Comprehensive Exam Questions

Field: Modern U.S.

Dr. Phelps

Answer one of the following questions:

1) Many historians have characterized post-1933 United States history as "the rise and fall of the New Deal order." How useful is this framework for understanding this period in American history? How have historians situated their work within this framework? Alternately, how have historians used their scholarship to challenge the framework itself?

2) In a 2008 essay, Gil Troy argued that historians have done a lousy job writing the history of the Age of Reagan. Why did he argue this? Based on the books you have read, do you find Troy's assertion warranted? In your answer, discuss several of the books you have read and assess how well they provide a compelling analysis of this period in American history.