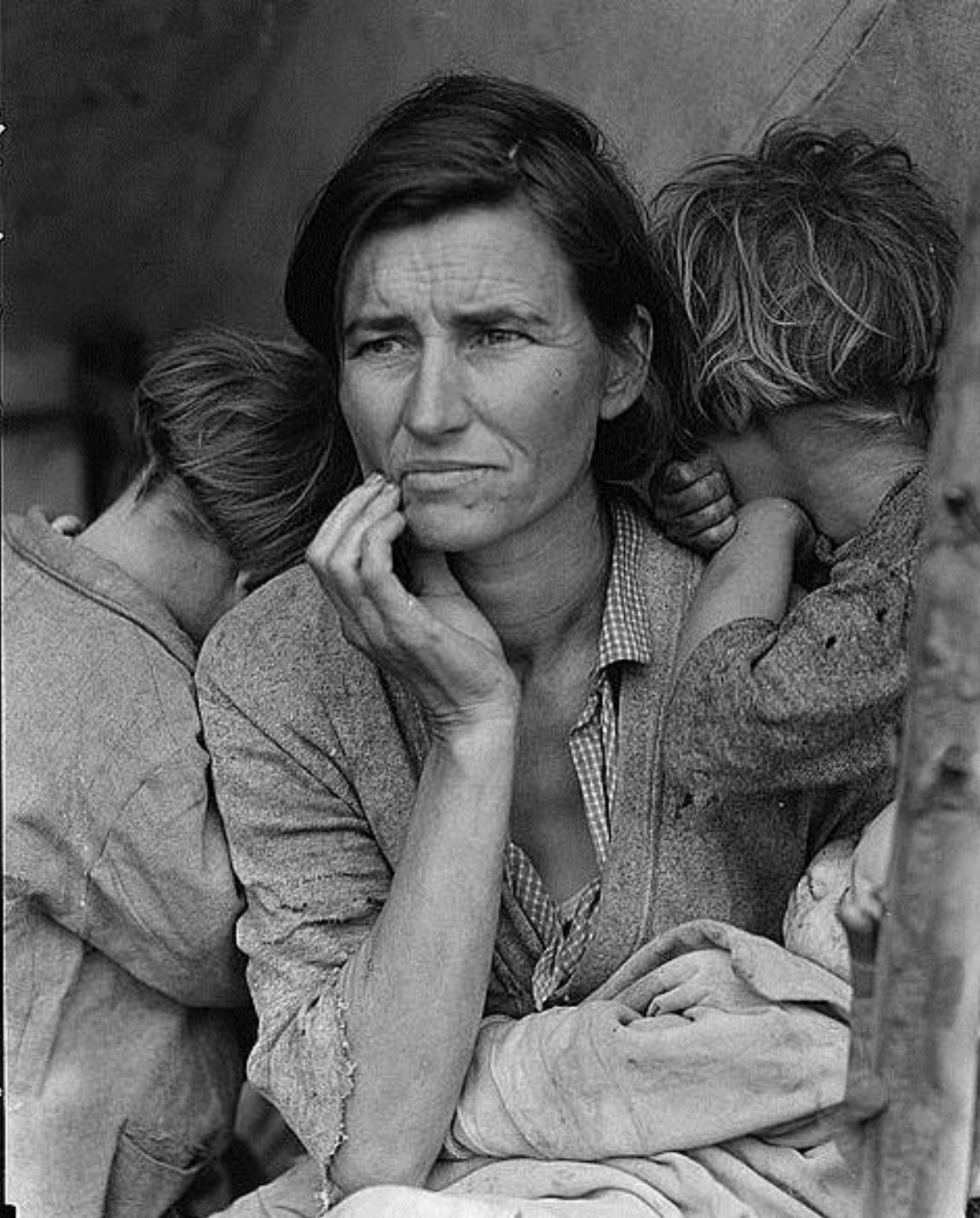
**Do Now:**

- Write a reaction to the photo “Migrant Mother”, by Dorothea Lange.
- For example, what emotions does it elicit?
- Why?

