Can Government Save Us?

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I normally don’t agree with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. But he is absolutely correct in invoking World War Two/Great Depression rhetoric, arguing that it will take a Federal response to mobilize the nation, as well as provide the resources and plans to address the health and economic crisis we now face with the COVID-19 pandemic.

State and local efforts, no matter how aggressive and thorough as many of them have been, cannot possibly accomplish this enormous undertaking. States and cities don’t and can’t fight wars. It will take an FDR-type New Deal, along with the military, to produce the medical products and build the infrastructure needed to minimize the projected fatalities and suffering.

It also requires Federally-administered programs and initiatives to feed, provide jobs and meet the financial needs of those in need. Unemployment is already predicted by the U.S. Treasury Secretary to be around 20%. No doubt this Federal recovery will cost trillions of dollars. But the survival of the country demands it.

Sadly, we don’t currently have an FDR in the White House—and it is hard to imagine President Donald Trump understanding and doing what
is necessary. Moreover, the current occupant of the White House lacks FDR's rhetorical demeanor and seems incapable, therefore, of reassuring the nation that we will use all the necessary tools to successfully fight this war and rally the nation.

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