

Works Cited

Primary Sources

Alf Landon. "'I Will Not Promise the Moon!': Alf Landon Opposes the Social Security Act, 1936." *History Matters*, historymatters.gmu.edu/d/8128.

I used Alf Landon's 1936 speech from the *History Matters* database to show the strong political opposition to the New Deal for my National History Day project. By arguing that the Social Security Act was unconstitutional and wouldn't work efficiently his source helped me understand the specific reasons why many people opposed the program.

"American History." *ABC-CLIO eBook Collection*, americanhistory-abc-clio-xaaa.orc.scoolaid.net/.

I used the American History database to find primary sources like historical speeches and official documents. These records helped me understand exactly what was said and written during the time Social Security was created. I also found images in this database that allowed me to visualize the events I was researching. These materials were essential for adding authentic details.

"Bill Clinton: State of the Union Message (1993)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2026, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/254069. Accessed 29 Jan. 2026.

Bill Clinton's 1993 State of the Union speech helped my NHD project on Social Security by showing how he pushed budget cuts and tax hikes to fix the economy. I see how this kept Social Security safe from early cuts by focusing on debt first. In my project, it proves his words built support to protect benefits for older people, widows, and the disabled.

"Center on Budget and Policy Priorities." *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*,
www.cbpp.org/research/topics/social-security.

CBPP's take on the 2025 Social Security report helped my NHD project on elderly poverty before 1935. It gave facts on today's money shortfalls and fixes like taxing the rich more. This showed how the old problems link to now.

"Committed For a Responsible Federal Budget." *Committed For a Responsible Federal Budget*,
www.crfb.org/.

This source helped me understand the modern financial issues facing Social Security. It provided statistics and policy analysis that I used to show how the original 1935 Act continues to affect government spending today. I used this information in the section discussing modern debate surrounding Social Security.

FDR Social Security Act Speech. Internet Archive, archive.org/details/fdrbig.

This video from FDR's August 14, 1935, signing ceremony shows him promising "protection against the loss of a job and against poverty-stricken old age." For my NHD project, his own words highlight the urgent need to end pre-Social Security elderly hardship, bringing the reform's birth to life.

"Federal Reserve History." *Federal Reserve History*, www.federalreservehistory.org/.

This site gave me historical background about the economic crisis that led to the creation of the Social Security Act. I used its visuals and data to demonstrate how widespread unemployment and poverty shaped Roosevelt's New Deal policies. The images helped me illustrate the urgency of reform during the 1930s. It provided essential context for explaining why Social Security was seen as a necessary government response.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt: Call for Federal Responsibility Speech (1932)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/254993. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

FDR's 1932 Call for Federal Responsibility speech helped my NHD project by showing his early push for the government to step in and help people during hard times. I used it to prove how he shifted views from local aid only to federal duty for welfare, paving the way for Social Security. In my research on how Social Security changed the government's role, this source gave key words on making aid a right, not charity.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt: Fireside Chat on Economic Conditions (1938)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/1288521. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

FDR's 1938 Fireside Chat on Economic Conditions helped my NHD project by showing how he defended big government spending on New Deal programs like Social Security during hard times. I used it to prove that FDR made the case for federal duty to protect people's welfare, growing the government's role beyond just basics. In my research on how Social Security changed the government's role, this source gave key proof of his push to keep aid flowing as a right for all.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt: Fireside Chat on the New Deal (1933)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/254997. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

FDR's 1933 Fireside Chat on the New Deal helped my NHD project by giving historical context on the Great Depression banking crisis and massive

unemployment that made people demand federal action. I used it to show how FDR built public support for the government stepping in with recovery programs, setting the stage for Social Security's creation two years later. In my research on how Social Security changed the government's role, this source proved early New Deal talks shifted views from local charity to national duty for economic security.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt: Fireside Chat on the Unemployment Census (1937)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/1288520. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

FDR's 1937 Fireside Chat on the Unemployment Census helped my NHD project by showing how he pushed federal data collection to fight joblessness and prove the government's duty to act. I used it to highlight how this built support for New Deal programs like Social Security, expanding the government's role in welfare during recovery struggles. In my research on how Social Security changed the government's role, it gave key context on viewing unemployment aid as a national right, not charity.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt Library." *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*, www.fdrlibrary.org/.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library provided a diverse collection of images that I integrated into several different sections of my NHD project. These photographs allowed me to visually represent the historical context of the Great Depression and the early implementation of the New Deal. By using these primary visual records, I was able to make my presentation much more engaging and credible.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt: Program for Social Security speech (1935)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2026, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/255002. Accessed 29 Jan. 2026.