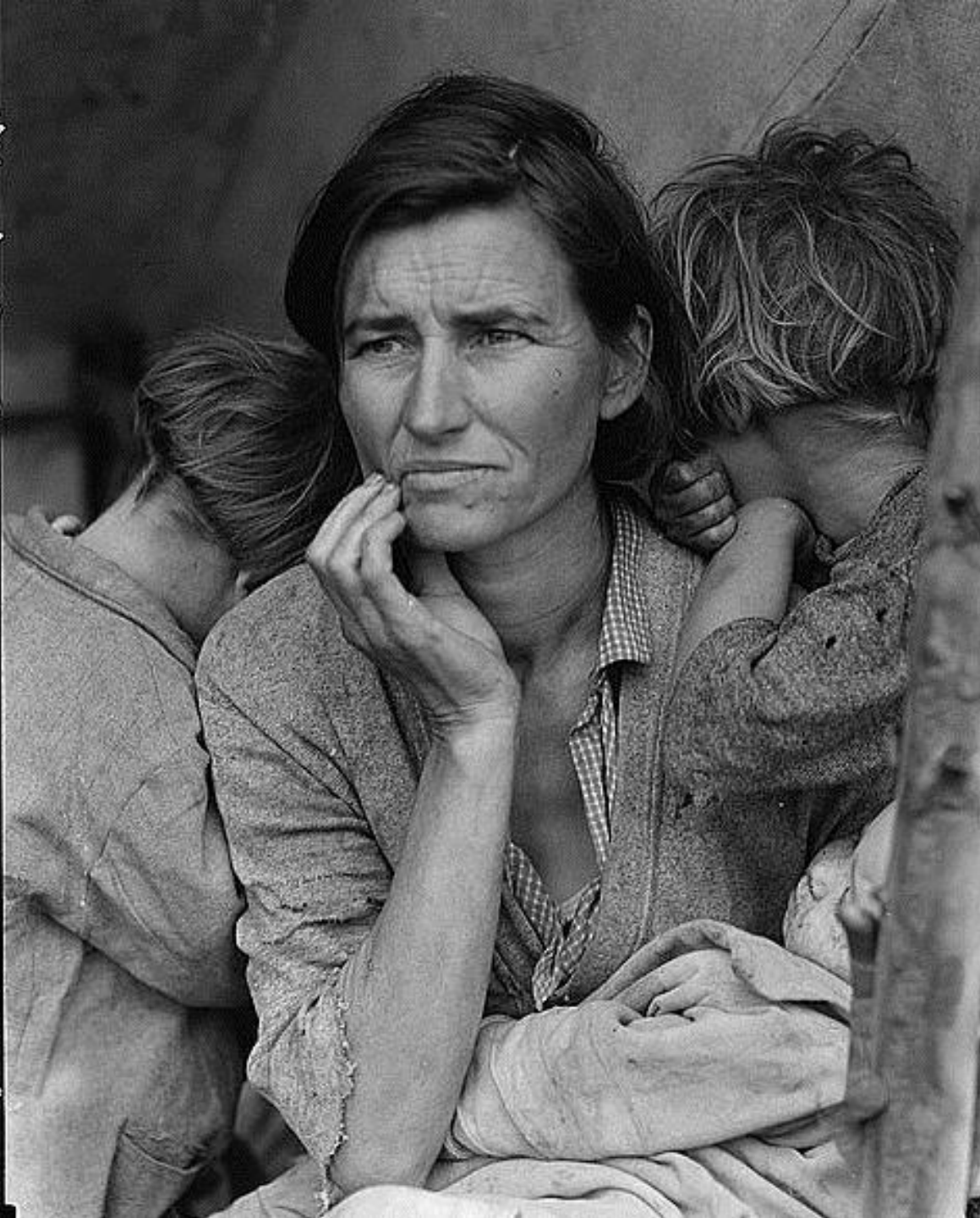
*pea pickers camp,  
Nipomo, CA (1936)*



The photograph that has become known as "Migrant Mother" is one of a series of photographs that Dorothea Lange made of Florence Owens Thompson and her children in February or March of 1936 in Nipomo, California. In 1960, Lange gave this account of the experience:



“I saw and approached the hungry and desperate mother, as if drawn by a magnet. I do not remember how I explained my presence or my camera to her, but I do remember she asked me no questions...I did not ask her name or her history. She told me her age, that she was thirty-two. She said that they had been living on frozen vegetables from the..



.. surrounding fields,  
and birds that the  
children killed.  
She had just sold the  
tires from her car to  
buy food. There she sat  
in that lean-to tent with  
her children huddled  
around her, and seemed  
to know that my  
pictures might help her,  
and so she helped me.  
There was a sort of  
equality about it.”  
(From: *Popular  
Photography*, Feb. 1960).



