

Uncovering Bias and Missing Narratives

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

5-1 Discussion: Uncovering Bias and Missing Narratives

To identify bias in sources about the Great Depression's impact on the U.S. banking system, I started with what I knew, noting initial perceptions. Then, I sought diverse sources—academic articles, historical documents, and documentaries—to gain varied perspectives. Comparing these narratives highlighted discrepancies, especially in policy effectiveness and economic recovery interpretations, revealing underlying biases. Investigating the authors' backgrounds provided insights into their academic, political, or economic motivations. Finally, I noticed omissions, such as the lack of discussion on the effects on small banks and rural communities, which often unveiled biases towards more dominant, urban-centric narratives (Tieken, 2014). This systematic approach was practical in discerning biases within primary and secondary sources.

In identifying the missing narratives on the Great Depression's effects on the U.S. banking system (Calomiris, 1993), I focused on marginalized groups. By researching, I found that the perspectives of small farmers and minority communities were often overlooked. Their experiences under economic strain and banking reforms provided a unique viewpoint on the crisis's social impact and the long-term economic disparities it deepened. I asked why these stories were absent, leading me to sources documenting the racial and socioeconomic inequalities exacerbated by the Depression. This approach highlighted the significant yet underreported effects on various social classes and ethnic groups, offering a more comprehensive understanding of the Depression's long-term effects on the national economy.

Peer Responses

How might you use your peers' strategies to uncover another absent perspective related to your historical event or expose a historical narrative bias? If you think you cannot apply your peers' approach to your event or narrative, explain why.

Response 01

Your approach to uncovering the overlooked voices in the narrative of the Great Depression's impact on the U.S. banking system is quite enlightening. It got me thinking about the narratives of urban workers versus rural farmers during this period. While your focus on marginalized groups highlights significant disparities, I would like to know if we could extend this to include the experiences of urban workers who faced bank failures differently than rural communities. These workers relied on banks for savings and daily transactions and credit for small businesses, which might provide another layer of insight into the banking system's restructuring. This perspective could reveal more about the socio-economic impacts across different urban and rural communities, offering a broader understanding of the Depression's long-term effects.

References

Boyd, R. L. (2002). Urban unemployment, the rural labor market, and southern blacks in farm labor during the Great Depression: A research note. *The Social Science Journal*, 39(2), 295–299. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0362-3319\(02\)00170-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0362-3319(02)00170-2)

Response 02

According to the instructions of HIS 100 5-1 Discussion, we are supposed to write two or more peer responses. I have addressed the given instructions in one response. Following these instructions, you can quickly and professionally write your peer responses to 5-1 Discussion: Uncovering Bias and Missing Narratives.

References

- Calomiris, C. W. (1993). Financial Factors in the Great Depression. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 7(2), 61–85. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.7.2.61>
- Tieken, M. C. (2014). *Why Rural Schools Matter*. UNC Press Books.
- Boyd, R. L. (2002). Urban unemployment, the rural labor market, and southern blacks in farm labor during the Great Depression: A research note. *The Social Science Journal*, 39(2), 295–299. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0362-3319\(02\)00170-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0362-3319(02)00170-2)