A Note from the Editors
Charles Elfer and Scott Roberts

Greetings! Thank you for reading the December issue of History Matters! Some argue that history is simply the documentation of the political and economic decisions that humans have made over time. For others, the preceding statement is too simplistic. For whatever diversity of opinion may exist on the matter, it would be difficult to discount the significance that economic issues have played in the history of the United States, and the world for that matter. With this above in mind, the theme for the December issue of History Matters! is Economic Transformation. This month we feature a single article that might help secondary history teachers to explore this important and often misunderstood theme. Written by high school teacher, Emmett Wilson, the article describes how teachers can use historical materials to assist students as the work to compare and contrast major economic crises that the United States has faced as a nation, in this case, the Great Depression and the Great Recession. Wilson describes how he implemented the lesson in his own classroom and offers ideas and resources for teachers interested in replicating the lesson in their own classes. Readers are invited to adapt the lesson idea to their own purposes.

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A Toast to General Washington at Anderson House 'to Perpetuate the Remembrance of this Vast Event'
Stacia Smith, Director of Education
The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati
The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati cordially invites you to Anderson House, its headquarters on Embassy Row in Washington, D.C., Friday, March 15, 2019, to participate in an exclusive gathering to toast George Washington and to learn more about the Institute's mission to promote and support effective education on the American Revolution and its legacy. The unique treasures of the Society of the Cincinnati's collections, including the original Society eagle design by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the president general's Diamond Eagle insignia badge-first worn by George Washington, an original Charles Willson Peale mezzotint of General George Washington, and letters written by founding members George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and Henry Knox will be on private display in honor of the National Council for History Education's 2019 National Conference. Executive Director Jack D. Warren, Jr. and the Institute's team of experts will grant backstage access to the Society's premier research library, museum and historic headquarters, and unveil the Institute's newest print and digital educational resources. A complimentary host bar and hors d'oeuvres will be featured in the opulent setting of the Anderson House ballroom, ready to treat NCHE guests to a taste of Gilded Age hospitality.

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From Great Depression to Great Recession: Fireside Chats, Speeches, and Ideology in Times of Economic Turmoil in the United States

By Emmett Wilson, Mission Hills High School, San Marcos Unified School District, CA

Economic crises have occurred during every century of America's existence. The Panic of 1792, Panic of 1819, Panic of 1893, the Great Depression, and the Great Recession underscore how governments respond to economic turmoil. The Great Depression saw the government create the Federal Reserve System, and the New Deal. The Great Recession saw the government nationalize banks and pass the 2009 Affordable Care Act. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's fireside chats and President Barack Obama's speeches reflected their ideologies and their governments' goals in their times of crisis. This presentation will explore how President Roosevelt and President Obama used fireside chats and speeches to explain their economic philosophies and to convey the value of government in times of economic turmoil.
Depression, the Savings and Loan (S&L) Crisis, and the Great Recession are just a few of the economic calamities that have impacted the development of the United States. Every economic crisis is different; that being said, it is important to critically analyze economic crises across different time periods to understand the similarities and differences across these developments. It is valuable for students to connect past and present economic afflictions and to better understand how these afflictions impact American society throughout different eras of American history. At the same time, the teaching of American history in a linear, chronological fashion sometimes fails to emphasize sufficiently the economic experiences of our nation's past and may neglect connections between historical and contemporary economic crises. This lesson focuses on the similarities and differences between the Great Depression (1929-1939) and the Great Recession (2007-2009). Students analyzed available primary source documents which allowed them to contextualize and synthesize similarities and differences between these two economic crises. The lesson deviated from a linear teaching of American history and instead had students evaluate factors that resulted in detrimental economic transformations within the United States. The lesson advocated analyzing the past with a critical perspective and recognizing recurring themes over different time periods.

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Hasan Jeffries  
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NCHE 2019 Conference: Enrichment Opportunity Highlight

An Unlikely Memorial: Ford's Theatre and the Lincoln Assassination

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