

U.S. Presidents Reference Library

Research Bibliography

January – April 2021

30 April 2021 07:45

Entries are listed in chronological order.

Web links included in this bibliography were valid as of the date entered.

Do Presidential Approval Ratings Still Matter?

Bloomberg, 30 April 2021

Jonathan Bernstein

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-04-30/do-presidential-approval-ratings-still-matter>

-- Biden's disapproval ratings so far tend toward the low side of recent presidents over their first 100 days. This continues the trend of new presidents beginning with significant disapproval; and his approval has remained remarkably stable.

Biden Travels to Georgia On His 100th Day To Meet With Former President Carter

NPR, WAMU 88.5, 29 April 2021

Alana Wise

<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/29/992053212/biden-travels-to-georgia-on-his-100th-day-to-meet-with-former-president-carter>

-- President Biden met with former President Jimmy Carter and former first Lady Rosalynn Carter on Thursday in their hometown of Plains, Georgia. Biden has a longstanding friendship with the 96-year old former president. Carter said that "Joe Biden was my first and most effective supporter in the Senate."

Ex-Trump vice president Pence makes first public appearance since January

Reuters, 29 April 2021

Steve Holland

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/ex-trump-vice-president-pence-makes-first-public-appearance-since-january-2021-04-30/>

-- Former Vice President Mike Pence spoke for half an hour Thursday to the Palmetto Family Council in Columbia, a religious conservative group, in South Carolina. He appeared in good health following pacemaker implant surgery just a few weeks ago. Pence outlined how Republicans took control of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010 after two years of Democrat Barack Obama's presidency.

Jill Wine-Banks, Author of ‘The Watergate Girl,’ Discusses Impact of Scandal, Lessons Learned, and Relevancy Today

Evanston RoundTable, 29 April 2021

Wendi Kromash

<https://evanstonroundtable.com/2021/04/29/jill-wine-banks-author-of-the-watergate-girl-discusses-impact-of-scandal-lessons-learned-and-relevancy-today/>

-- Jill Wine-Banks was a member of the Watergate prosecutorial team and spoke as a Levy Lecture speaker on 20 April 2021. She is the author of “The Watergate Girl, My for Truth and Justice Against a Criminal President.”

Ted Cruz was roasted for appearing to nod off as Biden spoke. He blamed the president: ‘Boring, but radical.’

The Washington Post, 29 April 2021

Katie Shepherd

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/04/29/cruz-sleeps-biden-boring-speech/>

-- As President Biden detailed his immigration policy in his address to a joint session of Congress on the heels of his first 100 days in office, C-SPAN's cameras cut to Senator Ted Cruz (R-Tex.). With viewers watching, Cruz's eyelids drooped repeatedly, and his eyes appeared to roll back into his head.

President Biden is a very different pandemic president than Woodrow Wilson

Newsday, 28 April 2021

E. Thomas Ewing, The Washington Post

<https://www.newsday.com/opinion/coronavirus/president-joe-biden-woodrow-wilson-pandemic-covid-19-influenza-epidemic-1918-comparisons-1.50230365>

-- Biden's speech will differ from President Wilson's speech on 2 December 1918, three months after the deadly influenza epidemic began spreading in the United States. Wilson made no mention of lives lost to the epidemic, Instead focusing on the war, pursuing economic recovery, and security international peace.

Why Biden's speech before Congress isn't called the State of the Union

CBS News, 28 April 2021

Caroline Linton

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/state-of-the-union-joe-biden-address-before-joint-session-of-congress/>

-- Every president since Ronald Reagan has chosen to call their first speech before a joint session of Congress—which is generally more forward-looking than speeches that come in following years—something other than the State of the Union. The Congressional Research Service notes that regardless of the title, “scholars consider these speeches to serve the same ceremonial, rhetorical, and political function as a typical State of the Union.

The New Electoral Map Is George W. Bush's Revenge

National Review, 27 April 2021

Dan McLaughlin

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/the-new-electoral-map-is-george-w-bushs-revenge/>

-- The new map unveiled yesterday of the House of Representatives and the Electoral College has many implications for American politics in the coming decade. It will be used to conduct the presidential elections of 2024 and 2028. Looking back at the past six presidential elections since 2000, which candidate would have benefited the most from the new map? George W. Bush.

Newspaper from 1790 featuring George Washington's address to Savannah's Jewish community to be auctioned in Los Angeles

WTOC 11, 26 April 2021

Laura Garrison

<https://www.wtoc.com/2021/04/26/newspaper-featuring-george-washingtons-address-savannahs-jewish-community-be-auctioned-los-angeles/>

-- The issue of the "Massachusetts Spy: Or, The Worcester Gazette" is dated July 1, 1790. President Washington's address was a response to Levi Sheftal, who spoke on behalf of The Hebrew Congregation of Savannah, Georgia on May 6 1789. In his address, Sheftal thanked the President for his support of religious tolerance in the new nation.

