

Rendezvous with Destiny

Author: Michael Fullilove

'From 1939 to 1941, with Europe at war and the United States strongly isolationist, Roosevelt sent five exceptional men to Europe as his personal envoys to assess, among other issues, America's role. *Rendezvous With Destiny* is a fascinating and well-written account of a little-known chapter that was crucial to the course of WWII and to America's global leadership.'

Henry Kissinger

In the dark days between Hitler's invasion of Poland and the attack on Pearl Harbor, a group of highly unorthodox emissaries dispatched to Europe by President Franklin D. Roosevelt paved the way for America's entry into the war.

Sumner Welles, the buttoned-down diplomat eventually ruined by his sexual misdemeanours, met with Mussolini, Hitler and Chamberlain.

William 'Wild Bill' Donovan, war hero and future spymaster, visited an isolated United Kingdom to determine whether it could hold out against the Nazis.

Harry Hopkins, frail social worker and New Dealer, became an unlikely confidant of Churchill and Stalin.

Averell Harriman, banker and railroad heir, ran the massive aid program out of London, where he romanced Churchill's daughter-in-law.

Wendell Willkie, the charismatic former Republican presidential candidate, raised British morale and helped FDR to win over wary Americans to the cause.

Together, they shaped the future of America, the Second World War, and the modern world. Michael Fullilove restores Roosevelt's unlikely envoys to their proper place in history.

Rendezvous with Destiny is stirring and important history, written with the pace of a thriller.

'*Rendezvous with Destiny* reminds us that the great challenges of any age typically summon the unconventional; in this case, a President who was perhaps the most unconventional of all. Michael Fullilove has produced a fascinating account of how Franklin Roosevelt and the brightest statesmen of their day helped save a civilisation.' **Paul Keating**

'Fullilove proves these crucial figures were more than just the servants of the American Goliath's move from isolationism - they were shapers of destiny in their own right. And he achieves this with a gripping narrative power.' **Thomas Keneally**

'A revealing account of the entry of the United States into the Second World War, that underlines the importance of leadership and individuals in history. The story is told with a great eye for detail, as well as a sound grasp of the broad arc of events.' **Francis Fukuyama**, *The End of History and the Last Man*

'Superb... One of the most fascinating works of history I have read in many years.' Ross Fitzgerald, *Weekend Australian*

'Fullilove delivers a rare combination of diplomatic thriller and original history, well-paced and expertly told' *Financial Times*

'Fullilove writes superbly, weaving an intriguing Australian role into his narrative . . . An outstanding book, marked by insight and irony.' *The Spectator, Australia*

'Outstanding... Fullilove has undertaken an enormous amount of research to produce a massive work that will change the way we view America's role in the war.' *Herald Sun*

'Revelatory . . . A massive book that will change the way we view America's role in the war.' *Daily Telegraph*

'One of the most absorbing and original histories of World War II that has ever been written.' *Weekend Bookworm, ABC Radio*

'. . . desperately romantic and impossibly consequential... In *Rendezvous with Destiny*, Fullilove delivers a rare combination of diplomatic thriller and original history, well-paced and expertly told.' **Kurt M Campbell**