

July 4, 1941

[FDR library - Hyde Park, NY]

FDR Speech File

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

F. D. R. LIBRARY, HYDE PARK,

JULY 4, 1941

My fellow Americans:

In 1776, on the fourth day of July, the
Representatives of the several states, in Congress
assembled, ~~in~~ declaring our independence, asserted that
a decent respect for the opinion of mankind required
that they should declare the reasons for their action.

In this new crisis, we have a like duty.

In 1776 we waged war in behalf of the
great principle that Government should derive its just
~~representatives chosen in free elections~~
powers from the consent of the governed. In the century
and a half that followed, this cause of human freedom
swept across the world.

But now, in our generation -- in the last few years -- a new resistance, in the form of several new ~~benevolence~~ of tyranny, has been making such headway that the fundamentals of 1776 are being struck down abroad and ~~they are~~, ^{definitely,} threatened here.

It is, indeed, a fallacy, based on no logic ~~at all~~, for any Americans ~~will now~~ to suggest that the rule of force can defeat human freedom in all the other parts of the world and ~~permit~~ it to survive in the United States alone. But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go about ~~its~~ peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the promise, that ~~it~~ and ~~their~~ ^{they} ~~government~~ would be ~~allowed to live~~ when the juggernaut of force came ~~that~~ way.

It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert ^{to} our belief in the cause of freedom -- and let it go at that.

Yet, all of us who lie awake at night --
all of us who study and study again, know full well that
in these days we cannot save freedom with pitchforks and
muskets alone, after a dictator combination has gained
control of the rest of the world.

We know, ~~too~~, that we cannot save freedom
in our own midst, in our own land, if all around us --
our neighbor nations -- have lost their freedom.

That is why we are engaged in a serious, in
a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense
of the Hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need
not the unity alone, we need speed and efficiency and an
~~and tool —~~
^{to} end to backbiting and ~~A~~ the sabotage which runs far deeper
than the blowing up of munition~~s~~ plants.

I tell the American people solemnly that
the United States will never survive as a happy and ~~surrounded by~~ ^{for its}
~~—~~ oasis of liberty ~~in the midst of~~ a desert of
dictatorship.

And so it is that when we repeat the great
pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our
deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our
will and, if it be necessary, our ^{lives}.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Orig. reading copy

When, 165 years ago today, the Representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress Assembled, declared the Independence of this Country, they ~~assumed~~^{agreed} that a decent respect to the opinions of mankind ~~regarded~~^{left us} that they should declare the causes of their action. Their descendants and inheritors, renewing upon this day and in this year our adherence to the principles of freedom they ~~proclaimed~~^{were}, may well feel that a like respect to the opinions of mankind compels us also to declare ourselves. The reasons which persuade men to oppose tyranny and to seek freedom can no more be left unsaid in the time in which we live than in the time in which they spoke. 165 years ago the revolution of human freedom was feared as a new and dangerous force by many men in many countries ~~which~~^{then} had been ruled by tyrants. It demanded justification before the conscience of mankind. Today when the revolution of human freedom, once established over a great part of the earth, has been suppressed and overthrown in many nations, and millions of human beings have been turned back to despotism and the rule of force, it is again fitting and appropriate that those who love freedom and hate tyranny should declare the causes of their action.

It is for this reason that we who are Americans--we who have inherited from the founders of this nation the revolution of human freedom which they framed--turn again to the ~~statement~~ declaration they prepared. Upon this statement of their cause the founders of the American Republic fought the Revolution which established here a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed. Upon this statement of the cause of freedom the revolution here framed

spread from this country to other countries, carrying with it the principles of the equality of men and of their common right to life and liberty. Upon this statement and upon the deeds and declarations of courageous men who ~~made~~ these principles their own, tyranny and despotism were at length expelled from every nation of this hemisphere.