Perspective: What President McKinley Reminded Me About the Joys of Travel

Pittsburgh Magazine, 26 April 2021

Sean Collier

<https://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/perspectives-what-president-mckinley-reminded-me-about-the-joys-of-travel/>

-- A unplanned trip to Niles, Ohio and a visit to the President McKinley National Memorial. In nearby Canton, Ohio is a much larger memorial at the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum.

Photograph of Former President Donald J. Trump Is Newly Acquired by the National Portrait Gallery

Smithsonian Magazine, 26 April 2021

Gia Yetikyel

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/national-portrait-gallery-announces-newly-acquired-photograph-donald-trump-go-view-180977595/>

-- When the museum reopens May 14, the portrait of the 45th President will be on view in the "America's Presidents" exhibition. The photograph was taken by Pari Dukovic for Time magazine in 2019

Shed role of Rabindranath Tagore, be a Roosevelt, Sanjay Raut advice to PM Narendra Modi

Times of India, 26 April 2021

Sujit Mahamulkar

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbai-shed-role-of-tagore-be-a-roosevelt-raut-advice-to-pm/articleshow/82248667.cms>

-- Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must “shed” the role of Rabindranath Tagore as the West Bengal assembly polls are over and don the mantle of Franklin Roosevelt to revive the economy. Citing the example of the US economy in 1930, he said then President Herbert Hoover had failed to anticipate the recession, but Roosevelt who was in the opposition contested the elections and unveiled a successful programme.

Opinion: Trump blazed a trail that clears the way for Biden

The Virginia-Pilot, 25 April 2021

Noah Smith, Tribune News Service

<https://www.pilotonline.com/opinion/columns/vp-ed-column-smith-0426-20210425-7ygpdqcyubhcrpu3auuhbdcjda-story.html>

-- Contrasts Trump/Biden with FDR/Reagan and how the newer president's big changes that they implemented actually began under their predecessors of the opposite party. Biden is benefiting from a change in momentum that began under Donald Trump.

Bush says he wrote in Condeleezza Rice for president in 2020

CNNpolitics, 23 April 2021

Veronica Stracqualuris

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/23/politics/george-w-bush-condoleezza-rice-2020-election/index.html>

-- Bush wrote in the name of former Secretary of State Rice on his 2020 presidential ballot than voting for his own party's nominee Donald Trump for reelection, he told People magazine. “She knows it,” Bush told the magazine, referring to Rice, one of his closest advisers during his presidency. “But she told me she would refuse to accept the office.”

How Richard Nixon's obsession with Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers sowed the seeds for the president's downfall

The Conversation, 23 April 2021

Christian Appy, Professor of History, University of Massachusetts Amherst

<https://theconversation.com/how-richard-nixons-obsession-with-daniel-ellsberg-and-the-pentagon-papers-sowed-the-seeds-for-the-presidents-downfall-159113>

-- Suggests that Ellsberg's significance, in 1971 and now, 50 years later, might have been a lot less had Nixon ignored the Pentagon Papers. Most American's had already turned decisively against the Vietnam War, so the Pentagon Papers were just a confirmation of the popularly held opinion on the war.

Joe Biden Wants to Be LBJ, but LBJ's Presidency Was a Disaster

Daily Beast, 23 April 2021

Matt Lewis

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/joe-biden-wants-to-be-lbj-but-lyndon-johnsons-presidency-was-a-disaster>

-- “The federal government fought the war on poverty,” Ronald Reagan once quipped, “and poverty won.” He was slamming Lyndon Johnson—one of the men who Joe Biden

has been frequently compared. Reagan's comments indicated that the Great Society, however noble its aspirations, not only failed but also led to unintended negative consequences.

Obama to Black Americans: 'Keep marching, keep speaking up, keep voting'

The Hill, 23 April 2021

Morgan Gstalter

<https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/549893-obama-to-black-americans-keep-marching-keep-speaking-up-keep>

-- In an interview with BET.com published 22 April 2021, Obama acknowledged that it is tough to feel optimistic following the events of 2020.

Opinion: Can two former presidents unravel the immigration knot?

The Washington Post, 23 April 2021

Hugh Hewitt

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/04/23/can-two-former-presidents-unravel-immigration-knot/>

-- How to get immigration done was at the center of a long interview Hewitt had with former president George W. Bush on his new book, "Out of Many, One,.." The book is a powerful collection of portraits and stories of immigrants to the United States. Hewitt suggests a bipartisan commission led by Bush and Bill Clinton could break the logjam on immigration policy.

