



# The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope

*By Jonathan Alter*

Download now

Read Online ➔

**The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope** By Jonathan Alter

This is the story of a political miracle -- the perfect match of man and moment. Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in March of 1933 as America touched bottom. Banks were closing everywhere. Millions of people lost everything. The Great Depression had caused a national breakdown. With the craft of a master storyteller, Jonathan Alter brings us closer than ever before to the Roosevelt magic. Facing the gravest crisis since the Civil War, FDR used his cagey political instincts and ebullient temperament in the storied first Hundred Days of his presidency to pull off an astonishing conjuring act that lifted the country and saved both democracy and capitalism.

Who was this man? To revive the nation when it felt so hopeless took an extraordinary display of optimism and self-confidence. Alter shows us how a snobbish and apparently lightweight young aristocrat was forged into an incandescent leader by his domineering mother; his independent wife; his eccentric top adviser, Louis Howe; and his ally-turned-bitter-rival, Al Smith, the Tammany Hall street fighter FDR had to vanquish to complete his preparation for the presidency.

"Old Doc Roosevelt" had learned at Warm Springs, Georgia, how to lift others who suffered from polio, even if he could not cure their paralysis, or his own. He brought the same talents to a larger stage. Derided as weak and unprincipled by pundits, Governor Roosevelt was barely nominated for president in 1932. As president-elect, he escaped assassination in Miami by inches, then stiffed President Herbert Hoover's efforts to pull him into cooperating with him to deal with a terrifying crisis. In the most tumultuous and dramatic presidential transition in history, the entire banking structure came tumbling down just hours before FDR's legendary "only thing we have to fear is fear itself" Inaugural Address.

In a major historical find, Alter unearths the draft of a radio speech in which Roosevelt considered enlisting a private army of American Legion veterans on his first day in office. He did not. Instead of circumventing Congress and becoming the dictator so many thought they needed, FDR used his stunning

debut to experiment. He rescued banks, put men to work immediately, and revolutionized mass communications with pioneering press conferences and the first Fireside Chat. As he moved both right and left, Roosevelt's insistence on "action now" did little to cure the Depression, but he began to rewrite the nation's social contract and lay the groundwork for his most ambitious achievements, including Social Security.

From one of America's most respected journalists, rich in insights and with fresh documentation and colorful detail, this thrilling story of presidential leadership -- of what government is for -- resonates through the events of today. It deepens our understanding of how Franklin Delano Roosevelt restored hope and transformed America.

*The Defining Moment* will take its place among our most compelling works of political history.

 [Download The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and t ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and ...pdf](#)

# The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope

*By Jonathan Alter*

## **The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope** By Jonathan Alter

This is the story of a political miracle -- the perfect match of man and moment. Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in March of 1933 as America touched bottom. Banks were closing everywhere. Millions of people lost everything. The Great Depression had caused a national breakdown. With the craft of a master storyteller, Jonathan Alter brings us closer than ever before to the Roosevelt magic. Facing the gravest crisis since the Civil War, FDR used his cagey political instincts and ebullient temperament in the storied first Hundred Days of his presidency to pull off an astonishing conjuring act that lifted the country and saved both democracy and capitalism.

Who was this man? To revive the nation when it felt so hopeless took an extraordinary display of optimism and self-confidence. Alter shows us how a snobbish and apparently lightweight young aristocrat was forged into an incandescent leader by his domineering mother; his independent wife; his eccentric top adviser, Louis Howe; and his ally-turned-bitter-rival, Al Smith, the Tammany Hall street fighter FDR had to vanquish to complete his preparation for the presidency.

"Old Doc Roosevelt" had learned at Warm Springs, Georgia, how to lift others who suffered from polio, even if he could not cure their paralysis, or his own. He brought the same talents to a larger stage. Derided as weak and unprincipled by pundits, Governor Roosevelt was barely nominated for president in 1932. As president-elect, he escaped assassination in Miami by inches, then stiffed President Herbert Hoover's efforts to pull him into cooperating with him to deal with a terrifying crisis. In the most tumultuous and dramatic presidential transition in history, the entire banking structure came tumbling down just hours before FDR's legendary "only thing we have to fear is fear itself" Inaugural Address.

