

# FREEDOM

America's Struggle for

## JEFFERSON MEMORIAL Shrine to Freedom

Today... we dedicate a shine to freedom. To Thomas Jefferson, Apostle of Freedom, we are paying a debt long overdue.  
--President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the Dedication of the Jefferson Memorial, April 13, 1943

**What story does this memorial tell about the struggle for freedom?** Thomas Jefferson was one of America's Founding Fathers, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776) which announced the independence of the United States from British rule, and 3rd President of the United States, 1801-1809.

In its architecture, inscriptions, and location on the National Mall, the Jefferson Memorial symbolizes the importance of the Declaration of Independence and its words that "all men are created equal" for American democracy.

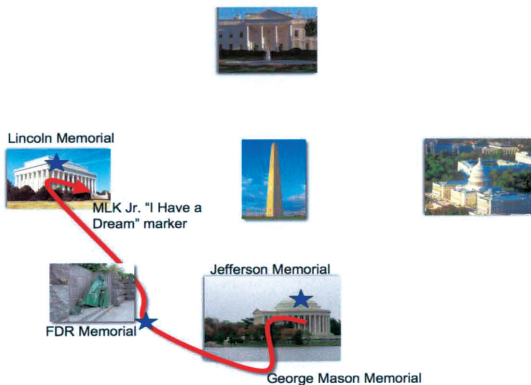


**Why does this memorial look like a Roman temple instead of a modern building?** Jefferson, like other Enlightenment intellectuals, was inspired by the ideas and architecture of the ancient Roman republic. This memorial is modeled on the Pantheon in Rome, a building Jefferson so admired he designed his own home at Monticello to resemble it. Jefferson wanted to create a new architecture symbolic of the new nation.

As you ascend the steps, look up to see a sculptured relief of the signing of the Declaration.

**DID YOU KNOW** that the 1793 design for the Capitol Building also was based on the Roman Pantheon? The taller dome was added in the 1860s

**OUR NATION'S HISTORY IS WRITTEN IN STONE IN THE MONUMENTS OF THE NATIONAL MALL. THIS WALKING TOUR OF THREE MEMORIALS WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THREE CHAPTERS IN THIS STORY. AS YOU VISIT OTHER MEMORIALS, LOOK FOR MORE CHAPTERS IN THE EVER-EVOLVING STORY OF OUR DEMOCRACY.**



**Read the words of the Declaration of Independence on the back wall.**  
*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

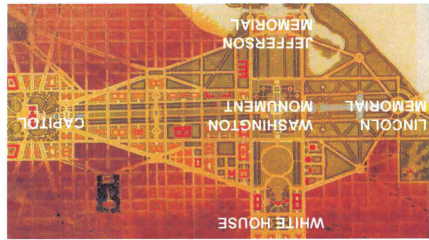
**The Struggle Against Tyranny**  
Continue reading: **What does the Declaration say is the role of government?**  
And when a government denies these rights, what do the People have a right to do?  
Look at the final line on this wall: **By pledging to stand together, what did the signers of the Declaration of Independence stand to lose?**  
Benjamin Franklin famously quipped, "Yes, we must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

**Open for more...**

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**ANSWERS**  
**JEFFERSON--Role of government?** "to secure these rights" / **When a government denies these right?** "it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government" / **What did they pledge?** "our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor" / **Which American looks out on the Memorial?** The President in the White House.  
**FDR--What is the "test of our progress"?** It is "not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little" / **Why talk directly to the people?** "I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the American people and that I have been given their trust." -- fireside chat, April 14, 1938 / **Why hide his disability?** Out of concern people might challenge his readiness to serve as President. / **Who can bring peace?** "world peace cannot be the work of one man, or one party, or one nation... it must be peace which rests on the cooperative effort of the whole world."  
**LINCOLN--Symbolism of the bridge?** It physically and symbolically unites Lincoln and Lee, North and South. / **Which founding document?** The Declaration of Independence. / **Why called the "refounding"?** Lincoln rededicates the nation, now freed from the "original sin" of slavery, to founding principles. / **Why choose Lincoln as a stage?** Lincoln was the "Great Emancipator" whose monument has pride of place on the main axis of the National Mall, in full view of our elected leaders and the American public.

