

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY POLITICS PART FOUR



APOLOGETICS PROJECT

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



4 OF 5

JE SUIS CHARLIE
DAVID HOBARTH

26. THEODORE ROOSEVELT | 1901-1909



"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."

-Theodore Roosevelt

"Remember that the preaching does not count if it is not backed up by practice... you prove by your deeds that yours is not a lip-loyalty merely; that you show in actual practice the faith that is in you."-Theodore Roosevelt

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

-Theodore Roosevelt

"I enter a most earnest plea that in our hurried and rather bustling life of today we do not lose the hold that our forefathers had on the Bible... No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible, and no uneducated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Some of his other sayings..he was famous for his one-liners.....

"The best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure."

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles."

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

"The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything."

With the assassination of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, age 42, became the youngest president in the nation's history. He brought new excitement and power to the presidency, as he briskly led Congress and the American public toward progressive reforms and an aggressive foreign policy.

He took the view that the president as a "steward of the people" should take whatever action necessary for the public good unless expressly forbidden by law or the Constitution. "I did not usurp power," he wrote in 1913, "but I did greatly broaden the use of executive power."

Roosevelt's youth differed sharply from that of the log cabin presidents. He was born on October 27, 1858 in New York City into a wealthy family, but he too struggled—with asthma and other health ailments—and in his triumph became an advocate of the strenuous life.

In 1884, his first wife Alice Lee Roosevelt and his mother Martha died on the same day and only two days after the birth of his daughter, Alice. Roosevelt spent much of the next two years on his properties in the Dakota Badlands. There he mastered his sorrow as he lived in the saddle, driving cattle, hunting big game—he even chased outlaws as a local sheriff. Feeling reinvigorated, Roosevelt returned from the West and began courting his childhood friend Edith Carow. The couple married in London in December 1886. They raised six children together, including Alice.

During the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt resigned his position as assistant secretary of the Navy to command the U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, more famously known as the **Rough Riders**. Roosevelt led his company's charge up Kettle Hill during the Battle of **San Juan**, and his military exploits brought him considerable attention, elevating his profile within the Republican Party. In 1898, he ran for governor of New York and won; he then was asked to join the 1900 Republican ticket as a vice-president under President William McKinley.

As president, Roosevelt held the ideal that the government should be the great arbiter of the conflicting economic forces in the nation, especially between capital and labor, guaranteeing justice to each and dispensing favors to none.

Roosevelt emerged spectacularly as a "trust buster" by forcing the dissolution of a great railroad combination in the Northwest. Other antitrust suits under the **Sherman Act** followed, and his willingness to take on corporations and monopolies enhanced his popularity with the American public.

Roosevelt also steered the United States more into world politics. He liked to quote a favorite proverb,

“Speak softly and carry a big stick.”

Aware of the strategic need for a shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific for American vessels, **Roosevelt facilitated the construction of the Panama Canal** by sending naval ships to support the Panamanians' independence movement. Once Columbia recognized Panama's independence, the new government gave the U.S. control of the canal for \$10 million and a yearly payment. Additionally, **the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine prevented the establishment of foreign bases in the Caribbean and arrogated the sole right of intervention in Latin America to the United States.**

He won the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the **Russo-Japanese War**, the first American president to receive this honor.

Roosevelt also believed that a powerful navy was key to maintaining peace. In 1907, he sent the “Great White Fleet” around the world to demonstrate U.S. naval power and gain valuable experience on the open seas.

Some of Theodore Roosevelt's most enduring achievements were in conservation. He added enormously to the national forests in the West, reserved lands for public use, and fostered great irrigation projects.

He crusaded endlessly on matters big and small, exciting audiences with his high-pitched voice, jutting jaw, and pounding fist. **“The life of strenuous endeavor”** was a must for those around him, as he romped with his five younger children and led ambassadors on hikes through Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C.

Leaving the presidency in 1909, Roosevelt went on an African safari, then jumped back into politics. In 1912 he ran for president on the Progressive Party ticket. To reporters he once remarked that he felt as fit as a “bull moose,” the nickname of his new party.

While campaigning in Milwaukee, he was shot in the chest by a fanatic. Roosevelt soon recovered, but his words at that time remained applicable at the time of his death on January 6, 1919:

“No man has had a happier life than I have led; a happier life in every way.”

