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### Chapter 1 : George W. Bush - Wikipedia

*"The titles in the new Presidents and Their Decisions series begin with a balanced introductory essay on a president's life and the controversies that surrounded him while he was in office. Then each of the major issues is explored in essays that attack or defend the administration's policy.*

May 20, Comments AP Three major scandals have surfaced over the past few weeks in Washington, escalating into a perfect storm that involves money, media and security. But scandal and controversy are nothing new to Washington – as long as there have been presidents, there has been controversy. Here is a look back at the most controversial events of each United States president. In , George Washington approved of the Jay Treaty, attempting to normalize the still-volatile relations with Great Britain. In return for the pulling of British troops out of forts across the West and compensation for seized merchant ships, the British were given favored-nation trade status. The Jeffersonian party of Congress reacted violently to the treaty, favoring the French over the British. Thomas Jefferson repeatedly accused Washington of treason. Adams attempted to send delegates to negotiate with the French, but the French minister demanded bribes before negotiations would begin. The Americans refused, and the information was leaked to the public, becoming the XYZ Affair – X,Y and Z standing for the names of French officials in documents released by the Adams administration. American and French naval forces engaged in an undeclared war for several months, known as the Quasi-War, before the situation was finally settled. During the period of hostilities, both the Federalists and the Republican-Democratic parties used the events to heavily push their own narratives. Burr set up a complex conspiracy. It involved the commanding general of the Army, the British and the Spanish. Allegedly, they would lease out Texas and then conquer surrounding Spanish and Mexican territory in a war he hoped to orchestrate between the United States and Spain. Though Burr was acquitted, the scandal effectively ended his already-flagging political career. Burr had enlisted the help of the general of the Army, James Wilkinson, to supply U. Army troops to achieve his goals. Madison, for the same reasons as Jefferson, chose to keep Wilkinson on, even after a two-year congressional investigation about the man. It was only after reports of heavy-handed abuses of power and his inept handling of military affairs that Madison order Wilkinson court-martialed, which found Wilkinson not guilty. It eventually took disastrous military campaigns during the War of before Wilkinson was removed. James Monroe AP Perhaps best known for The Monroe Doctrine, the foreign policy of the United States for almost years, James Monroe faced a controversial presidency when it came to the issue of slavery. Even if he remained a popular president, his decision in the Missouri compromise – paring Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state – was a controversial topic of debate at the time and would set the stage for the heated debate and endless compromise up until the Civil War. In the election of , Jackson won the popular vote by a reasonable margin but failed to gain enough electoral votes. In backroom deals that were considered corrupt then and now, the House elected John Quincy Adams to the office of president. Calhoun, claimed that it could nullify the order from the federal government and not implement it. Jackson, a staunch proponent of the central government, made it very clear that he would use military might to force South Carolina to accept the tariff if they did not do it peacefully. It was one the more public displays of infighting between states and the central government before the Civil War. Reportedly, Van Buren said, "Your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you; if I take up for you, I shall lose the vote of Missouri. So while not exactly scandalous or controversial, it was ill advised. While technically a member of the Whig Party, he would veto several pieces of their legislation while in office and was expelled from the party. Most of his cabinet resigned. With the Democratic Party disliking him as well, he became the only sitting president to not belong to any political party at one point during a presidency. Polk AP While generally considered one of the more influential presidents in American history, James Polk, while still popular amongst his supporters, drew a lot of controversy from his opponents for his foreign policy, which included the Mexican-American war and the settling of the Oregon border with Canada. His Whig opponents constantly