Where else on or near the National Mall can you learn more about this story of America's Struggle For Freedom--including stories not told on the Mall?  
◆ **National Archives:** See the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and other documents of American history. 700 Pennsylvania Avenue (across from the National Gallery of Art)  
◆ **National Museum of American History.** On the National Mall at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW  
◆ **Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial.** On the National Mall at Constitution Gardens (on the island in the lake near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) at 19th and Constitution Avenue NW  
◆ **Japanese American Memorial** that pays homage to the Americans of Japanese descent who were imprisoned during World War II by order of President Roosevelt, between the Capitol and Union Station at the intersection of New Jersey and Louisiana Avenue and D Street NW.  
◆ **Women's Suffrage: Sewall-Beaumont House and Museum,** documents the struggle for the American woman's right to vote, 144 Constitution Avenue NE (near the Capitol and Senate Office Buildings)



**The National Mall Tells the Story of American Government** The layout of the National Mall symbolizes the principles of democratic government established by the United States Constitution (1787). The seat of government (Capitol) at the east end. A mile away--symbolizing the separation of powers--the President's House (White House). To the south, the author of our government's founding document (Jefferson). At the west, the President of that government (Lincoln). And at the center, the monument to the Father of Our Country (Washington).  
◆ **Stand at Jefferson's feet and follow his gaze. Which American looks out from his house to this monument every day?**  
**Slavery -- America's "original sin."** Jefferson and Mason (below) deplored slavery yet owned slaves. The Constitution sanctioned slavery until it was abolished, following the end of the Civil War, by the 13th Amendment in 1865.  
◆ **Take a small detour "behind" Jefferson to the memorial to George Mason whose Virginia Declaration of Rights was the basis of the U.S. Bill of Rights.** Mason refused to sign the Constitution because it contained no bill of rights.

◆ **Why does this memorial look like a Roman temple instead of a modern building?** Jefferson, like other Enlightenment intellectuals, was inspired by the ideas and architecture of the ancient Roman republic. This memorial is modeled on the Pantheon in Rome, a building Jefferson so admired he designed his own home at Monticello to resemble it. Jefferson wanted to create a new architecture symbolic of the new nation.  
◆ **As you ascend the steps, look up to see a sculptured relief of the signing of the Declaration.**

**Open for more...**



# FDR MEMORIAL

**Freedom From Want And Fear**

What story of freedom's struggle is told in this memorial's four rooms? President Franklin Delano Roosevelt held office for four terms, from 1933-1945, a time period of two major national and world crises, the Great Depression and World War II. FDR spoke of Four Freedoms essential to American democracy and fear. The first two were traditional Constitutional values the latter two responded to the Depression and War.

In the memorial's sculptures and inscriptions we can read the story of the struggle for freedom from want and fear through FDR's New Deal programs and creation of the United Nations.

Look for FDR's famous words to the American public, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Who are those sad-looking people standing in a bread line? Over 25% of working Americans lost their jobs during the Great Depression. Many faced starvation and homelessness. The federal government reformed banking, and provided security for the needy and elderly.

What is the "test of our progress" in the New Deal? Read FDR's words on the nearby wall. Do you think he was right? Are his ideas relevant today?

Why is that man listening to the radio? American families huddled around their radios (before television) to hear FDR inform and reassure them in "fireside chats" during the dark days of the Depression and WWII. Do you know someone who remembers those broadcasts? Listen to actual recordings at: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/medialist.php?presid=32>

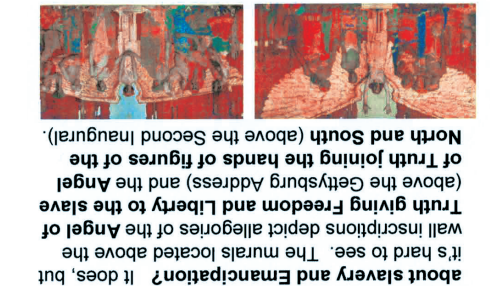
Why did FDR think it important to talk directly to the American people? Read the inscription "I never forget..." to find out why. What does this tell us about how FDR saw his duty as President?

How does the Lincoln Memorial embody the struggle for freedom in America? Abraham Lincoln, our nation's 16th President from 1860 until his assassination in 1865, led the nation during the Civil War (1861-1865). He signed the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) that freed slaves in the rebellious states.

