

**THE ESSENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL BOOK SHELF:  
A SELECTIVE READERS' AND COLLECTORS' GUIDE**  
BY TOM TRESCOTT AND DAN WEINBERG

*We are proud to present the fifth edition (updated November 2015) of our check-list/guide to be used in assembling a basic collection of biographies of the Presidents of the United States. This newly updated bibliography represents just a sampling of the works available; we have not attempted to place before you all the essential titles on this vast subject, but instead have focused on the best full life studies.*

*With the exception of a few revised editions, we have only cited the first (in some cases there is only one) trade edition of each book. We will be happy to let you know about later printings and current availability, as well as the publication of new biographies worthy of inclusion in this list. You, the collector, can make your own rules: you may acquire these books for reading pleasure only, or you may wish to assemble a collection of first and limited editions, perhaps adding manuscript material as well.*

*Here, then, are the biographies of the men who have for over two hundred years dominated American history. We suggest that you download a copy of this guide, mark what you need, and return it to us as a "want list" for our files. We will then prepare a special quotation for you of the requested titles in stock, following up with future quotes as other desired books become available. Enjoy building your library!*

**1. GEORGE WASHINGTON (Federalist, 1789-1797)**

**Chernow, Ron. WASHINGTON: A LIFE. New York: 2010. 928p., ft., illus.** *A groundbreaking, magisterial one-volume biography, from one of our most elegant storytellers.*

**Flexner, James Thomas. GEORGE WASHINGTON. Boston: 1965-1972. 4 volumes, fts., illus., illus. eps., maps, map eps.** *Thoroughly researched and well written; essential for one studying the life of the first president.*

**THE FORGE OF EXPERIENCE (1732-1775). 1965.  
IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1775-1783). 1968.  
AND THE NEW NATION (1783-1793). 1970.  
ANGUISH AND FAREWELL (1793-1799). 1972.**

**Freeman, Douglas Southall. GEORGE WASHINGTON: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 1948-1957. 7 volumes, fts., illus., maps, map eps.** *A distinguished work by an eminent historian, and the definitive portrait of Washington. Mr. Freeman died in 1953, but his assistants completed the last volume in the series.*

**Volumes One & Two. YOUNG WASHINGTON. 1948  
Volumes Three & Four. PLANTER AND PATRIOT; LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION. 1951.  
Volume Five. VICTORY WITH THE HELP OF FRANCE. 1952.  
Volume Six. PATRIOT AND PRESIDENT. 1954.  
Volume Seven. FIRST IN PEACE. By John Alexander Carroll and Mary Wells Ashworth. 1957.**

**Freeman, Douglas Southall. WASHINGTON: AN ABRIDGEMENT IN ONE VOLUME BY RICHARD HARWELL OF THE SEVEN VOLUME GEORGE WASHINGTON. New York: 1968. 780p., ft., illus., illus. eps., maps.** *Richard Harwell's fine abridgement of the seven volume set.*

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## 2. JOHN ADAMS (Federalist, 1797-1801)

**Ferling, John. JOHN ADAMS: A LIFE.** Knoxville: 1992. 535p., illus. *The best one-volume work.*

**Grant, James. JOHN ADAMS: PARTY OF ONE.** New York: 2005. 530p., illus. *An excellent biography of this complex and often contradictory Founding Father.*

**McCullough, David. JOHN ADAMS.** New York: 2001. 751p., ft., illus., illus. eps. *A sweeping popular biography by a Pulitzer Prize-winner.*

**Smith, Page. JOHN ADAMS.** Garden City, NY: 1962. 2 vols., 1170p., illus. *This first full study after the publication of the Adams papers is first rate.*

## 3. THOMAS JEFFERSON (Democratic-Republican, 1801-1809)

**Bernstein, R.B. THOMAS JEFFERSON.** Oxford and New York: 2003. 253p., ft., illus. *The definitive short biography of the enigmatic founder.*

**Malone, Dumas. JEFFERSON AND HIS TIME.** Boston: 1948-1981. 6 volumes, fts., illus., maps. *The essential work on Jefferson, and one of the greatest contributions to American historical literature in the 20th century.*

