

Bibliography / Video Resources

A - Current Works

- Probably the single best current work, wonderfully well written by a respected presidential historian is:
No Ordinary Time by Doris Kearns Goodwin
[New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994]
- A recent work, very strong on the military aspects of World War II, is the Pulitzer Prize winning:
Freedom From Fear by David M. Kennedy
[Oxford University Press, 1999]
- Also well written and a pleasure to read are the several volumes published to date of the FDR biography by Kenneth Sydney Davis. (The last volume listed below was published posthumously):
FDR: The Beckoning of Destiny, 1882 - 1928;
FDR: The New York Years, 1928 - 1933;
FDR: The New Deal Years, 1933 - 1937;
FDR: Into The Storm, 1937 - 1940
FDR: The War President, 1940 - 1943
[New York: Vol.1 G.P.Putnam's Sons, 1971; Vols. 2- Random House, 1985, 86, 93 and 2000 respectively]
- A modern, somewhat controversial, biography of Eleanor Roosevelt by Blanche Wiesen Cook is:
Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol.1, 1884 - 1933
Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol. 2, The Defining Years, 1933 - 1938
[New York: Viking, 1992 and 1999 respectively]
- A fine portrait of the background, family, youth and earlier years of Franklin Roosevelt are given in the two volumes by Geoffrey C. Ward:
Before the Trumpet: Young Franklin Roosevelt, 1882-1905;
A First Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt
[New York: Harper and Row, 1985 & 1989, respectively]
- A current work by a well known writer on FDR is:
Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Rendezvous With Destiny by Frank Burt Freidel
[Boston: Little Brown, 1990]
- A companion book to the PBS series of the same name:
The Great Depression: America in the 1930's by T. H. Watkins

B - Older Works

Many older works were written by individuals who knew Franklin and Eleanor and/or participated in the events of the Roosevelt era. Many documents and files were not yet available for study by historians. As a result, the perspective of some authors was a more limited one than that of those writing more recently.

- A Pulitzer Prize-winning book, and still one of the best, by someone close to Eleanor is:
Eleanor and Franklin: The Story of Their Relationship, Based on Eleanor Roosevelt's Private Papers by Joseph P. Lash
[New York: W.W. Norton, 1971]
- An analysis of FDR's character and politics are in two books by the widely read historical writer James MacGregor Burns:
Roosevelt: The Lion and the Fox
[New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1956];
Roosevelt: The Soldier of Freedom
[New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970]
- The three volume work by the major American historian, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. is a classic:
The Age of Roosevelt Vol. 1 The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933;
Vol. 2 The Coming of the New Deal;
Vol. 3 The Politics of Upheaval
[Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1957, 58 & 60, respectively]
- A look at FDR by Frances Perkins, a longtime associate and, as his Secretary of Labor, the first woman member of the cabinet:
The Roosevelt I Knew
[New York: Viking, 1946]

C – Suggested Videos

- The American Experience – FDR, Part 1. [PBS Video (120 minutes)]
FDR, Part 2. [PBS Video (150 minutes)]
- The Winning of World War II: The Road to Victory, 1933-1941
- Paul Merriam talk re: Potomac visit to Rockland , Maine – August, 1941
(on videotape available at Potomac Association)