

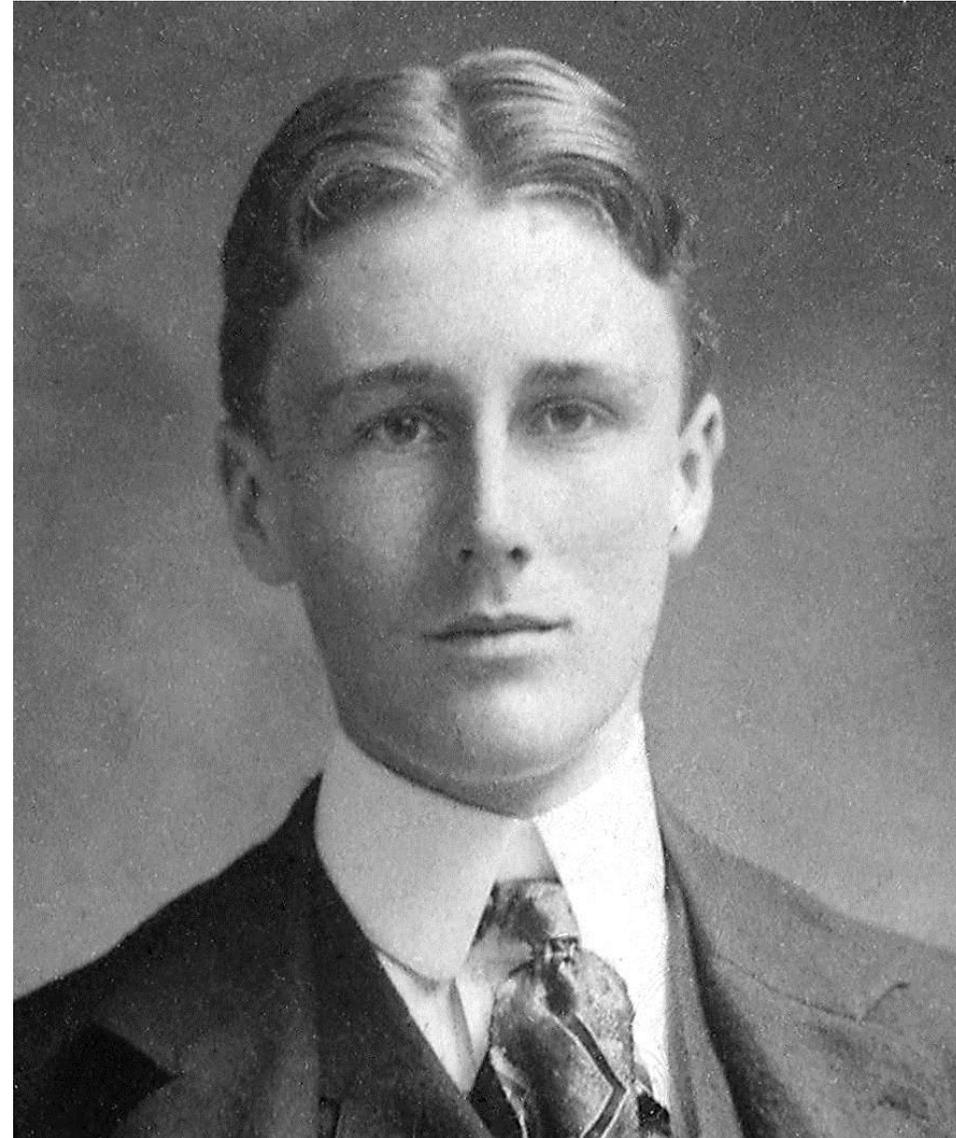


FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

And his impact on the United States!

YOUNG FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

Franklin was born in Hyde Park, New York on January 30, 1882. His parents were James Roosevelt and Sara Delano Roosevelt. He attended Groton (1896–1900), a preparatory school in Massachusetts and received a History degree from Harvard in only three years. He then studied law at New York Columbia University and for the next three years he practiced law with a NYC law firm. He entered politics in 1910 and was elected to the New York State Senate as a Democrat.



