

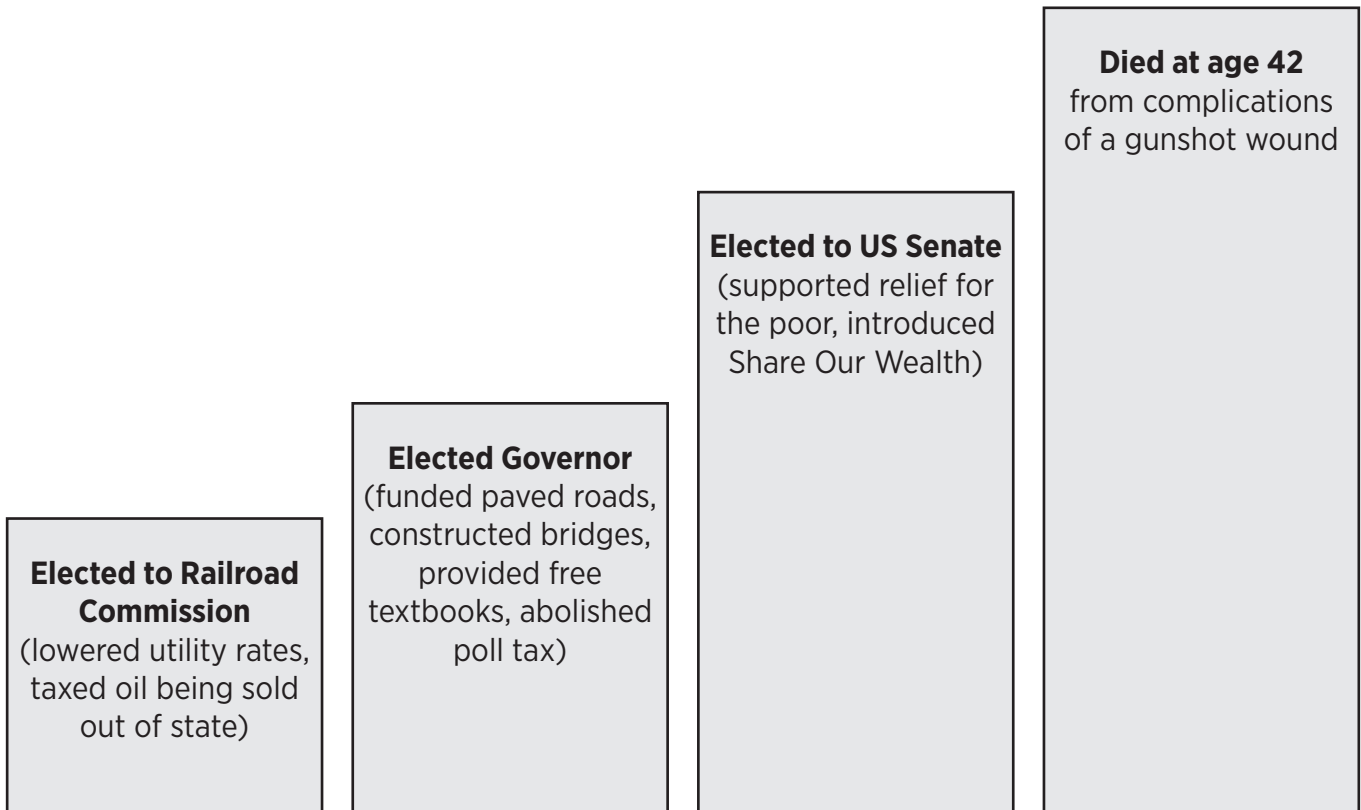
# Chapter 13 | Huey Long Era

**Standard 2 – Key Events, Ideas and People:** Students analyze how the contributions of key events, ideas, and people influenced the development of modern Louisiana.

**GLE 8.2.6** Explain major social, political, and economic changes that affected Louisiana during the Progressive, Great Depression, and Huey Long eras.

Use the four sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer the questions.