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scrutinized him for being an imperialist. Historians would later conclude that the pressure he took over his handling of the war would lead to his death three months after his presidency was over. Zachary Taylor AP Though only president for 16 months, Zachary Taylor still had time for a scandal when in the last months of his presidency, news surfaced that his secretary of war, George Crawford, had pushed through a law giving the Galphin family compensation for their land seized by the federal government nearly 70 years earlier. Millard Fillmore AP Consistently ranked in the bottom 10 of presidents, Millard Fillmore was not exactly a popular president " for the North at least " but few things caused as much of a stir as his dealings with the Compromise of , which allowed slavery in the newly acquired state of Texas and would allow territories such as Utah and New Mexico to vote to be slave states. Pierce backed down, accomplishing none of his goals and giving the North a rallying cry against his administration. While not immediately known, it would later surface that in order for the court to be able to issue such a broad decision, Buchanan had to contact Justice Robert Crier, a fellow Pennsylvanian, and convince him to throw his support from opposing the decision to supporting it. Abraham Lincoln would accuse Buchanan of being in a conspiracy to tare down legal barriers to slavery. I will now take that back. His working relationship with Congress was non-existent. He would fail in carrying out laws and orders they passed, he sacked political officials without the consent of Congress and he is seen as having failed in leading the nation through reconstruction. He is generally considered one of the worst presidents. Large rackets were set up by top Republican officials throughout the country to siphon off millions of dollars from the federal whiskey tax. Though later historians would give Grant extra points for his foreign policy, he would never escape the scandals of politicians during his tenure. As such, the Senate avoided voting on the nomination. Garfield was assassinated before the scandal could be fully resolved, but his vice president, Chester Arthur, would eventually clean things up after taking over. Arthur AP A man who had been tossed out of past political offices for corruption, Chester Arthur surprised everyone by being one of two presidents on this list to go without a major scandal or controversy during his presidency. So when his Republican opponents found that he had fathered an illegitimate child when he was a lawyer in Buffalo, N. Benjamin Harrison AP Benjamin Harrison found himself inheriting a massive budget surplus left over from past administrations that had existed since the Civil War. The reason for the surplus was large tariffs on imported goods, combined with little government spending. Combined with the fact that he kept the tariffs high, this proved to draw much criticism from political opponents and the public. The Filipinos quickly created their own independent republic, expecting for support from the United States. Instead, William McKinley ordered American forces to occupy the Philippines, and in the end a brutal and repressive war was waged by American forces against the Philippine Republic and the ensuing insurgency. The war was so immensely unpopular that citizens offered to buy the Philippines from the government to give it its independence. Theodore Roosevelt AP Originally started by the French, the Panama Canal was intended to drastically shorten the travel time of ships going between the Pacific and the Atlantic. The French project turned out to be a disaster, and they were eager to hand the project off. So when Theodore Roosevelt offered to buy it, they were more than willing. However, the United States Congress was less eager to spend the money. In order to speed things up, Roosevelt helped organize a revolution that overthrew the government of Panama and replaced it with a nation whose constitution had been written by Americans and whose flag had been designed by the wife of a pro-intervention congressmen. Taft had Glavis fired for insubordination and exonerated Ballinger. Press scandal followed, and the progressive wing of the Republican Party would split and join the Democrats by the election. Navy launched an investigation into claims of homosexual interactions between naval personal and civilians at Newport, R. The methods of the investigation " keeping it almost exclusively within the Navy " drew criticism from the press, and in the end the investigators themselves were accused of homosexuality after the reports were filed. Though Harding would die while in office, he would face criticism even after dying for allowing scandals such as Teapot to occur. Calvin Coolidge AP Notorious for saying practically nothing when not giving a public speech, Calvin Coolidge takes the second spot of controversial-free presidents on this list. His no-nonsense presidency restored public faith in the office

