



United States Presidents Report

A description of what each president accomplished during their presidency

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accomplished during their presidency

By David J Parsons

This free report includes a description of the significant things each United States president accomplished during their presidency. I first wrote this information out on a piece of paper for myself as a study guide, but recently I felt that others could benefit from this information. History, especially the history of America, provides for us many things: helps us understand other people and their societies, helps us understand how we came to be who we are today as a nation, helps us understand the moral aspect of certain subjects, shows good citizenship, makes us smarter or at least sound smarter in the workplace and around our friends and family. So with all the benefits history provides for us, why not study history? While this report is a small piece of the puzzle of history overall, I consider it a good place to start. If you have any questions, feel free to visit [my blog](http://myblog) or visit the e-books site at uspresidents.davidjparsons.com.

1) George Washington (Federalist) {1789-1797}

- Did not want to be an overpowering ruler or thought of as one
- Was the first for a lot of things other than president: dancing, art, interior design of the white house...
- Dealt with debt of revolutionary war (Virginia could have capitol if they help with the debt)
- Left office after second term; he set a standard for a good president
- Set a standard for foreign policy in his farewell address

2) John Adams (Federalist) {1797-1801}

- Unsure of himself; didn't have much confidence
- XYZ Affair – tried to make a treaty with France; America ended up getting bribed instead
- Alien and Sedition Act – Illegal to talk bad about the government; he received a lot of criticism for this and left a bad mark on his presidency
- John Adams help set up US Navy due to France and the threat of war

3) Tomas Jefferson (Democratic-Republican) {1801-1809}

- Man of the people
- He talked to the people through the press
- Louisiana Purchase and the Luis and Clark expedition; Critics attacked him for wasting American money
- Believed in small government
- Embargo Act of 1807 – No trade with France or England due to the war going on between them

4) James Madison (Democratic-Republican) {1809-1817}

- Dolly Madison – First First Lady
- British began attacking American ships, so we went to war
- War of 1812 – Went to war against Great Brittan; England attacked our capital and burned it (we took it back later); the star bungled banner was made

5) James Monroe (Democratic-Republican) {1817-1825}

- Era of good feelings – Monroe reigns over a time of peace and happiness
- Believed in a hands-off policy
- Misery Compromise – Missouri becomes a slave state and Maine becomes a free state; keep an equal amount of slave and free states
- American Colonization Society – send Africans back to Africa
- Settled boundaries with Canada in 1818
- Florida (lead by Andrew Jackson) – captures Florida and hangs some British leaders; Spain soon sells Florida to America in 1819
- Russia and US fight over Alaska – Marrow Doctrine: told Europeans to stay away form Alaska (written by John Quincy Adams)

6) John Quincy Adams (Democratic-Republican) {1825-1929}

- Wanted to help America, but the rumors of the way he became president (Corrupt Bargain) gave congress a reason to say no to his new ideas
- Election of 1828 – dirty campaign. Jackson's character and wife were attacked while Adams personal life was attacked.

7) Andrew Jackson (Democrat) {1829-1837}

- Won election but said he would never forgive John Adams for his attacks of his wife during the election of 1828 (she died)
- Captured the imagination of the common man
- Hero of the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812
- Had a furious temper
- Spoilage System – Hired his friend and fired his enemies
- Paige Eden Affair – Told other wives of cabinet members to associate with Eden
- Indian Removal Act – Indians east of the Mississippi had to move
- Cherokee Indians took Georgia to court and won the right to stay, but Jackson forced the Indians out anyways in the Trail of Tears (many deaths on the way there)
- South Virginia Nullification Crisis – South Virginia wanted to nullify tax; Calhoun (the vice president) supported South Carolina; Jackson responded with force and threatened to hang Calhoun from the first tree (shows a strong leadership)
- Bank War (summer of 1832) – Jackson Vetoed it
- Won reelection and spread out money from national banks to state banks (only time America was debt free)

8) Martin Van Buren (Democrat) {1837-1841}

- Suggested by Jackson
- Characterized as a selfish rich man
- Had to respond to economic depression (panic of 1839 – cotton prices collapsed)
- Avoided annexation of Texas
- Election of 1840 – first with slogans and songs: Tippecanoe and Tyler too, and Martin Van Ruin

9) William Henry Harrison (Whig) {1841}

- Studied medicine
- Gave longest inaugural address
- Stayed out in cold too long during inaugural address and caught a cold, then malaria, then died; his vice president took his place

