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The The First Inaugural Address of Franklin Delano

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

Read by: D. S. Harvey Language: English Length: 9 hours 47 minutes Style: Solo

Genre: Non-Fiction, History,

Speeches

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When Franklin Roosevelt was elected in 1932, the country was still reeling in the aftermath of the 1929 Stock Market Crash and ensuing Great Depression. The American people were looking for help and direction. In his inaugural address delivered on March 4, 1933, Roosevelt spelled out a clear plan that called for swift, decisive action that would mobilize the power of the federal government to put people back to work and reminded the public that America had a proud history of exceptional accomplishments and an inherent collective strength that could (and would) prevail. The speech is most famous for its declaration that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself", but is also notable for his bold statement that "I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis -- broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were

in fact invaded by a foreign foe." The address continues to stand as a model of decisive, bold action fused with stirring, patriotic fervor. This is leadership at its best. This audiobook contains a new reading of the text of Roosevelt's address as well as a recording of the original.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 – April 12, 1945) is best known as the 32nd President of the United States and the only president elected to more than two terms of office. Born in to a prominent family from upstate New York, Roosevelt attended the elite Groton School and Harvard College and married his distant cousin Eleanor Roosevelt, niece of the Theodore Roosevelt, shortly after graduation. He entered politics in 1910 and served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy during World War I. His career was sidelined in 1921 when he contracted polio and lost the use of his legs. He was resolute in his determination to recover and founded a treatment center in Warm Springs, Georgia, which proved to be a life-changing experience. He was coaxed back into politics in 1924 and elected Governor of New York in 1928 on a reform agenda. He defeated Republican Herbert Hoover at the darkest hours of the Great Depression in 1932. With the optimism and energy he had found in his struggles with polio he proceeded to introduce the New Deal through major legislation and a series of executive orders that provided relief, recovery and reform. His response to the threats of Japan and Germany was equally assertive and innovative, providing first for America to be the "Arsenal of Democracy" while remaining neutral and then by mobilizing a massive war effort after the attack at Pearl Harbor. The tenure as President took its toll, and he died at age 63 three months into his fourth term of office. He is consistently rated alongside Abraham Lincoln and George Washington as one of the top three U.S. Presidents.