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after the scandal-wracked presidency of Harding. Herbert Hoover AP When veterans of World War I gathered in the capitol to demand pay bonuses they were promised after many were left jobless from the Great Depression, President Herbert Hoover ordered the Army to go in and break up the protesters. Unfortunately for Hoover, the general in charge of Army troops, Douglas MacArthur, was under the impression that he was breaking up a socialist gathering, and was especially harsh in the methods he used to disperse the veterans. Already unpopular for his handling of the Depression, the brutal crushing of veterans earned him no love from the public, and he would find himself voted out at the end of his first term. Roosevelt AP Franklin D. Roosevelt found himself facing allegations from Republican leaders in Congress putting forth a story that he had left his dog, Fala, in the Aleutian Islands after a family trip. At the taxpayers expense he supposedly sent a Navy destroyer to rescue his dog. In response to the controversy, FDR would say, "These Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me, or my wife, or on my sons. No, not content with that, they now include my little dog, Fala. You know, Fala is Scotch, and being a Scottie, as soon as he learned that the Republican fiction writers in Congress and out had concocted a story that I had left him behind on the Aleutian Islands and had sent a destroyer back to find him " at a cost to the taxpayers of two or three, or eight or 20 million dollars " his Scotch soul was furious. He has not been the same dog since! I am accustomed to hearing malicious falsehoods about myself " such as that old, worm-eaten chestnut that I have represented myself as indispensable. But I think I have a right to resent, to object to libelous statements about my dog. Truman was stained with allegations of corruption in the aftermath. Kennedy was in constant scandal about his supposed relationships with a number of women. The Pentagon Papers were splashed across the front page of the New York Times, indicating that the president had systematically lied to the American people about American involvement and actions in the Southeast Asian region. Nixon ordered the break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D. Effectively clearing Nixon, Ford would face criticism from both parties for this act for the remainder of his presidency. James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. Senior administration officials secretly facilitated the sale of arms to Iran. The plan was further deepened when funds from the arms sales were used to fund anti-communist death squads in Nicaragua. While there is little evidence that directly links Reagan with the funding of the rebels in Nicaragua, his administration has been accused of actively sabotaging the investigation by withholding or destroying evidence. Bush AP George H. To this day, Villapando remains the only sitting treasurer to be sent to prison. He was then impeached for perjury, but after a day trial was acquitted and all charges were dropped. Bush were then fired. Supposedly they were fired for prosecuting Republicans and not prosecuting Democrats. When the investigation began, numerous individuals in the Bush administration refused to testify under executive privilege and instead resigned, including Karl Rove. The administration has faced backlash for its handling of the attack and their public response in the aftermath. Several hearings headed by the GOP have investigated whether or not there was a cover-up launched by the Obama administration for political reasons. Saturday, November, 10, [View Archive Connect](#).

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### Chapter 2 : Decision Points by George W. Bush (, Hardcover) | eBay

