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

Series 2: “You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR and the New Deal

File No. 1204

1939 February 18

Radio Address to Pan American
Hernando De Soto Exposition
Suggested draft for the President's consideration in the preparation of his radio greeting to the Pan American Hernando De Soto Exposition at Tampa, to be delivered Saturday afternoon, February 18, 1939 (immediately after the San Francisco speech) and broadcast over the Gulf Region only.

President Brorein, Commissioner Dye and friends of the Pan American Hernando De Soto Exposition:

I like the very name of this Exposition. I am glad you decided to link the name of the intrepid explorer, who reached these shores 400 years ago, with the Pan American idea. There was nothing narrow or restricted in the perspective of De Soto or of his fellow townsman, Balboa, discoverer of the Pacific Ocean. They and their contemporaries drew their ideas from a vision of a New World, the domains they claimed for their Sovereign were heroic in geographic extent, limited only by the imagination of the dawn of a new era. So today we commemorate Hernando De Soto as one of the first Pan Americans.

The spirit of Pan Americanism happily is coming more and more to dominate the thoughts and aspirations and the actions of all of the diverse peoples and cultures which comprise the three Americas. North, Central, and South. It is the certain and unfei
safeguard of our inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Although the peoples of the New World are of many origins, they are united in a common aspiration to defend and maintain the democratic way of life. That way of life is instinctive in all the peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

To show our faith in democracy, we have made the policy of the good neighbor the cornerstone of our foreign relations. No other policy would be consistent with our ideas and our ideals. In the fulfillment of this policy we purpose to heed the ancient Scriptural admonition not to move our neighbor's landmarks, but to encroach on his fields and haunts.

We desire by every legitimate means to promote freedom in trade and travel and in the exchange of cultural ideas among nations. We seek no territorial expansion through aggression; we are not covetous of our neighbor's goods; we shall cooperate in every proposal honestly put forward to limit armaments; we abhor the appeal to physical force except to repulse aggression; but we say to all the world that in the Western Hemisphere -- in the three Americas -- the institutions of democracy -- government with the consent of the governed -- must and shall be maintained.
President Brorin, Commissioner Dye and my friends

of the Pan American Hernando De Soto Exposition:

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decided to link the name of the intrepid explorer, who reached
these shores 400 years ago, with the Pan American idea. There
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They and their contemporaries drew their ideas from a vision
of a New World. The domains they claimed for their Sovereign
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fitted to the dawn of a new era. So today we commemorate
(Hernando) De Soto as one of the first Pan Americans.

The spirit of Pan Americanism happily is coming more and
more to dominate the thoughts and aspirations and the actions
of all of the diverse peoples and cultures which comprise the
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our inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Although the peoples of the New World are of many origins, they are united in a common aspiration to defend and maintain the self-governing way of life. That way of life is instinctive in all the peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

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We desire by every legitimate means to promote freedom in trade and travel and in the exchange of cultural ideas among nations. We seek no territorial expansion, we are not covetous of our neighbor's goods; we shall cooperate in every proposal honestly put forward to limit armaments; we abhor the appeal
to physical force except to repulse aggression; but we say to all the world that in the Western Hemisphere -- in the three Americas -- the institutions of democracy -- government with the consent of the governed -- must and shall be maintained.

This Exposition is another link in the forging of that chain of brotherhood.
President Bronson, Commissioner Dye and my friends of the Pan American Hernando De Soto Exposition:

I like the very name of this Exposition. I am glad you decided to link the name of the intrepid explorer, who reached these shores 400 years ago, with the Pan American idea. There was nothing narrow or restricted in the perspective of De Soto or of his fellow townsman, Balboa, discoverer of the Pacific Ocean. They and their contemporaries drew their ideas from a vision of a New World. The domains they claimed for their Sovereign were heroic in geographic extent. Their imagination was fitted to the dawn of a new era. So today we commemorate Hernando De Soto as one of the first Pan Americans.

The spirit of Pan Americanism happily is coming more and more to dominate the thoughts and aspirations and the actions of all of the diverse peoples and cultures which comprise the three Americas. It is the certain and unfailing safeguard of our inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Although the peoples of the New World are of many origins, they are united in a common aspiration to defend and maintain the self-governing way of life. That
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- End -
President Brorein, Commissioner Dye and my friends of the Pan American Hernando De Soto Exposition:

I like the very name of this Exposition. I am glad you decided to link the name of the intrepid explorer, who reached these shores 400 years ago, with the Pan American idea. There was nothing narrow or restricted in the perspective of De Soto or of his fellow townsman, Balboa, discoverer of the Pacific Ocean. They and their contemporaries drew their ideas from a vision of a New World. The domains they claimed for their Sovereign were heroic in geographic extent. Their imagination was fitted to the dawn of a new era. So today we commemorate Hernando De Soto as one of the first Pan Americans.

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the institutions of democracy -- government with the consent of
the governed -- must and shall be maintained.

This Exposition is another link in the forging of that
chain of brotherhood.

Signature:

Original reading copy, read
in anteroom at Key West.
RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
To the Pan American Hernando De Soto Exposition at Tampa
Delivered from Key West, Florida
February 19, 1939, 3.45 P. M., E. S. T.

PRESIDENT BROEIN, COMMISSIONER DYE AND MY FRIENDS
OF THE PAN AMERICAN HERNANDO DE SOTO EXPOSITION:

I like the very name of this Exposition. I am glad
that you decided to link the name of the intrepid explorer,
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dawn of a new era. And so today we commemorate (Hernando)
De Soto as one of the first Pan Americans.

The spirit of Pan Americanism happily is coming
more and more to dominate the thoughts and aspirations and
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which comprise the three Americas. It is the certain and
unfailing safeguard of our inalienable right to life,
liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Although the peoples
of the New World are of many origins, they are united in a
common aspiration to defend and maintain the self-governing
way of life. That way of life is instinctive in all the
peoples of the Western Hemisphere.
I take the very name of this proposition. I do not ask you to accept it without some of the reservations that are made. In your American minds you feel that America is the world's most great and powerful country, and to have the exclusive right in the defense of the world is not inconsistent with your great and powerful position. But in the same way that you feel that America has the right to be the greatest country in the world, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to be the freest people in the world. And in the same way that you feel that the United States has the right to be the greatest country, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to live in freedom. And in the same way that you feel that the United States has the right to be the greatest country, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to enjoy the greatest freedom. And in the same way that you feel that the United States has the right to be the greatest country, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to live in freedom. And in the same way that you feel that the United States has the right to be the greatest country, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to enjoy the greatest freedom. And in the same way that you feel that the United States has the right to be the greatest country, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to live in freedom. And in the same way that you feel that the United States has the right to be the greatest country, you also feel that the people of the United States have the right to enjoy the greatest freedom.
To show our faith in democracy, we have made the policy of the good neighbor the corner stone of our foreign relations. No other policy would be consistent with our ideas and our ideals. In the fulfilment of this policy we purpose to heed the ancient Scriptural admonition not to move our neighbor's landmarks, not to encroach on his metes and bounds.

We desire by every legitimate means to promote freedom in trade and travel and in the exchange of cultural ideas among nations. We seek no territorial expansion, we are not covetous of our neighbor's goods; we shall cooperate in every proposal honestly put forward to limit armaments; we abhor the appeal to physical force except to repulse aggression; but we say to all the world that in the Western Hemisphere -- in the three Americas -- the institutions of democracy -- government with the consent of the governed -- must and shall be maintained.

And so this Exposition in Tampa is another link in the forging of that chain of brotherhood.