This guy was an impressive man. DH

27. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT | 1909-1913



This guy was a life-long Unitarian. A Unitarian is a person who belongs to a religious tradition emphasizing the belief that God is a single, unified entity. This is in direct contrast to the traditional Christian doctrine of the Trinity (which views God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He was wrong. But here are some of his quotes.

"I know this, and I know it from actual experience in the Orient, that the progress of modern Christian civilization has largely depended on the earnest hard work of the Christian missions of every denomination." -William Howard Taft

"I am a Unitarian. I believe in God. I do not believe in the divinity of Christ, and there are many postulates of the orthodox creed to which I cannot subscribe."
-William Howard Taft (Letter to Yale University, 1899)

"I love judges, and I love courts. They are my ideals, that typify on earth what we shall meet hereafter in heaven under a just God." -William Howard Taft

Distinguished jurist, effective administrator, but poor politician, William Howard Taft spent four uncomfortable years in the White House. Jovial and conscientious, he was caught in the intense battles between progressives and conservatives, and got scant credit for the achievements of his administration. Sound familiar?

Born in 1857, the son of a distinguished judge, he graduated from Yale, and returned to Cincinnati to study and practice law. He rose in politics through Republican judiciary appointments, through his own competence and availability.

But Taft much preferred law to politics. He was appointed a federal circuit judge at 34. He aspired to be a member of the Supreme Court, but his wife, Helen Herron Taft, held other ambitions for him.

His route to the White House came through administrative posts. President McKinley sent him to the Philippines in 1900 as chief civil administrator and he was soon appointed Governor General. He improved the economy, built roads and schools, and increased participation in government.

President Roosevelt made him secretary of war in 1904, and by 1907 had decided that Taft should be his successor. The Republican convention nominated him the next year.

Taft disliked the campaign, but pledged his fealty to the Roosevelt program, popular in the West, while his brother Charles reassured eastern Republicans. **William Jennings Bryan**, running on the Democratic ticket for a third time, complained that he was forced to oppose two candidates, a western progressive Taft and an eastern conservative Taft. Progressives were pleased with Taft's election, while conservatives were delighted to be rid of Roosevelt.

Taft recognized that his techniques would differ from those of his predecessor. Unlike Roosevelt, Taft did not believe in the stretching of presidential powers. He once commented that Roosevelt

“ought more often to have admitted the legal way of reaching the same ends.”

Taft alienated many liberal Republicans, who later formed the Progressive Party, by defending the **Payne-Aldrich Act**, which unexpectedly continued high tariff rates. A trade agreement with Canada, which Taft pushed through Congress, would have pleased eastern advocates of a low tariff, but the Canadians rejected it. He further antagonized progressives by upholding his secretary of the interior, accused of failing to carry out Roosevelt's conservation policies.

In the angry progressive onslaught against him, little attention was paid to the fact that his administration **initiated 80 antitrust suits** and that Congress submitted to the states amendments for a federal income tax and the direct election of senators. A postal savings system was established, and the **Interstate Commerce Commission** was directed to set railroad rates.

In 1912, when the Republicans renominated Taft, Roosevelt bolted the party to lead the Progressive Party, thus guaranteeing the election of Woodrow Wilson.

Taft, free of the presidency, served as professor of law at Yale until President Harding made him chief justice of the United States in 1921, a position he held until just before his death in 1930. To Taft, the Supreme Court appointment was his greatest honor; he wrote:

"I don't remember that I ever was president." -William Howard Taft

28. WOODROW WILSON | 1913-1921



Like Theodore Roosevelt before him, Woodrow Wilson regarded himself as the personal representative of the people. "No one but the president," he said, "seems to be expected . . . to look out for the general interests of the country." He developed a program of progressive reform and asserted international leadership in building a new world order. In 1917 he proclaimed American entrance into World War I a crusade to make the world "safe for democracy."

Wilson had seen the frightfulness of war. He was born in Virginia on December 28, 1856, the son of a Presbyterian minister who was a pastor in Augusta, Georgia during the Civil War, and a professor during Reconstruction in Columbia, South Carolina.

After graduation from Princeton (then the College of New Jersey) and the University of Virginia Law School, Wilson earned his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University and entered upon an academic career. In 1885 he married Ellen Louise Axson.

