The Three R’s of The New Deal—Relief, Recovery, and Reform—are key principles that guided President Franklin D. Roosevelt's approach to addressing the Great Depression during the 1930s. Each of these pillars represents a distinct aspect of Roosevelt's view on the role of government in society.

1. Relief

The first pillar, Relief, aimed to provide immediate assistance to those suffering the most during the economic crisis. This included programs like the Emergency Banking Act, which helped stabilize banks, and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), which offered direct financial assistance to individuals. This reflects Roosevelt's belief that the government has a responsibility to support and protect its citizens, particularly in times of dire need. By intervening directly to alleviate suffering, Roosevelt saw government as a necessary force to restore hope and basic welfare to the populace.

2. Recovery

The second pillar, Recovery, focused on the economic revival of the nation. Initiatives such as the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) aimed to stimulate business and reduce unemployment. Roosevelt believed that government intervention was essential in jump-starting the economy. Rather than allowing the market to self-correct through laissez-faire policies, he supported a proactive government role in fostering economic growth and helping industries recover. This illustrates his view of government as an engine for economic progress, actively creating conditions for a robust recovery.

3. Reform

The final pillar, Reform, sought to establish long-term changes to prevent future economic crises. This included landmark legislation like the Securities Exchange Act and the Social Security Act, which aimed to regulate financial markets and provide a safety net for citizens. Roosevelt understood that without structural reforms, the nation was at risk of repeating the same mistakes that led to the Great Depression. Through reform, he sought to reshape the government's role in American life, emphasizing the importance of oversight and support systems to protect against economic hardship. This underscores his belief in a proactive, engaged government that not only addresses immediate needs but also enacts policies to ensure stability and prevent future crises.

Conclusion

Overall, the Three R’s illustrate that Roosevelt viewed government as a vital instrument for addressing societal issues. He believed that it was the government's duty to intervene in the economy, provide support to those in need, and implement systemic changes that would promote fairness and stability. In summary, the New Deal was not just a set of policies; it was a shift in the American perspective on the role of government, suggesting that a stronger, more involved government was essential in times of crisis.