



Most Influential Presidents

Presidents: The Worst Throughout the Years



In many political studies, historical analyst have attempted to form a list of the most successful individuals who have been in office as president. Contrarily, many have taken note of the leaders who have not been as beneficial for our country. Though everyone's list of these presidents will vary, I have concluded a list of leaders who I believe to not enforce democracy among the nation. The traits that these men portray vastly govern the population's views on them and how they went about certain situations in office. Below, I have categorized a few of the most pivotal presidents, but in an unfavorable way.

- Herbert Hoover

Herbert Hoover was the 31st president of the U.S., taking office in 1929, the year when the Great Depression took place. He was and is still blamed by many Americans for worsening and contributing

heavily to the crisis, and he is also viewed as "insensitive" and "ruthless" towards the citizens who were suffering. He failed to realize how urgent the situation truly was. Hoover did not do much to help it through the federal government either, which was what led to him being beaten in 1932 by Democrat FDR. Before his presidency, President Woodrow Wilson made Herbert Hoover the head of the Food Administration. Hoover encouraged Americans to decrease the meat they ate for the troops as well as putting together food and other clothing for the allies. This earned him a spot as secretary of commerce under President Warren Harding, as well as Calvin Coolidge.

Hoover won the election against Democrat Alfred E. Smith in 1928, winning by 444-87 electoral votes, promising "peace and prosperity to the nation." After only 7 months in office the stock market began to crash and the economy plummeted as well, starting the Great Depression. Various banks were shut down and unemployment rates increased dramatically, many people losing their jobs, homes, food, and savings. Hoover did take a few tactics to stimulate the economy, and some of programs he made would later become vital components for relief. The actions that Hoover took to help were held back by his conservative political philosophy. Hoover believed in a limited role for the government and was worried that too much federal intervention created the possibility of capitalism and individualism among society. He also believed assistance should have been volunteered locally, and it is said he vetoed multiple bills that would have given much direct help to the people struggling at the time. Hoover only won six states when he ran for president next term, and is now a very unpopular figure. He went on to write criticism for FDR's New Deal tactics, mostly of his conservative political views and providing caution to the dangers of investing excessive power in the federal government. Hoover allowed his ideals to outweigh the needs of the country, which is what deteriorated the economy and his country's dependency on him.

- Richard M. Nixon

Richard Nixon was the 37th U.S. president, stepping down in 1974 halfway through his second term. He is best remembered for resigning from office rather than going through impeachment from his illegal activities during the Watergate scandal. He was a former Republican congressman and U.S. senator from California, serving two terms under Dwight Eisenhower as vice president. He ran for president in 1960 but fell short to John F. Kennedy, one of the closest elections of all time, running once again in 1968 and winning. The first ever televised presidential debate made Nixon appear nervous and sweaty, while JFK remained vigorous. These traits undoubtedly contribute to Nixon's poor leadership skills and mousy personality. He had some achievements, such as breathing diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union and China and taking U.S. troops out of a minor war in Vietnam. The Watergate Scandal is what crushed Nixon's legacy, going behind our country's back.

The Watergate Scandal occurred in 1972 while Nixon was running for re-election. Five men from the Committee to re-elect the president broke into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee complex in Washington. Several members of this group had knowledge of the burglary and Nixon denied to have any involvement of it. Secret tapes of conversations in the White House were released and showed that the president had took place in efforts to hide the criminal activity. The scandal made way for a hostile relationship between the President and Congress. Congress brought Richard Nixon down, promising the Republicans to lose the 1976 election, the change of party making way for a fresh start. Nixon's anything but democratic views and secretive attitude shattered America's respect for the president in office, and created a new era of cynicism about politics.

- Andrew Jackson

Andrew Jackson was a rising wealthy Tennessee lawyer and young politician by 1812, when Britain and United States went to war. He rose from poverty, becoming a significant leader during the war, going on to becoming an influential figure throughout the 1820s and 30s. He lost to John Quincy Adams in the 1824 election, but won four years later against him the next term, becoming the seventh president of the U.S. As the political parties were being developed, Jackson was the leader of the new Democratic Party. He supported states' rights and the extension of slavery into new western areas, while he was against the Whig Party and Congress on polarizing issues like the Bank of the United States. Jackson owned as many of 161 slaves of his own and it is also claimed that he treated them harshly. Andrew Jackson also hated the National Bank, claiming that it favored the rich and that it was a privileged institution as well as an "enemy". The Whig party came up with the argument that Congress should recharter the National Bank. President Jackson vetoed the recharter, saying that the bank formed "prostration of our Government to the advancement of the few at the expense of the many." This is why many claim Jackson to be an "ethnic cleanser", as well as a slaver and tyrant, these qualities heavily believed even more so because of the Trail of Tears.

The Trail of Tears is a well known event provoked by Jackson, in which he forced Native Americans out of their ancestral lands, causing thousands of deaths. He wanted to clear this land so that white settlers could move in and claim the land as well as the natural resources there. Languages died out during this time as Native Americans were forced to integrate, some today still struggling with poverty and other intergenerational issues. Jackson signed into law nearly 70 removal treaties in which the natives were pressured into signing to trade for confined reservations out westward, the government enforcing many of them. Those who tried to stay were forced out by the government eventually. To me, it seems that Jackson's fear of change impacted his beliefs and decisions. His opinions were too strong which he let get to him, performing many gratuitous actions in office.