## Source 1: Huey Long's Rise to Power



**Source 2: Huey P. Long, Share Our Wealth, 1934**

*Huey Long cemented his control as governor of Louisiana by using state power and state funds to improve social services, to build roads, bridges, and schools, and to reform tax codes. In 1932 he was elected to the U.S. Senate. Initially he supported Roosevelt's New Deal measures, but by 1935 he had broken with the president and launched his own "Share Our Wealth" movement as an alternative to the New Deal. He developed quite a grassroots following across the country before being assassinated in 1935.*

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. . Here is what we stand for in a nutshell:

1. We propose that every family in America shall at least own a homestead equal in value to not less than one-third the average family wealth. The average family wealth of America, at normal values, is approximately \$16,000. So our first proposition means that every family shall have a home and the comforts of a home up to a value of not less than \$5,000.
2. We propose that no family shall own more than 300 times the average family wealth, which means that no family shall possess more than a wealth of \$5,000,000. And we think that is too much....
3. We next propose that every family shall have an income equal to at least one-third of the average family income in America. If all were allowed to work, according to our statistics, there would be an average family income of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year. So, therefore, in addition to the home which every family would own and the comforts of life which every family would enjoy, every family would make not less than \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year upon which to live and educate their children.
4. We propose that no family shall have an income of more than 300 times the average family income. Less the income taxes, this would mean an annual income of \$1,000,000 would be the maximum allowed any one family in 1 year.... Everyone is to have the things required for life; every man a king.
5. We propose a pension to the old people. Under our proposal taxes would not be levied upon the sons and daughters, nor the working people to support their aged fathers and mothers. But on the contrary, such support as would be given for old-age pensions would be borne solely by the surplus money which the Government would rake off the big fortunes and big inheritances.
6. We propose to care for the veterans of our wars, including the immediate cash payment of the soldiers' bonus, and last, but not least, we propose that every child in America have a right to education and training, not only through grammar and high school, but also through colleges and universities.....  
So let us be about our work. It is simple. Why lie ye here idle? There is enough for all. Let there be peace in the land. Let our children be happy. . . .  
How wonderful, how great, how fruitful to all this great land of ours can be. We only have to eliminate useless greed, provide that none shall be too big and none too small. Beautiful America can rise to the opportunity before it. It means to us all:  
Every man a king.

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[From Congressional Record, 74th Cong., 1st sess., 7 May 1935, pp. 7049-50.]

Source 3: Legacy of Scandals



Source 4: Funeral



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**Item 1: Multiple Choice**

Based on Source 4, which term best describes the response of people of Louisiana at the death of Huey Long?

- A. the capitol was a fitting burial site
- B. fear of Senator Talmadge
- C. victory over tyranny
- D. outpouring of grief

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**Item 2: Multiple Select**

Based on Source 1, Source 2 and Source 3, which three statements are examples of “every man a king”?

- “every family shall have a home...up to a value of not less than \$5,000”
- “when I took the oath of office, I didn’t take a vow of poverty”
- “every child in America ha[s] a right to education and training...through college and universit[y]”
- “we propose a pension to the old people... taxes would not be levied upon the sons and daughters, nor the working people to support their aged fathers and mothers [but] would be borne solely by the surplus money which the Government would rake off the big fortunes and big inheritances”
- “As governor, I’m funding paved roads, constructing bridges, providing free textbooks, abolishing the poll tax”

### Item 3: Technology Enhanced Item

Based on Source 1 and your knowledge of social studies, identify the offices held by Huey Long, the number of years he held each position, the level of government in which he was serving, and the branch of government. Write the answers from the list to the chart titled Political Career of Huey Long. Fill every space in the chart. All options will be used from the list.

Governor of Louisiana	Railroad Commissioner
Region within Louisiana	Legislative
2	5
State	Executive
10	National
United States Senator	State Board

Political Career of Huey Long			
Offices Held	Number of Years in Position	Level of Government	Branch of Government

### Item 4: Constructed Response

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, describe one example of Huey Long as a:

- democrat (a supporter of rule by the people);
- demagogue (a leader who seeks power by appealing to people’s desires and prejudices);
- dictator (a leader with total power).

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