



JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE - OLD GUARD VS. NEW DEAL

Hello, my name is Vishnu Arul, and I am the head chair for the Joint Cabinet Crisis for BMUN 68. This year, delegates will be debating one of the most transformative periods in not only American history, but also world history - The Great Depression. Delegates will be representing distinct members of American society who all had differing views on how to tackle the crisis.

The Great Depression was arguably the most pivotal event in 20th century American history. We only began to see a federal government that resembles our contemporary one beginning in this time period. It was a time when the very meaning and purpose of government was questioned and changed. These macro-questions incited the rise of divisive politics during this era. Those who believed that dire situations like these required novel action will be represented by the New Deal Cabinet. On the other hand, those who believed that in such dire situations sticking with government and societal norms would be key in mitigating the crisis will be represented by the Old Guard Cabinet. The debates we will have in committee will most certainly resemble modern debates about the size of government, the nature of welfare, and whether the government should be in the business of handouts at all. Crises, solutions, and caucuses will push delegates to think about the political, economic, scientific, and philosophical nature of life in the 1930s.

I chose this topic because of the depth and breadth of the subject material. Nearly 25% of people were unemployed during this time period, prices were in free fall, and regular societal expectations and beliefs crumbled. The circumstances that created this situation will hopefully never occur again. But it is important for students of any discipline to learn about this time period, and the permanent changes to daily life that it brought about. Normally in history classes, students only really learn and understand the paramount nature of a given event if it was a war or some sort of conflict. Understanding this topic will hopefully get delegates to understand that history is not always made with swords and blood, but also pens, debate, and compromise.

I want to give some direction with research when tackling a topic as vast as this one. Too often, delegates are tempted to simply memorize facts: names, dates, places. While that is important for this JCC, it is more important to understand the "whys" behind every fact. Delegates should focus on learning macroeconomic motivations for policy decisions, as well as the consequences of economic and social policies. Some

excellent resources for this can be seen in the Congressional Budget Office's analyses for recent and past policies, the National Bureau of Economic Research's articles, and the YouTube channel Crash Course's series on Economics.

This is a JCC, so of course personal, joint and committee directives will all be present, providing delegates freedom in how they act, unique from a General Assembly or Specialized committee. However, we will focus on negotiation for this JCC. Our committee will center around large triggers in the economy, and both sides influencing society on their own, while compromising with the other cabinet to elicit greater change in society. Ultimately, as always, delegates control their own destiny and will be the change they want to see in the America that we simulate.

