

Name _____ Date _____ Class Period _____ Group # _____

Religious
Technological
Cultural
Political
Economical
Geographical

Change
Conflict
Exploration
Patterns
Power
Structure
Relationships
Force

Describe **the steps taken by President Hoover to combat the economic depression.**

- What were “rugged individualism” and the RFC?
- In your opinion, was the President’s response to the “Bonus Army” appropriate?
- Use evidence from these sources and your content knowledge to support your answer.

DOCUMENT #1

1 Hoover believed that American “**rugged individualism**” would keep the economy moving and that the government
2 should not step in to help individuals. After World War I, many European countries implemented a form of socialism, which
3 Hoover felt contributed to their lack of economic recovery. In 1922 Hoover had written a book, *American Individualism*,
4 explaining why the American system of individualism was the best social, political, spiritual, and economic system. Thus, it
5 was difficult for him to propose more government control. Despite public statements that the economy was not in trouble,
6 Hoover was worried. He organized a series of conferences, bringing together heads of banks, railroads, and other big
7 businesses, as well as labor leaders and government officials to strategize about solutions. Industry leaders pledged to keep
8 factories open and to stop slashing wages, but by 1931, they had broken those pledges...

DOCUMENT #2

9 ...In 1932 Hoover requested Congress to set up the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) to make loans to businesses.
10 By early 1932, the RFC had lent about \$238 million to banks, railroads, and building-and-loan associations. Overly cautious,
11 the RFC failed to increase its lending sufficiently. The economy continued its decline.

DOCUMENT #3

12 After World War I, Congress had enacted a \$1,000 bonus for each veteran, to be distributed in 1945. In 1929 Texas
13 congressman Wright Patman introduced a bill that would authorize early payment of these bonuses. In May 1932, several
14 hundred Oregon veterans began marching to Washington, D.C., to lobby for passage of the legislation. The press termed the
15 marchers the “**Bonus Army.**” Once in Washington, the veterans camped in Hoovervilles. More veterans joined them until
16 the Bonus Army swelled to an estimated 15,000. President Hoover acknowledged the veterans’ right to petition but refused
17 to meet with them. When the Senate voted down the bonus bill, veterans outside the Capitol began to grumble. In late July,
18 Hoover ordered the camps cleared. The police tried, killing two veterans.