For 150 years the revolution of human freedom, opposed in many places, defeated in some, retarded in others, swept across the world. But now, in our generation, in the last few years, a new resistance has made head against these principles; a new and stubborn tyranny has struck against them and in many nations of the earth has overthrown them, restoring the rule of arbitrary force. To some who watch our time this resurgence of the rule of force, these defeats of human freedom, have seemed the work of a new influence in human history, a new power heretofore unknown. It has seemed to them, and they have so declared, that the work of the revolution of human freedom is now finished, and that a different current in the lives of men will wipe out all its works.

Those who speak in these terms are superficial and ignorant observers who have little considered the past of this Republic, and who understand its present even less. It is true, as they declare, that the free peoples are now everywhere on the defensive against any aggression which threatens their institutions and their countries and their lives. But it is not true on this account—it is not true because the free peoples of the world are forced to defend themselves by arms, against aggression—that their cause also is a defensive cause.

The cause of human freedom was in its beginnings and still remains the cause of affirmation. For the cause of human freedom was in its beginnings and still remains the one cause which declares the equality and liberty and dignity of men. It is the one cause which affirms the absolute value of human life and of every human being, and therefore the one cause which never negative or gives ground or retreat. ^{Can't}

We who assert our faith in freedom, assert also our devotion to the cause of freedom wherever it is found. It is not with our lips alone that we repeat the principles in which the founders of our nation shaped the cause of freedom a century and a half ago. We do in truth believe that all men are created equal. We do in truth believe that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We do in truth believe that it is to secure these rights that governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. And we believe ---we believe in the full confidence of our own history—that whenever any government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.

We speak therefore, on this anniversary of our freedom, to all peoples everywhere who love, or have loved, freedom for themselves. We say to them the cause of freedom is alive. We say the cause of freedom cannot be turned back, cannot be crushed with armies or machines, silenced by laws, shot down by the secret police, liquidated in prison camps, suppressed, destroyed. We say the cause of freedom is a cause no tyranny can stand against. We say that freedom is our cause. We say we are determined to defend our freedom in this country against every menace and to support throughout the world all those who fight for freedom for themselves.

Freedom is our cause; and to that cause, declared in words
which generations of our people have repeated, we pledge, as
they, our ~~lives~~ sacred honor~~s~~ and our lives,

A. Mac L.

June 30, 1941.

To Carl
W. French

When, 165 years ago today, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled, declared the Independence of this Country, they asserted that a decent respect to the opinions of mankind required that they should declare the causes of their action. Their descendants and inheritors, renewing upon this day and in this year our adherence to the principles of freedom they pronounced, may well feel that a like respect to the opinions of mankind compels us also to declare ourselves. The reasons which persuade men to oppose tyranny and to seek freedom can no more be left unsaid in the time in which we live than in the time in which they spoke. 165 years ago the revolution of human freedom was feared as a new and dangerous force by many men in many countries which had been ruled by tyrants. It demanded justification before the conscience of mankind. Today when the revolution of human freedom, once established over a great part of the earth, has been suppressed and overthrown in many nations, and millions of human beings have been turned back to despotism and the rule of force, it is again fitting

and appropriate that those who love freedom and hate tyranny should declare the causes of their action.

It is for this reason that we who are Americans - we who have inherited from the founders of this nation the revolution of human freedom which they framed - turn again to the Declaration they prepared. Upon this statement of their cause the founders of the American Republic fought the Revolution which established here a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed. Upon this statement of the cause of freedom the revolution here framed spread from this country to other countries carrying with it the principles of the equality of men and of their common right to life and liberty. Upon this statement and upon the deeds and declarations of courageous men who made these principles their own, tyranny and depositism were at length expelled from every nation of this hemisphere.

For 150 years the revolution of human freedom, opposed in many places, defeated in some, retarded in others, swept across the world. But now, in our generation, in the last few years, a new resistance

has made head against these principles; a new and stubborn tyranny has struck against them and in many nations of the earth has overthrown them, restoring the rule of arbitrary force. To some who watch our time this resurgence of the rule of force, these defeats of human freedom, have seemed the work of a new influence in human history, a new power heretofore unknown. It has seemed to them, and they have so declared, that the work of the revolution of human freedom is now finished, and that a different current in the lives of men will wipe out all its works.