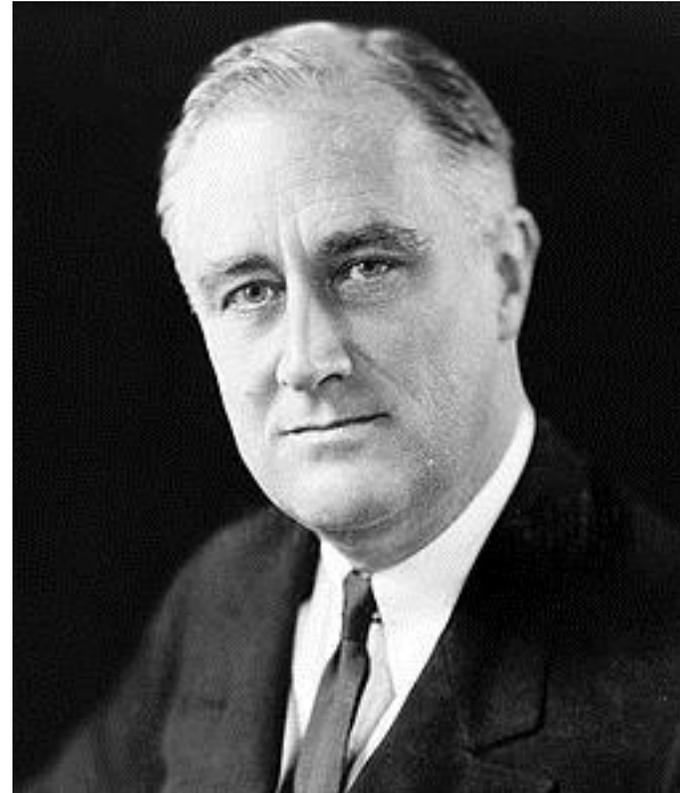
FDR'S FAMILY

In 1905 he married a distant cousin, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt who was the niece of President Theodore Roosevelt. The couple had six children, five of whom survived infancy. Anna (1906), James (1907), Elliot (1910), Franklin Jr. (1914), and John (1916).



POLITICAL BEGINNINGS

In 1910, Roosevelt was invited to run for New York state senate. He ran as a democrat in a district that had voted Republican for the past 32 years. He campaigned hard and won the election with the help of his name and a Democratic landslide.



As a state senator, Roosevelt opposed elements of the Democratic political machine in New York. This won him the wrath of party leaders but gained him experience in political tactics. During this time, he formed an alliance with Louis Howe, who would shape his political career for the next 25 years.

