

The Delray Democrat

When FDR Led a United States¹

Sandra Elaiszen-Cantwell

Some of us can still remember the sound of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's voice during his Fireside Chats or when he addressed the nation to announce perilous actions across the globe that threatened this country's existence, such as the surprise and vicious attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

During the previous decade at that time, President Roosevelt had drawn the United States out of the morass of the Great Depression, creating millions of jobs via his New Deal programs. Americans of every description who had been impoverished since 1929 began to rebuild this country and take pride in the works they created. It became a common objective for the American population, though not entirely perfect.

The war in Europe and the Pacific demanded even greater cooperation, greater effort to endure the demands made for survival. That effort and that cooperation were the essential characteristics of our nation's unity and willingness to come together in the twentieth century during the harrowing fear and grief we faced.

So one must ask oneself why, in the Twenty-First century and at this point of our history, are Americans attacking the fabric of unity and democracy that allowed us to withstand the trauma of the Depression and war years? We had confronted that anguish and recovered from it because we had a leader who brought us together to face a common enemy.

Who is that enemy today? Who is this nation's current enemy we are being exhorted to persecute and encouraged to destroy? Why are a considerable number of our people emboldened to find the common enemy among our own neighbors? How anxious must the current leadership in the White House and its followers in Congress have been to debase democracy and the United States Constitution in the attempt to bring about a tyranny led by a madman?

Well, we have seen a small sample of the irresponsibility and treachery that the presidential madman has wrought so far. He must be removed from office immediately, but the damage he and the Republican Congress have brought about will continue to corrupt his constituency and endanger this nation. We need to be vigilant and recognize the harbingers of hatred and iniquity already present because they are America's common enemy.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, January 2021, p. 2.