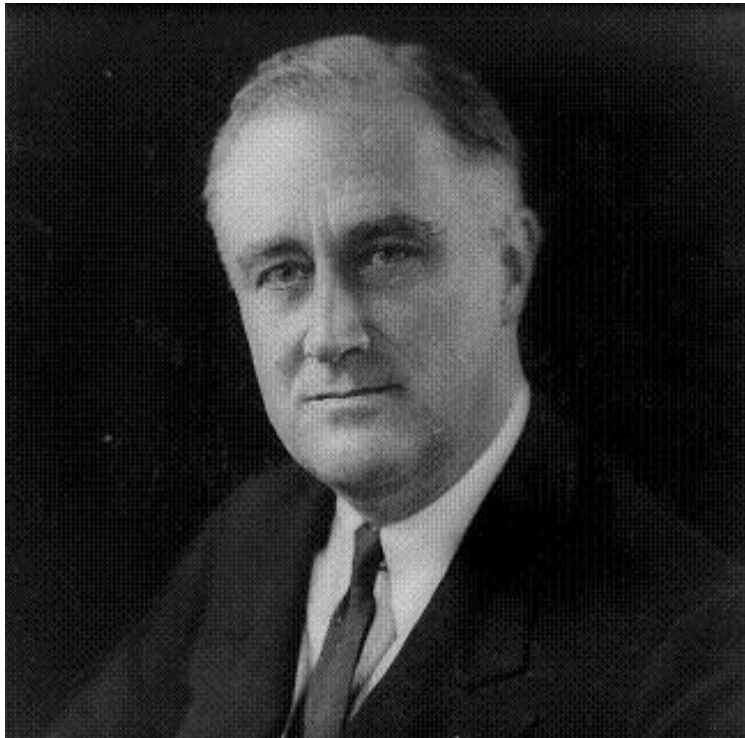


Franklin D. Roosevelt

Teaser and the Firechats

Thirty-Second, 1933-1945



Nicknames: "The New Dealer", "The Boss", "The Champ"

Birth: January 30th, 1882, Hyde Park, New York

Death: April 12th, 1945, Warm Springs, Georgia

Significant Events During FDR's Terms: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany ... Prohibition Repealed ... "New Deal" Begins ... Lindbergh Baby Kidnapped ... Indian Reorganization Act ... Dust Bowl ... Elvis Presley Born Mississippi ... Will Rogers Dies in Alaska Plane Crash ... "War of the Worlds" Broadcast on Radio ... John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" ... Automatic Washer and Dryer Invented ... "Gone With the Wind", "The Wizard of Oz" and "Stagecoach" all come to the Silver Screen ... Pearl Harbor ... Mt. Rushmore Sculpturings Completed ... Port Chicago Explosion ... FDR Dies ... Number of States remains at forty-eight

Quotes: *"My little man, I am making a strange wish for you. It is that you may never be President of the United States."* -- Grover Cleveland (#22, 24), to Franklin D. Roosevelt, when the five-year-old visited the White House in 1887

"The first duty of a state, and by that I mean Government, is to promote the welfare of the citizens of that state." -- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"The grass will grow in the streets of a hundred cities, a thousand towns; the weeds will overrun the fields." -- Herbert Hoover (#31), 1932, predicting what would happen if FDR were to be elected

"I hope that the United States will keep out of this war. I believe that it will. And I give you assurance and reassurance that every effort of your Government will be directed toward that end."
-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"Your President says this country is not going to war."
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt, November 2nd, 1940

"There are 40,000,000 men under arms in the world today, and our statesmen and diplomats have the temerity to say that war is not in the making. Hell's bells! Are these 40,000,000 men being trained to be dancers?" -- General Smedley Butler, 1935, the most decorated Marine ever, known for his bravery and brilliance, who became a war critic after retiring from the military. Butler died in 1940, at a very convenient time for the U.S., who were maneuvering to get involved in World War II; he was only fifty-eight years old at the time of his death.

"FDR's deviousness in a good cause made it much easier for [LB]] to practice the same deviousness in a bad cause." -- Senator J. William Fulbright

"If [FDR] became convinced tomorrow that coming out for cannibalism would get him the votes he so sorely needs, he would begin fattening a missionary in the White House backyard come Wednesday."
-- H.L. Mencken

"The Presidency is not merely an administrative office. That's the least of it. It is more than an engineering job, efficient or inefficient. It is pre-eminently a place of moral leadership."
-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt (who engaged in ongoing adulterous relationships)

"He might have been happier with a wife who was completely uncritical. That I was never able to be, and he had to find it in some other people. Nevertheless, I think I sometimes acted as a spur, even though the spurring was not always wanted or welcome."
-- Eleanor Roosevelt, speaking of FDR after his death

"If you have spent a year in bed trying to wriggle your big toe, then anything else seems easy."
-- Franklin Roosevelt

"Polio made the aristocratic Roosevelt into an underdog. For him it replaced the log cabin."
-- Historian Paul Conklin

"[Yalta was] where we lost the peace and wandered into this land of hot and cold wars."

