

The Suffering Of The Great Depression

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Revised
January 2026

During the “Great Depression”, the people with money wouldn't help the poor people for the same reason that the survivors in the lifeboats from the Titanic would not go back and help the people in the water after the Titanic sank. They were afraid that a mass of people in the water would pull their little lifeboat right down under the surface.

During the "Great Depression" there was very little work. Most common labor jobs paid so little that the workers could hardly even buy food for one person for each day. Many people in those jobs could not pay rent and had to live on the street. Most of them could not buy clothing and had to wear old clothes falling apart like rags. Many houses and apartments stayed empty because few people could pay the rent. Many home owners lost their houses because they had no money to pay the mortgage. If anyone tried to live in those old empty buildings, the mortgage company usually came and tore them down. Most employers did have money, but they wouldn't help the poor workers or the unemployed.

A 1933 book, “Seeds of Revolt” by Mauritz Alfred Hallgren, compiled newspaper reports of things happening around the country:

“Indiana Harbor, Indiana, August 5, 1931. Fifteen hundred jobless men stormed the plant of the Fruit Growers Express Company here, demanding that they be given jobs to keep from starving. The company's answer was to call the city police, who routed the jobless with menacing clubs.”

“Chicago, April 1, 1932. Five hundred school children, most with haggard faces and in tattered clothes, paraded through Chicago's downtown section to the Board of Education offices to demand that the school system provide them with food.”

“Seattle, February 16, 1933. A two-day siege of the County-City Building, occupied by an army of about 5,000 unemployed, was ended early

tonight, deputy sheriffs and police evicting the demonstrators after nearly two hours of efforts.”

(“Seeds of Revolt” is on-line at:

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015011543850>)

The historical novel “The Grapes of Wrath” published in 1939 written by John Steinbeck, was awarded both the Nobel Prize for literature in 1962 and the Pulitzer Prize in 1940. The novel focuses on a poor family of sharecroppers who are forced out of their home as drought, economic hardship, and changes in the agricultural industry occur during the Great Depression.

Fruit growers in California advertised across the US that they had 800 temporary jobs picking fruit. Probably about a half a million people (many of them farmers) spent their last money going to California, the land of prosperity, with their entire families. They didn't know that they were looking for 800 temporary jobs that paid so little that each worker could **not** even buy food for one person each day. In one place he said: *“And in the south he saw the golden oranges hanging on the trees, the little golden oranges on the dark green trees; and guards with shotguns patrolling the lines so a man might not pick an orange for a thin child, oranges to be dumped if the price was low. . . .”* Probably most of those people starved to death in California.

The 1940 movie “The Grapes of Wrath” was very similar to the book. They showed things like banks sending bulldozers to knock over poor people's old houses because they couldn't pay the mortgage.

Lev. 18:27,28 “for all these abominations have the men of the land done, that were before you, and the land is defiled; that the land vomit not you out also, when ye (y'all) defile it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.”

In the “dust bowl” the land itself in many places stopped producing food and it got unusually windy. But, just before the sand storms came there, they had the best crop America had ever seen. But since most people had no money to buy food, farmers had to let mountains of good food rot, while other people starved to death. When the sand storms came, people could not walk more than a few seconds outdoors without getting any exposed skin blistered. People could not walk from their house to their car, just outside. The sand storms removed the paint from the cars. If someone was in a car on the road when a storm started, they had to stop

the car and wait until the storm passed, because they couldn't see where the side of the road was from inside the car, even with the headlights on. Sand dunes were formed, like in a desert. After a storm, some people could walk up to the top of their house on a sand dune next to their house.

The storm itself was terrifying. Fine dust filled most people's houses, while the sand blew very strongly outside. People were coughing up mud, and many people got sick from it, especially children. In one place, they had storms for 21 days in a row..... and no rain for a long time. In 1935 Dodge City, Kansas reported only 13 dust-free days. Most of the farm animals died of suffocation; they had so much dirt in their nostrils that they couldn't breathe. The few animals that survived just walked away. The sand dunes covered the fences so that the animals could go anywhere they wanted.