**Volume One. JEFFERSON THE VIRGINIAN. 1948.**

**Volume Two. JEFFERSON AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN. 1951.**

**Volume Three. JEFFERSON AND THE ORDEAL OF LIBERTY. 1962.**

**Volume Four. JEFFERSON THE PRESIDENT: FIRST TERM, 1801-1805. 1970.**

**Volume Five. JEFFERSON THE PRESIDENT: SECOND TERM, 1805-1809. 1974.**

**Volume Six. THE SAGE OF MONTICELLO. 1981.**

**Meacham, Jon. THOMAS JEFFERSON: THE ART OF POWER.** New York: 2012. 759p., illus. *"This is probably the best single-volume biography of Jefferson ever written." --- Gordon S. Wood. A great read.*

**Peterson, Merrill D. THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE NEW NATION: A BIOGRAPHY.** New York: 1970. 1072p., ft., illus. *Based upon a rare command of the Jefferson literature, this is the best one-volume life of the third president.*

## 4. JAMES MADISON (Democratic-Republican, 1809-1817)

**Brant, Irving. JAMES MADISON.** Indianapolis: 1941-1961. 6 volumes, fts., illus. *Impeccable scholarship presented with verve. The definitive work on Madison.*

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**Volume Three. FATHER OF THE CONSTITUTION, 1787-1800. 1950.**

**Volume Four. SECRETARY OF STATE, 1800-1809. 1953.**

**Volume Five. PRESIDENT, 1809-1812. 1956.**

**Volume Six. COMMANDER IN CHIEF, 1812-1836. 1961.**

**Brant, Irving. THE FOURTH PRESIDENT: A LIFE OF JAMES MADISON.** Indianapolis: 1970. 681p. *A masterful condensation of the multi-volume original.*

**Ketcham, Ralph Louis. JAMES MADISON: A BIOGRAPHY.** New York: 1971. 753p., illus. *A well-written review of Madison's career.*

Rutland, Robert A. **JAMES MADISON: THE FOUNDING FATHER.** New York: 1987. 287p., illus. *A fresh, personal biography.*

**5. JAMES MONROE (Democratic-Republican, 1817-1825)**

Ammon, Harry. **JAMES MONROE.** New York: 1971. 706p., ft. *A fine, thorough treatment.*

Cresson, William P. **JAMES MONROE.** Chapel Hill: 1946. 577p., ft., illus. *Excellent scholarly biography of the least known of the Virginia presidents.*

Styron, Arthur. **THE LAST OF THE COCKED HATS: JAMES MONROE & THE VIRGINIA DYNASTY.** Norman: 1945. 480p., ft., illus. *A good study of the man and his times.*

**6. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (Democratic-Republican, 1825-1829)**

Bemis, Samuel F. **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY; JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND THE UNION.** New York: 1949-56. 2 vols. (588p.; 546p.), ft., (vol. 1), plates, maps, fold. maps (vol. 1). *Scholarly and interesting. Bemis emphasizes the enduring influence Adams had on the growth of the Republic.*

Hecht, Marie B. **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF AN INDEPENDENT MAN.** New York: 1972. 682p., illus. *A vigorous examination of the last president intimately tied to the values of the Revolutionary generation.*

Kaplan, Fred. **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS: AMERICAN VISIONARY.** New York: 2014. 652p., illus. *This most recent full biography persuasively demonstrates how Adams' progressive vision guided his life and helped shape the course of the nation's future.*

**7. ANDREW JACKSON (Democrat, 1829-1837)**

Brands, H.W. **ANDREW JACKSON: HIS LIFE AND TIMES.** New York and London: 2005. 619p., illus., map eps. *Excellent popular biography of the first "common man" to rise to the presidency and the most famous American of his time.*

James, Marquis. **ANDREW JACKSON: BORDER CAPTAIN; PORTRAIT OF A PRESIDENT.** Indianapolis: 1933-1937. 2 vols. (461p.; 627p.), fts., plates, maps, map eps. *Epic, exciting, and regarded as the standard life of Jackson until Remini.*

Parton, James. **THE LIFE OF ANDREW JACKSON.** New York: 1859-60. 3 vols. (636p.; 672p.; 734p.), fts., fold. facsim. *The first major biography, with pioneering research on Jackson's early life.*

Remini, Robert V. **ANDREW JACKSON....** New York: 1977-1984. 3 vols., (502p.; 469p.; 638p.), illus., maps. *The definitive work on "Old Hickory". Jackson is revealed as a man of conflicting ambitions and emotions --- heroic, but filled with doubt and even self-destructiveness.*

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...AND THE COURSE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1833-1845. 1984.