Asked to rate Biden, here's what Mike Lee and Chris Stewart said after the laughter stopped

The Salt Lake Tribune, 22 April 2021

Matt Canham

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2021/04/22/asked-rate-biden-heres/>

-- "If we were to rate the president's first hundred days in office on the scale of doing what his progressive, left-leaning base wants, then I'm sure his score would be off the charts. Look, he's making [former President] Barack Obama look like Ted Cruz," Lee said during their joint question-and-answer session.

At 100 days, where does President Biden stand with the public?

Brookings, 22 April 2021

William A. Galston

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/04/22/at-100-days-where-does-president-biden-stand-with-the-public/>

-- A review of five major polls result in the long-term weather report: mostly sunny now, but with increasing clouds and a chance of storms later. The Quinnipiac poll claims he

scores highest on empathy: 58% of respondents believe he cares about average Americans.

Biden isn't FDR. He's the anti-Reagan.

The Washington Post, 22 April 2021

Opinion by Nick Bryant

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/04/22/biden-isnt-fdr-hes-anti-reagan/>

-- Bryant, the BBC's New York correspondent, is the author of "When America Stopped Being Great: A History of the Present." Presidents are often compared to former presidents, Obama-Kennedy, Trump-Jackson, and the author believes Biden is the anti-Reagan.

Biden under pressure to become first U.S. president to recognize Armenian genocide

Los Angeles Times, 22 April 2021

Jennifer Haberkorn

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-04-22/biden-armenian-genocide>

-- Ahead of Saturday's annual commemoration of the killing of more than a million Armenians a century ago, Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill are pressing President Biden to become the first U.S. president to acknowledge the events as genocide.

Nixon's Western White House on Sale for \$65 Million

San Clemente Times, 22 April 2021

Shawn Raymundo

<https://www.sanclementetimes.com/nixons-western-white-house-on-sale-for-65-million/>

-- The landmark San Clemente home where former President Richard Nixon and his family would find respite—commonly referred to as the Western White House—is back on the market with a price tag of \$65 million. The luxury estate, which the late former President dubbed La Casa Pacifica, was built in 1926 and boasts 15,000 square feet of living space, nine bedrooms, 14 bathrooms, a private office, screening room, exercise room and wine cellar.

No vice president has broken more Senate ties as early as Kamala Harris has

The Washington Post, 22 April 2021

Philip Bump

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/22/no-vice-president-has-broken-more-senate-ties-soon-kamala-harris/>

-- During the eight years that Joe Biden served as vice president to Barack Obama, he never cast a tiebreaking vote in the Senate. Kamala D. Harris cast her fourth

tiebreaking vote as vice president on 21 April 2021, a faster pace than any prior vice president.

Roosevelt Library surveys future visitors

The American Legion, 22 April 2021

<https://www.legion.org/honor/252325/roosevelt-library-surveys-future-visitors>

-- Plans are coming together for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota, near the Badlands area that captivated the 26th U.S. President and Medal of Honor recipient. Construction is expected to begin in 2023 with opening to follow in 2025.

Will Donald Trump run for president again, win in 2024? Bet on it

Las Vegas Review-Journal, 22 April 2021

Todd Dewey

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/sports/betting/will-donald-trump-run-for-president-again-win-in-2024-bet-on-it-2336390/>

-- Former president Donald Trump said this week he is “very-seriously” considering another presidential campaign in 2024, and oddsmakers put the chances that he will run again about 50-50. “I am looking at it very seriously, beyond seriously,” Trump told Sean Hannity on Monday on Fox News. “From a legal standpoint, I don’t want to really talk about it yet, it’s a little too soon.”

Biden evokes a fraught history of presidents weighing in on criminal cases

The Washington Post, 21 April 2021

Aaron Blake

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/21/fraught-history-presidents-weighing-criminal-cases/>

-- Biden’s comments suggesting a guilty verdict was the right thing for the jury to make in the Derek Chauvin trial is controversial. Other presidents in recent decades have done the same thing in recent decades, for instance, Richard Nixon declaring Charles Manson to be guilty before a jury reached that verdict. Barack Obama was criticized for stating that Bradley Manning “broke the law” before he was convicted of leaking classified documents.