Wilson advanced rapidly as a young professor of political science and became president of Princeton in 1902.

His growing national reputation led some conservative Democrats to consider him presidential timber. First, they persuaded him to run for governor of New Jersey in 1910. In the campaign he asserted his independence of the conservatives and of the machine that had nominated him, endorsing a progressive platform, which he pursued as governor.

He was nominated for president at the 1912 Democratic Convention and campaigned on a program called the New Freedom, which included tariff reductions, banking reform, and strengthened anti-trust legislation. In a three-way election against President Taft and Former President Roosevelt, he received a plurality of the popular vote, but an overwhelming majority of the electoral votes.

Wilson maneuvered through Congress three major pieces of legislation. The first was a lower tariff, the **Underwood Act**; attached to the measure was a **graduated federal income tax**. The passage of the **Federal Reserve Act** provided the nation with the more elastic money supply it badly needed. In 1914 antitrust legislation established a **Federal Trade Commission** to prohibit unfair business practices.

Another burst of new laws followed in 1916. One prohibited child labor; another limited railroad workers to an eight-hour day. By virtue of this legislation and the slogan "he kept us out of war," Wilson narrowly won reelection.

But after the election Wilson concluded that America could not remain neutral in the World War.

On April 2, 1917, he asked Congress for a declaration of war on Germany.

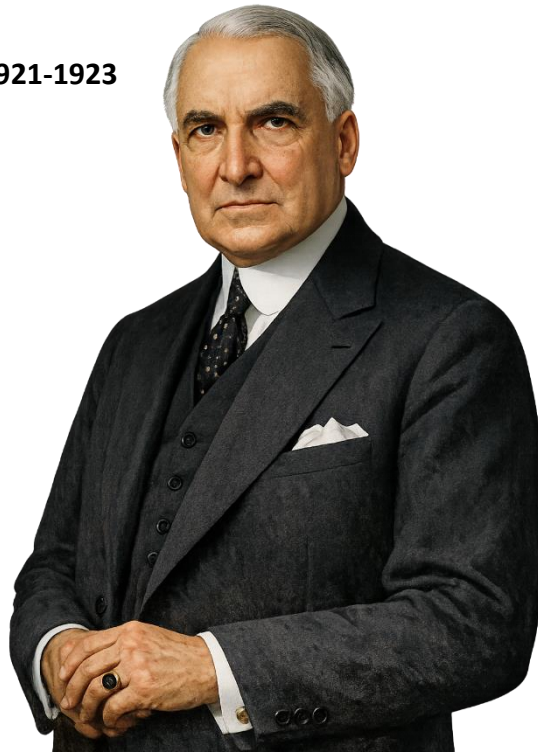
Massive American effort slowly tipped the balance in favor of the Allies. Wilson went before Congress in January 1918 to enunciate American war aims—the Fourteen Points, the last of which would establish "a general association of nations . . . affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike."

After the Germans signed the Armistice in November 1918, Wilson went to Paris to try to build an enduring peace. He later presented to the Senate the **Versailles Treaty**, containing the **Covenant of the League of Nations**, and asked, "Dare we reject it and break the heart of the world?"

But the election of 1918 had shifted the balance in Congress to the Republicans. By seven votes, the Versailles Treaty failed in the Senate.

The president, against the warnings of his doctors, had made a national tour to mobilize public sentiment for the treaty. Exhausted, he suffered a stroke in October 1919 and nearly died. He was tenderly nursed by his second wife, Edith Bolling Galt, who kept away most visitors and made a number of key decisions herself. After leaving office, Wilson lived in Washington, D.C., until his death on February 3, 1924.

29. WARREN G. HARDING | 1921-1923



"I am not fit for this office and never should have been here." — Warren G. Harding

"Inherent rights are from God, and the tragedies of the world originate in their attempted denial." — Warren Gamaliel Harding

"We must have a citizenship less concerned about what the government can do for it and more anxious about what it can do for the nation." — Warren G. Harding

"Our most dangerous tendency is to expect too much of government, and at the same time do for it too little."

Before his nomination, Warren G. Harding declared, "America's present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy; not revolution, but restoration; not agitation, but adjustment; not surgery, but serenity; not the dramatic, but the dispassionate; not the experiment, but equipoise; not submergence in internationality, but sustainment in triumphant nationality."