Remini, Robert V. **THE LIFE OF ANDREW JACKSON.** New York: 1988. 412p., illus., maps. *An excellent one-volume abridgement of the above.*

## 8. MARTIN VAN BUREN (Democrat, 1837-1841)

Alexander, Holmes. **AMERICAN TALLEYRAND: THE CAREER OF MARTIN VAN BUREN.** New York: 1935. 430p., illus. *The classic life of the founder of "machine politics" in the United States.*

Lynch, Denis Tilden. **AN EPOCH AND A MAN: MARTIN VAN BUREN AND HIS TIMES.** New York: 1929. 566p., ft., plates. *A standard work on Van Buren.*

Niven, John. **MARTIN VAN BUREN AND THE ROMANTIC AGE OF AMERICAN POLITICS.** New York and Oxford: 1983. 736p., illus. *Thoughtful study of Van Buren and his time, and the first modern biography based extensively on the man's papers.*

Silbey, Joel H. **MARTIN VAN BUREN AND THE EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN POPULAR POLITICS.** Lanham, MD: 2002. 237p., ft. *An excellent concise biography of one of the most important political leaders of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 9. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON (Whig, 1841)

Cleaves, Freeman. **OLD TIPPECANOE: WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON AND HIS TIME.** New York: 1939. 422p., ft., illus., maps. *Sympathetic biography of the "forgotten president" who served the briefest term. Although Harrison held office for only a month, his distinguished career spanned several decades.*

Goebel, Dorothy B. **WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON: A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY.** Indianapolis: 1926. 456p., ft., plates. *Despite its age, a work essential to the study of Harrison.*

## 10. JOHN TYLER (Whig, 1841-1845)

Chitwood, Oliver Perry. **JOHN TYLER: CHAMPION OF THE OLD SOUTH.** New York: 1939. 496p., ft. *A scholarly work on a complex character: the first of the accidental presidents.*

Seager, Robert, II. **AND TYLER TOO: A BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN & JULIA TYLER.** New York: 1963. 681p. *The essential book on Tyler.*

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Merry, Robert W. **A COUNTRY OF VAST DESIGNS: JAMES K. POLK, THE MEXICAN WAR, AND THE CONQUEST OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.** New York: 2009. 576p., illus., map. *Excellent recent narrative of the man and his times.*

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Bauer, K. Jack. **ZACHARY TAYLOR: SOLDIER, PLANTER, STATESMAN OF THE OLD SOUTHWEST.** Baton Rouge: 1985. 348p., illus., maps. *A balanced and thoroughly researched biography of a man not so simple nor so nonpolitical as many historians have believed.*

**Dyer, Brainerd. ZACHARY TAYLOR. Baton Rouge: 1946. 455p., ft., illus., maps. An excellent one-volume work, and part of the "Southern Biography Series".**

**Hamilton, Holman. ZACHARY TAYLOR: SOLDIER OF THE REPUBLIC; SOLDIER IN THE WHITE HOUSE. Indianapolis: 1941-1951. 2 vols. (335p.; 496p.), fts., illus. The definitive life of "Old Rough and Ready".**

**13. MILLARD FILLMORE (Whig, 1850-1853)**

**Rayback, Robert J. MILLARD FILLMORE: BIOGRAPHY OF A PRESIDENT. Buffalo: 1959. 470p., illus. A good examination of a man whose name did not become a household word.**

**14. FRANKLIN PIERCE (Democrat, 1853-1857)**

**Nichols, Roy Franklin. FRANKLIN PIERCE: YOUNG HICKORY OF THE GRANITE HILLS. Philadelphia: 1931. 615p., ft., plates. (Revised edition --- 1958. 625p.) A discerning portrait of Pierce, and the only scholarly biography of the man.**

**15. JAMES BUCHANAN (Democrat, 1857-1861)**

**Klein, Philip S. PRESIDENT JAMES BUCHANAN: A BIOGRAPHY. University Park, PA: 506p., illus. An excellent scholarly look at one of the most misunderstood chief executives.**

**16. ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Republican, 1861-1865)**

**Burlingame, Michael. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A LIFE. Baltimore: 2008. 2 vols. (942p.; 1034p.), illus. Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, this landmark work establishes Burlingame as the most assiduous Lincoln biographer of recent memory.**

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**Donald, David Herbert. LINCOLN. New York: 1995. 714p., ft., illus. The Pulitzer Prize-winner.**

