Frederick Delano Roosevelt

***Why is FD Roosevelt one of the most eminent political figures of the XXth century?***

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# **I. Biography of Roosevelt : from his studies to his rise to presidency (early political career)**

* Born in **1882,** in an aristocrat family nearby New York. His fifth cousin was *Theodore Roosevelt* (president of the USA from 1901 to 1909).
* He had access to an elitist and private education. In college, he went to *Harvard* and then to *Columbia law school*. He quickly dropped out (**1907**) to practice law and focus on his real vocation: politics.
* Elected in **1911** as a democrat senator, supported *W. Wilson* and in **1913** got nominated as assistant secretary of the navy.
* **1920**: ***F.D. Roosevelt*** got diagnosed with a paralytic illness. As a governor he later tried to address the aftermath of the Wall Street Krash and of the depression before running for president in 1933 for the Democrat Parti and getting elected.
* Longest serving president : from 1933 to his death in 1945 => 4 mandates.

1. **The NEW DEALs, milestones of his presidency**

* **The Great Depression and the New Deals**
* **Three Rs :**
* **Relief** for the **unemployed**
* **Recovery** of the **economy**
* **Reform** of the financial system to prevent from a repeat depression.
* **Reduce the crisis**
* *Bank reform laws*, emergency *social assistance programs*, *workfare programs* and *agricultural programs* => major **investments** from the federal state.
* Creation of the ***welfare state*** = social security program (starting **1934**)
  + - Fighting mass unemployment with STATE INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMY
* **A nuanced overview on the results of the New deals.**
* Improved infrastructure
* Increased the power of the federal state = development of its monetary and fiscal policy instruments
* Questioning the economic effectiveness of the new deal = **WWII** may have been the event that got the Usa out of the crisis.
* **Critics =** 
  + *Howard Zinn* > Roosevelt should have been more radical in the nationalization of American industries.
  + *F. Hayek* > critics on state interventionism => led to inflation, unemployment, and economic stagnation.

1. **American implication in the WWII and Roosevelt Heritage**

* **August 1939** = ***Manhattan project***
* In **1940** the USA first pursuing an isolationist and protectionist policy, stood aside from the conflict.
* **7 December of 1941** : ***Pearl Harbor***
* Pacific front + European front => American troops sent to fight against axe forces.
* **November 28, 1943**: *Tehran Conference*
* Roosevelt gradually abandoned **isolationism** to turn to an **interventionist** policy.
* Roosevelt: crucial role for the USA to have a greater international involvement.
* Shaped federalism: from dual to cooperative with more federal state intervention
* Mandates limitation