*Police stand guard outside the entrance to New York's closed World Exchange Bank, March 20, 1931*



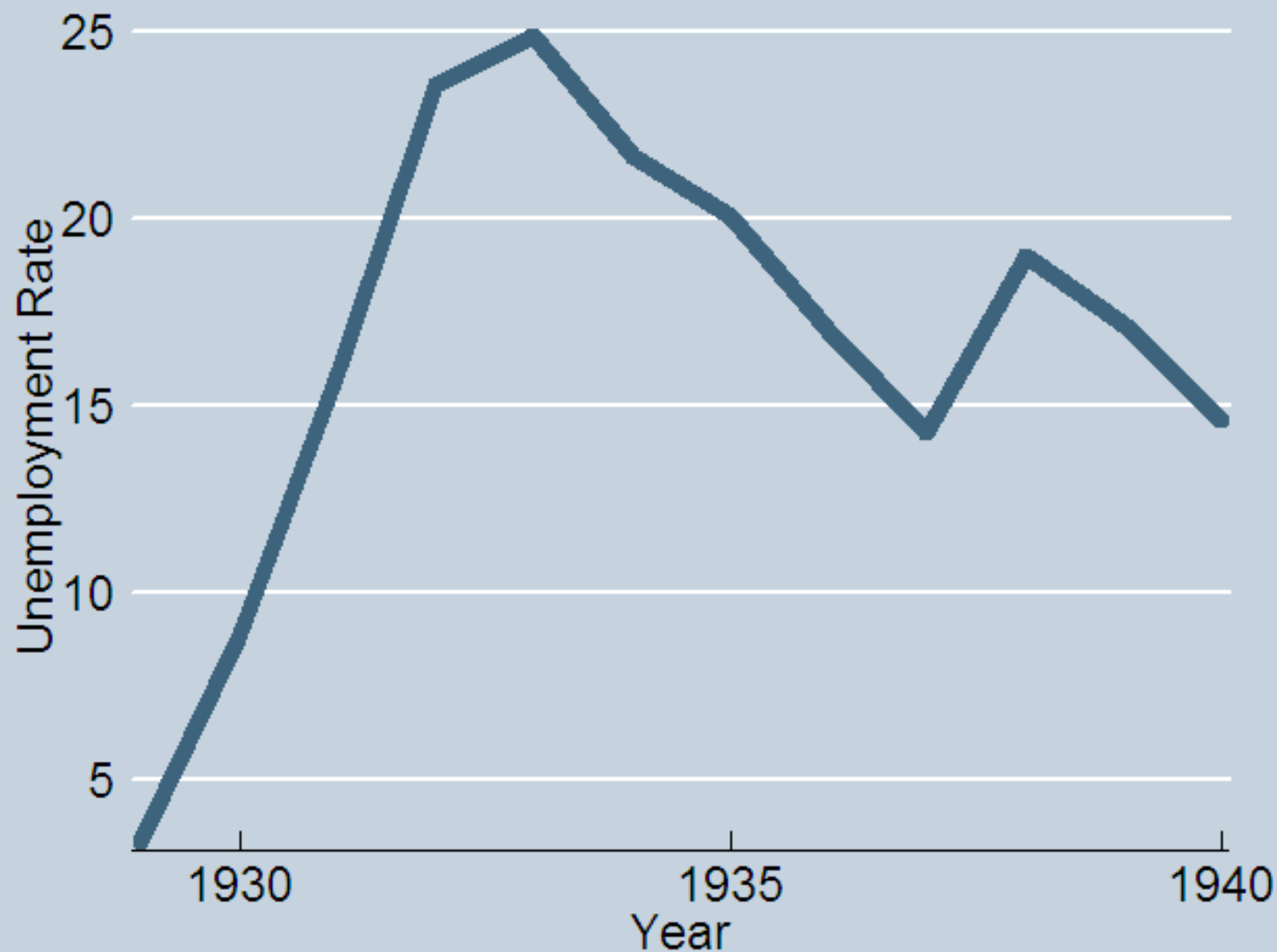
*Unemployed men vying for jobs at the American Legion Employment Bureau in Los Angeles during the Great Depression.*



*Unemployed workers in front of a shack with Christmas tree, East 12th Street, New York City. December 1937*