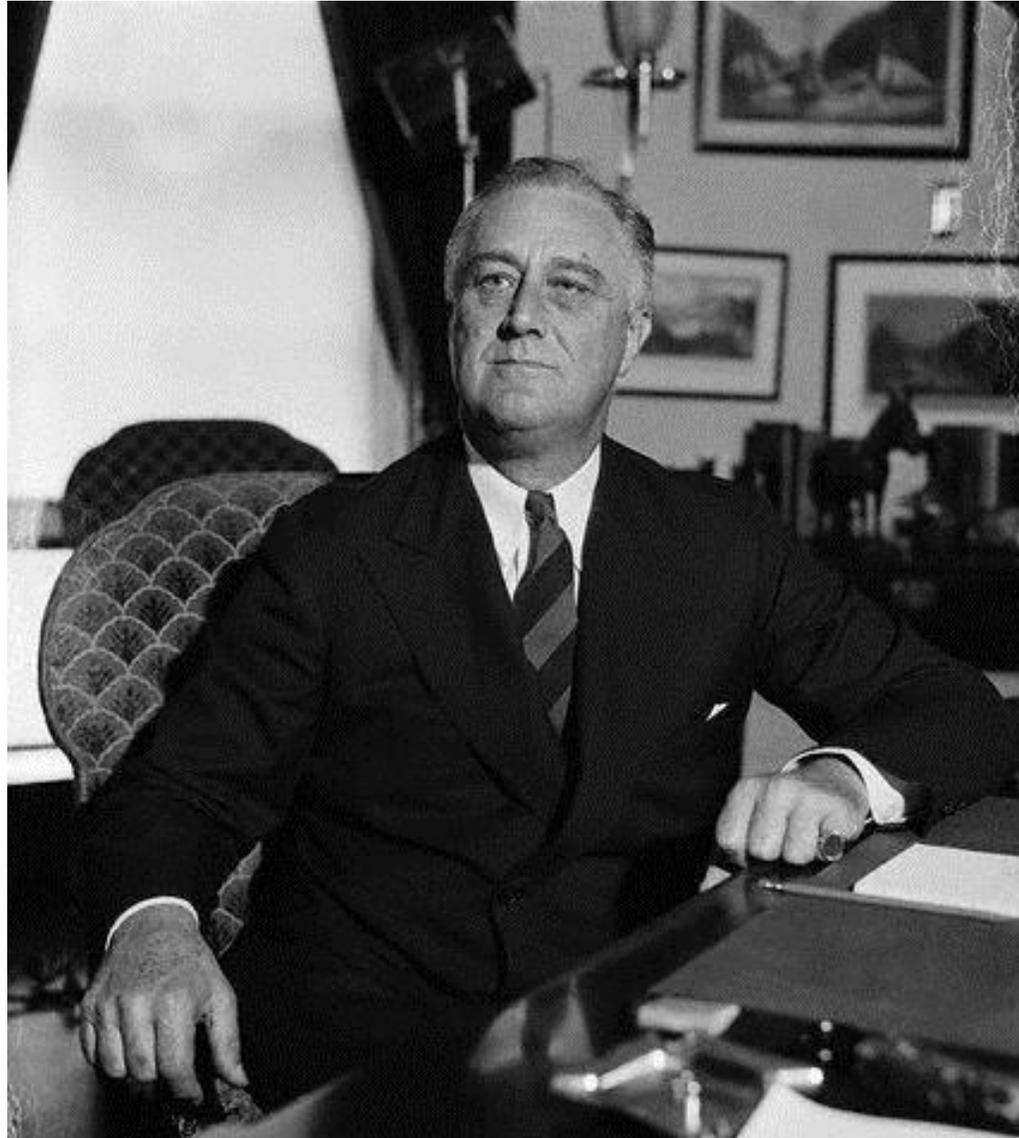


REELECTION

Roosevelt was reelected in 1912 and served as chair of the agriculture committee, passing farm and labor bills and social welfare programs. During the 1912 National Democratic Convention, Roosevelt supported presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson and was rewarded with an appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.



In 1914, Franklin Roosevelt, decided to run for the U.S. Senate seat for New York. The proposition was doomed from the start, because he lacked White House support. Franklin Roosevelt, had made too many political enemies among New York Democrats. Roosevelt was soundly defeated in the primary election and learned a valuable lesson that national stature could not defeat a well-organized local political organization.



POLIO DIAGNOSIS

While vacationing at Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, he was diagnosed as having contracted polio. At first, he refused to accept that he was permanently paralyzed. He tried numerous therapies and even bought the Warm Springs resort in Georgia seeking a cure. Despite his efforts, he never regained the use of his legs. He later established a foundation at Warm Springs to help others, and instituted the March of Dimes program that eventually funded an effective polio vaccine.



For a time, Franklin Roosevelt was resigned to being a victim of polio, believing his political career to be over. But Eleanor Roosevelt and political confidante Louis Howe encouraged him to continue on. Over the next several years, Roosevelt worked to improve his physical and political image. He taught himself to walk short distances in his braces and was careful not to be seen in public using his wheelchair. He also began to repair his relationship with New York's Democratic political machine. Roosevelt appeared at the 1924 and 1928 Democratic National Conventions to nominate New York governor Al Smith for president, which increased his national exposure.



BEGINNING OF HIS PRESIDENCY

By 1930, Republicans were being blamed for the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt sensed opportunity. He began his run for the presidency, calling for government intervention in the economy to provide relief, recovery and reform. His upbeat, positive approach and personal charm helped him defeat Republican incumbent Herbert Hoover in November 1932. By the time Roosevelt took office in March of 1933, there were 13 million unemployed Americans, and hundreds of banks were closed. Roosevelt faced the greatest crisis in American history since the Civil War.



NEW DEAL

In his first 100 days, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed sweeping economic reform, calling it the "New Deal." He ordered the temporary closure on all banks to halt the run on deposits. He formed a "Brain Trust" of economic advisors who designed the alphabet agencies such as the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration) to support farm prices, the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) to employ young men, and the NRA (National Recovery Administration), which regulated wages and prices. Other agencies insured bank deposits, regulated the stock market, subsidized mortgages, and provided relief to the unemployed.



By 1936, the economy showed signs of improvement. Gross national product was up 34 percent, and unemployment had dropped from 25 percent to 14 percent. But Franklin Roosevelt faced criticism for increased government spending, unbalanced budgets, and what some perceived as moving the country toward socialism. Several New Deal acts were declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Roosevelt retaliated by proposing to "pack" the court with justices more favorable to his reforms. Many in Congress, including some Democrats, rejected the idea. By 1938, negative publicity, a continuing sluggish economy, and Republican victories in mid-term elections virtually ended Roosevelt's ability to pass more reform legislation.



Roosevelt had a huge impact on the United States. He put the US in major debt because of his New Deal. Although the New Deal helped many people during the Depression, many think the country would have been better off had he not set the New Deal in action because of the major government spending.

