Herbert Hoover:

Humanitarian Hero Halts Hunger Through Food Diplomacy

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Historical Paper

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For my National History Day project this year, I wanted to find a topic that was not only historically significant but had personal meaning to me as well. Additionally, I wanted a topic that was lesser known in history so I could bring it to life through my writing. After reviewing many different topic options with strong connections to this year’s NHD theme, I selected Herbert Hoover and the Commission for Relief in Belgium. This topic appealed to me because, similar to Herbert Hoover, I love helping others. Also, Herbert Hoover is a native of my home state so the topic has local, national, and international connections. Finally, this topic shows the humanitarian side of Herbert Hoover that most people aren’t aware of, so I felt I could educate others through my project.

After selecting my topic, I began my research by obtaining secondary sources, which consisted of books, a dissertation, and journal articles. Two books, *An Uncommon Man: The Triumph of Herbert Hoover* by Richard Norton Smith and *Herbert Hoover: A Public Life* by David Burner, provided exceptional, detailed information and valuable perspectives concerning Herbert Hoover and Belgium food relief. Next, I visited the University of Northern Iowa library where I acquired additional books and many journal articles, both primary and secondary, which helped strengthen my understanding of my topic’s significance in history. Next, I found helpful primary sources, such as newspaper articles, a letter from Herbert Hoover, and a memo that provided important first-hand perspectives on my topic. Also, several websites from the National World War I Centennial Commission, the Hoover Institute, and the National Archives provided information that helped in my topic analysis. Finally, I interviewed Kaat Vanderjeugt, a Belgian historian who provided a valuable perspective on Hoover.
After lots of notetaking, I was ready to create my project. I chose to write a paper about Herbert Hoover and the Commission for Relief in Belgium because I have previous experience writing papers and enjoy writing. Also, I decided to write a paper because it was a way for me to demonstrate my writing skills and allowed me to use more of my own words to expand upon the story of Herbert Hoover and the international debate concerning his acts of food diplomacy. Finally, I began the writing process by creating an outline, writing numerous drafts, and using feedback from teachers to determine edits for my final submission.

My thesis makes a clear argument, has strong connections to this year's National History Day theme, and demonstrates historical significance. In 1914, after Britain's blockade of German-occupied Belgium shut down the nation's food supply, future American President Herbert Hoover became Chairman of the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB). Although he successfully overcame debate concerning U.S. neutrality during the Great War to carry out a food diplomacy mission that saved Belgian citizens from certain starvation and made him a hero, Hoover's economic failure as President during the Great Depression later overshadowed his humanitarian accomplishments and became his lasting legacy.
Thesis

In 1914, after Britain's blockade of German-occupied Belgium shut down the nation's food supply, future American President Herbert Hoover became Chairman of the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB). Although he successfully overcame debate concerning U.S. neutrality during the Great War to carry out a food diplomacy mission that saved Belgian citizens from certain starvation and made him a hero, Hoover's economic failure as President during the Great Depression later overshadowed his humanitarian accomplishments and became his lasting legacy.

Hoover's Early Life

Born to Quaker parents in West Branch, Iowa, on August 10, 1874, Herbert Hoover was greatly shaped by both his family religion and early experiences. After losing his father and then his mother within a three-year time period, Hoover became an orphan at age nine and was sent to live with his uncle, Dr. John Minthorn, in Newberg, Oregon, where he attended Friends Pacific Academy. Hoover's Quaker upbringing emphasized "humility, charity, equality and treatment of all men as brothers," which strongly influenced his desire to help others with no concern for his own wealth, and later guided him in carrying out his humanitarian and diplomatic role as leader of the Commission for Relief in Belgium during the Great War.¹

After graduating from high school, Hoover went to college at Stanford University where he majored in geology. Beyond setting him up for a successful mining career, Hoover met his future wife, Lou Henry, in a geology class. After earning his degree in

¹ Glen Jeansonne and David Luhrssen, "The Real Herbert Hoover Part 3 of 3: How he was shaped by his Iowa upbringing and Quaker faith," Iowa History Journal 8, no. 5 (September/October 2016), accessed January 7, 2022, http://iowahistoryjournal.com/real-herbert-hoover-part-3-3/.
1895, Hoover started his mining career in California. However, because American mining engineers were in high demand worldwide for their superior education, Hoover received and accepted a better job offer overseas in Australia where he worked from 1897 to 1899.²