Massachusetts Historical Society: “The Most Memorable Period Of My Life”: John Quincy Adams In Russia And Great Britain, 1890-1817

Patch (Boston), 21 April 2021

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/boston/massachusetts-historical-society-most-memorable-period-my-life-john-quincy>

-- Transcriptions of more than 1,200 pages of former President John Quincy Adams's diary have just been added to the John Quincy Adams Digital Diary, a born-digital edition of the Adams Papers editorial project at the Massachusetts Historical Society. The new material spans the period August 1809 through August 1817 and chronicle Adams's experiences as a diplomat in Russia and Great Britain.

8 Podcasts to Help Make Sense of Post-Trump America

The New York Times, 21 April 2021

Emma Dibdin

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/21/arts/podcasts-trump-politics.html>

-- A list of podcasts that discuss former President Trump and events since he has left office.

All the President's Historians

The Bulwark, 20 April 2021

Daniel N. Gullotta

<https://thebulwark.com/all-the-presidents-historians/>

-- President Biden has been consulting with historian John Meacham, who has even helped him write some of his major speeches. While journalists write the "first rough draft of history", admirers and opponents offer slanted accounts. New biographies can change the perspective of former presidents, as in the cases of William J. Cooper, Ron Chernow, and Jonathan Alter, who have argued that their subjects have been misunderstood or underappreciated.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale Dies At 93

NPR, WAMU 88.5, 20 April 2021

<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/19/988952298/former-vice-president-walter-mondale-dies-at-93>

-- Former Vice President and U.S. Senator Walter Mondale died on Monday in Minneapolis. The Minnesota Democrat was 93 years old. He lost his bid for President in a landslide to President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Former President Jimmy Carter said on Monday he considered Mondale "the best vice president in our country's history."

George W. Bush Condemns the Trump-Era Republican Party

U.S. News & World Report, 20 April 2021

Susan Milligan

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-04-20/george-w-bush-condemns-the-trump-era-republican-party>

-- The former president did not criticize his successor by name, but he said in a rare interview that his party has become 'isolationist, protectionist and, to a certain extent, nativist.'

Our Gerald Ford moment

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 20 April 2021

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2021/01/31/Our-Gerald-Ford-moment-Impeachment-President-Trump-Biden/stories/202101310063>

-- Paul O'Neill who was deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget for Mr. Ford and later treasury secretary, once said, Mr. Ford was exactly the man we needed to heal the wounds of Watergate. He pardoned Nixon, and led with goodwill, decency, compassion and common sense. He was defeated when he then ran against Jimmy Carter, partly the price he paid for his actions.

Sophie Cardin '22 Named Truman Scholar

Colorado College edu., 20 April 2021

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/newsevents/newsroom/inthenews/sophie-cardin-22-named-truman-scholar.html>

-- Sophie Cardin, a political science major from Denver, Colorado, has been named a Truman Scholar, the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders in the United States. Each Truman Scholar receives funding for graduate studies, leadership training, career counseling, and a special internship and fellowship opportunities within the federal government. Cardin intends to pursue a law degree, focusing on constitutional law and civil rights.

The Vice Presidency Was a Joke Before Walter Mondale

Slate, 20 April 2021

Fred Kaplan

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/04/walter-mondale-vice-presidency-carter.html>

-- Mondale was the first modern president, serving not just as a running mate to win electoral votes that the main candidate needed to win the election, but as a senior policy adviser in the White House—a condition he demanded before joining the Democratic ticket in 1976. Mondale was the first vice president to be briefed on the nuclear war plan and to participate in nuclear-attack drills.

Biden Made the Right Decision on Afghanistan

Foreign Affairs, 19 April 2021

P. Michael McKinley

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/afghanistan/2021-04-19/biden-made-right-decision-afghanistan>

-- The United States can withdraw without walking away. The focus on Afghanistan and Iraq and the “war on terrorism” since 2001 has diverted attention from Russia, China and Europe.

Fox News contributor Margaret Hoover defends her great-grandfather: President Hoover

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 19 April 2021

Bob Hoover

<https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/book-reviews/2011/07/24/Fox-News-contributor-Margaret-Hoover-defends-her-great-grandfather-President-Hoover/stories/201107240197>

-- A book review of Margaret Hoover's "American Individualism,". She says, "she became a conservative political thinker in order to defend her great-granddad, one of the most vilified presidents of the past century."

Has any US president ever served more than eight years?

The Conversation, 19 April 2021

David Yalof, Professor of Political Science, University of Connecticut

<https://theconversation.com/has-any-us-president-ever-served-more-than-eight-years-158199>

-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt served three full terms, and three months of a fourth term until his death on 12 April 1945. The 22nd Amendment, added to the U.S. Constitution in 1951, limits presidents to two successful presidential elections, but allows a president who takes office in the middle of someone else's term—if the president dies, for example, and vice president takes over and serves less than two years, that person can still run twice for their own election.