# Unemployment in the United States

1929-1940



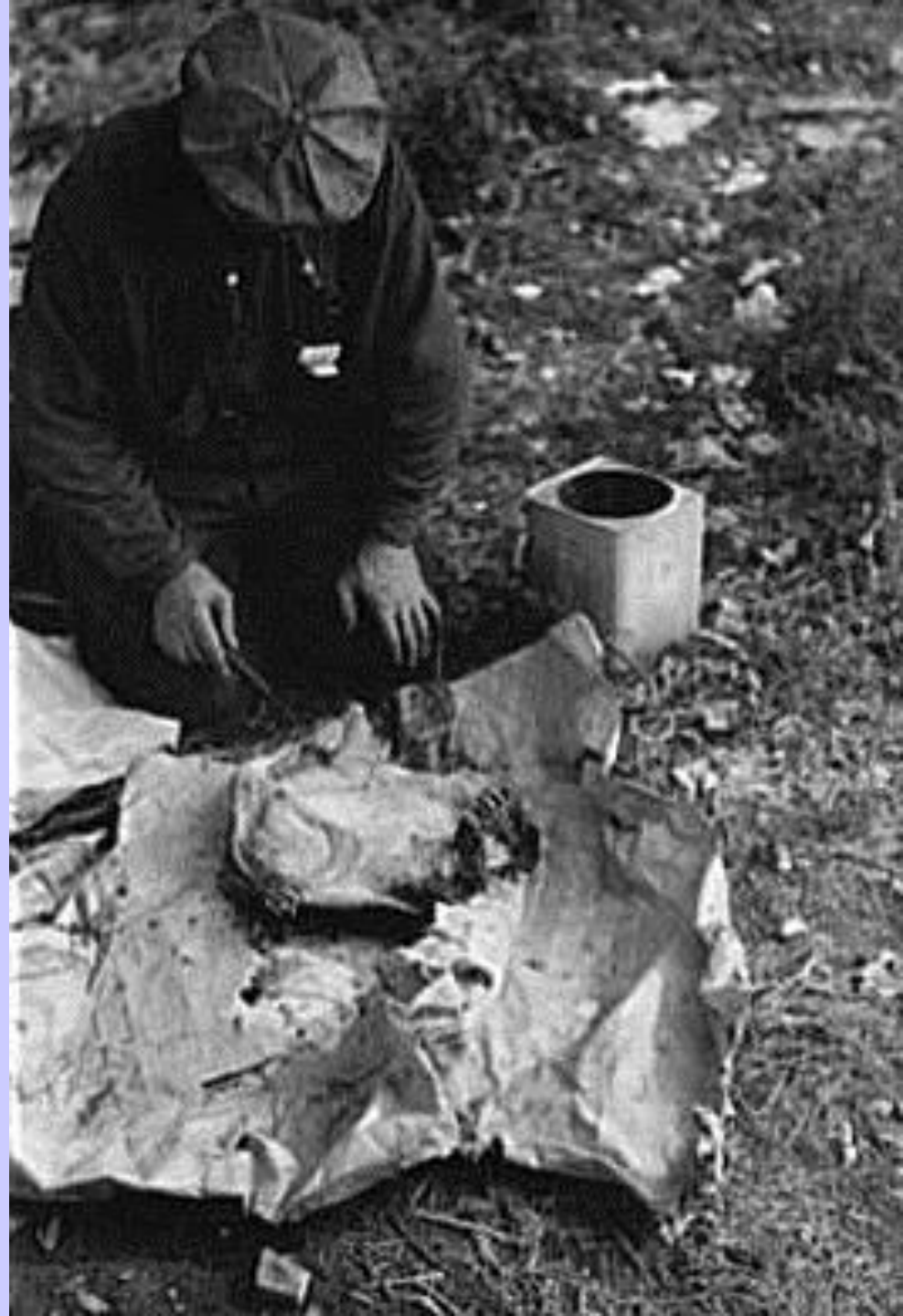


# Hard Times

## Unemployment

· By the early 1930's, approximately 25% of the nation was unemployed.

