

# Political Cartoons

“As the Twig Is Bent—The Tree Is Inclined”



# Political Cartoons

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## Description

In the top panel, a young Herbert Hoover cheerfully carries wood into the kitchen for his mother, who is cooking over a wooden stove. The words “Bert’ Hoover, West Branch—1884” can be seen at the bottom of the picture.

In the bottom panel is a similar scene. The woman cooking is labeled “Agriculture,” and behind her is a pot labeled “Farm Vote.” Adult Hoover is carrying a pile of papers labeled “Farm Aid,” and at the bottom of the picture it says “Hoover—West Branch 1928.

The cartoon’s caption was: “As the twig is bent—the tree is inclined.”

## Discussion and Questions

While running for President in 1928, Hoover visited his birthplace in West Branch, Iowa. The cartoon captioned “As the twig is bent—the tree is inclined” by Ding Darling, the famous cartoonist for the Des Moines Register and noted conservationist, sought to show a connection between the boy Hoover and the candidate for president.

1. In both pictures, Hoover can be seen as helping out—specifically who is he helping in each picture? What is he doing to help them?
2. Considering that Hoover was running for President when this cartoon appeared, what sort of voters does the cartoon suggest that he is trying to appeal to?
3. Do you think that the cartoonist supported Hoover’s bid for the presidency? What evidence is there in the cartoon to support your answer?

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“When Such Things Are Possible There Is Nothing Very Wrong With Our Country”



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## Description

This cartoon depicts Uncle Sam with a standing behind Herbert Hoover, with his hand on Hoover's shoulder. Hoover has own hand on a book as he takes the takes the President's oath of office. This image is contrasted with a depiction of Hoover's childhood as an orphan.

Over the boy it says "An orphan at 10." On the boy's scarf is the name "Hoover."

Next to the man is the label "President of the United States at 54."

The cartoon's caption was: "When such things are possible there is nothing very wrong with our country."

## Discussion and Questions

The cartoon captioned "When such things are possible there is nothing very wrong with our country," also by Hoover's friend Ding Darling, was published when Hoover inaugurated as the 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States. Hoover had come a long way from the two room cottage in which he was born!

1. How does the author portray the difference in Hoover's situation as a boy and as a man of 54? Think of the clothing, objects in the hands, and other differences.
2. How do you think the experiences of the young Herbert Hoover might have affected his actions and beliefs as President of the United States? As well as considering the cartoon, think back to the reading about Hoover's childhood in West Branch.
3. Brainstorm a list of prominent people who have risen from humble beginnings to success in America today. Choose one of these people and draw a cartoon about them similar to the one above.