If Biden Walks Away in 2024, He'll Make History

New York Magazine, 19 April 2021

Ed Kilgore

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/04/if-biden-walks-away-in-2024-hell-make-history.html>

-- If Biden decides to become a one-term president, he will join Calvin Coolidge who is the only president who won a full term without a self-imposed term limit and then declined to run for reelection.

What Do We Want In A First Lady?

The New Yorker, 19 April 2021

Amy Davidson Sorkin

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/26/what-do-we-want-in-a-first-lady>

-- Two new books—"Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight" by Julia Sweig, and "The Triumph of Nancy Reagan" by Karen Tumulty, offer perspectives on the confusion of the public and private, and seriousness and sham, that is the First Ladyship.

Yale renames baseball field 'Bush Field' to honor former player, George H.W. Bush

New Haven Register, 19 April 2021

Maggie Vanoni

<https://www.nhregister.com/sports/article/Yale-renames-baseball-field-Bush-Field-to-16113014.php>

-- Yale announced the renaming of its baseball field from Yale Field to George. H.W. Bush Field, honoring one of its most historic and successful alumni, who graduated from the university in 1948 after captaining the Bulldogs' baseball team his senior year.

Biden plays golf for the first time as president

16WNEPabc, 18 April 2021

Associated Press

<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/nation-world/biden-golf-first-time-president/507-66931932-3423-49e1-90f9-6db8bcec6aab>

-- Biden played his first round of golf as president at the Wilmington Country Club, not far from his Delaware home where he was spending the weekend. Golf was a favorite of former presidents Eisenhower, George W. Bush, Obama and Trump.

Lady Bird Johnson influenced LBJ's key policies by introducing him to leading women thinkers

The Dallas Morning News, 18 April 2021

Julia Sweig

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2021/04/18/lady-bird-johnson-influenced-lbjs-key-policies-by-introducing-him-to-leading-women-thinkers/>

-- Sweig's new book "Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight," is based on the former First Lady's own words from over 123 hours of audio diaries, most of it never heard before. Transcripts include accounts of several influential women introduced to then President Lyndon Johnson by wife Lady Bird.

Mark Figley: Biden appearing dazed and confused

limaohio.com, 18 April 2021

Mark Figley - Guest Columnist

<https://www.limaohio.com/opinion/columns/456202/mark-figley-biden-appearing-dazed-and-confused>

-- Comparing Biden with President Woodrow Wilson who was unable to fulfill the requirements of the presidency due to poor health, beginning after a stroke he suffered on 2 October 2019—his wife Edith essentially ran the country for the final 17 months of his term. Biden's cognitive health can be observed by his sound bites that are replete with instances where he loses his train of thought, misquotes statistics, and forgets the names of political allies and those in his cabinet.

We need a Herbert Hoover to reel in Big Tech

The Hill, 17 April 2021

Jeffrey M. McCall

<https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/548811-we-need-a-herbert-hoover-to-reel-in-big-tech>

-- Discusses former President Hoover's efforts to establish the Radio Act of 1927, today's Federal Communications Commission, and the rationale of Congress that electronic media was so powerful a media that the government should necessarily take a role in overseeing them on behalf of the public.

100 Days Without Trump on Twitter: A Nation Scrolls More Calmly

The New York Times, 17 April 2021

Sarah Lyall

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/17/us/politics/trump-twitter.html?login=email&auth=login-email>

-- A variety of comments from fans and detractors on the impact of Trump being banned from Twitter. It is estimated Trump tweeted more than 56,000 times. A famous Trump tweet – “To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20”.

Adler: What were they thinking? The Biden commission and the concept of court-packing

Star Tribune (Casper), 16 April 2021

David Adler

https://trib.com/opinion/columns/adler-what-were-they-thinking-the-biden-commission-and-the-concept-of-court-packing/article_103cb09d-9102-59b2-b2d8-c39196a16aeb.html

-- A review of how liberals and conservatives view the notion of packing the U.S. Supreme Court, including former President Trump, President Biden, and former Justice Scalia and Chief Justice Rehnquist. Adler suggests there is nothing in the historical record to deny him the chance to reshape the Court in his image.

George W. Bush calls for bipartisan immigration action

CNN, 16 April 2021

Rachel Janfaza

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/16/politics/george-w-bush-immigration/index.html>

-- Former Republican President George W. Bush is calling for bipartisan action on several immigration measures, calling for a restoration of “the people’s confidence in an immigration system that serves both our values and out interests.” In a Washington Post op-ed published 16 April 2021 he wrote “the help and respect historically accorded to new arrivals is one reason so many people still aspire and wait to become

Americans.”