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**Sandburg, Carl. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE PRAIRIE YEARS; THE WAR YEARS. New York: 1926-1939. 6 volumes (PRAIRIE 2 vols.; WAR 4 vols.), fts., illus., maps. Essential for any serious Lincoln library. Sandburg captured the essence of the Lincoln myth.**

**Thomas, Benjamin P. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 1952. 548p., ft., illus., maps. The classic one-volume life of Lincoln for over sixty years.**

**White, Ronald C., Jr. A. LINCOLN: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 2009. 796p., ft., illus., maps. Through meticulous research of the just completed Lincoln Legal Papers, as well as of recently discovered letters and photographs, White has produced what is now the standard single volume life of Lincoln.**

**JEFFERSON DAVIS (President of the Confederate States of America, 1861-1865)**

**Cooper, William J., Jr. JEFFERSON DAVIS, AMERICAN. New York: 2000. 757p., illus., maps. A full biography that evenly treats both the public and the private Davis, and balances his contributions before the Civil War with his Confederate presidency.**

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Davis, William C. **JEFFERSON DAVIS: THE MAN AND HIS HOUR.** New York: 1991. 784p., ft., illus. *A sympathetic, elegantly written treatment.*

Strode, Hudson. **JEFFERSON DAVIS.** New York: 1955-1966. 4 volumes, fts., map eps. *The most thorough study of this tragic figure. The final volume is a collection of private letters.*

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**PRIVATE LETTERS, 1823-1889. 1966.**

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Trefousse, Hans L. **ANDREW JOHNSON: A BIOGRAPHY.** New York and London: 1989. 463p., illus. *The most recent full biography, by the foremost authority on the Reconstruction era, is the best one.*

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Brands, H.W. **THE MAN WHO SAVED THE UNION: ULYSSES S. GRANT IN WAR AND PEACE.** New York: 2012. 718p., illus., map eps. *A Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer provides a compelling portrait of the man who saved the Union on the battlefield and consolidated that victory as president.*

Lewis, Lloyd. **CAPTAIN SAM GRANT.** Boston: 1950. 512p., ft. Catton, Bruce. **GRANT MOVES SOUTH; GRANT TAKES COMMAND.** Boston: 1960-1969. 564p; 556p., fts., maps. *After Lewis died, Catton continued the multi-volume biography. Still a masterful study, by two superb writers and historians, though it only takes Grant through the end of the Civil War.*

McFeely, William S. **GRANT: A BIOGRAPHY.** New York: 1981. 592p., ft., illus. *A complete biography in one volume, which won the Pulitzer Prize. McFeely analyzes Grant's personality to explain his meteoric rise.*

Simpson, Brooks D. **ULYSSES S. GRANT: TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY, 1822-1865.** Boston and New York: 2000. 533p., ft., illus., maps. *The first of two projected volumes takes Grant through the end of the Civil War.*

Smith, Jean Edward. **GRANT.** New York: 2001. 781p., ft., illus., maps. *A recent work with a revisionist, positive slant on Grant's presidency. Exhaustively researched and wonderfully written.*

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Hoogenboom, Ari. **RUTHERFORD B. HAYES: WARRIOR AND PRESIDENT.** Lawrence: 1995. 626p., illus. *A comprehensive political biography.*

#### **20. JAMES A. GARFIELD (Republican, 1881)**

Peskin, Allan. **JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD.** Kent, OH: 1978. 716p., ft. *The best account of Garfield and the "gilded age".*

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**Taylor, John M. GARFIELD OF OHIO: THE AVAILABLE MAN. New York: 1970. 336p., ft., illus.** *Another fine modern study of the president who served only six months before he was assassinated.*

**21. CHESTER A. ARTHUR (Republican, 1881-1885)**

**Reeves, Thomas C. GENTLEMAN BOSS: THE LIFE OF CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR. New York: 1975. 500p., ft., illus.** *The only full-length biography of Arthur, and an excellent book.*

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**Brodsky, Alyn. GROVER CLEVELAND: A STUDY IN CHARACTER. New York: 2000. 496p., illus.** *A solid full study of the only Democrat elected to the presidency between the Civil War and World War One.*

**Nevins, Allan. GROVER CLEVELAND: A STUDY IN COURAGE. New York: 1932. 832p., ft., plates.** *The best biography of Cleveland, by one of the great American historians. Cleveland was the only president who served non-consecutive terms.*