A Democratic leader (and Woodrow Wilson's son-in-law), William Gibbs McAdoo, called Harding's speeches "an army of pompous phrases moving across the landscape in search of an idea." That's kinda funny. Their very murkiness was effective, since Harding's pronouncements remained unclear on the League of Nations, in contrast to the impassioned crusade of the Democratic ticket, Governor James M. Cox of Ohio and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Thirty-one distinguished Republicans had signed a manifesto assuring voters that a vote for Harding was a vote for the League. But Harding interpreted his election as a mandate to stay out of the League of Nations.

Harding was born near Marion, Ohio in 1865. He maintained a lifelong connection to the town, purchasing and operating The Marion Daily Star newspaper from 1884 until 1923. He married Florence Kling De Wolfe on July 8, 1891 and the couple settled in Marion where they were active community members. In addition to operating the newspaper, Harding was a trustee of the Trinity Baptist Church and a leader in fraternal organizations and charitable enterprises. During Harding's presidential run he launched a "front porch campaign," showcasing his hometown and demonstrating that he was a man of the people.

Harding's undeviating Republicanism and vibrant speaking voice, plus his willingness to let the machine bosses set policies, led him far in Ohio politics. He served in the state Senate and as lieutenant governor, and successfully ran for governor. He delivered the nominating address for President Taft at the 1912 Republican Convention. In 1914 he was elected to the Senate, which he found "a very pleasant place."

An Ohio crony, Harry Daugherty, promoted Harding for the 1920 Republican nomination because, he later explained, "He looked like a president." At the 1920 Republican convention when the principal candidates deadlocked, the party turned to Harding. He won the presidential election by 60 percent of the popular vote.

Republicans in Congress easily got the president's signature on their bills. They eliminated wartime controls and slashed taxes, established a federal budget system, restored the high protective tariff, and imposed tight limitations upon immigration.

By 1923 the postwar depression seemed to be giving way to a new surge of prosperity, and newspapers hailed Harding as a wise statesman carrying out his campaign promise

—"Less government in business and more business in government."

Behind the facade, not all of Harding's administration was so impressive. Harding's secretary of the interior, **Albert Bacon Fall**, participated in the secret leasing of federal oil reserves, resulting in the **Teapot Dome Scandal**. When the incident came to light, Congress directed Harding to cancel the oil leases. Word began to reach the president that some of his friends were using their official positions for their own enrichment. Alarmed, he complained,

"My...friends...they're the ones that keep me walking the floors nights!"

Although Harding was not directly implicated in the scandal, looking wan and depressed, he journeyed westward in the summer of 1923, taking with him his upright secretary of commerce, **Herbert Hoover**. "If you knew of a great scandal in our administration," he asked Hoover, "would you for the good of the country and the party expose it publicly or would you bury it?" Hoover urged publishing it, but Harding feared the political repercussions.

Harding did not live to find out how the public would react to the Teapot Dome scandals of his administration. In August 1923, he died in San Francisco. He suffered a fatal cardiovascular event, likely a heart attack.

30. CALVIN COOLIDGE | 1923-1929



"It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow." -Calvin Coolidge

"We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once." -Calvin Coolidge

"The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home." -Calvin Coolidge

"If you see ten troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you." -Calvin Coolidge

"The American Revolution represented the informed and mature convictions of a great mass of independent, liberty-loving, God-fearing people who knew their rights, and possessed the courage to dare to maintain them." -Calvin Coolidge

At 2:30 on the morning of August 3, 1923, while visiting in Vermont, Calvin Coolidge received word that Warren G. Harding was dead and he was president. By the light of a kerosene lamp, his father, who was a notary public, administered the oath of office as Coolidge placed his hand on the family Bible. Coolidge was "distinguished for character more than for heroic achievement," wrote one Democratic admirer, Alfred E. Smith. "His great task was to restore the dignity and prestige of the presidency when it had reached the lowest ebb in our history ...in a time of extravagance and waste...."

Born in Plymouth, Vermont, on July 4, 1872, Coolidge was the son of a village storekeeper. He graduated from Amherst College with honors, and entered law and politics in Northampton, Massachusetts. Slowly, methodically, he went up the political ladder from councilman in Northampton to governor of Massachusetts, as a Republican. En route he became thoroughly conservative.