John F. Kennedy: Fighting Global Poverty

Borgen Magazine, 16 April 2021

Bardia Memar

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/john-kennedy/>

-- Kennedy advocated for greater attention to the “unanswered questions of poverty and surplus”. He stated that “if a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.”

The Book That Stopped an Outbreak of Nuclear War

The New Republic, 16 April 2021

Andre Pagliarini

<https://newrepublic.com/article/162058/book-stopped-outbreak-nuclear-war>

-- Barbara Tuchman’s “The Guns of August” made a lasting impression on John F. Kennedy, and he wrote to Nikita Khrushchev in July 1962 noting the role that failure to communicate and miscommunication have in events leading to war. A new book “Nuclear Folly” by Harvard professor Serhii Plokhly discusses the Cuban Missile Crisis and how close Russia and the United States came to war.

The first 100 days: When did we start caring about them and why do they matter?

Brookings, 16 April 2021

Elaine Kamarck

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/04/16/the-first-100-days-when-did-we-start-caring-about-them-and-why-do-they-matter/>

-- In the first hundred and forty-four years of the Republic no one made a big deal about the 100-day mark. It is a somewhat arbitrary and artificial milestone. It came from the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt when the Inauguration Day was 4 March 1933 and FDR avoided President Hoover’s attempts to involve him in dealing with the overwhelming crises before the country.

The 2021 Class of Truman Scholars Is Announced

Forbes, 16 April 2021

Michael T. Nietzel

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelt Nietzel/2021/04/16/the-2021-class-of-truman-fellows-is-announced/?sh=50909b4e12df>

-- This year’s scholars include 62 college students representing 51 U.S. colleges and universities. The Truman Scholarship is considered the premier graduate scholarship for students who intend to enter governmental work or public service in the United States.

From ‘Bonehead Idea’ To Studying It: Joe Biden’s Shifting Positions On Court Packing

Forbes, 15 April 2021

Melissa Holzberg

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/melissaholzberg/2021/04/15/from-bonehead-idea-to-studying-it-joe-bidens-shifting-positions-on-court-packing/?sh=751ac5fd63ea>

-- As a second-term senator in 1983, Joe Biden called former President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s court packing proposal a “bonehead idea,” but 38 years later as president, Biden created a commission to study the Supreme Court and some Democrats are forcing Biden’s hand by introducing legislation to expand the court from nine to 13 justices.

JFK and the long shadow caused by the Bay of Pigs

RTE, 15 April 2021

Dr. Brian Murphy, TU Dublin

<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2021/0413/1209565-jfk-and-the-long-shadow-caused-by-the-bay-of-pigs/>

-- The lessons Kennedy had learned from the fiasco of the Bay of Pigs were to stand him – and the world – in good stead during the Cuban Missile Crisis, but Cuban-American relations still remain complex sixty years later.

Prince Philip ‘woke up in a cold sweat’ worrying he’d offended US president Richard Nixon, letter reveals

Yahoo News, 15 April 2021

Rebecca Taylor, Royal Correspondent

<https://news.yahoo.com/prince-philip-worried-offended-richard-nixon-cold-sweat-134905181.html>

-- Prince Philip admitted to waking up “in a cold sweat” after what he dubbed a “lame” toast to then-president Richard Nixon while at an event in the US, an unearthed letter has revealed. In a letter written to Nixon he said. “I can’t begin to tell you how much I appreciated your very great kindness and hospitality at the White House. He apologized for “failing to propose his health.”

With eyes on Russia, senators seek to prevent any U.S. president from leaving NATO

Reuters, 15 April 2021

<https://www.reuters.com/world/with-eyes-russia-senators-seek-prevent-any-us-president-leaving-nato-2021-04-15/>

-- Fifteen Democratic and Republican U.S. senators introduced a bill on Thursday that would bar any U.S. president from withdrawing from the NATO military alliance without Senate approval.

Biden spoke with Obama and Bush ahead of Afghanistan withdrawal announcement

CNN, 14 April 2021

Devan Cole, Betsy Klein and Jeff Zeleny

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/14/politics/obama-biden-afghanistan-troop-withdrawal/index.html>

-- Separate phone conversations with former Presidents Obama and Bush were held in preparation to make the announcement of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, which has spanned four presidential administrations and nearly 20 years.

Blodgett: Biden's border policies a dereliction of duty

Globe Gazette, 14 April 2021

Jaci Smith

https://globegazette.com/opinion/columnists/blodgett-bidens-border-policies-a-dereliction-of-duty/article_b41b885a-2ab8-51d5-a886-dffa569f4aac.html

-- Presidents are sworn to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" and enforce US laws. But Joe Biden's colossal failure at the US-Mexican border is a preposterous dereliction of duty. Is this disaster deliberate, designed to generate scores of millions of new, taxpayer-dependent Democrats?