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Nov 08, Jason rated it really liked it Recommends it for: Here goes my attempt at an objective review without political commentary. Always have been, and I supported and defended him right up through the end of presidency when even his own party was fleeing like lemmings from the man. I never let his lack of prowess with speaking the English language serve as a measuring mark of his intelligence. I readily admit that his speaking ability leaves much to be desired, and I must confess that his writing style is also not above reproach. Having endured eight years of his speeches, this is not surprising. His writing style is reminiscent of those speeches. Also, being thought of as a moron may have worked in his favor as it caused people to "misunderestimate" him often. I really liked the way this book was laid out. I usually like my history lined up chronologically, but the topical set up actually works very well since many of the topics covered spanned many years of the presidency. The first that come to mind for almost anyone are the Iraqi and Afghani wars, but his work for AIDS relief in Africa, and the Freedom Agenda promoting democracy throughout the world also span several years. He covers all of the most contentious issues. One thing I was glad to see in this book was Bush defending himself against critics, which is something he rarely did while he was in office. Others would defend him, but I hardly recall him doing it for himself. Some decisions that completely baffled me when he made them are now much clearer. Boy, do I know how true that is since I do some pretty hardcore hating on the other team, and at certain times there is no explanation good enough to justify their behavior to me. Allow me to use an analogy of wolves and sheep from that great movie Babe to exemplify. There comes a part in the movie where a dog which is called a "wolf" by the sheep must speak to the sheep. She "decided to speak very slowly, for it was a cold fact of nature that sheep were stupid, and there was nothing that could convince her otherwise. OK, back to the book. No matter what move he made, it was going to be vilified by everybody. But, such is the bane of the presidency, regardless of who is occupying the Oval Office. Uganda had been working on their AIDS epidemic before we got involved with sending money, education, medicine, etc. The Ugandans "employed an aggressive prevention campaign known as ABC: Abstinence, Be faithful, or else use a Condom. However, "as expected, there were some objections. The biggest came in response to the ABC prevention strategy. I pointed out that abstinence worked every time. Some on the right objected to distributing condoms, which they felt would encourage promiscuity Ironically, both sides charged that we were imposing our values - religious fundamentalism if you asked one camp, sexual permissiveness if you asked the other. Neither argument made much sense to me since the ABC strategy had been developed in Africa, implemented in Africa, and successful in Africa. Here is a man who had values and principles and stuck to them to the best of his ability. Sometimes he went against what almost everyone else wanted him to do, such as the troop surge in Iraq. A couple of times he compromised those principles, such as with the bailout in , yet did it because he considered it to be the lesser of two evils. He was, and still seems to be, quite in favor of the free market. Stick to the book A relatively small group of people - many on Wall Street, some not - had gambled that the housing market would keep booming forever. In a normal environment, the free market would render its judgment and they could fail. I would have been happy to let them do so. But this was not a normal environment. At any rate, we learn a lot about the man himself with this book. He freely admits that he made some mistakes, and points out several of them. There is very little blaming and finger pointing in the book, and he sticks to talking about his side of the street mostly. He does point out where he feels like he was treated unfairly, but it never comes across as whiny, and he always says why he thought it was unfair. See the ABC example from a few paragraphs above. Another thing I liked about this book is that it has Barbara Bush in it, and I love her the mother, not the daughter. She has great one liners, and there are examples of that peppered throughout. I also like it when she jacks him up every now and then. If you can look at the issues

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discussed without getting bent around the axle, and have an interest in those issues, then you would probably like this book.

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### Chapter 3 : Decision Points by George W. Bush | calendrierdelascience.com

*In this candid and gripping account, President George W. Bush describes the critical decisions that shaped his presidency and personal life. George W. Bush served as president of the United States during eight of the most consequential years in American history.*

Detailed Summary Highlights U. Abraham Lincoln, often ranked as one of the three greatest presidents in U. The war nominally ended slavery, but for many decades African Americans experienced only marginally more freedom from bitter white southerners than before their emancipation. Thomas Jefferson, although a proponent of small government, imposed a trade embargo that curtailed the liberty he championed rhetorically and led to starvation in America. His unconstitutional approach to making the Louisiana Purchase and his forced relocation of Native Americans to less desirable land farther west set bad precedents for acquiring new territory. He also set other bad precedents, including unconstitutionally crushing the Whiskey Rebellion. Barack Obama and George W. Bush are usually considered very different in their political outlooks and philosophies, but their policy track records show striking similarities. As for Barack Obama, this updated edition of *Recarving Rushmore* rates him as one of the worst presidents in U. Yet despite significant flaws, to his credit Obama has had the most restrained foreign policy since Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, making his presidency slightly better overall than that of George W. Synopsis Who were the best and worst U. *Recarving Rushmore* takes a distinctly new approach to evaluating the presidents. The prejudices that analysts bring to a ranking of the presidents, however, are more complex than that, Eland explains. Presidents are often judged by their personal charisma, intellect, oratory skill, or management style. Moreover, analysts often overemphasize the importance of presidents who presided before Woodrow Wilson, when the size and scope of the executive branch was much smaller. More recently, however, presidents have tended to abandon that foreign policy for one of overseas interventionism, a trend Eland views as counterproductive and costly. In the category of promoting peace, Eland gives his highest rankings to three presidents: Tyler exercised restraint in dealing with an internal rebellion, a bloody Indian war, and a boundary dispute with Canada. In foreign policy, Harding was exceptional, keeping the U. Hoover, although a proponent of U. Eland gives his lowest peace rankings to six presidents: It is crucial to keep in mind that economic performance during one administration can be determined by policies enacted by prior administrations. Tyler supported a sound policy of limiting the growth of the money supply, and generally opposed high tariffs, a national bank, and federal welfare to the states. Van Buren showed proper restraint during an economic crisis and worked toward limiting federal and executive power. Eland gives his lowest prosperity rankings to two presidents: Roosevelt the New Deal, wartime expansion of the state and Lyndon Johnson the Great Society and other federal programs. Closely behind are William McKinley new taxes, favoritism for select businesses, progressivism, Woodrow Wilson Federal Reserve System, Federal Trade Commission, renewed antitrust activism, groundwork for expanded government, and Harry S Truman Fair Deal, intervention in labor disputes, increased economic intervention. Preserving Liberty Many presidents have expanded the executive branch beyond what the Founders envisioned. This inflation of presidential power has distorted the original system of checks and balances at the expense of the legislative branches of government, and has resulted in the imperial presidency and the erosion of U. Eland ranks George Washington as the best president in the category of preserving liberty, with John Tyler and Grover Cleveland tied for second place. Although Washington expanded executive power beyond what the Constitution envisioned, he also limited presidential powers in crucial ways, stepped down after two terms, and ensured the survival of the new constitutional system. Cleveland pursued benevolent policies toward Native Americans, including trying to protect land in Indian Territory now Oklahoma from white settlers, giving them U. Eland gives his lowest rankings in the liberty category to Woodrow Wilson Palmer raids, Espionage and Sedition Acts, with Thomas Jefferson Embargo Act, Indian policy and Harry Truman domestic surveillance, persecution of alleged communists, erosion of constitutional checks and balances tied