10) John Tyler (Whig) {1841-1845}

- Takes place of president after he dies from malaria
- The Whig party passed two laws for the bank, but Tyler vetoed them; he was soon kicked out of the Whig party
- Webster Ashburton Treaty – Fixed dispute between Canada, Great Brittan, and US
- Annexation of Texas – signed a treaty with Texas, asked for a joint resolution with Texas
- Polk won next election due Tyler's inability to find a party

11) James Polk (Democrat) {1845-1849}

- Wanted to finish what Jackson started
- Known for being a hard worker (had a hands-on policy)
- Starts the idea of Manifest Destiny
- Made 49th Parallel
- Went to war with Mexico over the dispute of Texas – America Wins Texas, money, and some other lands (New Mexico and California for \$15 million)
- The new gain of lands furthered the belief of Manifest Destiny
- Set up economic Tariff Deal

12) Zachary Taylor (Whig) {1849-1850}

- War hero and Louisiana slave holder
- Said slavery should be decided by congress
- Misery Compromise started the crumble
- Compromise of 1850 – made California part slave and part non-slave
- July 4 – he became ill and died a sudden death

13) Millard Fillmore (Whig) {1850-1853}

- Vice President of Zachary Taylor
- Fired many people in his cabinet
- Made compromise of 1850 – both parties didn't like this and he lost popularity

14) Franklin Pierce (Democrat) {1853-1857}

- Was offensive to no one at first
- A big drinker – Drank after his presidency
- His last son died as well as his vice president
- Kansas Nebraska Act – Let Kansas and Nebraska decide if they wanted slavery or not (Lincoln started the Republicans – a group against slavery)
- Fighting eventually starts in Kansas due to the Kansas Nebraska Act (Bloody Kansas)

15) Joe Buchanan (Democrat) {1857-1861}

- Many people thought he was a homosexual
- Rejected not having slavery in the south even though there was a majority
- Very Pro-South
- Did not stop slave states from leaving union when Lincoln was elected president
- He was happy to leave the presidency

16) Abraham Lincoln (Republican) {1861-1865}

- South Carolina and other slave states made the Confederate States of America (lead by Jefferson Davis)
- Wanted to restore union
- Many people in his cabinet looked up to him
- South attacked Fort Sumter – other south states joined Confederacy
- Went to library and learned a lot about military strategy when civil war hit
- Worked constantly and stayed up late to get info about the war
- Emancipation Proclamation – said that we must end slavery in the American Frontier (stepped up to plate of founding fathers)
- 2nd election/inaugural speech – gave out plan for slavery (very powerful speech)
- In his last speech after the war was over he said all blacks need equal rights
- Attended a play at Ford's Theater and got assassinated by John Wilkes Booth

17) Andrew Johnson (Democrat) {1865-1869}

- A Southerner (used as vice president to rise votes for Lincoln)
- Very racist – believed in white male suffrage
- In favor of quick acceptance of other states (not in favor of giving blacks rights)
- Freedmen's Bureau pushes to free blacks – Congress passes, but Johnson vetoes – Congress overturns this
- Tender of office act – Congress tried to impeach Johnson, but he avoided impeachment by 1 vote

18) General Ulysses Grant (Republican) {1869-1877}

- His slogan was: "let us have peace"
- Many southern states had joined the union already
- KKK started (white southerners who wanted to punish blacks)
- Grant crushes the KKK
- He had strong faith in his subordinates
- Many scandals broke out within his subordinates (Whisk Rights and Indian Frauds)
- Indians attack at Little Big Horn River – America losses

19) Rutherford Hayes (Republican) {1877-1881}

- The election was really close
- Hayes ban liquor in the white house
- Took out the last of the solders from the Sothern states; the states were in union again
- Wanted to bring whites to leadership in the south – blacks got a huge disadvantage for a long time
- Started civil service
- Did a lot after his presidency – Set the standard for an x-president

20) James Garfield (Republican) {1881}

- Appointed many new people into office
- At the Stalwarts, Guiteau Shot Garfield (he was declared insane later)
- A Martyr for Civil-Service

21) Chester A. Arthur (Republican) {1881-1885}

- “a high live New York Animal” according to some people
- He made wine and liquor legal in the white house again
- Pendleton Act – established a bipartisan Civil Service Commission
- He built up a navy

22) Grover Cleveland (Democrat) {1885-1889}

- An Honest Politician
- Vetoeed over 400 things (more than all the presidents before him combined)
- Got married on the Whitehouse
- Refused to help the civil war veterans