Officials Announce Start of Foundation Work on Obama Presidential Center

NBC5 Chicago, 14 April 2021

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-politics/watch-live-officials-announce-start-of-foundation-work-on-obama-presidential-center/2485963/>

-- Chicago and Illinois officials announced on Wednesday the beginning of foundation work for the Obama Presidential Center in the city's Jackson Park. Physical construction is likely to begin in August to include walking trails, playgrounds and bike paths.

Original Photo of Baseball's 1st Presidential First Pitch Up for Auction

Sports Collectors Daily, 14 April 2021

Rich Mueller

<https://www.sportscollectorsdaily.com/william-howard-taft-first-pitch-1910-original-photo/>

-- President William Howard Taft started a tradition 111 years ago when he threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Washington National's Opening Day game. A surviving original photo from that game is now being offered for sale by auction.

What Nancy Reagan's Biographer Learned in Her 5 Years of Research: She Was 'Long Overdue for a Reassessment'

People, 14 April 2021

Virginia Chamlee

<https://people.com/politics/what-the-author-of-new-nancy-reagan-biography-learned/>

-- A review of the book, *The Triumph of Nancy Reagan*, by Washington Post columnist Karen Tumulty. She is noted for being her husband's political adviser and gate-keeper as well as a shrewd judge of people.

Biden Wants to Spend Even More on Defense than Trump

The Nation, 13 April 2021

John Nichols

<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/biden-military-budget/>

-- The president's plan to hike Pentagon spending draws a rebuke from progressives. Robert Reich has served in three presidential administrations and says there is something wrong with Joe Biden's plan to increase Pentagon spending above the levels proposed by former President Trump. "The Pentagon already spends: \$740,000,000,000 every year, \$2,000,000,000 every day, \$1,000,000 every minute," says the former secretary of labor. "The last thing we need is a bigger military budget."

Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

The White House, 13 April 2021

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/13/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-president-vladimir-putin-of-russia-4-13/>

-- President Biden and President Putin discussed a number of issues including a New Start Treaty, Russian cyber intrusions and election interference, and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Changing faces of Cabinet diversity, George Washington through Joe Biden

Brookings, 13 April 2021

Lindsay Chervinsky and Kathryn Dunn Tenpas

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/04/13/the-changing-faces-of-cabinet-diversity-george-washington-through-joe-biden/>

-- How many presidents have attempted to maintain a diverse cabinet to have different opinions on pressing issues of the day, including Washington, Jefferson, and Monroe. Lincoln included Republicans and Democrats in his cabinet.

Tyler's grip on America

The Times of Israel, 13 April 2021

The Blogs, Charles E. Savenor

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/tylers-grip-on-america/>

-- A summary of President John Tyler's difficult presidency, including "Tyler's Grippe", an illness that spread across America for an extended period of time with many becoming sick and dying. His rivals referred to him with the label "His Accidency" referring to his taking office after President William Henry Harrison died.

Cornyn—Echoing Right-Wing Pundits—Questions If Biden 'Really In Charge'

Forbes, 12 April 2021

Jack Brewster

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2021/04/12/cornyn-echoing-right-wing-pundits-questions-if-biden-really-in-charge/?sh=5fdbfa04343e>

-- In a series of tweets this week, Senator John Cornyn (R-Tex.) criticized President Joe Biden for not speaking more off the cuff to the media and questioned whether the president was even in "charge" at all.

George Washington's historic River Farm is worth saving for reasons beyond the president, historians say

The Washington Post, 12 April 2021

Fredrick Kunkle

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/04/12/george-washington-river-farm/>

-- River Farm, which the American Horticultural Society put up for sale last year, includes archaeological traces of Native Americans who inhabited the land before European contact and the unexplored history of enslaved people.

How F.D.R.'s Heir Is Changing the Country

The New York Times, 12 April 2021

Jonathan Alter

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/12/opinion/biden-fdr-new-deal.html>

-- It's all about jobs and infrastructure, and President Biden is off to a good start. Alter is a journalist and author of "The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope."

Iowa House gives boost to fundraising for Hoover presidential museum

The Gazette, 12 April 2021

James Q. Lynch

<https://www.thegazette.com/news/iowa-house-gives-boost-to-fundraising-for-hoover-presidential-museum/>

-- The House voted 87-3 on Tuesday to approve House File 588, which would create a Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum tax credit to allow donors to claim a 25 percent deduction on their Iowa income taxes. The Hoover site has gone 28 years

without renovations—the longest of any of the presidential libraries. Hoover was the only Iowan elected to the White House.

