

# Presidents of the United States

<p><b>George Washington</b> (1732–1799)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1789–1797</i> <i>Federalist</i> <i>Vice President: John Adams</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commanded the Continental army during the American Revolution</li> <li>• President of the Constitutional Convention</li> <li>• Set precedents that were followed by other presidents, such as forming a cabinet</li> <li>• Strengthened new government through support of Hamilton’s financial policies and use of force against the Whiskey Rebellion</li> <li>• Kept peace through Proclamation of Neutrality and Jay Treaty</li> <li>• Set basis of U.S. foreign policy in his Farewell Address</li> </ul>
<p><b>John Adams</b> (1735–1826)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1797–1801</i> <i>Federalist</i> <i>Vice President: Thomas Jefferson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Revolution leader who protested Stamp Act</li> <li>• Helped draft Declaration of Independence</li> <li>• President during times of war in Europe</li> <li>• Alien and Sedition Acts contributed to his unpopularity and the fall of his party</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thomas Jefferson</b> (1743–1826)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1801–1809</i> <i>Democratic-Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Aaron Burr, George Clinton</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major author of the Declaration of Independence</li> <li>• Opposed Federalists</li> <li>• Favored limited, decentralized government</li> <li>• Opposed Hamilton’s financial plan and Alien and Sedition Acts</li> <li>• Negotiated the Louisiana Purchase from France, which doubled the size of the nation</li> </ul>
<p><b>James Madison</b> (1751–1836)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1809–1817</i> <i>Democratic-Republican</i> <i>Vice President: George Clinton, Elbridge Gerry</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Called the “Father of the Constitution”</li> <li>• One author of the Virginia Plan; his journals provide a record of events at the Constitutional Convention</li> <li>• Wrote 29 of <i>The Federalist Papers</i></li> <li>• Proposed the Bill of Rights to Congress</li> <li>• Gained popularity after the War of 1812</li> </ul>
<p><b>James Monroe</b> (1758–1831)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1817–1825</i> <i>Democratic-Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Daniel Tompkins</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established U.S. foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere with the Monroe Doctrine</li> <li>• Settled boundaries with Canada (1818)</li> <li>• Acquired Florida (1819)</li> <li>• President during this “Era of Good Feelings”</li> <li>• Supported and signed Missouri Compromise (1820)</li> </ul>
<p><b>John Quincy Adams</b> (1767–1848)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1825–1829</i> <i>Democratic-Republican</i> <i>Vice President: John Calhoun</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Became president after election was decided in the House of Representatives</li> <li>• Secretary of State under James Monroe</li> <li>• After leaving office as president, served in House of Representatives; only president to do so</li> </ul>

<p><b>Andrew Jackson</b> <b>(1767–1845)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1829–1837</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: John Calhoun, Martin Van Buren</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hero of Battle of New Orleans (War of 1812)</li> <li>• Opposed Calhoun and nullification of 1828 and 1832 tariffs</li> <li>• Vetoed rechartering of Second National Bank</li> <li>• Supported Indian Removal Act</li> <li>• Associated with Jacksonian Democracy—the start of mass politics and nominating conventions</li> <li>• Used “spoils system” to give jobs to supporters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Martin Van Buren</b> <b>(1782–1862)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1837–1841</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: Richard Johnson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First New Yorker to become president</li> <li>• Served as vice president to Jackson</li> <li>• Opposed Texas annexation because slavery issue divided his party</li> <li>• Presidency weakened by economic crisis of the Panic of 1837</li> <li>• Had major role in creating the Democratic Party from the Democratic-Republicans and the nation’s second party system—the Democrats versus the Whigs</li> </ul>
<p><b>William Henry Harrison</b> <b>(1774–1841)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1841</i> <i>Whig</i> <i>Vice President: John Tyler</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While governor of Indiana Territory, led military actions against Native Americans in the Battle of Tippecanoe (1811)</li> <li>• Elected as first Whig candidate on the slogan “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too”</li> <li>• First president to die in office; served only one month</li> </ul>
<p><b>John Tyler</b> <b>(1790–1862)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1841–1845</i> <i>Whig</i> <i>Vice President: none</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First vice president to come into presidency on death of president, called “His Accidency”</li> <li>• Texas annexed by congressional vote largely because of his influence</li> <li>• His pro South and pro states rights positions resulted in his expulsion from the Whig Party by its pro nationalism leaders</li> </ul>
<p><b>James K. Polk</b> <b>(1795–1849)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1845–1849</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: George Dallas</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign policy aimed at fulfilling goal of Manifest Destiny</li> <li>• With slogan “54’ 40 or fight!” campaigned for all of Oregon country, settled for Oregon Treaty (1846) with Great Britain, dividing region at 49<sup>th</sup> parallel</li> <li>• Supported Tyler’s annexation of Texas and favored acquisition of California</li> <li>• Led nation in Mexican War, 1846–1848</li> <li>• The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo gave the United States the Mexican Cession, which included California</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zachary Taylor</b> <b>(1784–1850)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1849–1850</i> <i>Whig</i> <i>Vice President: Millard Fillmore</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Point graduate and military hero of Mexican War, known as “Old Rough and Ready”</li> <li>• A Virginian, a slave owner, and a nationalist—he opposed secession</li> <li>• Died in office after 16 months as president</li> </ul>
<p><b>Millard Fillmore</b> <b>(1800–1874)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1850–1853</i> <i>Whig</i> <i>Vice President: none</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Yorker by birth, became president on death of Taylor</li> <li>• Negotiated passage of the Compromise of 1850</li> <li>• Supported enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law and opposed secessionists, angering both Northerners and Southerners</li> <li>• Failure of Compromise of 1850 marked end for Whig Party</li> <li>• In 1856, lost as presidential candidate of the Know-Nothing Party</li> </ul>
<p><b>Franklin Pierce</b> <b>(1804–1869)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1853–1857</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: William King</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Englander who supported Kansas-Nebraska Act</li> <li>• Gadsden Purchase ratified during his presidency</li> <li>• Trade treaty with Japan became effective during his administration, due to the efforts of Commodore Matthew Perry</li> </ul>