FDR's 1935 Program for Social Security speech helped my NHD project by showing how he made the case for the federal government to guarantee economic security as a right for all. I used it to prove this talk directly led to the Social Security Act, shifting the government's role from limited aid to ongoing protection against poverty and job loss. In my research on how Social Security changed government's duties, it gave key proof of FDR's vision for national welfare programs.

"Franklin D. Roosevelt Signs Social Security Act into Law." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/1852122. Accessed 14 Dec. 2025.

FDR's photo of signing the Social Security Act helped my NHS project by visually proving the federal government's new role as a direct protector through law.

"George W. Bush: State of the Union Message (2005)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2026, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/742367. Accessed 29 Jan. 2026.

George W. Bush's 2005 State of the Union Message helped my NHD project by showing a modern push to change Social Security through private accounts, testing the government's role as sole protector. I used it to prove how Bush's failed reform idea sparked debate on limiting federal control over retirement savings versus keeping it a government promise. In my research on how Social Security

changed government's duties, this source gave key facts on ongoing fights over public versus personal benefits.

"Herbert Hoover: Anti-New Deal Speech (1932)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/254424. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

Herbert Hoover's 1932 Anti-New Deal speech helped my NHD project by showing the opposite view of expanding federal power that later came with Social Security. I used it to prove that Hoover warned New Deal plans would "destroy" the American system by making the government too involved in people's economic lives. In my research on how Social Security changed government's role, this source gave an important contrast, showing fears that federal welfare programs would threaten individual freedom and local control.

"Letter to President Roosevelt from Reverend Cooper Critiquing Social Security." 1935. *Issues and Controversies in History*, ich.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=16254&itemid=WE58&primarySourceId=19201. Accessed 15 Dec. 2025.

The letter from Reverend Cooper critiquing Social Security helped my NHD project by showing that some leaders worried the new program made people depend too much on federal aid instead of churches or local charity. I used it to show how critics feared Social Security would weaken personal responsibility and private giving, pushing the government into a larger moral role.

"Library Of Congress." *Library Of Congress*, www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/new-deal/.

The Library of Congress provided photographs and primary documents that brought authenticity to my project. I integrated images from this collection

throughout the different sections of my NHD project. As one of my most frequently utilized sources, these materials made my presentation more engaging and credible.

"National Archives." *National Archives*, www.archives.gov/.

This source offered official documents that showed how the Social Security Act was planned and carried out. I used excerpts and records to explain the government's goals and strategy for protecting citizens economically. This helped me show the administrative side of Roosevelt's reform efforts. It supported my analysis of how the federal government expanded its role during the New Deal.

"President Hoover in the Great Depression." 1933. *Issues and Controversies in History*,

ich.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=16254&itemid=WE58&primarySourceId=19203.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2025.

"President Hoover on the Great Depression" (1933) helped my NHD project by showing his belief in local charity and limited federal aid, which set the stage for Social Security's bigger government role. I used it to prove Hoover pushed private efforts over national programs during the crisis, highlighting the shift FDR later made.

"President Roosevelt's Proposal for Social Security." 1935. *Issues and Controversies in History*,

ich.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=16254&itemid=WE58&primarySourceId=19205.

Accessed 15 Dec. 2025.

"President Roosevelt's Proposal for Social Security" (1935) helped my NHD project by showing FDR's direct plan to make economic security a federal

government duty through taxes and benefits. I used it to prove how this idea grew the government's role from emergency aid to a lasting promise against old age and job loss poverty.

"Roosevelt Institute." *Roosevelt Institute*, rooseveltinstitute.org/.

The Roosevelt Institute helped me interpret the Social Security Act as part of a larger vision for social justice and economic security. I used its analysis to explain Roosevelt's philosophy behind creating a safety net for Americans. The source provided a timeline chart that helped me highlight how the Act transformed throughout the years.

"Social Security Act (1935)." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025,

americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/255076. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

The Social Security Act of 1935 helped my NHD project by showing how it expanded the federal government's role from hands-off to actively providing safety nets for citizens. I used it to prove that FDR's law made the government responsible for old-age pensions, unemployment aid, and aid to the needy during the Great Depression. In my research on how Social Security changed the government's role, this source gave key facts on its start of ongoing federal benefits programs.

"Social Security Administration." *Social Security Administration*, www.ssa.gov/.

The ssa.gov site supplied most of my posters, quotes, and Social Security Act excerpts for my NHD project. As the official source, it offered genuine images

and original documents about pre-1935 elderly hardship and the law's origins, making my project historically solid.

Social Security For The People 1939. Internet Archives,

archive.org/details/SocialSecurityForThePeople1939.