23) Benjamin Harrison (Republican) {1889-1893}

- McKinley Tariff – highest tariff ever at that time period. Prices of products went up and he lost support.
- Americans started making Monopolies
- Known as a cold president

24) Grover Cleveland (Democrat) {1893-1897}

- Said he wanted to get rid of the tariff
- Panic of 1893 hit – horrible economic depression. Many marched to Washington but they were arrested.
- Coin War started – distribution of wealth. Gold lost a lot of its popularity

25) William McKinley (Republican) {1897-1901}

- A rich man
- Cuban suffering was published. He thought of war as a last resort. People wanted Cuba for resources and for a further expansion of America. Theodore Roosevelt wanted war. McKinley sent USS Main and it got destroyed. We declared war against Spain (Theodore Roosevelt fought in war as well), an easy win.
- A factory worker assassinated McKinley (3rd President assassinated)

26) Theodore Roosevelt (Republican) {1901-1909}

- Conservative who was ready to go to war (thought about the American people)
- Used his personality to get what he wanted
- Wanted to get rid of the people with a lot of power in industry (sewed the tycoons of the western railways, went to the supreme court, got reputation as the “trust-buster”, broke up JP Morgan’s Monopolies)
- Conditions for workers were bad (coal workers went into strike, they made a deal with the groups, the president did not want the people to have enough power to hurt the nation)
- Wanted Panama Cannel (connected two nations, president helped in the making of the nation of Panama which invoked the Marrow Doctrine! – he excused this action by saying he had the right to do this → big stick diplomacy)
- Many immigrants came into America
- The book “The Jungle” came out showing the horrors of where meat was made; as a result the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act were passed
- Wanted to help landscape of America and preserved more than 250 acres of land
- Did not run for reelection due to his promise to America not to

27) William Howard Taft (Republican) {1909-1913}

- Handpicked by Roosevelt; his personal right hand man.
- Made fun of for being overweight
- He became depressed and gained even more weight
- Procrastinated in his decisions and responsibilities as a president
- Theodore Roosevelt was very disappointed with him
- Taft Joined Moose-Hill Party
- Taft Really hated the presidency (he really wanted to be a supreme court judge)

28) Woodrow Wilson (Democrat) {1913-1921}

- Election of 1912: Battle between Taft, Wilson, and Roosevelt; but Taft and Roosevelt split the republican vote, so Wilson won.
- He personality seemed cold to most people, but he was good with words
- Worked with Federal Reserve to help maintain American currency (worked well)
- Wilson pledged neutrality in WW1 (Lusitania sank, Germans said America would be spared)
- “The world must be safe for democracy” – Woodrow Wilson (kept a separate army)
- Became obsessed with the League of Nations, but didn’t work out.
- Espionage Act – made it illegal to criticize government (passed because of the war, the government wanted America to be together)
- Went to France to negotiate peace (the people of France loved him), Signed peace treaty, the others did not want the league of nations to be formed though, so he tried to promote it, but got a stroke while promoting it; on the good side, he set the corner stone for American relations with other nations.

29) Warren G Harding (Republican) {1921-1923}

- He said he would give the country what they wanted: Normalcy
- Passed Budget and Accounting Act (gave more control over federal spending)
- Washington Navel Conference (declared less naval arms for certain nations)
- Went to Alaska and died at a hotel there (unfortunately he looked like a failure)
- Scandals came into light (Albert Fall with the teapot dome {oil scam} and a few books came out saying bad things about the president)

30) Calvin Coolidge (Republican) {1923-1929}

- He was VP of Warren G Harding (a very quiet man)
- Reelection motto → “keep cool with Coolidge”
- Used veto’s for federal spending
- Kept business booming with spending

31) Herbert Hoover (Republican) {1929-1933}

- Highly respected before presidency (seen as a big business republican)
- Great Depression Hit (his speeches were not helpful to the American people; he encouraged volunteerism, but didn’t work; he soon gained the nicknames Hover Hotel – cardboard box/house during depression, Hover Ville – many cardboard boxes/houses together, and Hover Flags – empty pockets)
- People didn’t like him because he wasn’t doing much
- Bunions Marcher (called McArthur) guaranteed Roosevelt the reelection

