

FDR's "Four Freedoms"

World War II

Unit 8

Key Idea:

A. Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.

Objective SS.912.A.6.1:

FDR played an important role in the United States' war effort.

B. Read and Annotate the document.

The "Four Freedoms"

In his Annual Message to Congress (State of the Union Address) on January 6, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt presented his reasons for American involvement, making the case for continued aid to Great Britain and greater production of war industries at home. In helping Britain, President Roosevelt stated, the United States was fighting for the universal freedoms that all people possessed.

The ideas enunciated in the Roosevelt's Four Freedoms were the foundational principles that evolved into the **Atlantic Charter** declared by Winston Churchill and FDR in August 1941; the **United Nations Declaration** of January 1, 1942; President Roosevelt's vision for an international organization that became the United Nations after his death; and the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** adopted by the United Nations in 1948 through the work of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Below is an excerpt for this speech...

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.

C. Analyze the reading and answer the following questions.

1) What are each of the Four Freedoms?

2) Where have you previously heard the first 2 freedoms listed?

3) What was FDR's purpose for giving this speech?

