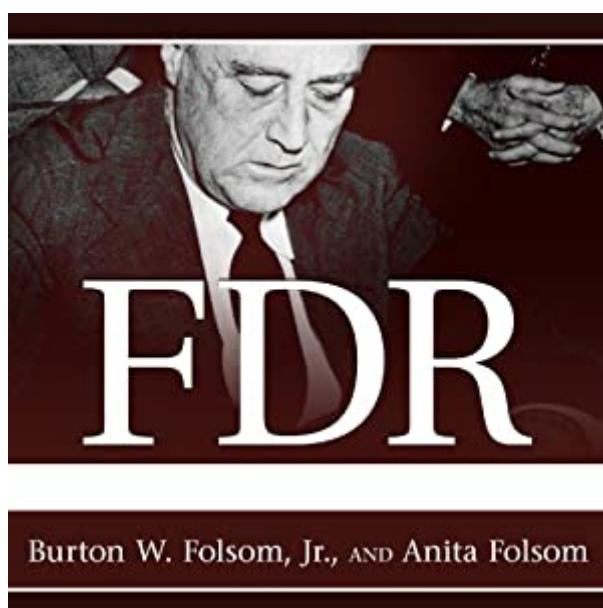


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# FDR Goes To War: How Expanded Executive Power, Spiraling National Debt, And Restricted Civil Liberties Shaped Wartime America



## Synopsis

Burton Folsom's *New Deal or Raw Deal?* was heralded by critics across the board, and #1 New York Times bestselling author and media personality Glenn Beck called it "a must read to help understand our current fiscal problems." Now, writing with his wife Anita Folsom, a domestic policy specialist, *FDR Goes to War* expands on the premise that FDR's legacy has damaged America and helped lay the groundwork for the current economic crisis. The Folsoms continue to expose the idyllic legend of Franklin D. Roosevelt as a myth of epic proportions. Many government programs that are widely used today have their seeds in the New Deal. Farm subsidies, minimum wage, and welfare, among others, all stifle economic growth - encouraging decreased productivity and exacerbating unemployment - and public ignorance of some of these policy failures has lent support for similar policies in later years. Informative, groundbreaking, and illuminating, *FDR Goes to War* is a must-listen!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a must read for the serious WWII reader. The book focus is FDR, how he restricted civil liberties, tapped phones and is in many ways a continuation of his book *New Deal or Raw Deal*. But for the student of WWII it covers information that I have not read in any other WWII history. The most likely reason is because to do so would be damaging to FDR. Most standard WWII history will cover the mistakes of Hitler, The excellent book (*Why Germany Nearly Won* by Steven Mercatante) details this. Other mistakes of Hitler are discussed in many other sources like the WWII the

Battlefield series. Also, the mistakes of England (appeasement) and Stalin (his trusting Hitler and the purges of his top generals) are analyzed by many a historian. But not so for FDR who is regarded as a sainted figure by many. This book analyzes why the US was so unprepared for war. There are individual historians who are critical of FDR; however the standard history texts or documentaries treat FDR and US during WWII as something out of the Walton's or a Ken Burns documentary of everyone working together under the leadership of FDR. The author discusses the dark side of things and shows that the home front was not what that is generally portrayed. Roosevelt spent money of work projects for political reasons instead of arms, also details facts on why Truman was select VP in 1944. The Truman commission, which is not discussed in most WWII history. I read about it in Caro book on LBJ. There are also many internal problems (labor strikes and the many government agencies a great deal of regulation and hardship) that are not talked about. That there was a major coal strike in 1943 has never been discussed by most historians on the subject of WWII. The book could be more detailed and also could be more specific in covering WWII, but the other factors of Japanese interment; wiretapping, Russians and taxes are also issues that most historians don't cover. If the author wanted to write a good book about is he should have titled it "Why the US nearly lost WWII". There were many warnings that WWII was coming when he was contacted that England and France wanted to buy US arms after the German takeover of Czechoslovakia. By then England and France started to rearm. Then after Germany invaded Poland in the fall of 1939, which officially started WWII. FDR didn't start to rearm he announced it during a fireside chat (after seeing the army starved for funds) until the fall of France in the fall of 1940. WWII was well underway, Japan was in China and it was two years before he should have begun. Then a great deal of the new arms were given away by lend lease. Most historians discuss FDR knowledge of the breaking of the Japanese code before Pearl Harbor, but state that no one did know where the attack was to happen, however, the problem was that FDR and most in the defense establishment completely underestimated the Japanese. This mistake was as great as Stalin trusting Hitler and purges of generals. FDR mistake was limiting defense and underestimating the Japanese. He was trying to enter the war without the weapons to fight it. If you doubt this FDR was told by Admiral Richardson in the fall of 1940 the truth but FDR did not want to hear it. This was done because for two reasons dislike for business (which included high taxes, and funding the New Deal which was a political base for FDR. There is a book which I enjoyed reading that relates to it in "Why the Allies Won" by Richard Overy which is mentioned by the author. The Allies won the Second World War because they turned their economic strength into effective fighting power and turned the moral energies of the people into an effective

will to win. Mercateante stated in his book that Germany lost because they were not able to incorporate the available resource to win. Folsom states that Roosevelt hated business so much that before the war they were taxed and attacked, but once war started he needed them. That the men are fighting won the war but the men who FDR attacked created the weapons and worked together to win the war. WWII showed that a nation is only as strong as its industry and people. Something the current President should know.

I haven't read it yet, but I'm certain (hence the 5 stars) this will be a good read ...as I've read "New Deal or Raw Deal" by Mr. Folsom and it was very good ...providing information about FDR you were never taught in school. In addition to this book (FDR Goes to War), I would recommend the book above as well.

I have found this an outstanding read and must for every student of WWII History. Prof. Folsom digs deep into his knowledge of this subject and the time period. I found this going far beyond the subject than any other book dealing with the subject. Until you read this book your knowledge of WWII is not complete.

This well researched book dispels a number of myths about FDR, his New Deal, his approach to economics, and his management of the war. The Folsoms have done a masterful job of presenting history with clarity and beautifully crisp writing.

It was impossible while reading this book not to see the same angry and mistaken taxation theories being played out by the Obama Administration today. One can see that the seeds of the New Deal have become the timber of today's American left. It is disheartening to think that this scenario seems fated to be replayed and that the animus towards basic free enterprise benefits is so ingrained in the fabric of so many of our politicians and sadly, our fellow citizens. I cannot say that a reader will enjoy this book, but it should be that reader's obligation to read it and learn from its lessons.

I view this book as a primer to the book by Herbert Hoover, "Freedom Betrayed". I don't know that either one will be part of any University's American History course, this would be a sad thing. At 85yrs of age, I remember the Depression and certainly the onset and conclusion of WWII. It has been a nagging thought in my mind for years that all was not as it was professed to be in those times and I was part of a family that the name Hoover was not to be mentioned. These books ,

especially the latter, dispel this thought and has been supplanted with, 'what might have been '.

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