<p><b>James Buchanan</b> <b>(1791–1868)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1857–1861</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: John Breckinridge</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In office when <i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i> decision was issued and John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry occurred</li> <li>• Took no action in response to the secession of South Carolina and six other states, claiming he lacked the power to act</li> </ul>
<p><b>Abraham Lincoln</b> <b>(1809–1865)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1861–1865</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Hannibal Hamlin, Andrew Johnson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Became nationally known as result of Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858</li> <li>• First Republican to be elected president</li> <li>• Used war powers of the presidency during Civil War to achieve his goal of preserving the nation</li> <li>• Issued Emancipation Proclamation; gave Gettysburg Address</li> <li>• Assassinated before he could act on his plans for reconstruction</li> </ul>
<p><b>Andrew Johnson</b> <b>(1808–1875)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1865–1869</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: none</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impeached by House after bitter disagreements with Congress over Reconstruction; acquitted by a single vote in Senate</li> <li>• Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments ratified during his presidency</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ulysses S. Grant</b> <b>(1822–1885)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1869–1877</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Schuyler Colfax, Henry Wilson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil War military leader who served as General-in-Chief of the Union army</li> <li>• Transcontinental railroad completed and Fifteenth Amendment ratified during his presidency</li> <li>• Crédit Mobilier and the Whiskey Ring scandals marred his presidency</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rutherford B. Hayes</b> <b>(1822–1893)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1877–1881</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: William Wheeler</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election decided through compromise, preventing a constitutional crisis after a dispute over electoral votes</li> <li>• Federal troops removed from the South, marking the end of Reconstruction</li> </ul>
<p><b>James A. Garfield</b> <b>(1831–1881)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1881</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Chester A. Arthur</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assassinated after four months in office</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chester A. Arthur</b> <b>(1830–1886)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1881–1885</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: none</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vetoed Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) but signed another act reducing the Chinese immigration ban to ten years</li> <li>• Supported Pendleton Act (1883) that enacted civil service reform</li> <li>• Worked to reform American restrictive tariffs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grover Cleveland</b> <b>(1837–1908)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1885–1889; 1893–1897</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: Thomas Hendricks, Adlai Stevenson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded the civil service</li> <li>• Only president to serve two nonconsecutive terms</li> <li>• Served as governor of New York</li> <li>• In second term, confronted major depression that began with Panic of 1893</li> <li>• An anti-imperialist, he opposed annexation of Hawaii</li> <li>• In 1894, sent federal troops to end Pullman Strike</li> </ul>

