

The new deal by paul keith conkin



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THE NEW DEAL INTRODUCTION The New Deal is written by Paul Keith Conkin. This book beautifully draws in the concept of the New Left school of historical criticism. It was actually the movement emerged in college and university campuses during 1960's as a reaction to the deep rooted social hierarchy within American society. The book attempts to bring in the domestic politics of the American society that governed during the 1960's. In this way, the book is more about the political and economic intricacies of the period. The book draws upon Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover, two politicians of that time and shows us through lively comparison how they both were able to meet the crisis of the time. The author stresses that it was of the effort of Roosevelt, that the American people were able to realize the reasons for Great Depression and began to accept it as an inevitable one.

ANALYSIS

The opening chapter introduces us to Franklin Roosevelt and all about his political actions. The book also explores the New Deal's measures in the third chapter by stressing that all the attempts which were taken to put an end to the problem of unemployment in real sense met with failure. The author tells that though the intension and the notion of such actions were acceptable, the implementation was not proper. This is the real cause of the failure according to the author. Not much is indicated or explained about the suffering of the impoverished, unemployed workers in particular.

Later, the author expresses his conception about the Welfare State and this part is very interesting. Conkin does not view the New Deal as a class conflict; rather his treatment is analytical and more sophisticated. We could see throughout the book, Conkin tries to give importance to the implications of the social welfare and places the labour relations in the second place as

opposed to the leftists. Later, we are provided with some account of the welfare legislation, which according to the author has promised much and delivered little. In this way, the welfare legislation was able to introduce, elaborate its policies but was unable to implement it successfully.

Conkin has covered one area well in his book. And this particular area has much to tell about the economic theory behind the New Deal. At the same time it also focuses on the influences of Keynes on Rooseveltian policy. One thing that the reader should note is the linkage that the author tries to develop between the private sector and the social welfare. How well the private sectors contributed for the social welfare has been explained neatly.

CONCLUSION

The book is a wealth of informations about the period in which it was written. It offers us a great picture of the then existing society and the political revolution the time experienced. Though there may be some flaws with the book, in regard to certain issues, no doubt it is a brilliantly written work and it is worthwhile to read. The book does not give us any solution for the problem of the society of the concerned time; still its true exploration of the New Deal's actions and the failure of those methods are interesting and looking at it in this way, the book's open discussion has to be valued.