Franklin Roosevelt

**Background:** Franklin D. Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York. His parents, named James and Sara Delano were private tutors who gave him almost all his formal education. He went to a high-status preparatory academy in Massachusetts called Groton between 1896 and 1900, and managed to receive a BA history degree from Harvard University in the span of three years. He went to Columbia University, in addition, and received a pass on his exams there. He later dropped before receiving a degree before entering the realm of politics following his study in a New York law firm and election into the Senate of New York. After his reelection, Roosevelt began to support President Woodrow Wilson, and he was rewarded a moderate position in the Navy. Due to the skills and experience he gained while on the job, he was made very popular during this time. His democratic views weren’t popular enough yet, so he took a break in the meanwhile, founding programs which help the ill such as the March of Dimes. Returning to politics, Roosevelt was elected and reelected as governor of New York. The Great Depression in 1932 assisted him in his campaign for presidency, as he advocated for reforms that would combat it. He was now president of the United States.

**Domestic Policies:** Franklin Roosevelt vowed to bring in relief, recovery, and reform in order to combat the Great Depression in the United States; this was part of his New Deal. In order to increase the overall happiness in the nation, he legalized the sale and consumption of alcohol, repealing the 18th amendment. He provided policies having to do with labor. These included: establishing a minimum wage and workweek, overtime, and restrictions on child labor. In addition, he provided public works projects for unemployed people; these people would build up the infrastructure of the nation or be put to work in other ways, such as a professional artist, in return for financial assistance. In order to prevent the closing of homes and businesses, he provided loans for them whenever they were in need of wealth. Lastly, Roosevelt assured American citizens that the new banks he was opening up would not lose the clients’ wealth as the banks that closed due to the Great Depression did.

**Foreign Policies:** One of his foreign policies was the Good Neighbor policy.This stated that fair trade and non-intervention should be in use between the United States and the Latin American nations. He opened trade with Russia by officially recognizing it as a communist nation in 1933. During this time period, Roosevelt had maintained the American isolationist policy that said that the United States should not get involved in anything foreign, but he repealed this when the U.S. was brought into the Second World War. In addition, he enacted his neutrality acts, which stated the actions that the United States should take if it ever was a neutral nation that was overseeing a war between two different groups. This ensured that any situation such as World War I would be taken care of properly. Lastly in the conflict with Japan, Roosevelt was not fond of, but approved, the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. This was to ensure that Japan would not get out of control again.

**Long Term Effects:** One effect that Roosevelt had was that the law that presidents can only be elected for two terms was established because of how much people loved him and how he was elected for four terms in a row as a result. Another effect was establishing the ideal that everyone has the right to have decent paying jobs and/or wealth when they need it so long that they don’t take advantage of this financial assistance. It was this persistence to rid America of the Great Depression, with his New Deal, that established the United States as the superpower we see today.