The Greek-style temple architecture, the great statue, murals, and inscriptions of two of his greatest speeches--the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural--enshrine Lincoln's memory as the "Great Emancipator" and "Savior of the Union." The memorial has become a stage for civil rights demonstrations.

Walk around the back of the Memorial and look to Arlington Memorial Bridge that connects Lincoln to Arlington National Cemetery and the Custer-Lee Mansion, former home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's. What is the symbolism of this bridge built in the aftermath of the Civil War?

Why doesn't this memorial say anything about slavery and Emancipation? It does, but it's hard to see. The murals located above the wall inscriptions depict allegories of the Angel of Truth giving Freedom and Liberty to the slave (above the Gettysburg Address) and the Angel of Truth joining the hands of figures of the North and South (above the Second Inaugural).



# THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

## A New Birth of Freedom

Read these words from the Gettysburg Address (1863) inside on the left wall--words spoken at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the decisive Battle of Gettysburg.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

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Why is FDR shown in a wheelchair in one but not the other statue? Actually, he's in a wheelchair in both. FDR contracted polio at age 39 but hid his disability from the public, two historical truths revealed in these statues. Why do you think he hid his disability? Would knowing the President is disabled make a difference to you?

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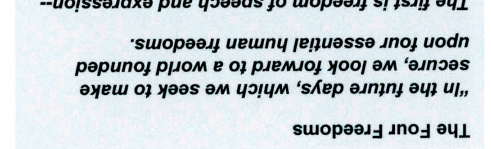
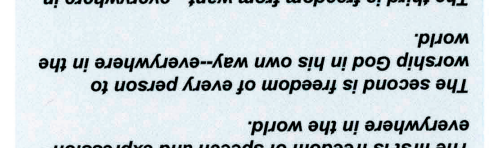
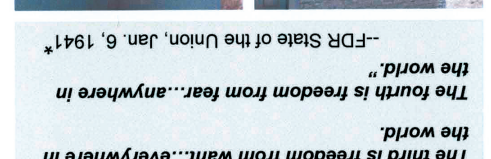
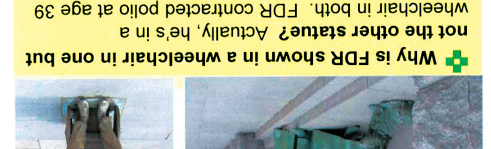
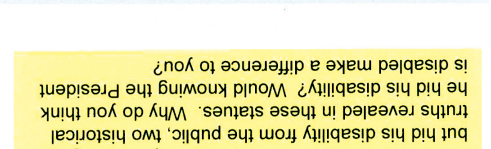
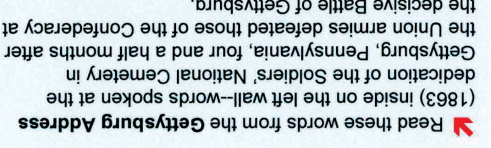
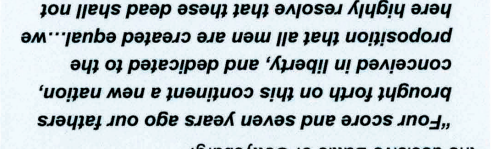
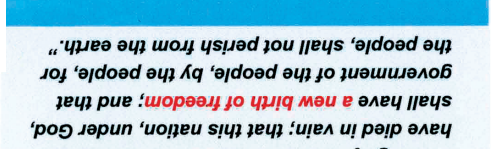
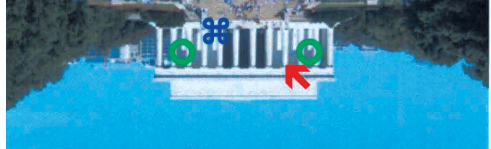
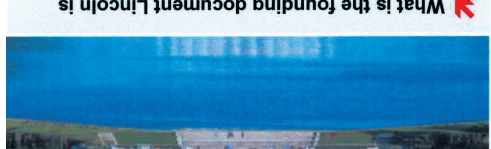
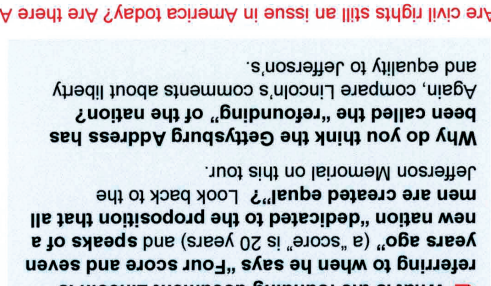
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## Freedom From Want And Fear

What role did First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt play in freedom's struggle? Eleanor Roosevelt was a supporter of New Deal policies, civil rights activists, and promoter of human rights around the world. At the United Nations, where she served as delegate from 1945 to 1952, Roosevelt chaired the committee that drafted and approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which incorporates in its preamble FDR's Four Freedoms: "Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed the highest aspiration of the common people..."