As president, Coolidge demonstrated his determination to preserve the old moral and economic precepts amid the material prosperity which many Americans were enjoying. He refused to use federal economic power to check the growing boom or to ameliorate the depressed condition of agriculture and certain industries. His first message to Congress in December 1923 called for isolation in foreign policy, and for tax cuts, economy, and limited aid to farmers.

He rapidly became popular. In 1924, as the beneficiary of what was becoming known as “Coolidge prosperity,” he received more than 54 percent of the popular vote. In his Inaugural Address he asserted that the country had achieved “a state of contentment seldom before seen,” and pledged himself to maintain the status quo. In subsequent years he twice vetoed farm relief bills, and killed a plan to produce cheap federal electric power on the Tennessee River.

The political genius of President Coolidge, Walter Lippmann pointed out in 1926, was his talent for effectively doing nothing: “This active inactivity suits the mood and certain of the needs of the country admirably. It suits all the business interests which want to be let alone... And it suits all those who have become convinced that government in this country has become dangerously complicated and top-heavy....”

Although Coolidge was known popularly as “Silent Cal,” he was one of the most accessible presidents to date. He once explained to the financier Bernard Baruch why he often sat silently through interviews: “Well, Baruch, many times I say only ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to people. Even that is too much. It winds them up for twenty minutes more.” Nonetheless, Coolidge understood the growing importance of the media, and allowed himself to be photographed frequently, often while greeting delegations to the White House.

Both his dry Yankee wit and his frugality with words became legendary. His wife, Grace Goodhue Coolidge, recounted that a young woman sitting next to Coolidge at a dinner party confided to him she had bet she could get at least three words of conversation from him. Without looking at her he quietly retorted, “You lose.” In 1928, while vacationing in the Black Hills of South Dakota, he issued the most famous of his laconic statements: “I do not choose to run for president in 1928.”

Despite his popularity, Coolidge’s time in the White House was touched by tragedy. On July 7, 1924, the president’s son, Calvin Jr., died at Walter Reed Hospital of blood poisoning. Calvin Jr. sustained a small blister on his toe while playing tennis on the White House Grounds with his older brother. An infection soon appeared, and he was hospitalized after developing a fever. President Coolidge was deeply affected by the loss of his son and mourned throughout the remainder of his time in office.

By the time the disaster of the Great Depression hit the country, Coolidge was in retirement. Before his death in January 1933, he confided to an old friend, “I feel I no longer fit in with these times.”

31. HERBERT HOOVER | 1929-1933



"I believe not only that religious faith will be victorious, but that it is vital to humankind that it shall be. We may differ in form and particulars in our religious faith. Those are matters that are sacred to each of our inner sanctuaries. It is our privilege to decline to argue them. Their real demonstration is the lives that we live" -Herbert Hoover

"I come of Quaker stock. My ancestors were persecuted for their beliefs. Here they sought and found religious freedom. By blood and conviction I stand for religious tolerance both in act and in spirit."-Herbert Hoover

"The whole inspiration of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the prophets. To read the Bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life." -Herbert Hoover

"Honest differences of views and honest debate are not disunity. They are the vital process of policy making among free men." -Herbert Hoover

Son of a Quaker blacksmith, Herbert Clark Hoover brought to the presidency a luminous reputation as an engineer, administrator, and humanitarian. Born in West Branch, Iowa on August 10, 1874, Hoover grew up in Newberg, Oregon with his uncle after the deaths of his parents.

He married his Stanford sweetheart, Lou Henry, and they went to China, where he worked for a private corporation as China's leading engineer. In June 1900 the **Boxer Rebellion** caught the Hoovers in Tientsin. For almost a month the settlement was under heavy fire. While his wife worked in the hospitals, Hoover directed the building of barricades.

One week before Hoover celebrated his 40th birthday in London, Germany declared war on France, and the American Consul General asked his help in getting stranded tourists home. In six weeks his committee helped 120,000 Americans return to the United States. Next Hoover turned to a far more difficult task, to feed Belgium, which had been overrun by the German army.

After the United States entered the war, President Wilson appointed Hoover head of the U.S. Food Administration. He succeeded in cutting consumption of foods needed overseas and avoided rationing at home, yet kept the Allies fed.

