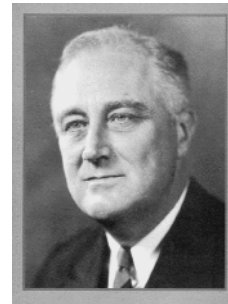


Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945)

Main Characteristics

- The 32nd U.S. President;
- Democracy's aristocrat;
- Successful president in the time of crises;
- Interventional State; Strong Executive; Mixed Economy;
- Founder of the modern American presidency: 635 vetoes, policy of "open doors" towards journalists, fireside chats;
- Unhesitant against Nazi regime and Japanese militarism;
- After Roosevelt's death: USA – the new World Superpower.



Hyde Park to Washington

"The liberty of the community must sometimes take precedence over the liberty of the individual to do as he pleased with his own property." <1912>

- January 30th, 1882: born at Hyde Park in New York;
- 1896-1907: attended Groton, Harvard University and Columbia Law School;
- 1905: married (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt;
- 1910: Nomination for stage senator by Dutchess County Democrats; elected to the New York Senate;
- 1912: Undersecretary of the Navy in Woodrow Wilson's administration;
- 1920: Democratic nominee for Vice President;
- 1921: stricken with poliomyelitis (also known as infantile paralysis); FDR never regained the use of his legs;
- 1928: Governor of New York; Re-Election 1930.
- Presidential Elections:
 - 1932, defeating Herbert Hoover (472 electoral votes to 59);
 - 1936, defeating Alf Landon (523 to 8);
 - 1940, defeating Wendell Willkie (449 to 82);
 - 1944, defeating Thomas Dewey (432 to 99);
 - After FDR's death on April 12th, 1945 Vice President Harry Truman became a new president.



New Deal

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." <1932>

Economic Situation before New Deal

- Great Depression;
- Banking collapse;
- Huge unemployment;
- Cases of dying from starvation despite of food superfluity in the country.

New Creations and Achievements of New Deal

- "Relief, Recovery, Reform";
- March-June 1933: "First Hundred Days":
National Recovery Administration (NRA) and Public Works Administration (PWA), Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Farm Credit Administration (FCA), Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC);
- June-August 1933: "Second Hundred Days":
Passage of the Social Security Act (signed in August 1935) and National Labor Relations Act and the creation of the Works Progress Administration.



- Bank reform, bank holidays; control of stocks market;
- 25-35 millions new jobs;
- Subsidies from Federal Government to separate States;
- Right to free organisation of trade unions and collective bargaining for employees;
- Fixed maximum working hours and minimal wages;
- Prohibition of children (under 16) work (Fair Labor Standards Act, 1938);
- 1944 FDR envisioned his "Economic Bill of Rights".



Setbacks and Failures

- N.R.A. invalidated by Supreme Court, on May 27, 1935;
- A.A.A. invalidated by Supreme Court, on January 6, 1936;
- Unsuccessful attempt to reform the Supreme Court;
- Unsuccessful attempt to deactivate the conservative opposition in the Democratic Party;
- Severe censorship;
- Dramatic increase of bureaucracy;
- Successes of economic recover only after the U.S. entering of WWII.



WWII

"We will win the war and we will win peace." <1941>

Isolationism

- 1935-1937: Congress adopted neutralizing laws to limit the Government on its foreign policy's actions; FDR – Quantité négligeable;
- Gallup survey from Sept. 1st, 1939: 84% Americans against U.S. participation in War;
- Presidential electoral campaign with FDR as favorer of not participation in the European War.

Preparations to the War and Indirect Involvement in the War

- Interdependency and preparedness instead of isolation;
- "Information Service", later mass media and Hollywood;
- Danger of enemy's authority throughout the world;
- Global definition of the USA's interest;
- France, British Empire, China and later Soviet Union have to be supported, because they defend the USA also;
- Battle btw. aggressive powers and liberal democracy; no peace with the aggressor;
- 1939: "Cash-and-carry" policy;
- March 11th, 1941: Lend-Lease Bill;
- August 1941: Atlantic Charta.

After Declaration on War

- December 7th, 1941: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;
- December 8th, 1941: Declaration on War;
- 1939-1945: Increase of industrial production more than twice;
- June 6th, 1944: D-Day (Allies invade Normandy);
- February 3-11, 1945: Yalta Conference;
- FDR underestimates Stalin's ambitions;
- April 12th, 1945: FDR dies, Truman becomes President.



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