**International Businessman**

The year 1899 was a big one for Hoover, as he accepted a new position in China, married Lou, and moved to Asia for his work. One month after their marriage, in March 1899, the Hoovers landed in China. However, after only a year there, the Boxer Rebellion, an uprising against foreigners in China, placed the Hoovers’ lives in danger and sent them into hiding. During this dangerous time, Hoover rescued wounded children in a building hit by shells and even saved innocent Chinese workers from harm when they were attacked by others who assumed they were Boxer accomplices.³ These experiences built Hoover’s diplomatic skills and his understanding of how to help people survive difficult situations, which he extensively drew upon later on while leading Belgian relief efforts.

In 1901, Hoover moved to London for a new position and salary boost as a partner in the Bewick Mooring Company Mining Firm. This job was more stable than the one before and London was a safer place to live, which enabled the Hoovers to start a family that eventually grew to include two sons. Hoover’s business role involved extensive international travel and, from 1901-1914, he visited four countries repeatedly:


³ Winkler, "Herbert Hoover and Belgian Relief," 6.
England thirteen times, France eight times, Germany five times, and Belgium three times. Those international experiences, and the relationships he built with people in foreign lands, later benefitted Hoover in his role as leader of the Commission for Relief in Belgium during World War I.

**World War I**

Hoover’s greatest life adventure came shortly after the beginning of World War I, known at the time as the Great War, which broke out on July 28, 1914, when Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia. At the time, Hoover was living in London, although he planned on returning stateside in order for his sons to have an American upbringing. Hoover, who had just turned forty, was considering a run for political office upon returning to the United States. However, the outbreak of war put his plans on hold, and instead placed him in a position to help others in need.

Since the United States had declared itself a neutral nation when the war broke out, nearly 150,000 American tourists and others living in Europe wanted to escape the war zone, many of whom traveled to London in search of finding a way home. However, there they found ships had been diverted for military purposes and their travelers’ checks were not honored by British banks and businesses. Hoover, a natural problem solver, took charge of the situation by heading up a group of 500 like-minded volunteers called the American Citizens Relief Committee, which provided stranded

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4 Winkler, 6.


travelers aid in the form of private loans to help them return to the United States.\textsuperscript{7} These actions put Hoover’s organizational skills on display and demonstrated his ability to help people through large-scale operations, which opened the door to assuming leadership of Belgian food relief operations.

**Belgium Food Relief**

In August 1914, the British military imposed a blockade on neutral Belgium, a European center for industry and finance that had been occupied by the German military. This action, which cut off access to all trade, had immediate and severe consequences. Due to its small size and lack of available farmland, Belgium relied on international trade for three-quarters of its food supply, which was no longer available.\textsuperscript{8} Additionally, the German military claimed for itself Belgium’s remaining supply of food, its 1914 harvest, which left over seven million Belgian citizens on the brink of immediate starvation and needing outside intervention to help them survive.\textsuperscript{9}

Due to Belgium’s desperate circumstances and need for emergency assistance, a group of Belgian diplomats created the Comité National de Secours et d’Alimentation, an organization that provided food relief for the Belgian people. However, they soon realized the task required leadership and organizational skills beyond what they could provide. Thus, under the advice of native Belgian and former Hoover business acquaintance, Émile Francqui, they traveled to London and invited Hoover to lead the


\textsuperscript{9} Washington Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), "7,000,000 Belgians Facing Starvation," November 22, 1914, 2.
Commission for Relief in Belgium. Although he had little to gain personally and almost everything to lose, Hoover, after praying over the decision, announced, “Let the fortune go to Hell,” and accepted their offer to become chairman of the organization.\(^\text{10}\)

Initially, Hoover believed his humanitarian role was only temporary and his main job was to feed the Belgians until their next harvest. To start, he used money from his mining company, as well as Belgian government funds, to immediately purchase ten million bushels of wheat off the Chicago commodities exchange at the lowest price available.\(^\text{11}\) However, it soon became apparent the mission was ongoing and required considerable international support and cooperation to save Belgium from starvation.