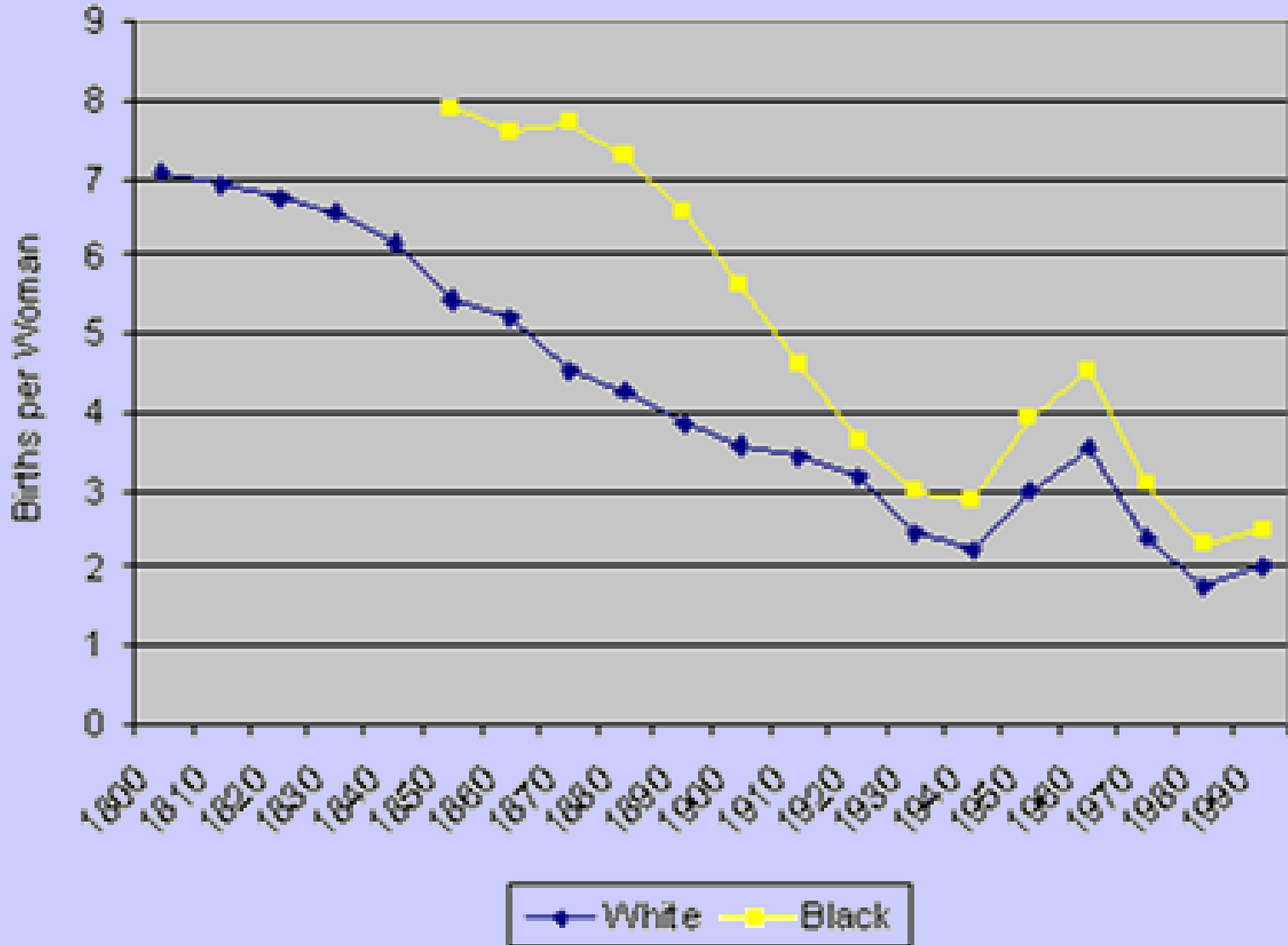
*Man in hobo jungle killing turtle to make soup, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sept. 1939.*



# Families in Crisis

- Marriage and birth rates dropped.
- Fathers and some children left home to find work.

## Total Fertility Rate, 1800-1990





*Evicted family with belongings on street, December 14, 1929.*

## Homelessness



- Homeless families built shacks out of wooden crates and scrap metal.
- These shacks were known as *Hoovervilles*.

*Seattle, Washington*

*Central Park,  
New York City*





**Arkansas**



*“Hooverville,”  
New York City,  
December 8  
1930*

*[Sign on shack  
reads:  
"House of  
Unemployed"]*

# Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? (1932)

They used to tell me I was  
building a dream  
And so I followed the mob.  
When there was earth to plow  
or guns to bear,  
I was always there, right on  
the job.

They used to tell me I was  
building a dream  
With peace and glory ahead --  
Why should I be standing in  
line, just waiting for bread?

Once I built a railroad, I  
made it run,  
Made it race against time.  
Once I built a railroad, now  
it's done --

Brother, can you spare a  
dime?

Once I built a tower, up to  
the sun,  
brick and rivet and lime.  
Once I built a tower, now it's  
done --

Brother, can you spare a  
dime?



Once in khaki suits, gee, we looked swell

Full of that Yankee Doodle-de-dum.

Half a million boots went slogging through hell,

And I was the kid with the drum.

Say, don't you remember they called me Al,

It was Al all the time.

Why don't you remember, I'm your pal --

Say, buddy, can you spare a dime?

# Hoover Takes Action



- At first, President Hoover was against offering direct government *relief*.

- Instead, he asked private charities, such as the YMCA, to help.

*Christmas Day  
Breadlines in New  
York City, 1931*



**WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING**



*There's no way  
like the  
American Way*



***Public Works Expenditures*** ✓  
***To Exceed Billion and Half***

---

***Building Program for Unemployment Relief***  
***Detailed in White House Statement***

---

- Hoover eventually set up *public works programs*, where the government hired people to construct schools, dams and highways. Ex.) Hoover Dam

# The Hoover Dam



**Official  
Site**

LAS VEGAS TOURISM  
HOOVER DAM AERIAL VIEW



[LasVegasTourism.com](http://LasVegasTourism.com)

**Hoover Dam Dynamite DareDevils 1932**

PRIMING THE OLD PUMP

Copyright, 1930, New York Tribune, Inc.

8 April 1930



- Hoover also approved the *Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)*, which loaned money to railroads, banks, and insurance companies.

*Des Moines Register, April 5, 1930*



# HOOVER ASKS THE 48 GOVERNORS TO HELP HIS PROGRAM BY SPEEDING PUBLIC WORKS, KEEPING EMPLOYMENT AT A HIGH LEVEL

## WANTS STATES CANVASSED

The President Requests a Report on the Outlays Possible for Year.