After the Armistice, Hoover, a member of the **Supreme Economic Council** and head of the **American Relief Administration**, organized shipments of food for millions of starving people in Central Europe. He extended aid to famine-stricken Soviet Russia in 1921. When a critic inquired if he was not thus helping Bolshevism, Hoover retorted, "Twenty million people are starving. Whatever their politics, they shall be fed!"

After capably serving as secretary of commerce under Presidents Harding and Coolidge, Hoover became the Republican presidential nominee in 1928. He said then: "We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land." His election over New York Governor Al Smith seemed to ensure prosperity. Yet within months the stock market crashed, and the nation spiraled downward into depression.

After the crash Hoover announced that while he would keep the federal budget balanced, he would cut taxes and expand public works spending. In 1931 repercussions from Europe deepened the crisis, even though the president presented to Congress a program asking for creation of the **Reconstruction Finance Corporation to aid business**, additional help for farmers facing mortgage foreclosures, banking reform, a loan to states for feeding the unemployed, expansion of public works, and drastic limitations on government spending. At the same time he insisted that while people must not suffer from hunger and cold, caring for them must be primarily a local and voluntary responsibility.

Hoover's opponents in Congress, who he felt were sabotaging his program for their own political gain, painted him as a callous leader. Hoover became the scapegoat for the **Great Depression** and was badly defeated by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. In the 1930s he became a powerful critic of the New Deal, warning against tendencies toward statism.

In 1947 President Truman appointed Hoover to a commission, which elected him chairman, to reorganize the Executive Departments. He was appointed chairman of a similar commission by President Eisenhower in 1953. Many economies resulted from both commissions' recommendations. Over the years, Hoover wrote a large number of articles and books, one of which he was working on when he died of intestinal cancer at 90 in New York City on October 20, 1964.

32. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT | 1933-1945



"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." –Franklin D. Roosevelt.

***"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."
– FDR***

"In teaching this democratic faith to American children, we need the sustaining, buttressing aid of those great ethical religious teachings which are the heritage of our modern civilization. For 'not upon strength nor upon power, but upon the spirit of God' shall our democracy be founded." – FDR (Letter on Religion in Democracy; December 16, 1940)

***"The Almighty God has blessed our land in many ways. He has given our people stout hearts and strong arms with which to strike mighty blows for freedom and truth. He has given to our country a faith which has become the hope of all peoples in an anguished world. So we pray to Him now for the vision to see our way clearly—to see the way that leads to a better life for ourselves and for all our fellow men—to the achievement of His will to peace on earth."
-FDR (Fourth Inaugural Address; January 20, 1945)***

***"Those forces [Communism and Naziism] hate democracy and Christianity as two phases of the same civilization. They oppose democracy because it is Christian. They oppose Christianity because it preaches democracy."
-FDR (Campaign Address at Brooklyn, New York; November 1, 1940)***

***"We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a Nation, without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic. ... Its refining and elevating influence is indispensable to our most cherished hopes and ideals."
-FDR (Statement on the 400th Anniversary of the Printing of the English Bible; 10/6/1935)***

Assuming the presidency during the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt helped the American people regain faith in themselves. He brought hope as he promised prompt, vigorous action, and asserted in his first Inaugural Address that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Born on January 30, 1882 at Hyde Park, New York, he attended Harvard University and Columbia Law School. On St. Patrick's Day, 1905, he married his distant cousin Eleanor Roosevelt.

Following the example of his fifth cousin President Theodore Roosevelt, whom he greatly admired, Franklin Roosevelt entered public service through politics, but as a Democrat. He won election to the New York Senate in 1910. President Wilson appointed him assistant secretary of the navy in 1913, and he was the Democratic nominee for vice president in 1920.

In the summer of 1921, when he was 39, disaster hit — he was stricken with poliomyelitis. Demonstrating indomitable courage, he fought to regain the limited use of his legs, particularly through swimming. At the 1924 Democratic convention, he dramatically appeared on crutches to nominate Al Smith as "the Happy Warrior." In 1928 Roosevelt became governor of New York.

He was elected president in November 1932, to the first of four terms. By March there were 13 million people unemployed, and almost every bank was closed. In his first "hundred days," he proposed, and Congress enacted, a sweeping program to bring recovery to business and agriculture, relief to the unemployed and to those in danger of losing farms and homes, and reform, especially through the establishment of the **Tennessee Valley Authority**.