Those who speak in these terms are superficial and ignorant observers who have little considered the past of this Republic, and who understand its present even less. It is true, as they declare, that the free peoples are now everywhere on the defensive against an aggression which threatens their institutions and their countries and their lives. But it is not true on this account - it is not true because the free peoples of the world are forced to defend themselves by arms against aggression - that their cause also is a defensive cause.

The cause of human freedom was in its beginnings and still remains the cause of affirmation. For the cause of human freedom was in its beginnings and still remains the one cause which declares the equality and liberty and dignity of men. It is the one cause which affirms the absolute value of human life and of every human being, and therefore the one cause which never can be negative or give ground or retreat.

We who assert our faith in freedom, assert also our devotion to the cause of freedom wherever it is found. It is not with our lips alone that we repeat the principles in which the founders of our nation declared the cause of freedom a century and a half ago. We do in truth believe that all men are created equal. We do in truth believe that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We do in truth believe that it is to secure these rights that governments are constituted among men, deriving their just powers

from the consent of the governed. And we believe - we believe in the full confidence of our own history - that whenever any government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.

We speak therefore, on this anniversary of our freedom, to all peoples everywhere who love, or have loved, freedom for themselves. We say to them the cause of freedom is alive. We say the cause of freedom cannot be turned back, cannot be crushed with armies or machines, silenced by laws, shot down by the secret police, liquidated in prison camps, suppressed, destroyed. We say the cause of freedom is a cause no tyranny can stand against. We say that freedom is our cause. We say we are determined to defend our freedom in this country against every menace and to support throughout the world all those who fight for freedom for themselves.

Freedom is our cause; and to that cause, declared in words which generations of our people have repeated, we pledge, as they, our sacred honor and our lives.

A. MacL.

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

The White House

July 2, 1941

Berle asked me to send you the following over our wire:

From Adolph Berle

Memo to the President,
attention of Mr. Hassett:
July 4 th Broadcast:

One hundred and seventy-five years ago a small group of valiant Americans determined that the chief end of government was to guard the great freedoms of men and women. In that faith they created a free nation.

To maintain it they challenged the greatest empire in the world. They convinced even their enemies that the United force of free minds was unconquerable.

A few years later, they beat off an attempt at world domination. Their example influenced every country in the world.

Then we were weak. Now when we are powerful, we meet the issue our forefathers faced: Can free peoples exist, or must men become once more the property of tyrants?

Every fibre of our being, and every echo of our history answers. The freedoms our fathers gave us are our very life.

We will maintain them in great things and in small. We will guard them with arms, and we will protect them in schools and homes. We will give them new meaning in labor unions, in mills and in shipyards, by country cross-roads, and on city streets, at work and at play. We will again make plain that enduring strength lies only in the determined unity of free

TELEGRAM

**The White House
Washington**

No 2.

minds. We will drive out the peddlers of hatred and of
fear.

We will prove to this world, and to its children's
children, that no power on earth or air or sea can
divide this nation.

As He was with our fathers, so may God be with us.

----end---

421pm/d

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

July 2 1941.

WDHassett.

Steve is sending you in the pouch a manuscript from
Maclaish for use possibly in the Friday speech. Also
sending mail for Princess Martha in pouch.

Regards.

R.F.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY,
HYDE PARK, NEW YORK
JULY 4, 1941

MY FELLOW AMERICANS:

In 1776, on the fourth day of July, the Representatives of the several states in Congress assembled, declaring our independence, asserted that a decent respect for the opinion of mankind required that they should declare the reasons for their action. In this new crisis, we have a like duty.

In 1776 we waged war in behalf of the great principle that Government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed. In other words, representation chosen in free elections. In the century and a half that followed, this cause of human freedom swept across the world.

But now, in our generation -- in the (last) past few years -- a new resistance, in the form of several new practices of tyranny, has been making such headway that the fundamentals of 1776 are being struck down abroad and definitely they are threatened here.

It is, indeed, a fallacy, based on no logic at all, for any Americans to suggest that the rule of force can defeat human freedom in all the other parts of the world and allow permit it to survive in the United States Alone. But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go about their peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the promise, that they and their lives and their government would be allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came their way.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert our belief in the cause of freedom -- and to let it go at that.