## LAMONT WILL COOPERATE

Commerce Secretary to Work With State, County and Municipal Officials.

## 5,000 MESSAGES BACK PLANS

Arizona Governor Pledges Aid—Philadelphia and St. Paul Will Expend \$100,000,000.

By RICHARD V. OULAHAN.

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—The outstanding development today in President Hoover's endeavors to bring about the cooperation of all interests, governmental and private, in forestalling a recession in business because of the recent stock market decline was an appeal sent to the Governors of the forty-eight States by the President, asking them to follow the example of the Federal Government in responding to speed

## *Text of President's Appeal to the Governors To Aid in Stimulation of State Public Works*

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Following is the text of the telegram sent by President Hoover today to Governors of States asking their cooperation in his program of business stabilization:

With a view to giving strength to the present economic situation and providing for the absorption of any unemployment which might result from present disturbed conditions, I have asked for collective action of industry in the expansion of construction activities and in stabilization of wages. As I have publicly stated, one of the largest factors that can be brought to bear is that of the energetic yet prudent pursuit of public works by the Federal Government and State, municipal and county authorities.

The Federal Government will exert itself to the utmost within its own province and I should like to feel that I have the cooperation of yourself and the municipal, county and other local officials in the same direction. It would be helpful if road, street, public building and other construction of this type could be speeded up and adjusted in such fashion as to further employment.

I would also appreciate it if your officials would canvass the State, municipal and county programs and give me such information as you can as to the volume of expenditure that can be prudently arranged for the next twelve months and for the next six months and inform me thereof.

I am asking Secretary Lamont of the Department of Commerce to take in hand the detailed measures of cooperation with you which may arise in this matter.

HERBERT HOOVER.

NEGRO

RANK and FILE

WHITE

# VETERANS MARCH TO WASHINGTON

TO ARRIVE AT OPENING OF CONGRESS

## DECEMBER 5th, 1932

TO DEMAND

# CASH PAYMENT of BONUS

### MARCH TO BE LED BY RANK AND FILE VETERANS

Again the veterans are going to march to Washington, to demand immediate full cash payment of the Bonus! This time we will have fighting leadership that won't sell us out. Why are we going to march? Let's see.

### A WINTER OF HUNGER FACES THE VETERANS

Cold, brutal winter is now on us. Over a million and a half unemployed veterans are hungry; hundreds of thousands of us have no shelter. And there will be more of us in that fix by the time winter comes.

Those of us who still have some work have suffered wage cuts, and the stagger plan, and face more wage cuts.

### INTEREST CHARGES WIPE OUT BONUS BY 1945

In 1945 there will be no Bonus for the rank and file veteran. The balance is now being eaten up by the compound interest charged by the government to all who borrowed the fifty percent of the Adjusted Service Certificate. In 1945 there will be only about \$30 to \$60 for the great majority of the veterans entitled to the Bonus. WE MUST FIGHT FOR THE BONUS NOW!

### THE ENEMIES OF THE BONUS ARE UNITED AGAINST US

The Republican, Democratic and Socialist Parties are all united in the fight against the payment of the balance due the veterans on the Bonus. They get the full support of the boss press, and the liberal writings, too.

Waters, the Hoke Smiths, the Deak Carters and other former leaders of the B. E. F. are fighting the rank and file veterans who are putting up a fight for the immediate payment of the Bonus.

The newly elected commander Johnson has had recent correspondence with Hoover and will not fight for the Bonus. General Glassford and the Hoover government are again preparing to prevent the veterans from making direct demands on Congress.

These fakery are all lined up with the enemies of the Bonus to prevent the rank and file of the veterans from uniting their mass power to march to Washington and again demand the immediate payment of the Bonus and fight against cutting of the disability allowance.

### RANK AND FILE VETERANS, MARCH TO WASHINGTON!

All Veterans March to Washington!

Veterans' organizations, elect Bonus Marchers. All rank and file veterans, including employed and unemployed veterans, should elect delegated Bonus Marchers. Veterans from shops, mills, mines, factories and farms should be elected. Bonus marchers should be elected from the veteran membership in labor, fraternal and social organizations.

### ELECT CITY RANK AND FILE COMMITTEES

City rank and file committees representing the various groups and organizations of veterans should meet to carry out the program of Central Rank and File Committee elected by the Cleveland Conference of the Rank and File Veterans. (Sept. 23-26.)

### HEROES IN 1917; THEY CALL US "CRIMINALS" NOW

In 1917 the government appealed to the masses: "Shall we be more tender with our dollars than with the lives of our sons?" (Second Liberty Bond poster, 1917.)

