

# Fascism

**The first truth**

**[about the liberty of a democratic people]  
is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe  
if the people tolerate the growth of  
private power to a point where it becomes  
stronger than their democratic state itself.  
That, in its essence, is fascism — ownership  
of government by an individual, by a group,  
or by any other controlling private power.**

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt, April 29, 1938,  
Message to Congress on Curbing Monopolies**