Yet, all of us who lie awake at night -- all of us who study and study again, know full well that in these days we cannot save freedom with pitchforks and muskets alone, after a dictator combination has gained control of the rest of the world.

We know (too) that we cannot save freedom in our own midst, in our own land, if all around us -- our neighbor nations -- have lost their freedom.

That is why we are engaged in a serious, in a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense of the Hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need not the loyalty and unity alone, we need speed and efficiency and toil and an end to backbiting, (and) an end to the sabotage (which) that runs far deeper than the blowing up of munitions plants.

I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and (prosperous) fertile oasis of liberty (in the midst of a) surrounded by a cruel desert of dictatorship.

And so it is that when we repeat the great pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our will and, if it be necessary, our very lives.

* * *

STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

JULY 3, 1941

C A U T I O N : - The following address of the President, to be broadcast from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, on July 4th, 1941, must be held in strict confidence until released.

N O T E : - Released to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets not earlier than 4:00 P.M., E.S.T., July 4, 1941. The same release of the text of the address also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

WILLIAM D. HASSEY

In 1776, on the fourth day of July, the Representatives of the several states in Congress assembled, declaring our independence, asserted that a decent respect for the opinion of mankind required that they should declare the reasons for their action. In this new crisis, we have a like duty.

In 1776 we waged war in behalf of the great principle that Government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed. In the century and a half that followed, this cause of human freedom swept across the world.

But now, in our generation -- in the last few years -- a new resistance, in the form of several new species of tyranny, has been making such headway that the fundamentals of 1776 are being struck down abroad and threatened here.

It is, indeed, a fallacy, based on no logic, for any Americans to suggest that the rule of force can defeat human freedom in all the other parts of the world and allow it to survive in the United States alone. (But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go about its peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the promise, that it and its life and its government would be allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came that way.) *THIS WAS CORRECTED.*

It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert our belief in the cause of freedom -- and to let it go at that.

Yet, all of us who lie awake at night -- all of us who study and study again, know full well that in these days we cannot save freedom, with pitchforks and muskets.

We know, too, that we cannot save freedom in our own midst, in our own land, if all around us -- our neighbor nations -- have lost their freedom.

That is why we are engaged in a serious, in a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense of the Hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need not the unity alone, we need speed and efficiency and toil -- and an end to backbiting and to the sabotage which runs far deeper than the blowing up of munitions plants.

I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and prosperous oasis of liberty in the midst of a desert of dictatorship.

And so it is that whom we repeat the great pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our will and, if it be necessary, our lives.

STATEMENTS FILE

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY,
HYDE PARK, NEW YORK
JULY 4, 1941

My Fellow Americans: In 1776, on the fourth day of July, the Representatives of the several states in Congress assembled, declaring our independence, asserted that a decent respect for the opinion of mankind required that they should declare the reasons for their action. In this new crisis, we have a like duty.

In 1776 we waged war in behalf of the great principle that Government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed. In other words, representation chosen in free elections. In the century and a half that followed, this cause of human freedom swept across the world.

But now, in our generation -- in the past few years -- a new resistance, in the form of several new practices of tyranny, has been making such headway that the fundamentals of 1776 are being struck down abroad and definitely they are threatened here.

It is, indeed, a fallacy, based on no logic at all, for any Americans to suggest that the rule of force can defeat human freedom in all the other parts of the world and permit it to survive in the United States alone. But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go about their peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the

promise, that they and their lives and their government would be allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came their way.

It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert our belief in the cause of freedom -- and to let it go at that.

Yet, all of us who lie awake at night -- all of us who study and study again, know full well that in these days we cannot save freedom with pitchforks and muskets alone, after a dictator combination has gained control of the rest of the world.

We know that we cannot save freedom in our own midst, in our own land, if all around us -- our neighbor nations -- have lost their freedom.

That is why we are engaged in a serious, in a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense of the Hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need not the loyalty and unity alone, we need speed and efficiency and toil and an end to backbiting, ^(and) an end to the sabotage ^(which) that runs far deeper than the blowing up of munitions plants.