To elicit needed support for relief efforts, Hoover contacted friends at the Associated Press and requested they publish articles in U.S. and British newspapers emphasizing the desperate plight of starving Belgians, to deflect attention from debate concerning the appropriateness of a neutral country involving itself in war matters.\(^\text{12}\) The campaign dominated the news, as seen in three November 22, 1914, \textit{Washington Evening Star} article headlines that read, “Donations Stretch ‘Miles of Pennies,”’ “D.C. Relief Committee Collects 1,100 Dollars in Week,” and “Kansas Gives Big Help: To Send 50,000 Barrels of Wheat and Flour and May Do It Again.”\(^\text{13}\)\(^\text{14}\)\(^\text{15}\) Similar “C.R.B.

\(^{10}\) Smith, \textit{An Uncommon Man}, 81.

\(^{11}\) Smith, 81.


Appeals” were repeated in other newspapers nationwide, such as the Orlando Reporter Star.16 This campaign successfully secured widespread grassroots financial support for the CRB. In fact, according to a June 15, 1915, letter from Herbert Hoover to Belgian diplomat Émile Francqui,

Ultimately over 1000 communities were organized by the Commission in various parts of the world. Not only have these committees collected money, clothing and food on behalf of the destitute, but the Commission has taken advantage of the kindly disposition and influence of innumerable local concessions in the purchase of the provisions for the department d'alimentation.17

Despite U.S. support, Belgian relief efforts still faced the strong possibility of long-term failure until Hoover could secure substantial and sustained financial support for the program from the British government and a diplomatic agreement with Germany to allow food into Belgium for distribution to the starving people. After much debate, both countries still expressed reservations. According to a letter published in several British newspapers from British Foreign Secretary Edward Grey, “We have no guarantee that presents to relieve Belgian destitution will not be used for the German Army.”18 Thus, in order to provide its share of needed funding for Belgian food relief, Britain demanded assurances from Germany that they would leave food shipments alone and allow distribution to the Belgian people. As a result, Hoover, who was desperate to provide sustained relief and get his nearly bankrupt commission out of debt, began diplomatic negotiations with the Germans.

Hoover took charge of the matter and, because of the United States’ neutral status in the war, set up a meeting directly with German military officials to negotiate an

16 Appendix A

17 Appendix B

agreement for food distribution free from interference. Hoover's most successful argument in negotiating with Germany was that it would relieve them from having to feed the captive citizens of Belgium.\(^{19}\) Progress toward an agreement was evident in a Spring 1915 telegram from Dutch Minister Henry van Dyke to the U.S. Secretary of State, which said,

> I have the honor to advise you that the German Minister has called upon me this afternoon, bringing a memorandum from his Government in regard to the ships of the Commission for Relief in Belgium... It will be observed that this assurance covers the freedom of the relief ships, bearing the flag and markings of the commission, from all molestation by German submarines in the voyage through the English Channel, and that orders to this effect have been issued by the German Government. We have thus obtained a concession of distinct advantage.\(^{20}\)

In September 1915, after working out the remaining issues concerning safe passage of relief ships to and from England, German authorities granted permission to import food and resources the Belgians needed, and provided an additional guarantee that they would be free from requisition by the German army. Soon after, on October 6, Hoover received confirmation that Britain would provide essential financial support and assist with the transport of food into Belgium, which would then be distributed by a Belgian committee rather than the German military.\(^{21}\)

The next critical step for the commission was organizing an efficient system for food distribution to keep supplies moving into Belgium and distributed to the people in


\(^{20}\) Henry Van Dyke, Telegram, "Minister van Dyke to the Secretary of State," March 3, 1915, File No. 855.48/216, No. 215, Diplomatic Correspondence With Belligerent Governments Relating To Neutral Rights And Duties, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

an equitable manner. Much of the food and clothing provided by the CRB were transported on sixty cargo ships with special CRB flags that signified neutral status designed to keep both the crew and cargo safe from enemy fire. However, these safety measures failed to fully protect the crew and cargo. Thus, over the course of four years, twenty ships were sunk, mostly by German submarines.\textsuperscript{22}

Once the ships arrived in designated ports located at Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Brussels, Belgium, the food was unloaded and carted by horse to various warehouses and communes throughout the country, where individual rations were distributed by volunteers. Each person was given a quantity of food equal to about 1800 calories per day and, according to CRB delegate Joseph C. Green, the amount of food needed in each region was determined through the following local reporting process,