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for the second lowest ranking. Bush expanded executive power, erosion of civil liberties. Presidents based on the constitutional principles that each swore to uphold. Congressman and candidate for President of the United States. Ivan Eland shatters the grand illusion that great presidents are those who wage war or deprive people of their liberty, either here or abroad. Recarving Rushmore is must reading. In this well-written book, Eland offers readers insightful surveys of every president from Washington to Obama. Readers will never see the presidency the same way again. The more European-style fascism the better seems to be their criterion. In Recarving Rushmore Ivan Eland makes a novel proposal: Why not rank presidents according to the traditional American values of peace, prosperity and liberty? We are propagandized to adulate all American presidents simply by virtue of the office they held, regardless of what their record might have been. Indeed, it appears that the worse they trampled on civil liberties the higher the regard in which they are held. Eland has provided a far more accurate account of the actions of these men and they are indeed men, not gods, pointing out the manner in which most abused their power and oppressed the nation. Historians who are dedicated to the truth are indebted to him for his efforts. Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter are anointed the two best modern presidents, and Bill Clinton is declared in some respects more conservative than George W. His rankings and rationales will provide provocative material for discussions of leadership where individual liberty is a priority. Avoiding the usual popularity contest of presidential rankings, Eland weighs practical realities of policies and accomplishments to come up with rankings that are sometimes surprising and always interesting. Ranking the Presidents on Peace, Prosperity, and Liberty, he uses them to rank 40 previous presidents, yielding results that, he says, surprised him. Despite occasional dull wording, his writing provokes sober reflection about what a president ought to be. Reading him may be quite an adventure for an awful lot of citizens, including, perhaps, the first citizen. In his book Recarving Rushmore: He ranks them on how well they adhered to the principles of limited government as put down in the Constitution by our Founding Framers. Eland judges presidents not by who they were, how they led or how they governed, but by what they did. Eland thinks presidential ratings are too easily swayed by charisma, activism and service during a crisis. In his book, he ranks the White House occupants according to how much they fulfilled the aims of the Founding Fathers to bring peace, prosperity and liberty to the country. However, this information is strong enough to launch lively reflection and discussion among the thoughtful and reflective. In the final analysis, is it imperative or even important that U.

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