This 1939 government film explains early Social Security benefits to everyday workers, showing how it replaced Depression-era poverty with real security. For my NHD project, it offers authentic 4-year-post-1935 visuals and messaging on elderly aid, proving the law's quick impact on seniors' lives.

"Social Security History Archives." *Social Security History Archives,*

www.ssa.gov/history/archives/archives.html.

The Social Security History Archives provided me with many original posters and propaganda materials used to promote the program in its early years. These visual sources were essential for demonstrating how Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration presented the Social Security Act as a vital safety net to a skeptical public. By analyzing these posters, I was able to explain the specific messaging used to build national support for the New Deal during the Great Depression.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*. Globe Fearon, 1995.

Steinbeck's novel shows Great Depression poverty through the Joad family's struggles with job loss and migration. For my NHD project, it highlights the widespread hardship that hit seniors too, pushing the case for Social Security as a fix for failed family and charity aid.

"U.S Census Bureau." *U.S Census Bureau*, www.census.gov/.

I used data from the U.S. Census Bureau to show how the "pay-as-you-go" Social Security system is changing. These statistics helped me prove that there are now fewer workers paying into the system while more retirees are collecting benefits. I also found that Americans live much longer today than they did when the program first started in 1935. This information was vital to my project because it provided the facts I needed to explain why Social Security faces financial strain today.

Secondary Sources

"Majority Opinion in *Helvering v. Davis* Upholding the Constitutionality of Roosevelt's Social Security Program Excerpts." 1937. *Issues and Controversies in History*, ich.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=16254&itemid=WE58&primarySourceId=19202. Accessed 15 Dec. 2025.

The *Helvering v. Davis*' (1937) ruling helped my NHD project by showing how the Supreme Court approved Social Security as a legal federal power, expanding the government's role in welfare. I used its excerpts to prove the decision said Congress could tax and spend for old-age benefits as "general welfare," beating back states' rights claims. In my research on how Social Security changed government's duties, this source gave key legal proof that national programs were now constitutional, not just local aid.

"Opposing the New Deal." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Topics/Display/1187212?cid=41&sid=1187212. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

"Opposing the New Deal" helped my NHD project by showing how business leaders and conservatives fought against FDR's plans to grow federal power through programs like Social Security. I used it to prove that groups like the American Liberty League called the New Deal unconstitutional and a threat to free markets, highlighting the big debate over the government's role.

Parker, Kim. "What Policies Would Americans Support to Help Family Caregivers?" *What Policies Would Americans Support to Help Family Caregivers?* Pew Research Center, www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2026/02/26/what-policies-would-americans-support-to-help-family-caregivers/.

I used this article to explain that many Americans support policies like tax credits, paid leave, and short-term care to help family caregivers, showing current public opinion on caregiving.

I also connected this to wider debates about Social Security, using the survey data on opposition to Social Security cuts to show how Americans think about the safety net and government support.

Phillips-Fein, Kim. *Invisible Hands : The Businessmen's Crusade against the New Deal*. 2nd ed., W.W. Norton, 2010.

This book details businessmen's fierce opposition to FDR's New Deal, including Social Security, through groups like the American Liberty League. For my NHD project, it shows the political battles seniors' poverty reforms faced, balancing the story of Depression desperation with anti-government pushback.

Sreenivasan, Jyotsna. "Social Security." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/266550. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

Jyotsna Sreenivasan's "Social Security" entry helped my NHD project by giving clear historical background on how the 1935 Act grew the federal government's role from emergency aid to lifelong welfare protector. I used it to show the shift in duties toward old-age pensions and unemployment aid, sparking debates over taxes and states' rights.

Thomas, Lauren. "The Crash and Great Depression, 1929–1939." *American History*, ABC-CLIO, 2025, americanhistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/2217214. Accessed 07 Nov. 2025.

Lauren Thomas's "The Crash and Great Depression, 1929–1939" helped my NHD project by giving background on massive job loss and bank failures that forced the government to grow beyond local aid. I used it to show how the crisis built pressure for Social Security, changing federal duties from hands-off to direct economic protector.

Yellin, Eric S. "Bringing the Constituents Back In: The Politics of Social Security in the 1950s." *Journal of Policy History : JPH*, vol. 36, no. 2, Apr. 2024, pp. 161-90. *History Study Center*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0898030623000350>.

Eric S. Yellin's article helped my NHD project by showing how 1950s letter-writing from everyday people pushed Congress to expand Social Security coverage and benefits. I used it to prove that public pressure shaped the federal government's growing role as a retirement protector, beyond just experts' plans.