**23. BENJAMIN HARRISON (Republican, 1889-1893)**

**Sievers, Harry J. BENJAMIN HARRISON. 1952-1968.3 vols. (344p.; 502p.; 319p.), ft., illus., illus. eps., maps.** *The only comprehensive biography available.*

**HOOSIER WARRIOR, THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR YEARS, 1833-1865. Chicago: 1952. (Revised edition --- New York: 1960. 374p.)**

**HOOSIER STATESMAN, FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE WHITE HOUSE, 1865-1888. New York: 1959.**

**HOOSIER PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE AND AFTER. Indianapolis: 1968.**

**24. GROVER CLEVELAND (Democrat, 1893-1897)**

*See list for twenty-second president.*

**25. WILLIAM McKINLEY (Republican, 1897-1901)**

**Leech, Margaret. IN THE DAYS OF McKINLEY. New York: 1959. 686p., illus.** *Valuable analysis of a neglected and little understood man.*

**Morgan, H. Wayne. WILLIAM McKINLEY AND HIS AMERICA. Syracuse: 1963. 595p., ft., illus. (Revised edition --- Kent & London: 2003. 672p.)** *A masterfully done full life.*

**26. THEODORE ROOSEVELT (Republican, 1901-1909)**

**Brands, H.W. TR: THE LAST ROMANTIC. New York: 1997. 897p., illus.** *Insightful and vibrant.*

**Dalton, Kathleen. THEODORE ROOSEVELT: A STRENUOUS LIFE. New York: 2002. 708p., illus.** *A vigorous look that focuses on Roosevelt's family life and the Progressive era.*

**Harbaugh, William H. POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT. New York: 1961. 568p.** *An excellent read.*

**Morris, Edmund. THE RISE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT. New York: 1979. 886p., illus., maps.; THEODORE REX. New York: 2001. 772p., illus., map.; COLONEL ROOSEVELT.**

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**New York: 2010. 766p., illus., facsim.** *An engaging portrait, thirty years in the making, that has become the definitive biography. The first volume covers Roosevelt's life to the assassination of McKinley; the second is TR in the Bully Pulpit; the third details his active post presidency.*

**Pringle, Henry F. THEODORE ROOSEVELT: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 1931. 627p., ft., illus.** *For many years, the only scholarly biography available. Good insights into a colorful, often blustering personality.*

**27. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (Republican, 1909-1913)**

**Duffy, Herbert S. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 1930. 345p., ft., plates.** *An acceptable one-volume study.*

**Pringle, Henry F. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT. New York: 1939. 2 vols., 1106p., fts., illus.** *Though older, still the best biography of the only president who also became Chief Justice.*

**28. WOODROW WILSON (Democrat, 1913-1921)**

**Baker, Ray Stannard. WOODROW WILSON: LIFE & LETTERS. New York: 1927-1939. 8 volumes, fts., plates, facsim.** *Still a major work on the scholar-president.*

**Volume One. YOUTH, 1856-1890. 1927.**

**Volume Two. PRINCETON, 1890-1910. 1927.**

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**Volume Seven. WAR LEADER, APRIL 6, 1917 - FEBRUARY 28, 1918. 1939.**

**Volume Eight. ARMISTICE, MARCH - NOVEMBER 11, 1918. 1939.**

**Cooper, John Milton, Jr. WOODROW WILSON: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 2009. 702p., illus.** *The life and achievements of a transformative president, by one of our foremost Wilson scholars.*

**Heckscher, August. WOODROW WILSON. New York: 1991. 743p., illus.** *The best one-volume treatment.*

**Link, Arthur S. WILSON. Princeton: 1947-1965. 5 volumes, illus., plates.** *An outstanding work, in need of an historian to complete the task.*

**THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE. 1947.**

**THE NEW FREEDOM. 1956.**

**THE STRUGGLE FOR NEUTRALITY, 1914-1915. 1960.**

**CONFUSIONS AND CRISES, 1915-1916. 1964.**

**CAMPAIGNS FOR PROGRESSIVISM AND PEACE, 1916-1917. 1965.**

**Walworth, Arthur. WOODROW WILSON: I AMERICAN PROPHET; II WORLD PROPHET. New York: 1958. 2 vols. (436p; 439p.), fts. (Revised edition --- New York: 1978. 454p.; 438p.)** *A Pulitzer Prize-winning full biography.*