In a major historical find, Alter unearths the draft of a radio speech in which Roosevelt considered enlisting a private army of American Legion veterans on his first day in office. He did not. Instead of circumventing Congress and becoming the dictator so many thought they needed, FDR used his stunning debut to experiment. He rescued banks, put men to work immediately, and revolutionized mass communications with pioneering press conferences and the first Fireside Chat. As he moved both right and left, Roosevelt's insistence on "action now" did little to cure the Depression, but he began to rewrite the nation's social contract and lay the groundwork for his most ambitious achievements, including Social Security.

From one of America's most respected journalists, rich in insights and with fresh documentation and colorful detail, this thrilling story of presidential leadership -- of what government is for -- resonates through the events of today. It deepens our understanding of how Franklin Delano Roosevelt restored hope and transformed America.

*The Defining Moment* will take its place among our most compelling works of political history.

## **The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter**

### **Bibliography**

- Rank: #485311 in eBooks
- Published on: 2006-10-31
- Released on: 2006-05-02
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and t ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

*Newsweek* senior editor Alter attempts to explore FDR's famous first "hundred days" in office, when the president laid the foundation for national recovery from the Great Depression. Eventually, Alter succeeds in providing a brief consideration of those key months. But exposition dominates: the early chapters recite Roosevelt's biography up until his White House candidacy (the well-known tale of privilege, marriage, adultery and polio). Then Alter chronicles the 1932 election and explores the postelection transition. Only about 130 pages deal with the 100 days commencing March [4], 1933, that the title calls FDR's "defining moment." Alter attaches much weight to a few throwaway phrases in a thrown-away draft of an early presidential speech—one that could, through a particular set of glasses, appear to show FDR giving serious consideration to adopting martial law in response to the monetary crisis. Despite this, Alter goes on to document FDR's early programs, pronouncements and maneuvers with succinct accuracy. The book, however, contains misstatements of historical detail (Alter suggests, for instance, that it was Theodore Roosevelt, rather than Ted Jr., who served as a founder of the American Legion). (May)  
Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

The *Chicago Tribune* admires *Newsweek* senior editor Jonathan Alter's "chutzpah" in taking up the well-worn subject of FDR's presidency. Critics claim that Alter supports his major "breakthrough"—that FDR toyed with martial law—with the flimsiest of evidence: an early draft of his inaugural address. Alter is not a historian, as evidenced by some factual errors and elision, but what some critics describe as his sloppy research is overshadowed by a compelling portrait of the backroom Roosevelt, the one making deals and restoring the ideals of American democracy.

Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

As the generation that endured the Great Depression passes on, it is essential to be reminded what this nation faced as FDR assumed office in 1933. At a minimum, a quarter of the workforce was unemployed. The threat of mass violence loomed as secure families saw their life savings wiped out. In both the U.S and abroad, liberal democracies were under siege from fascism on the Right and communism on the Left. Alter, a columnist and senior editor at *Newsweek*, eloquently captures the fevered, frightened state of the nation in 1933. In a brief biographical sketch of Roosevelt's life, Alter strongly emphasizes aspects that gave him a powerful will and supreme self-confidence. Alter recounts the flurry of the first 100 days of FDR's administration, which forever altered the relationship between American citizens and the federal government. This superbly researched and well-written work serves as a vital reminder of the importance of leadership during this great national ordeal. *Jay Freeman*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Bill Bobby:**

Book is definitely written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can know everything you want by a

publication. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading talent was fluently. A publication The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think in which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you searching for best book or acceptable book with you?

### **Leon Santiago:**

Can you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Try to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't judge book by its protect may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer might be The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope why because the amazing cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content is fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

### **Samuel Rascon:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to go through a book. When you read a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope provide you with a new experience in looking at a book.

### **Ronny Baird:**

This The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope is completely new way for you who has attention to look for some information as it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books build itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this book is the answer. So there is no in reading a book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book variety for your better life along with knowledge.

**Download and Read Online The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred**

**Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter**  
**#CLWYHAB6IDK**

## **Read The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter for online ebook**

The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter books to read online.

### **Online The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter ebook PDF download**

**The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter Doc**

**The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter Mobipocket**

**The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter EPub**