32) Franklin D Roosevelt {FDR} (Republican) {1933-1945}

- Crippled with Polio, but his handicap was downplayed
- He had administrative kayos (many people in a room at once)
- Used radio to get closer and relate to the people (nicknamed fireside chat)
- In first 100 days he passed new deal (series of instructions to help depression) and passed Social Security Act; even though it didn't put an end to the depression, it still brought up the public's confidence.
- Reelected (60% favor)
- Court Packing Plan (looked at as a desire to be rich)
- Elected for a 3rd term just before WW2 hit
- Helped other countries with supplies for a while
- Japan hit Pearl Harbor – we went to war (“a date that will live in infamy” –FDR)
- Didn't concentrate on Jews during the war, but on winning the war
- D-day (5 months later) – Soon after we won war
- Got reelected for a 4th term
- FDR convinced others to make League of Nations

33) Harry Truman (Democrat) {1945-1953}

- Took over for president
- Manhattan Project: cause of dropping first atomic bomb
- US vs SSSR (showed how to deal with communism)
- Truman doctrine – helped other nations under communism
- Marshal Plan (helped other nations rebuild after WW2 and brought up our economy)
- Started to get rid of segregation in army and in civil service
- Won a second term for presidency
- China was last to communism, Truman got blamed
- McCarthy said Truman was soft on communism
- Vietnam and France helped with the fight against communism in the aid of the Korean war

34) General Dwight D. Eisenhower {Ike} (Republican) {1953-1961}

- Legendary mastermind of D-Day; Known for playing golf (we like Ike)
- Brought end to Korean War
- Downsized military; more interested on what was happening in America (Federal Highway Act)
- Brown vs. Board of Education {no segregation in schools} → Ike distanced himself from the whole thing
- Helped Vietnam (insured him being reelected)
- Sputnik – Russians beat the USA into space
- Fidel Castro – Cuba was with the soviets (Recognized that war was a last result)

35) John F. Kennedy (Democrat) {1961-1963}

- Advertized a lot for his campaign
- Good looking {the people loved him}
- CIA → Bay of Pigs → Overthrew Cubans government
- Created the peace core; Encouraged Americans to go to the moon
- Cuban Missile Crisis → CIA got photographs of nuclear missiles in Cuba → we found out that Cuba was with the soviets; we made peace as soon as we could.
- Kennedy was for black equality
- Approved assassination of the president of Vietnam
- Kennedy got assassinated himself

36) Lyndon Johnson {LBJ} (Democrat) {1963-1969}

- Said he would fulfill Kennedy's presidency
- Voting rights out through Food Act and Civil Rights Act
- Wanted to give African Americans civil rights
- Cut poverty levels
- Put more troops in Vietnam
- Decided not to run for reelection
- Tried to make peace with Vietnam, didn't work

37) Richard Nixon (Republican) {1969-1974}

- Always had to be in control
- Boomed Cambodia – a secret bombing
- Recorded white house to find leak from the person who let the booming of Cambodia secret out
- Wanted to pull out of Vietnam (he visited China to stop war)
- He won the reelection (due to the end of the war)
- Watergate got him voted out of office

38) Gerald Ford (Republican) {1974-1977}

- He pardoned Richard Nixon
- South Vietnam fell to communism (many Americans left)
- Wanted to leave America better than it was

39) Jimmy Carter (Democrat) {1977-1981}

- Virtual unknown; said he would never lie
- Vary religious; did not get along well with other government members
- Into human rights: 1978 Camp David Accord (played peace maker in the middle east)
- 1979 summer: Economic crisis hit
- Middle East (Carter wanted to free 52 hostages)

40) Ronald Reagan (Republican) {1981-1989}

- Oldest president ever elected
- Challenger disaster – assassin
- Iron Contra Affair – he took blame, but said he didn't know about it
- Won reelection
- War against Soviet Union (SDI, took down Berlin Wall, Soviet Union fell)

41) George H.W. Bush (Republican) {1989-1993}

- Stayed cool with Soviet Union
- Iraq attacks Kuwait → pushed Iraq back to its border

42) Bill Clinton (Democrat) {1993-2001}

- Played Saxophone, into rock and roll, charming
- Hillary Clinton had a lot of power
- Won reelection
- Monica Lewinsky Scandal (said she had sexual affairs with Clinton); Clinton lied about it
- Almost got impeached for lying

43) George W. Bush (Republican) {2001-2009}

- Bush won very narrowly
- Had a very organized office
- 9-11: Through justice, we attacked Iraq

44) Barack Obama (Democrat) {2009-present}

- Born in Hawaii
- Passed an economic recovery plan (mixed feelings from Americans)
- Set a deadline for the closing of Guantanamo Bay

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