<p><b>Benjamin Harrison</b> <b>(1833–1901)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1889–1893</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Levi Morton</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected president with most electoral but not popular votes</li> <li>• Supported Sherman Antitrust Act</li> <li>• Encouraged conservation of forest reserves</li> <li>• Favored U.S. expansion in the Pacific Ocean and building of a canal in Central America</li> <li>• Expanded U.S. Navy</li> </ul>
<p><b>William McKinley</b> <b>(1843–1901)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1897–1901</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Garret Hobart, Theodore Roosevelt</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President during a period of expansionism marked by Spanish-American War</li> <li>• A high tariff and the Gold Standard Act passed during his administration</li> <li>• Annexed Hawaii</li> <li>• Open Door Policy issued by his secretary of state</li> <li>• Assassinated in 1901</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theodore Roosevelt</b> <b>(1858–1919)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1901–1909</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Charles Fairbanks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive governor of New York (1899–1900)</li> <li>• Presidential programs called the Square Deal</li> <li>• Known as a trustbuster, conservationist, reformer, and nationalist</li> <li>• Used the power of presidency to regulate economic affairs of the nation and to expand its role in Asia and the Caribbean</li> <li>• Issued the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine</li> </ul>
<p><b>William Howard Taft</b> <b>(1857–1930)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1909–1913</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: James Sherman</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy of “dollar diplomacy” gave diplomatic and military support to U.S. business investments in Latin America</li> <li>• Continued Progressive Era policies of business regulation, but his conservative tariff and conservation policies split the party</li> </ul>
<p><b>Woodrow Wilson</b> <b>(1856–1924)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1913–1921</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: Thomas Marshall</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive Era president whose program was known as New Freedom</li> <li>• Reform regulation included Clayton Antitrust Act, Federal Reserve System, Federal Trade Commission Act, and Underwood Tariff Act (which lowered rates)</li> <li>• Led the nation during World War I</li> <li>• Supported the Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations, which the Senate failed to approve</li> </ul>
<p><b>Warren G. Harding</b> <b>(1865–1923)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1921–1923</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Calvin Coolidge</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led nation into “Roaring Twenties” on a call for “normalcy”</li> <li>• Administration known for corruption and scandals, including the Teapot Dome Scandal</li> <li>• Opened Washington Conference on Naval Disarmament in 1921, although he opposed internationalism</li> </ul>
<p><b>Calvin Coolidge</b> <b>(1872–1933)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1923–1929</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Charles Dawes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presidency marked by conservative, laissez-faire attitudes toward business, stating that “after all, the chief business of the American people is business”</li> <li>• Presided over “Coolidge prosperity”</li> <li>• Kellogg-Briand Pact signed during his administration</li> <li>• Immigration Act (1924), setting national quotas, passed during his presidency</li> </ul>
<p><b>Herbert Hoover</b> <b>(1874–1964)</b></p> <p><i>Years in office: 1929–1933</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Charles Curtis</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used government resources against the Great Depression without success</li> <li>• Supported loans through Reconstruction Finance Corporation</li> <li>• Opposed direct relief</li> <li>• Used federal troops against the World War I veterans’ “Bonus Army”</li> </ul>

<p><b>Franklin D. Roosevelt</b> (1882–1945)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1933–1945</i> Democrat Vice President: John Garner, Henry Wallace, Harry S. Truman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led U.S. through Great Depression and World War II from which the nation emerged as world’s leading economic, military, and political power</li> <li>• Increased government’s role in and responsibility for economic, financial, and general welfare of nation through New Deal policies such as Social Security Act.</li> <li>• Expanded power of federal government with programs of Relief, Recovery, Reform, as well as by military and diplomatic conduct of the war</li> <li>• New Deal programs criticized as both inadequate and too extreme</li> <li>• Issued Japanese-American internment order; proposed “Court-packing”</li> <li>• Only president to serve more than two terms</li> </ul>
<p><b>Harry S. Truman</b> (1884–1972)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1945–1953</i> Democrat Vice President: Alben Barkley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945 to end World War II</li> <li>• Began the policy of containment of communism with the Truman Doctrine</li> <li>• Supported economic recovery in Europe through the Marshall Plan</li> <li>• Continued the New Deal philosophy with his Fair Deal</li> <li>• Entered the Korean War during his presidency</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dwight D. Eisenhower</b> (1890–1969)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1953–1961</i> Republican Vice President: Richard M. Nixon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commander of Allied forces in Europe during World War II</li> <li>• Issued Eisenhower Doctrine</li> <li>• Approved Saint Lawrence Seaway and 1956 Federal Highway Act</li> <li>• Sent troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to support school desegregation</li> <li>• In office when Alaska and Hawaii became 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> states</li> </ul>
<p><b>John F. Kennedy</b> (1917–1963)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1961–1963</i> Democrat Vice President: Lyndon B. Johnson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted the New Frontier program (which centered on containment), the Peace Corps, and the Alliance for Progress</li> <li>• Successfully resolved the Cuban missile crisis</li> <li>• Assassinated in 1963</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lyndon B. Johnson</b> (1908–1973)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1963–1969</i> Democrat Vice President: Hubert Humphrey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted antipoverty programs and civil rights through his Great Society program</li> <li>• Used the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution to expand the Vietnam War</li> <li>• Division over his war policy led to his decision not to seek reelection</li> <li>• President during a period of active civil rights movements for African Americans and women</li> </ul>
<p><b>Richard M. Nixon</b> (1913–1994)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1969–1974</i> Republican Vice President: Spiro Agnew, Gerald R. Ford</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursued a “Vietnamization” policy and increased bombing followed by a 1973 cease-fire in Vietnam</li> <li>• Relaxed relations with USSR and the People’s Republic of China</li> <li>• Resigned as president because of Watergate affair</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gerald R. Ford</b> (1913–2006)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1974–1977</i> Republican Vice President: Nelson Rockefeller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only president not to be elected by the American public; appointed as vice president under Nixon and succeeded to the presidency after Nixon’s resignation</li> <li>• Pardoned Nixon, for which he was both criticized and praised</li> <li>• Worked to restore faith in government after Watergate crisis</li> </ul>