First, the Provincial Representative has to figure out periodically the exact population of his province, and the exact quantities of native wheat and rye and of imported grain necessary to cover a certain period. This he reports to Brussels, and Brussels to London…. In the meantime, Brussels has decided upon the exact quantities to be shipped to each mill in the country.\textsuperscript{23}

After setting up a reliable organizational structure and process for food distribution, the CRB provided for the nutritional needs of Belgian citizens throughout the war. However, in April 1917, when the U.S. entered the war and no longer was considered neutral, Hoover and the CRB’s American volunteers left Belgium and transferred responsibilities for running operations to volunteers from the Netherlands and Spain. At the same time, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Hoover director of the new U.S. Food Administration where he was in charge of both increasing production

\textsuperscript{22} Ernsberger, “The ‘Man of Force’,” 40.

\textsuperscript{23} Ernsberger, 41.
of farm products and reducing food consumption to support the U.S. war effort. Hoover also managed his duties with the CRB from New York, as the organization continued to feed Belgians throughout the war and the six month period afterward to get them back on their feet.24

**Impact**

The Commission for Relief in Belgium’s scope and impact is apparent in the examination of statistics related to its wartime food relief efforts. While coordinating Belgian food relief from 1914-1919, the CRB used over 2,300 cargo ships, in addition to thousands of canal barges, that averaged 100,000 tons of bulk food per month distributed in German-occupied territory and nearly one billion dollars’ worth of food total.25 This massive quantity of food and supplies was efficiently distributed through a carefully structured system of 55,000 to 70,000 Belgian and French volunteers who ensured each person received their ration.26

Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian relief efforts in Belgium saved an estimated ten million civilians trapped behind German military lines during the Great War from starvation.27 In addition to his successful relief efforts, after the war Hoover donated all

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27 Miller, "One of America's Finest Hours.”
remaining CRB funds to the Belgian government to rebuild schools and universities following the destruction caused by World War I. In return, thousands of Belgian students sent Hoover cards, photographs, and letters expressing their gratitude for saving their lives and supporting their education.\textsuperscript{28}

Furthermore, Hoover’s humanitarian diplomacy made him a hero in Belgium, where he is still highly regarded.\textsuperscript{29} Today, Hoover’s name is seen on Belgian street signs, school plaques and, according to Belgian historian Kaat Vanderjeugt, “[In museums] there are still beautifully decorated flour bags that tell the story and pictures of school children who thank the Americans for the food support.”\textsuperscript{30}

Beyond the CRB’s impact that brought Hoover great honor in Belgium, his humanitarian leadership placed him in the American media spotlight as well. Hoover was given the nickname, “The Master of Emergencies,” and many called on him to run for the presidency in 1920, including Franklin D. Roosevelt who stated, “He is certainly a wonder and I wish we could make him President of the United States. There could not be a better one.”\textsuperscript{31} Hoover resisted the call to run for the nation’s top office until eight years later when he won the presidency in a landslide.

However, Hoover’s political career didn’t follow the same successful script as his humanitarian work. Instead he experienced misfortune during his stint as President

\textsuperscript{28} Appendix C


\textsuperscript{30} Kaat Vanderjeugt, email interview with author, March 24, 2022.

when the onset of the Great Depression caused the nation’s prosperity to turn to destitution and the American public to view him negatively.\textsuperscript{32} Thus, Hoover lost his bid for re-election. As a result of this final failed chapter in Herbert Hoover’s life, which almost completely overshadowed his long record of humanitarianism, the failures of his political career, rather than the successes of his diplomatic service, came to define his lasting legacy.

\textsuperscript{32} Winkler, "Herbert Hoover and Belgian Relief," 1.
Appendix A

The American press rallied support for relief efforts.

Appendix B

Hoover’s letter describes the CRB’s early success.

Appendix C

Belgian children thank Hoover.

Fritz van der Mensbrugghe letter [in English] to our Benefactors in America, Illustrated letter, ca, 1915, Belgian Children’s Letter Collection, Woodrow Wilson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (015.00.00).
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Telegram


This telegram from Dutch minister Henry van Dyke to the U.S. Secretary of State discussed progress made through diplomatic negotiations by Herbert Hoover on behalf of the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB). After Hoover pointed out that the CRB would be feeding the German captives in Belgium and relieving the German military from doing it themselves, they became willing to negotiate and allowed the neutral CRB to distribute food. This helped me explain how Hoover used diplomatic negotiations to overcome German resistance.