I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and ^(prosperous) fertile oasis of liberty ^(in the midst of a) surrounded by a cruel, desert of dictatorship.

And so it is that when we repeat the great pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our will and, if it be necessary, our very lives.

promise, that they and their lives and their government would be allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came their way.

It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert our belief in the cause of freedom -- and to let it go at that.

Yet, all of us who lie awake at night -- all of us who study and study again, know full well that in these days we cannot save freedom with pitchforks and muskets alone, after a dictator combination has gained control of the rest of the world.

We know that we cannot save freedom in our own midst, in our own land, if all around us -- our neighbor nations -- have lost their freedom.

That is why we are engaged in a serious, in a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense of the Hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need not the loyalty and unity alone, we need speed and efficiency and toil and an end to backbiting, an end to the sabotage that runs far deeper than the blowing up of munitions plants.

I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and fertile oasis of liberty surrounded by a cruel desert of dictatorship.

And so it is that when we repeat the great pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our will and, if it be necessary, our very lives.

5:00 PM
EDT
STATEMENTS FILE

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

F. D. R. LIBRARY, HYDE PARK,

JULY 4, 1941

~~SECRET~~

to India

In 1776, on the fourth day of July, the Representatives of the several states in Congress assembled, ~~in~~ declaring our independence, asserted that a decent respect for the opinion of mankind required that they should declare the reasons for their action. In this new crisis, we have a like duty.

In 1776 we waged war in behalf of the great principle that Government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed. In the century and a half that followed, this cause of human freedom swept across the world.

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(L72-6 es)

6

But now, in our generation -- in the last
few years -- a new resistance, in the form of several new
~~practices~~
~~of~~
~~tyranny,~~ has been making such headway that
the fundamentals of 1776 are being struck down abroad and
threatened here.

It is, indeed, a fallacy, based on no logic,
for any Americans ~~to believe~~ to suggest that the
rule of force can defeat human freedom in all the other
parts of the world and ~~allow it to survive in the United~~
(Co 16 '67)
States alone. But it has been that childlike fantasy
itself -- that misdirected faith -- which has led nation
after nation to go about its peaceful tasks, relying on
the thought, and even the promise, that ~~it~~ and ~~its like~~
~~and its government would be~~
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of force came that way.

It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert
our belief in the cause of freedom -- and let it go at
To
A
that.

Yet, all of us who lie awake at night --
all of us who study and study again, know full well that
in these days we cannot save freedom with pitchforks and
muskets.

V.L.C.

We know, too, that we cannot save freedom
in our own midst, in our own land, if all around us --
our neighbor nations -- have lost their freedom.

That is why we are engaged in a serious, in
a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense
of the Hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need
not the unity alone, we need speed and efficiency and an
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I tell the American people solemnly that
the United States will never survive as a happy and
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And so it is that when we repeat the great
pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our
deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our
will and, if it be necessary, our lives.

C O R R E C T I O N

Please make last sentence in the fourth paragraph of the
Fourth of July speech read as follows:

But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that
misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go
about their peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the
promise, that they and their lives and their government would be
allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came their way.

CORRECTION

Please make last sentence in the fourth paragraph of the
Fourth of July speech read as follows:

But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that
misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go
about their peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the
promise, that they and their lives and their government would be
allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came their way.

It is, indeed, a fallacy, based on no logic, for any Americans to suggest that the rule of force can defeat human freedom in all the other parts of the world and allow it to survive in the United States alone. But it has been that childlike fantasy itself -- that misdirected faith -- which has led nation after nation to go about their peaceful tasks, relying on the thought, and even the promise, that they and their lives and their government would be allowed to live when the juggernaut of force came their way. It is simple -- I could almost say simple-minded -- for us Americans to wave the flag, to reassert our belief in the cause of freedom --- and to let it go at that.

I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and prosperous oasis of liberty in the midst of a desert of dictatorship. And so it is that when we repeat the great pledge to our country and to our flag, it must be our deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our will and, if it be necessary, our lives.

For Newsreels

7/4/1941