<p><b>Jimmy Carter</b> (1924– )</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1977–1981</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: Walter Mondale</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic problems included inflation and oil shortages</li> <li>• Supported international human rights and Panama Canal treaties</li> <li>• Opposed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan</li> <li>• Facilitated the Camp David Accords, which led to peace between Egypt and Israel</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ronald Reagan</b> (1911–2004)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1981–1989</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: George H.W. Bush</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservative viewpoint on issues such as abortion and prayer in school</li> <li>• Based his supply-side economic policy (or “Reaganomics”) on the belief that government works against individual initiative</li> <li>• Presidency marked by trade and federal budget deficits</li> <li>• Arms control agreements signed with the USSR in 1985, 1986, and 1987</li> <li>• Foreign policy aimed at keeping communism out of Latin America</li> <li>• Popularity damaged and foreign policy weakened by Iran-Contra scandal</li> </ul>
<p><b>George H.W. Bush</b> (1924–2018)</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1989–1993</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: J. Danforth Quayle</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inherited budget deficit, savings and loan scandal, and legacy of Iran-Contra Affair from the Reagan administration</li> <li>• In office when Cold War ended, and communist governments in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union fell</li> <li>• Led the United States in the Persian Gulf War against Iraq</li> </ul>
<p><b>William (Bill) Clinton</b> (1946– )</p> <p><i>Years in office: 1993–2001</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: Albert Gore, Jr.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic policies centered on health care and social security reform, as well as economic issues, such as reduction of the national deficit</li> <li>• Secured approval of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)</li> <li>• Backed NATO intervention against Serbia to stop “ethnic cleansing”</li> <li>• Impeached by the House of Representatives in 1998 on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice, but acquitted by the Senate</li> </ul>
<p><b>George W. Bush</b> (1946– )</p> <p><i>Years in office: 2001–2009</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Richard (Dick) B. Cheney</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Took office after a close election in which a dispute over ballot recounts in Florida was decided by the Supreme Court in <i>Bush v. Gore</i> (2000)</li> <li>• Conservative domestic agenda included tax cuts, No Child Left Behind, creation of Department of Homeland Security, and attempts to privatize social security</li> <li>• After attacks of September 11, 2001, ordered U.S. forces into Afghanistan to defeat Taliban and al Qaeda extremists and into a war against Iraq</li> <li>• Left office with nation in major recession, and controversy that included Iraq War, treatment of prisoners, and balancing of liberty versus security in a democracy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Barack H. Obama</b> (1961– )</p> <p><i>Years in office: 2009–2017</i> <i>Democrat</i> <i>Vice President: Joseph (Joe) R. Biden, Jr.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First African American to be elected president; first president since Eisenhower to twice win at least 51 percent of the national popular vote</li> <li>• Led nation during most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression</li> <li>• Withdrew U.S. troops in Iraq and moved those in Afghanistan to a support mission</li> <li>• Legislation passed included Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</li> </ul>
<p><b>Donald J. Trump</b> (1946– )</p> <p><i>Years in office: 2017–</i> <i>Republican</i> <i>Vice President: Michael R. Pence</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First person elected president without either military or government service; won electoral vote but lost popular vote</li> <li>• Signed historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 into law</li> </ul>