

## Franklin D. Roosevelt: The first 'modern' President?

### 1940 – The arsenal of democracy: Video transcript

*The results are now conclusive... Roosevelt wins!*

The nation was jubilant, FDR had done it again. And at Hyde Park Roosevelt and his family received the well-wishes of their neighbours.

Again the President addressed the nation. In the presence of Cabinet Ministers, diplomats and the leaders of nations south of the border, FDR asked for broader powers than had ever before been given to any American President.

[Franklin D. Roosevelt]

*The first and fundamental fact is that what started as a European war, as the Nazis always intended it should develop, into a war for world domination. Therefore with profound consciousness of my responsibilities to my countrymen and to my country's cause, I have tonight issued a proclamation that an unlimited national emergency exists and requires the strengthening of our defence to the extreme limit of our national power and authority.*

With the world facing the greatest conflict of all time, with the rights of all free people endangered, Roosevelt met Winston Churchill on the high seas and gave a pledge to the world.

He pledged the right of all people to choose their own form of government. History records this dramatic meeting as the birth of the Atlantic Charter.

**Extract from FDR obituary courtesy of Prelinger Archives and Getty Images**