Who can bring peace to the world? Read FDR's words next to the statue of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. "The structure of world peace..." Do you think FDR would judge the United Nations a success?

\*FDR also spoke of "the preservation of civil liberties for all." However, FDR gave authority to imprison Americans of Japanese descent during WWII. President Ronald Reagan in 1988 signed into law the Civil Liberties Act saying "Here we admit a wrong. Here we confirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."

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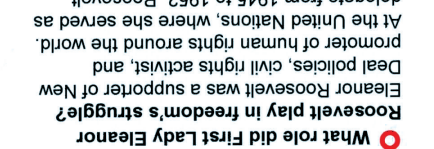
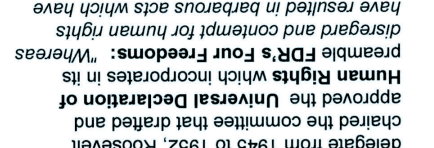
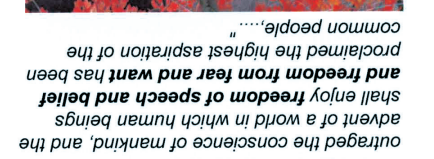
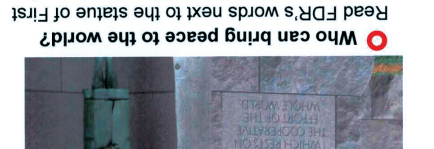
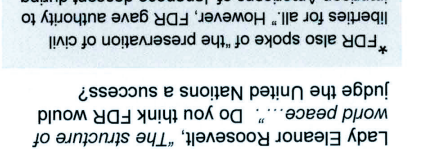
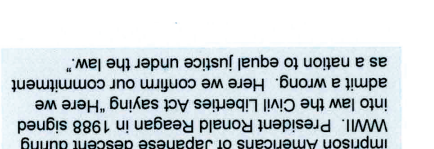
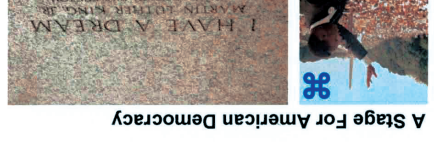
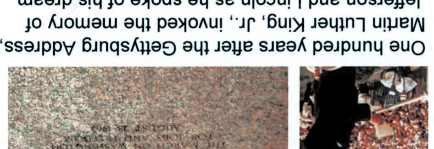
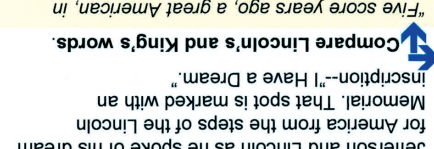
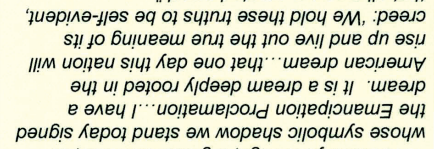
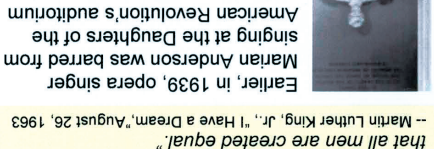
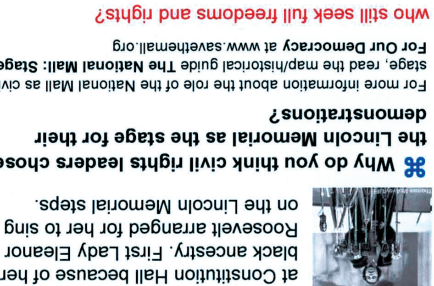
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Are civil rights still an issue in America today? Are there Americans who still seek full freedoms and rights?