**29. WARREN G. HARDING (Republican, 1921-1923)**

**Russell, Francis. THE SHADOW OF BLOOMING GROVE: WARREN G. HARDING IN HIS TIMES. New York: 1968. 691p.** *Though flawed, still the best biography of a president who was too human.*

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**30. CALVIN COOLIDGE (Republican, 1923-1929)**

**McCoy, Donald R. CALVIN COOLIDGE: THE QUIET PRESIDENT.** New York: 1967. 472p., illus. *Gives this business president fair treatment.*

**Sobel, Robert. COOLIDGE: AN AMERICAN ENIGMA.** Washington: 1998. 462p. *A first-rate biography by the acclaimed historian of Wall Street.*

**White, William Allen. PURITAN IN BABYLON: THE STORY OF CALVIN COOLIDGE.** New York: 1938. 460p., ft., illus. *The much maligned "Silent Cal" is placed in better perspective by a famous editor.*

**31. HERBERT HOOVER (Republican, 1929-1933)**

**Burner, David. HERBERT HOOVER: A PUBLIC LIFE.** New York: 1979. 433p., illus. *A balanced political biography.*

**Lyons, Eugene. HERBERT HOOVER: A BIOGRAPHY.** Garden City, NY: 1964. 444p., illus. eps. *The best single volume Hoover biography to date reveals the human side of a seemingly austere figure.*

**Nash, George H.; Clements, Kendrick A.; Jeansonne, Glen; Best, Gary Dean. THE LIFE OF HERBERT HOOVER.** New York and London: 1983-2013. 6 volumes, illus. *This definitive study of an able, but unlucky president; authorized and subsidized by the Hoover Presidential Library Association. Nash penned the first three volumes of this biography, which was completed by three different authors.*

**THE ENGINEER, 1874-1914. 1983.**  
**THE HUMANITARIAN, 1914-1917. 1988.**  
**MASTER OF EMERGENCIES, 1917-1918. 1996.**  
**IMPERFECT VISIONARY, 1918-1928. 2010**  
**FIGHTING QUAKER, 1928-1933. 2012**  
**KEEPER OF THE TORCH, 1933-1964. 2013**

**32. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (Democrat, 1933-1945)**

**Black, Conrad. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT: CHAMPION OF FREEDOM.** New York: 2003. 1280p., illus. *In this magisterial work, Black makes a compelling case for Roosevelt as the most important figure of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

**Burns, James MacGregor. ROOSEVELT: THE LION AND THE FOX; THE SOLDIER OF FREEDOM.** New York: 1956-1970. 2 vols. (553p.; 722p.), illus. *The first complete biography of FDR.*

**Davis, Kenneth S. FDR: A HISTORY.** New York: 1972-2000. 5 volumes. *A sweeping chronicle that, due to the death of the author, ends before the end of Roosevelt.*

**THE BECKONING OF DESTINY, 1882-1928. 1972.**  
**THE NEW YORK YEARS, 1928-1933. 1985.**  
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**INTO THE STORM, 1937-1940. 1993.**  
**THE WAR PRESIDENT, 1940-1943. 2000.**

Freidel, Frank. **FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. Boston: 1952-1973. 4 volumes, illus.**  
*Projected to be six volumes and the most comprehensive biography of FDR, the work was abandoned after getting Roosevelt through the "Hundred Days".*

**THE APPRENTICESHIP. 1952.**  
**THE ORDEAL. 1954.**  
**THE TRIUMPH. 1956.**  
**LAUNCHING THE NEW DEAL. 1973.**

Freidel, Frank. **FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY. Boston: 1990. 710p., illus.** *Since Freidel never completed his multi-volume biography, he wrote the standard one-volume work instead.*

Smith, Jean Edward. **FDR. New York: 2007. 858p., illus.** *A superlative Parkman Prize winner, by "today's foremost biographer of formidable figures in American history." --- George F. Will.*

### **33. HARRY S. TRUMAN (Democrat, 1945-1953)**

Ferrell, Robert H. **HARRY S. TRUMAN: A LIFE. Columbia, MO: 1994. 501p., illus.** *A fine study by an authority on the American presidency.*

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Reeves, Thomas C. **A QUESTION OF CHARACTER: A LIFE OF JOHN F. KENNEDY.** New York: 1991. 510p., illus. *A very critical study.*

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