But the government helped. President Roosevelt had a plan to help poor people. For all the ranchers who were able to keep/gather their sickly looking cattle, the government paid them \$1 a head to slaughter them in mass graves. The government helped with that too, they sent bulldozers to cover them up quickly. Even if a farmer tried to plant a small garden, just enough for the family's survival, the storms destroyed it.

Then came "Black Sunday", Sunday April 14, 1935. Before this, many people thought, "If we just stick it out and stay here, times are bound to get better." They stayed on their land through many storms clinging to hope, but after "Black Sunday", they moved out, and left their homes with practically nothing. Just the one storm called, "Black Sunday" is estimated to have displaced 300 million **tons** of topsoil from the prairie area. Oklahoma got hit the worst. That's why the people wandering around in other areas looking for work and a place to live were called "Okies", even though they weren't always from Oklahoma. In some places there were so many Okies wandering around looking for help that some people put up signs saying, "OKIE, GO BACK. WE DON'T WANT YOU". Many of those people didn't even have a vehicle; they were seen as a family walking down the side of the road pulling a little child's wagon by hand, with their only meager possessions on it. (They were exposed to all weather conditions.)

There was another storm that started in Wyoming and Montana, moving east. When it got to Chicago, that storm left an estimated 12 million pounds of dirt. When that same storm reached New York, it darkened the

sky so much that it was like night in the middle of the day. In the Atlantic ocean, 300 miles off shore, ships were covered with dirt from the storm.



Dust Bowl - Dallas, South Dakota 1936

There are many more photos of the “dust bowl” on the Internet. (Search for: dust bowl images)

One man wrote a song about it called, "Great Dust Storm". Here are some of the lyrics:

*On the 14th day of April of 1935,
There struck the worst of dust storms that ever filled the sky.
You could see that dust storm comin', the cloud looked deathlike black,
And through our mighty nation, it left a dreadful track.*

*From Oklahoma City to the Arizona line,
Dakota and Nebraska to the lazy Rio Grande,
It fell across our city like a curtain of black rolled down,
We thought it was our judgment, we thought it was our doom.*

(It should also be noted that almost all of the farmland in the “dust bowl” was stolen by the previous generation from the native American Indians. Interestingly, in “The Grapes of Wrath” the people that forced the farmers off their land had an Indian name: the “*Shawnee Land and Cattle Company*”.)

More photos of the Great Depression at: Internet search: Great Depression images.

The term “Grapes of Wrath” comes from Rev. 14:18-20 which talks about the prophesied future physical return of Jesus Christ, in person on earth, and how He will kill His enemies like someone who is treading grapes crushing them underfoot in a winepress. Human blood will flow for miles. Rev. 14:19-20 “**And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20- And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.**” KJV (1 furlong = 220 yards)

Interestingly, even the 1940 film “Grapes of Wrath” has the fingerprints of communism on it. They mention the “red agitators” and the “reds” without really stating clearly who they are. The communists (reds) were equally behind the 1929 crash as they have been in the recent Venezuelan crash. The Venezuelan government openly claim to be “socialists” and had received governmental guidance openly from Cuban communist leader Fidel Castro. Meanwhile, the rest of the world is following along whole-heartedly the communist propaganda without having the slightest clue as to the purpose or intentions of what those communists are trying to do. (See documentary videos about the downfall of Venezuela on YouTube.)

The word “propaganda” is always ignored while things are going well. It’s not until disaster strikes that people understand that it was the “propaganda” that lead them into the disaster. Almost all of the people at the time

of the Great Depression believed that the disaster was a judgment of God for the corruption during the roaring 1920's.

Remember, it is Jesus Christ who was crucified on a cross so that none need to perish. **Rom. 10:9,13** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 13- For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." KJV People who reject this kind and gentle offer now will pay the price later. (See article listed below on: Salvation.)

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