-- Herbert Hoover (#31)

How his term ended: Roosevelt died shortly after being elected to his fourth term.

Other Professions: Lawyer

Worst Mistakes: Like Woodrow Wilson (#28) before him, Roosevelt lied when he asserted that Americans would not be sent to fight on foreign soil, while all the time maneuvering to get America directly involved in World War II.

Roosevelt was an adulterer. He carried on multiple long-term affairs.

FDR had more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans incarcerated in concentration camps in the U.S. During World War II. The families of many of them had been in the U.S. for multiple generations. They were incarcerated without warrants, indictments, or hearings. On a smaller scale, this was also done to German-Americans and Italian-Americans.

Saving Grace: FDR instituted many programs to relieve poverty and unemployment (which he called "The New Deal").

Notes: Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a really lame President. I mean to say, he was *really* a lame President. Expressed otherwise, he was handicapped/disabled/wheelchair-bound (a polio victim, he couldn't walk).

Roosevelt's "New Deal" was, at least in name, reminiscent of his distant cousin Theodore Roosevelt's (#26) "Square Deal." The New Deal brought about Social Security and a cornucopia of ubiquitous acronyms such as SEC, FDIC, CCC, WPA, REA, and TVA.

One fourth of the people in the country had lost their jobs during the Depression, and many others lost their savings when five thousand banks closed. One third of those unemployed were put back to work by FDR's New Deal programs.

FDR married Eleanor Roosevelt (a distant cousin, as was twenty-sixth President Theodore Roosevelt). Eleanor was Theodore's niece (Theodore "gave her away" at the wedding).

Roosevelt had a very domineering mother. She treated him as a child all his life, even after he became President.

FDR never attended public school – early in life, he was instructed by governesses and tutors; later, he attended a private school.

After being elected but before taking office, an assassination attempt was foiled by the would-be killer missing his mark. However, Anton Cermak, the Mayor of Chicago, who was riding in the same car with FDR, *was* killed. Acerbic journalist Westbrook Pegler later had this to say

about the incident: "It is regrettable that Giuseppe Zangara hit the wrong man when he shot at Roosevelt in Miami. Roosevelt made many decisions in favor of Soviet Russia, beginning with his recognition of the Soviet Government. Thereafter he permitted the whole bureaucracy to be infested with spies."

FDR expanded the square footage of the White House by having offices built underground.

With the appointment of Frances Perkins as Secretary of Labor, FDR became the first President to appoint a woman to his Cabinet.

Although he claimed he wanted to avoid war, FDR asked Congress to revise its neutrality laws to permit the sale of arms to America's Allies (particularly Britain).

Like Wilson (#28) in 1916, Roosevelt in 1940 campaigned on a promise to keep the U.S. out of the world war that was then raging. FDR was never very dovish, though—he had considered joining the military as a young man during the Spanish-American War; in The Great War/World War I he advocated America's early entry, and after the United States did get directly involved, attempted to transfer from civilian life to military, but was dissuaded from doing so by President Wilson.

FDR carried on affairs with both his wife's secretary, Lucy Mercer, and his own, Missy LeHand. Reportedly, Eleanor knew about her husband's infidelity and did not raise too much fuss about it. Eleanor was certainly away a lot, traveling the country and the world on missions to aid her husband's administration. Was this a "chicken and egg" scenario? Was his unfaithfulness due in part to her long and frequent absences, or was she absent so often (either his idea or hers) due to his unfaithfulness?

Lucy Mercer was with FDR when he suffered his fatal collapse in Warm Springs, Georgia, in 1945. Before Eleanor arrived at her stricken husband's side, Mercer was whisked away by the secret service.

Roosevelt was a true politician. Even his friends considered him devious. His Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, said that Roosevelt never spoke with complete frankness, not even to his staunchest supporters. Even more plainly, one person claimed that FDR was a compulsive liar, and would even prevaricate about inconsequential things, such as what he had eaten for breakfast. New York Times White House correspondent Turner Catledge once wrote: "Roosevelt's first instinct was always to lie, but halfway through an answer, the President realized he could tell the truth and get away with it, so he would shift gears and something true would trickle out."

FDR remained extremely popular with the voting public. He won his first election, in 1932, against Hoover, 472 electoral votes to 59; his second, in 1936, against Alf Landon, 523-8; his third, in 1940, against Thomas Dewey, 432-99; and his fourth and final in 1944 over Wendell Willkie 449-82.

FDR had a different Vice President each time: first term, John Garner; second term, the “radical” Henry Wallace; third and beginning of fourth term (until he died), Harry S Truman.

At the Yalta conference, a summit meeting with Britain's Churchill and Russia's Stalin near the end of World War II, FDR made some bad deals with the Russians, for instance “giving them” China as the three divvied up the world into political “spheres of influence” (somewhat reminiscent of fantasy sports league enthusiasts picking and trading athletes).

Besides being a distant cousin of Theodore Roosevelt, FDR was also distantly related to Zachary Taylor (#12), Ulysses S. Grant (#18), and Winston Churchill.