

---

**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

---

**File No. 443**

**1931 October 16**

**Yorktown, PA - Sesquicentennial Celebration**

At Sesquicentennial Celebration, Yorktown, Virginia,  
October 16, 1931

The State of New York gladly shares this day with the Commonwealth of Virginia and with our other sister states whose right to self-government was won on these fields.

It was from the banks of my native Hudson that Washington and Rochambeau marched to end the War of the Revolution and to make possible the inauguration of our first president and the establishment of constitutional democracy.

I like to dwell not on the surrender of an army under a brave leader but rather on the genesis, as a result of this conflict, of a new concept of liberty for the human race—an ideal which quickly made itself felt among our allies of France and our mother peoples of the British Isles, and spread at last throughout the greater part of the civilized world.

The institutions of liberty and of friendship among nations have been often challenged. They are challenged today. To these forces of despair, of discouragement, of despotism, of chaos and of war we can make no surrender. It is fitting that here we should renew our faith in the everlasting rightness, in the power to survive, of the fundamentals of self government which were born a century and a half ago. In the normal development and sure progress of these truths lie the hope and the safety of the days to come.

p. 769

Draft Speech, Yorktown Heights 1931  
All in handwriting of F. O. R.

gladly shares this  
universal tie of  
other sister States  
movement was seen  
was from the banks

of my native Hudson that Washington and  
Rushmore marched to end the year of  
the Revolution ~~and~~ and to make  
possible the inauguration of our first  
President and the establishment of con-  
stitutional democracy. ~~on the 17th, 18th~~  
~~years later~~

I like to dwell not on the number  
of our army under a brave leader, but  
rather on the genius <sup>as a result of that</sup>  
first of our ~~genius~~ <sup>genius</sup> of a new  
concept of liberty for the human  
race ~~and~~ - an ideal which  
quickly made itself felt among our  
allies of France and our mother <sup>people</sup>  
of Great Britain, and spread at last  
throughout the greater part of the  
civilized world.

The institutions of liberty and  
of friendships among nations ~~to~~ since  
~~we~~ have been often challenged. They  
are challenged today. To these forces  
of despair, of discouragement, of



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
National Archives and Records Service  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY  
100 PARK AVENUE, N. Y.

From the Papers of  
Samuel I. Rosenman

The State of New York gladly shares this day with its sister <sup>the Commonwealth</sup> of Virginia, and with our other sister States whose right to self government was won on these fields. ~~It was~~ <sup>It was</sup> from the banks of my native Hudson that Washington and Bunkerhorne marched to end the war of the Revolution ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> to make possible the inauguration of our first President and the establishment of constitutional democracy. ~~the day, the right~~

I like to dwell not on the surrender of an army under a brave leader, but rather on the genesis <sup>as a result of this</sup> first of our ~~confliction~~ <sup>conception</sup> of a new concept of liberty, for the human race ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> — an ideal which ~~was~~ quickly made itself felt among our <sup>people</sup> allies of France and our mother ~~country~~ of Great Britain, and spread at last throughout the greater part of the civilized world.

The institutions of liberty and of friendship among nations ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> been often challenged. They are challenged today. To these forces of disgrace, of discouragement, of



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
National Archives and Records Service  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY  
MID. PARK, N. Y.

From the Papers of  
Samuel I. Rosenman

dictatorial, <sup>of chaos</sup> and of war we can  
make no surrender. It is fitting  
that here we should renew our  
faith in the everlasting rightness, ~~and~~  
in the power to survive, of the  
fundamentals of self government  
which were born <sup>a</sup> century and a half ago.  
In the normal ~~and some~~ development  
and sane progress of these truths  
lie the hope and the safety of  
the days to come.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY  
1105 Const. Bldg., S.W.

From the Papers of  
Samuel I. Rodzianka