

History 246
First Midterm Paper

Presented in class: February 16, 2023

Completed paper due: February 23

Write a short (600-800 word) paper on the following topic, below. Your paper *must* fall within the assigned word count, and you must note the correct word count at the bottom of your paper. Note on your paper the word count, before turning it in. Please use double spaced format, 12-point type. All papers must be presented to me in class on February 23, in hardcopy only.

During the period 1933-1973, the US politics was marked by “class compromise,” in which the wealthy gave up some of their privileges, while the working classes made historically unprecedented gains. The distribution of income and wealth became significantly more equal than had previously been the case. All this was made possible by major changes in US government policy, beginning with the New Deal.

In your essay, you should present the most important changes that took place in governmental policy that contributed to the class compromise. Do not focus on temporary federal policies (such as the job creation programs under the Works Progress Administration), but on the ones that had more long-term effects, such as changes in tax policy, governmental support for labor unions, programs to improve education, and the use of military spending to raise employment levels.