SNAPSHOTS OF A NATION

America was a nation of 125 million people in 1933 (less than half of today’s size).

AMERICA’S POPULATION
1933 and 2010 | IN MILLIONS

Many Americans lived in urban areas, but nearly 44 percent still resided in rural districts. One in four lived on farms.

The population was younger (median age 26.5 years) and less educated than today. African Americans comprised the biggest racial minority, and they struggled to survive within a society that denied them basic economic and political rights.

AMERICA’S MEDIAN AGE
1930 and 2010 | IN YEARS

Women comprised only 21.9 percent of the workforce. Those working outside the home were largely confined to jobs considered “suitable” for females, including domestic work, nursing, clerking, and teaching.

WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE
1930 and 2010 | PERCENTAGE OF ALL WORKERS

Government was decentralized, with power vested heavily in the states. The small Federal Government played a limited role in the economy.