And now, in 1932: "The bonus marchers are criminals..." (Statement of President Hoover.)

Neither then nor now did the Wall Street government care about the welfare of the soldier, "the lives of our sons."

Billions went to the billionaires who in 1917 made huge profits from the war, and today the billions go to the same crowd. The Congress that refused to give the starving veterans the bonus gave through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation four and a half billion dollars for the bankers, the railroads and other big corporations.

We got the bullets and the gas in 1917. Many of us were maimed and crippled for life. In 1932 we get the bullets and gas of the police, as we did in Washington, and of the troops, which Hoover called out against us.

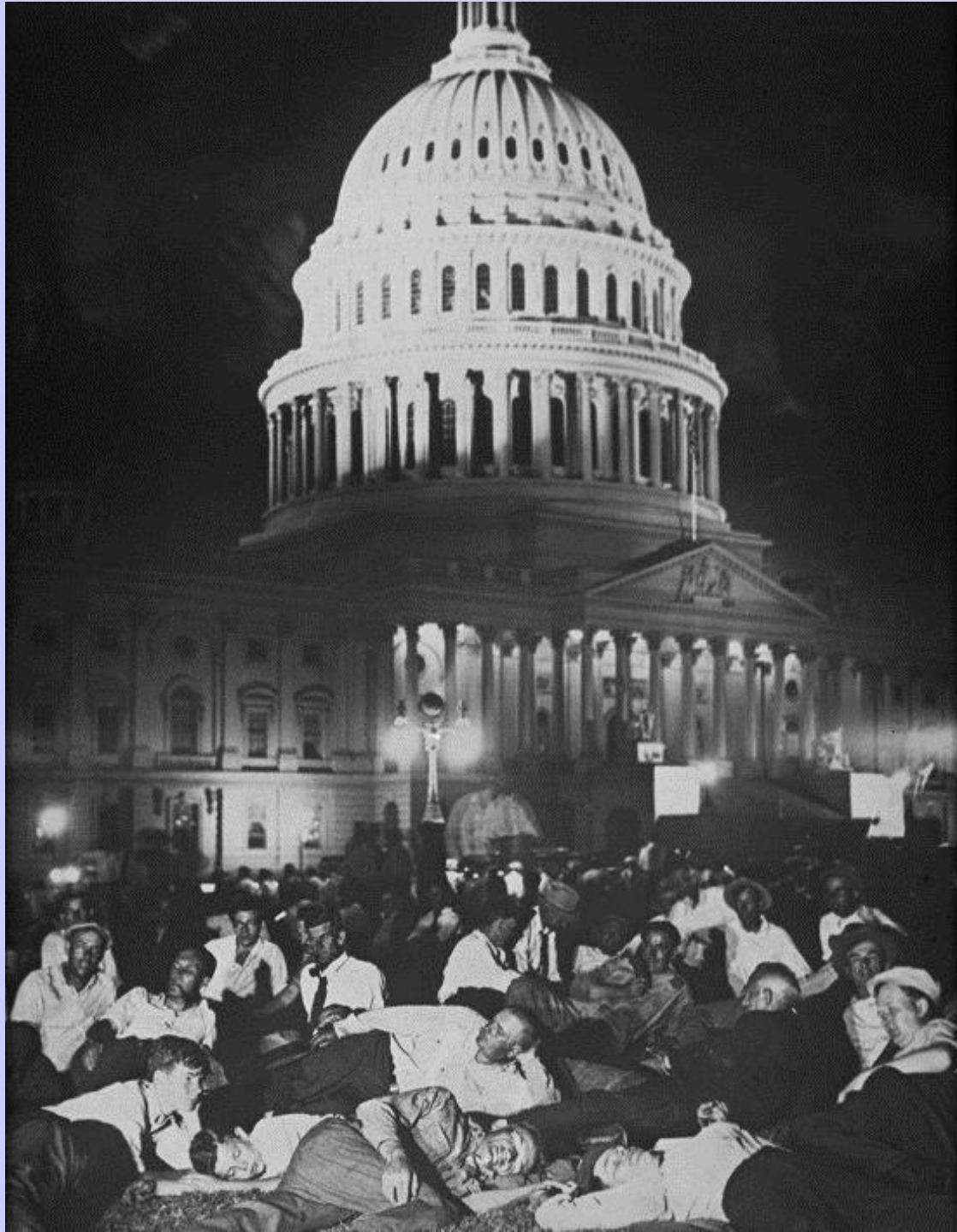
Because we were demanding the Bonus so that we and our families could have something to eat, the President of the United States orders the army to gas and bayonet us, to burn our meagre belongings and to drive our wives and children out into the dark at the night.