Letter


This is one of many handwritten and illustrated thank you letters written to Herbert Hoover and the U.S. I included this letter as an appendix in my paper to show the widespread admiration expressed toward Hoover by the people of Belgium for saving them from starvation.


Hoover's letter to Franqui provided information concerning the impact of food relief operations in the first few months of the CRB. It provided statistics concerning CRB finances, as well as some of Hoover's opinions about the best path forward to progress in Belgium. This helped me understand the relationship between the two men and how Hoover overcame the challenges of organizing a large-scale relief effort, which is why I used a quote from this letter in my paper.
Journal Articles

“American Revival.” *New Republic* 10 (Spring 1917): 3-5.

This article shared helpful information concerning the American role in the CRB. It also provided useful perspectives regarding the views of the U.S. government about aiding another country during the war when the U.S. was trying to remain neutral. This was very useful in the lead-up part of my paper when I was writing about the challenges Hoover faced in starting food relief operations in Belgium.


This journal article provided information regarding the free passage of food into Belgium without German interference, which was supported by funding authorized by the British government. I used this information in my paper to explain negotiations that were carried out to establish and keep key international partners who helped provide food relief to millions of Belgians and people living in Northern France during the Great War.


I found Kellogg’s article very helpful when trying to understand resistance from Germany and England concerning CRB operations during the war. I used information from this article when writing about how Hoover used his diplomatic skills to successfully negotiate an agreement with Germany to allow transport and distribution of food to Belgium and to gain British financial support for CRB operations.

Newspaper Articles


I found this newspaper article when I was looking for more primary sources to gather statistics and examples for my paper. Hoover leveraged the power of journalism to provide publicity for the CRB and build support for the organization’s relief efforts. I used this article in my paper to show an example of this appeal, which was successful in raising needed funds for the CRB’s work.

This newspaper article included a letter concerning the establishment of a local council to support Belgian Food Relief efforts. It provided an example and evidence of great American support provided by U.S. citizens in communities all over the country for CRB efforts to provide food for the starving Belgian people. It helped me understand the extent of support for the Hoover-led CRB.


This newspaper article was a very good source because it provided statistics that verified the extent of starvation in Belgium. This deepened my understanding of the desperate situation that Herbert Hoover was responding to when he took leadership of the CRB.

**Washington Evening Star** (Washington, D.C.). "D.C. Relief Committee Collects 1,100 Dollars in Week." November 22, 1914, 2.

This article showed a significant amount of public support among the U.S. public, through fundraising, for Belgian food relief. This was one of three articles on this page of the Washington Evening Star that discussed the situation and American support for relief efforts. I discussed this article in my paper when explaining the role of the U.S. and other countries in contributing to the success of the CRB.


This article was one of three different articles on the same page of the Washington Evening Star that showed how much U.S. states and individual citizens supported Belgian food relief efforts through food contributions. I talked about this article in my paper when I discussed the amount of volunteerism and contributions needed to make food operations successful.

This article was one of several in the same newspaper that showed the variety of people, groups, and communities that contributed support by collecting money for Belgian food relief. This type of coordinated relief effort was one example of the organizational feat Hoover accomplished during the Great War to save Belgian citizens from starvation. I discussed this article in my paper to provide an example of the diverse ways people from around the world supported the CRB.

Secondary Sources

Interview


I conducted an email interview with historian Kaat Vanderjeugt who works at a World War I museum in Belgium. Kaat discussed Belgium’s fond remembrance of Herbert Hoover today, how there are tributes to Hoover all over the country, and that museums display tributes to Hoover and the CRB on embroidered flour bags. Kaat’s responses to my question provided an important Belgian perspective on Hoover and a quote for the impact section of my paper.

Books


This book provided a complete overview of Hoover’s humanitarian and political achievements throughout his life. Beyond helping my overall knowledge on Hoover and the CRB, this book provided specific information I used in my paper concerning Hoover’s successful role with the American Citizens Relief Committee in London when the war broke out. After Hoover led efforts to help stranded Americans return home to the states, Belgian officials asked him to become the leader of the newly formed CRB.

This source is one of several that provided statistics concerning the level of operations and impact of the CRB, including how much money was spent overall and the amount of food that was transported to save the Belgians. I used this information in the latter part of my paper that demonstrated how CRB operations were successful in saving Belgium from certain starvation.