Presidents: The Best Throughout the Years



Since 1789 when George Washington claimed the title as the first ever President of the United States, our country has witness many men take the position of President. While some of these men have not been beneficial to our country, others were able to lead the country in a successful direction. Below, I have analyzed three presidents who I believe were able to lead and influence our country in great ways.

- Abraham Lincoln

Ranked the number one president in our country's history, Abraham Lincoln exemplifies what it means to be an admirable leader. Abraham Lincoln is most commonly praised for his leadership in preserving the Union during the Civil War. In early June of 1863 (the beginning of the Civil War) Lincoln was being criticized for his compromising and indecisive attitude. Three months later, public opinion shifted. The New York Times expressed gratitude that the nation was being led by “a ruler who is so peculiarly adapted to the needs of the time as clear-headed, dispassionate, discreet, steadfast, [and] honest [as] Abraham Lincoln.”

Lincoln possessed many traits that are valued in a leader. According to historians, Lincoln had the capacity to listen to different points of view. He formed a climate where Cabinet members were free to disagree without fear of retaliation. After listening to various opinions he would make a decision. Lincoln was also praised for his communication with the public. During the time Lincoln was elected, presidents had little direct contact with the public. Their job was to run the government and share their wishes with Congress. They'd rarely leave the capitol, except for vacations. In the summer of 1863 Lincoln broke with tradition. Learning from the success of his recent letter-writing campaign to enlist the support of the British public for the Union, Lincoln implemented a successful public letter-writing campaign in his own country. Five-hundred thousand copies of one of his letters alone were in circulation and were reportedly read by at least 10,000,000 people. Lincoln's public outreach was effective and helped him keep significant public support during the remainder of his presidency from 1863 until his assassination in 1865.

- Teddy Roosevelt

Considered to be one of the top 5 presidents our country has had, Teddy Roosevelt is the youngest president in United States history, and according to history.com he brought a new energy to the White House. Teddy Roosevelt unexpectedly became the president 26th president of the United States on September 14th, 1901 after the assassination of William McKinley. Teddy Roosevelt is best know for his negotiations to end the Russo-Japanese War and spearheading the beginning of construction on the Panama Canal. He received a Nobel Peace Prize for this events, making him the first president to earn a Nobel Peace Prize. Roosevelt was a passionate outdoorsman, hunter, ad rancher, and was a vocal and aggressive advocate for land and nature conservation. During his presidency alone, Roosevelt protected 230 million acres of public land, which included the creation of the U.S. Forest Service and the unveiling of five new National Parks. His passion for the outdoors even led to the invention of the Teddybear! In 1902, Roosevelt was invited on a bear-hunting trip to Mississippi, but struck out. Feeling bad for the president, one of his assistants cornered an older black bear with dogs and tied it to a tree for Roosevelt to shoot. The president refused, seeing it as terribly unsportsmanlike. The story was picked up by the press and immortalized in a political cartoon by Clifford Berryman with the caption, “Drawing the line in Mississippi.” A candy store owner in New York named Morris Michtom, who also made stuffed animals with his wife, decided to dedicate a black bear doll to the president named “Teddy's Bear.” With Roosevelt's blessing, Michtom mass-produced the teddy bear and sold it worldwide, using its success to found the Ideal Toy Company.

Roosevelt's inspiring vision was what set his presidency apart from the rest. Teddy Roosevelt had an efficient and remarkable way of communicating his vision through both his words and his example. Roosevelt was also great at managing the country to productively make his visions become a reality. He had a bit of an aggressive way of getting things done. For example, if he had not pushed to have the Panama Canal finished it probably would have taken much longer.

- Barack Obama

Barack Obama made history as the first ever African American President and was the first President born outside of the continental United States. Obama became the 44th President on January 20th 2009 and served as President until January 20th 2017. Obama's presidency was marked by the Affordable Health Cared Act, which was signed on March 23rd 2010. Popularly known as universal healthcare or "Obamacare." Its goal was to give every American access to affordable healthcare by requiring everyone to have health insurance, but then providing coverage for people with pre-existing conditions (a group that was previously often denied coverage) and requiring health insurance companies to spend at least 80 percent of premiums on providing actual medical services. It remains one of the Obama administration's most controversial legacies. His second term was marked by several international events, including the killing of Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the September 11 Attacks, by Seal Team Six on May 2, 2011. Another defining moment of Obama's presidency came when the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage on June 26, 2015. Obama remarked on that day: "We are big and vast and diverse; a nation of people with different backgrounds and beliefs, different experiences and stories, but bound by our shared ideal that no matter who you are or what you look like, how you started off, or how and who you love, America is a place where you can write your own destiny."

Obama's empathy, determination, and admirable communication skills made Obama one of the best Presidents of the United States. Obama knew how to talk to any person, group or audience regardless of their background, age, race, gender, etc. His entire campaign was a classic case of how to communicate with virtually each and every person in the USA who is eligible to vote, gain his confidence and send the message across in clear terms. And that's why he was able to win the election in both 2008 and 2012 hands down. He won the Marketer of the Year Award in 2008 by Advertising.