By 1935 the nation had achieved some measure of recovery, but businessmen and bankers were turning against Roosevelt's **New Deal** program. They feared his experiments, scorned his decisions to take the nation off the **gold standard** and allow deficits in the budget, and disliked the concessions to labor. Roosevelt responded with a new program of reform: Social Security, heavier taxes on the wealthy, new controls over banks and public utilities, and an enormous work relief program for the unemployed.

Roosevelt sought to keep the United States out of the growing crisis as Adolf Hitler marched through Europe, yet sought to strengthen nations threatened or attacked. After France fell and England came under siege in 1940, he began to send Great Britain all possible aid short of actual military involvement.

When **the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941**, Roosevelt organized the nation's manpower and resources for a global war that, he hoped, would culminate in a victory for democracy. Mindful of the mistakes made after World War I, he devoted much thought to the planning of a **United Nations**. Roosevelt signed an executive order in 1942 which **ordered the relocation and containment of Japanese Americans in military internment camps**. The Supreme Court heard two challenges to the existence of the camps, but the executive order was upheld both times.

As the war drew to a close, Roosevelt was elected to a fourth term in November 1944; **the only president to serve more than two terms**. His health deteriorated as his final term started, and on April 12, 1945, while at his "Little White House" retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia, he died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

33. HARRY S. TRUMAN | 1945-1953



“The fundamental basis of this Nation's law was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings which we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul.” -Harry S. Truman

“This Nation was established by men who believed in God. ... You will see the evidence of this deep religious faith on every hand.” -Harry S. Truman

During his few weeks as vice president, Harry S. Truman scarcely saw President Roosevelt, and received no briefing on the development of the atomic bomb or the unfolding difficulties with Soviet Russia. Suddenly these and a host of other wartime problems became Truman's when, on April 12, 1945, he became president when Roosevelt died. He told reporters, “I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me.”

Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri, on May 8, 1884. He grew up in Independence, and for twelve years prospered as a farmer. He went to France during World War I as a captain in the Field Artillery. Returning, he married Elizabeth (Bess) Virginia Wallace, and opened a haberdashery in Kansas City, which failed.

Active in the Democratic Party, Truman was elected a judge of the Jackson County Court (an administrative position) in 1922. He became a senator in 1934. During World War II he headed the **Senate War Investigating Committee**, exposing waste and corruption and saving perhaps as much as \$15 billion.

As president, Truman made some of the most crucial decisions in history. Soon after V-E Day, the war against Japan had reached its final stage. An urgent plea to Japan to surrender was rejected. Truman, after consultations with his advisers, ordered atomic bombs dropped on the cities of

Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japanese surrender quickly followed. In June 1945 Truman witnessed the signing of the charter of the United Nations.

Soon he presented to Congress a 21-point program, proposing the expansion of **Social Security**, a full-employment program, a permanent **Fair Employment Practices Act**, and public housing and slum clearance. The program, Truman wrote, “symbolizes for me my assumption of the office of president in my own right.” It became known as the Fair Deal.

In 1947 the Soviet Union pressured Turkey and, through guerrillas, threatened to take over Greece. Truman asked Congress to aid the two countries, as part of what was soon called the **Truman Doctrine**. **The Marshall Plan**, named for his secretary of state, stimulated spectacular economic recovery in war-torn western Europe.

When the Soviets blockaded the western sectors of Berlin in 1948, Truman created a massive airlift to supply Berliners until the Soviets backed down. Meanwhile, he was negotiating a military alliance to protect Western nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), established in 1949.

In 1948, Truman faced New York Governor **Thomas Dewey** and a left-leaning third-party challenger, former Vice President **Henry Wallace**, and defied the predictions of pollsters and analysts to win his own full term as president. After the election, the Trumans moved out of the sagging White House so that it could be gutted and reconstructed. The Truman White House renovations were completed in 1952.

In June 1950, the Communist government of North Korea attacked South Korea. Truman later wrote, “There was no suggestion from anyone that either the United Nations or the United States could back away from it.” A discouraging struggle ensued as U.N. forces held a line above the old boundary of South Korea. Truman limited the fighting, which frustrated Americans—especially his Korea commander General **Douglas MacArthur**, whom he fired for insubordination.