Lloyd’s book provided a detailed account of Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian outreach that emphasized the public relations part of his success. This aided my understanding of how Hoover used those skills in London at the outbreak of the war to help stranded Americans. Lloyd’s writing was also helpful in understanding the connection between this event and the Belgian’s request for Hoover to lead the CRB.


Lyons’ biographical account of Hoover’s life helped me build overall understanding about the man who headed up the CRB and the many life experiences that developed his leadership skills. This provided me with important background information concerning Hoover’s food relief role. Also, the book’s bibliography had a lengthy list of sources that helped me expand my research.


Nash is considered a top Hoover historian and this chapter in his book provided a look at the values that shaped Hoover’s humanitarian and political philosophies, which paid off in his successful food diplomacy efforts in Belgium. Nash writes in a complicated way, but his ideas helped me think about Hoover in new and important ways to draw conclusions.
https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/hoover_herbert.

Shafer's encyclopedia article clearly explained how Hoover diplomatically negotiated with the Germans to secure free passage for CRB ships. This information helped me make important theme connections in my paper and provide evidence to help support my historical argument.


Smith’s book explained how the CRB was organized, who was involved, and how Hoover became the leader. I used information from this source to explain the timeline of events Hoover followed to get Belgian food relief operations up and running in a short time, which was critical to saving so many from starvation.


Whyte’s book provided a complete summary of Herbert Hoover’s life from start to finish. However, I mostly focused my attention on reading the parts of the book concerning my direct topic, which both built additional knowledge and confirmed previous information I got from other sources. This was important for verifying the accuracy of content I decided to include in my paper and making sure I was providing enough detail to make it understandable.

**Dissertation**


Austin’s dissertation explained the struggles Hoover experienced trying to obtain support for the CRB from foreign countries. It also provided a quote from British government official Edward Grey about the situation and why Britain was hesitant to help. This provided useful information that highlighted Hoover’s well-developed diplomatic skills in negotiating British cooperation for the CRB’s food relief efforts.
**Journal Articles**


Bertram's article described Hoover's appointment by President Woodrow Wilson as leader of the U.S. Food Administration after the U.S. joined the Great War. I used information about this in my paper when describing the short-term impact of Hoover's actions.


Ernsberger's article was excellent and had so much important and useful information in it about Hoover and the CRB. It provided useful details for my writing in several parts of my paper and I used a quote from it, too.


Jeansonne and Luhrssen provided a great summary of Herbert Hoover's early life and how the Quaker religion influenced his values and commitment to serve others. I used a quote in the background section of my paper concerning those values to show how it influenced his leadership of the CRB.


This journal article provided great information concerning Herbert Hoover's early life, education, and his experiences in China when the Boxer Rebellion broke out. I included these pivotal moments of Hoover's life in my paper because they helped him develop and exercise the diplomatic skills he used later as leader of the CRB.
**Video**


The U.S. Embassy in Brussels produced this excellent video, which discussed the heroic actions of Herbert Hoover in Belgium and why he is still a national hero there today. Beyond food relief, Hoover donated all the CRB’s leftover funds after its relief mission ended to help rebuild and support Belgian schools and universities damaged during the war. I included this information in my paper to show how Hoover’s actions positively affected Belgium both then and now.

**Websites**


This website provided good information and a quote regarding Hoover’s educational and family background. Hoover’s early life experiences greatly influenced his desire to help others, which paid off for Belgium and the U.S. through his humanitarian efforts during the Great War.


This website had lots of good statistics about the food and money it took to save millions of people in Belgium. This source provided most of the statistics I needed for the impact section of my paper in one place and they matched numbers I found scattered in other sources. Thus, I included the following stats in my paper: food ton totals, number of ships in the CRB, and money spent to fund food relief.
This website discussed Hoover’s role as a humanitarian and how it shaped his political career. It provided an important quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt about how Hoover should run for president because of his leadership. I used it near the end of my paper when I discussed how Hoover’s shift to politics caused people to view him as a failure rather than a hero because the Great Depression happened during his presidency.


Schwartz’s brief look at humanitarian relief and Herbert Hoover in this National Archives online blog post provided good information about Hoover’s personal qualities and how his actions brought relief to Belgium. It helped me better understand what it means to be a humanitarian and the reasons why Hoover fit that description.