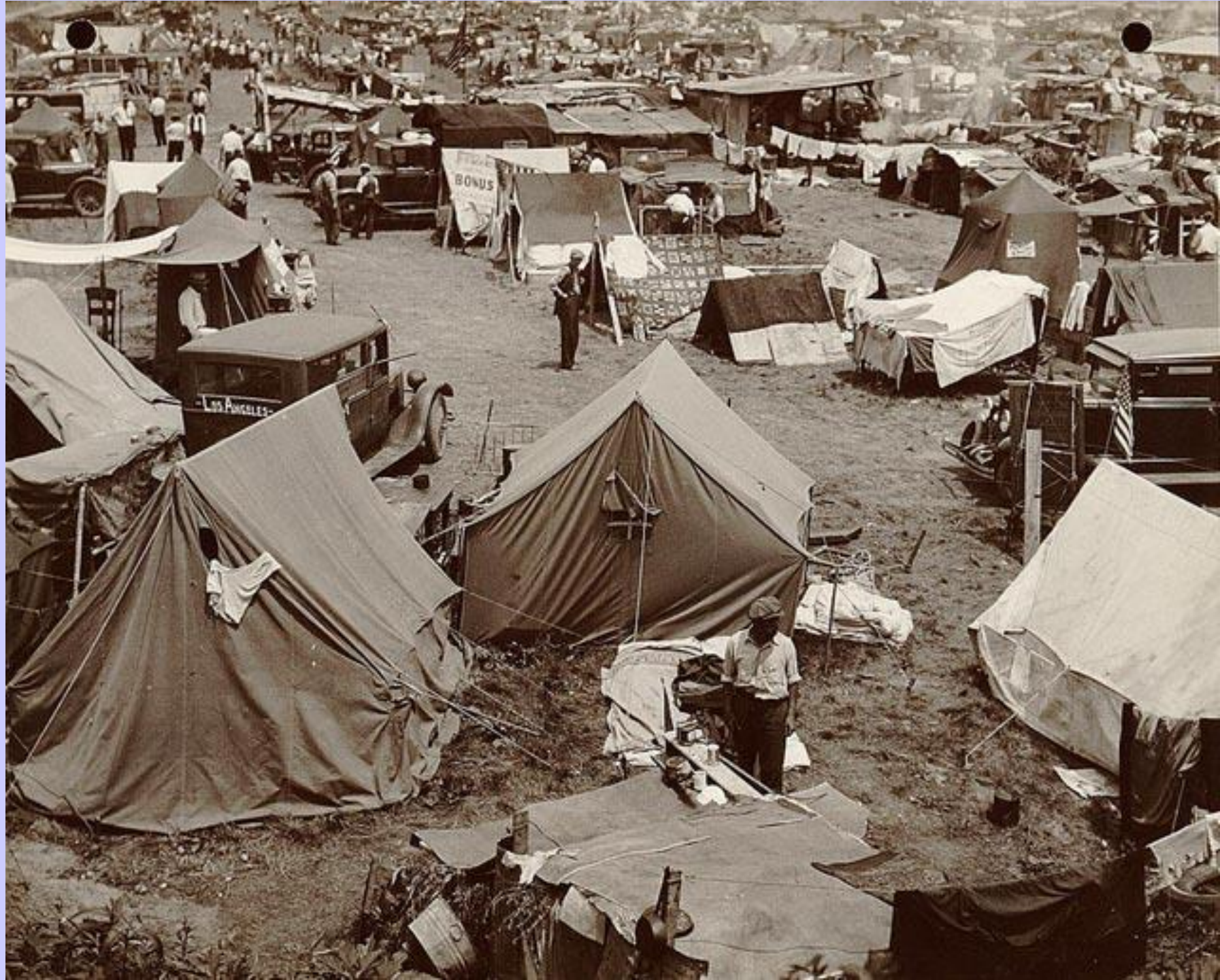
## The Bonus Army

- World War I veterans were due to be paid a *bonus* in 1945.

- In 1932, over 20,000 jobless veterans protested in Washington, D.C. demanding immediate payment.









*Handpainted sign on Bonus Army truck states: "We Done a Good Job in France, Now You Do a Good Job in America"*



HOOVER'S  
POOR FARM  
TOBACCO  
STAND

HARD TIMES ARE STILL  
HOOVERING OVER US



*Tanks and cavalry prepare to evacuate the Bonus Army (July 28, 1932)*



*The United States Army burned this and similar camps to the ground after routing the many thousands of protestors that were camped out in the national capital with tanks, tear gas, and troops of armed soldiers. (July 28, 1932)*



- In clashes with police, four veterans were killed.
- Hoover ordered General Douglas MacArthur to clear out the veterans using cavalry, tanks, tear gas and machine guns.
- \* The brutal treatment of the Bonus Army lowered Hoover's popularity even further. The nation was poised for a new leader to lead them out of the depression.