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# Four Freedoms Speech & Paraphrase



1) I address you, the Members of the Seventy-Seventh Congress, at a moment unprecedented in the history of the Union. I use the word *unprecedented*, because at no previous time has American security been as seriously threatened from without as it is today . . .

2) It is true that prior to 1914 the United States often had been disturbed by events in other Continents. We had even engaged in two wars with European nations and in a number of undeclared wars in the West Indies, in the Mediterranean and in the Pacific for the maintenance of American rights and for the principles of peaceful commerce. In no case, however, has a serious threat been raised against our national safety or our independence.

3) What I seek to convey is the historic truth that the United States as a nation has at all times maintained opposition to any attempt to lock us in behind an ancient Chinese wall while the procession of civilization went past. Today, thinking of our children and their children, we oppose enforced isolation for ourselves or for any part of the Americas.

4) Even when the World War broke out in 1914, it seemed to contain only small threat of danger to our own American future. But, as time went on, the American people began to visualize what the downfall of democratic nations might mean to our own democracy.



1) I speak to you, Senators and Representatives, at an unusual time in U.S. history. Never before has the United States been as seriously threatened by outside nations as it is today . . .

2) Before 1914, we were concerned about events on other continents. We fought two wars against European nations. We fought undeclared wars in the West Indies, Mediterranean Sea and Pacific Ocean. We fought to protect American rights and peaceful trade. Never in those wars was our national safety or independence threatened.

3) The U.S. has always fought against any attempt to cut us off from the rest of the world and civilization. Now, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, we are against being isolated. We don't want this for the U.S. or for any part of the two American continents.

4) Even World War I, which began in 1914, did not seem to threaten the United States very much. But now we see what the downfall of other democracies means to U.S. democracy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# ***Biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt***

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born to a wealthy family in New York on January 30, 1882. As a young man, he was handsome and very athletic. He graduated from Harvard, went to Columbia Law School and passed the test to become a lawyer. In March 1905, Roosevelt married a distant cousin, Eleanor Roosevelt. President Theodore Roosevelt caused quite a stir when he gave away the bride, who was his niece.

Franklin came from a long line of ancestors who had a tradition of serving in public office at the state level. He began his own political career in 1911 as a New York state senator. President Wilson appointed Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913, where he served his country during World War I. Roosevelt was nominated in 1920 to be the democratic vice presidential running mate of James M. Cox, however, Cox lost to Warren G. Harding.

Roosevelt's life changed dramatically when he got polio in August 1921. This disease caused FDR to be paralyzed from the waist down. He could walk only with the help of leg braces and crutches or the help of another person. This disease did not stop him from continuing his political career, however. He was elected governor of New York State in 1928 and 1930.

In 1932, the Democrats nominated FDR to be President of the United States. For about three years, the U.S. had been in great economic trouble because of the Great Depression. President Hoover didn't seem to be able to solve problems, and the nation wanted a more effective leader. Franklin Roosevelt was elected that year and was reelected three more times. He was the only President to have third and fourth terms in office. FDR was President during two great crises in U.S. history, the Great Depression and World War II. Because of his strong lead-

ership in both situations, he is considered to be one of the U.S.'s greatest Presidents.

During his first two terms in office, FDR started many programs to try to get the U.S. out of the Depression. Congress passed laws to strengthen the banks, to create jobs for young people and other workers, to provide Social Security for older people and to help the farmers and laborers. Not all of these programs worked, but Roosevelt made a strong effort to get the economy going again.

In the late 1930s, Roosevelt knew that Germany, Italy and Japan were conquering other countries. He tried to get Americans interested in this problem, but most citizens were against getting into other countries' wars. However, in 1941, Roosevelt convinced the Congress to pass a law helping Britain with weapons. In December 1941, the U.S. was forced into war when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The U.S. was winning the war in Europe when FDR died of a stroke on April 12, 1945. The nation was greatly saddened but went on to win World War II.

## **Questions**

1. Roosevelt followed his ancestors' tradition of service to New York state. What two different state offices did he hold?
2. What national office did Roosevelt hold before he became President?
3. Roosevelt was a distant relative of what other President of the U.S.?
4. Describe three programs FDR and Congress created to help people during the Great Depression.
5. What characteristics of personality do you think it took for Roosevelt to overcome polio and continue his political career?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# ***Events Leading to U.S. Involvement in World War II***

The events below are not listed in the correct order, but they have their dates in parentheses. Put the events in chronological order by placing the numbers 1 to 20 on the lines.



- \_\_\_\_\_ Mussolini takes power in Italy (October-November 1922)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fascists under General Franco take control of Spain (March-April 1939)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany unites with Austria in the Anschluss (March 1938)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hitler begins to rearm Germany in violation of Versailles Treaty (March 1935)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Japan bombs U.S. bases at Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany bombs Britain in Battle of Britain (August 1940-June 1941)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany invades Poland (September 1, 1939)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany invades Norway (April 9-30, 1940)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Italy invades Ethiopia (October 1935)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Japan begins the invasion of China (July 26, 1937)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany invades Holland and Belgium (May 1940)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Munich Conference; Germany takes over Sudetenland (September 1938)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany (January 1933)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany conquers France (June 1940)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Britain and France declare war on Germany (September 3, 1939)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Japan invades Manchuria (September 19, 1931)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany takes over the rest of Czechoslovakia (March 1939)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Italy conquers Albania (April 1939)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Germany invades the Soviet Union (June 1941)
- \_\_\_\_\_ United States enters war against Japan, Germany and Italy (December 8-9, 1941)