Having served almost two terms, Truman decided not to run again. Retiring with Bess to Independence, he lived until December 26, 1972. Later, Americans came to appreciate his honesty, sound judgment, and courageous decision making, admiring him far more than his own contemporaries had. Of his presidency, Truman modestly said, “Well I wouldn’t say I was in the ‘great’ class, but I had a great time while trying to be great.”

34. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER | 1953-1961



"It gives you courage to make the decisions you must make in a crisis, and then the confidence to leave the result to a higher Power. Only by trust in God can a man carrying responsibility find repose."-Dwight D. Eisenhower

On the role of the church: "The church should be telling the worker is that the first demand religion makes on him is that he should be a good workman. If he is a carpenter he should be a competent carpenter. Church by all means on Sundays—but what is the use of church if at the very center of life a man defrauds his neighbor and insults God by poor craftsmanship."
-Dwight D. Eisenhower

On dedication to God in public life: "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our Nation and our people to the Almighty." -Dwight D. Eisenhower

On faith in governance: Speaking in 1952, Eisenhower said: "In other words, our form of government has no sense unless it is founded in a deeply felt religious faith, and I don't care what it is. Of course, it is the Judeo-Christian concept, but it must be a religion with all men being created equal." -Dwight D. Eisenhower

Bringing to the presidency his vast experience as commanding general of the victorious forces in Europe during World War II, Dwight Eisenhower oversaw the growth of postwar prosperity. In a rare boast he said, "The United States never lost a soldier or a foot of ground in my administration.... By God, it didn't just happen—I'll tell you that!"

Born in Texas on October 14, 1890, brought up in Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower was the third of seven sons. He excelled in sports in high school, and received an appointment to West Point. Stationed in Texas as a second lieutenant, he met Mamie Geneva Doud, whom he married in 1916. They had two sons, Doud Dwight, who died at two, and John.

In Eisenhower's early army career, he excelled in staff assignments, serving under Generals **John J. Pershing and Douglas MacArthur**. After Pearl Harbor, General **George C. Marshall** called him to Washington to work on war plans. He commanded the Allied Forces landing in North Africa in November 1942; on D-Day, 1944, he was supreme commander of the troops invading France.

After the war, he became president of Columbia University, then took leave to assume supreme command over the new **NATO** forces being assembled in 1951. Republican emissaries to his headquarters near Paris persuaded him to run for president in 1952. "**I like Ike**" was an irresistible slogan; Eisenhower won a sweeping victory over Illinois Governor **Adlai Stevenson**.

Negotiating from military strength, he tried to reduce the strains of the cold war. In 1953, the signing of a truce brought an armed peace along the border of South Korea. The death of Stalin the same year caused shifts in relations with the Soviet Union.

In Geneva in 1955, Eisenhower met with the leaders of the British, French, and Soviet governments. The president proposed that the United States and Soviet Union exchange blueprints of each other's military establishments and "provide within our countries facilities for aerial photography to the other country." But the Soviets vetoed his "Open Skies" proposal.

In September 1955, Eisenhower suffered a heart attack in Denver, Colorado. After seven weeks he left the hospital, and in February 1956 doctors told him he was well enough to seek a second term, which he won by another landslide over Stevenson.

In domestic policy the president pursued a middle "modern Republican" course, continuing most of the New Deal and Fair Deal programs and seeking a balanced budget. As desegregation of schools began, he sent troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to assure compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court but resisted pleas from civil rights champions to welcome publicly the court's **Brown v. Board of Education** decision.

During his last two years in office, Eisenhower tried to make "a chip in the granite" of the cold war. He welcomed **Nikita Khrushchev** to **Camp David** and planned to meet the Soviet leader at a four-power Paris summit the following spring to seek ways to reduce their antagonism. But just before the meeting, the Soviets shot down an American U-2 spy plane over their territory, which scuttled the summit and rekindled cold war passions on both sides.

In his Farewell Address, Eisenhower surprised many Americans by warning them to "guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex," which he found a potential danger to American liberties. Disappointed by his failure to turn over the presidency to a Republican successor, he and Mamie retired to their farm beside the Gettysburg battlefield. After years of cardiac illness, he died in Washington, D.C., on March 28, 1969.

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