Eisenhower Nazism Program Planned

KSAL.com, 11 April 2021

Todd Pittenger

<https://www.ksal.com/eisenhower-nazi-party-program-planned/>

-- A program focusing on the rise of the Nazi Party will be hosted by the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas. The program will focus on the conditions of Germany in the 1920s and 1930s that made Nazism possible.

Former GOP House Speaker John Boehner says he doesn't think Ronald Reagan could get elected in today's Republican Party

Business Insider, 11 April 2021

Kelsey Vlamis

<https://www.businessinsider.com/john-boehner-ronald-reagan-couldnt-get-elected-in-todays-gop-2021-4>

-- In his new memoir Former House Speaker Boehner writes that the Republican Party has taken a sharp turn since his time in politics and he doesn't think he or Former President Reagan could get elected today.

Barack Obama Pays Tribute to 'Remarkable' Prince Philip as He Reflects on Their First Meeting

People, 9 April 2021

Eric Todisco

<https://people.com/politics/barack-obama-pays-tribute-prince-philip/>

-- The former president said that Queen Elizabeth's husband, who died Friday, "helped provide steady leadership and guiding wisdom" as a pivotal member of the royal family. Obama said during his meeting, "The Queen and Prince Philip immediately put us at ease with their grace and generosity, turning a ceremonial occasion into something far more natural, even comfortable."

Book Review: 'The Middle Way: How Three Presidents Shaped America's Role in the World'

The Washington Diplomat, 9 April 2021

John Shaw

<https://washdiplomat.com/book-review-the-middle-way-how-three-presidents-shaped-americas-role-in-the-world/>

-- Author Derek Chollet argues that American foreign policy is more effective when it draws inspiration and guidance from the centrist approach of three former American presidents: Dwight D. Eisenhower, George H.W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Reagan's Would-Be Assassin to Pursue Unconditional Release

U.S. News & World Report, 9 April 2021

Associated Press

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-04-09/reagans-would-be-assassin-to-pursue-unconditional-release>

-- Lawyers for 65-year old John Hinckley, the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, say he plans to ask a federal court to allow him to live without conditions in the Williamsburg, Virginia home he's currently residing with his mother and brother. Last summer, a new risk assessment was concluded and found Hinckley to be mentally stable and at low risk for another psychotic episode.

Clinton reflects on foreign policy triumphs and challenges

The Harvard Gazette, 8 April 2021

Christina Pazzanese

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/04/clinton-reflects-on-foreign-policy-triumphs-and-challenges/>

-- Former President Bill Clinton discussed Russia, China, and North Korea in the inaugural Stephen W. Bosworth Memorial Lecture in Diplomacy in honor of the late U.S. ambassador who served during the Clinton administration.

In New Book, Boehner Says He Regrets Clinton Impeachment

The New York Times, 8 April 2021

Luke Broadwater

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/08/us/politics/boehner-clinton-impeachment.html>

-- Former Speaker of the House John Boehner, a Republican from Ohio, says in a new memoir that he regrets supporting the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, calling it a partisan attack that he now wishes he had repudiated.

The Executive Order: A History of Its Rise and Slow Decline

Governing, 8 April 2021

Lindsay Chevinsky

<https://www.governing.com/now/the-executive-order-a-history-of-its-rise-and-slow-decline.html>

-- President George Washington was the first to issue proclamations or executive orders. Their use peaked under Franklin Roosevelt, but they have been used fewer times in recent presidencies. Will Biden reverse the trend?

Teddy Roosevelt's Advice for Those Who Get College Rejections

The Wall Street Journal, 7 April 2021

Mike Kerrigan

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-student-in-the-arena-11617832480>

-- References Roosevelt's "man in the arena" speech given at the Sorbonne in 1910, entitled "Citizenship in a Republic." A quote from the speech, "If he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."

Hill: The Calvin Coolidge North Carolina General Assembly

The North State Journal, 7 April 2021

Frank Hill

<https://nsjonline.com/article/2021/04/hill-the-calvin-coolidge-north-carolina-general-assembly/>

-- Republicans who run the North Carolina General Assembly are following the same sober and mature approach toward spending North Carolinian's tax money as our 30 president, Calvin Coolidge, did in Washington from 1923-1928. Coolidge, who was elevated to the presidency when Warren G. Harding died of a heart attack, followed his flinty New England inclinations and implemented traditional Republican principles that have been sadly forgotten in Washington and in the big blue states around the nation.

National Archives can't resurrect Trump's tweets, Twitter says

Politico, 7 April 2021

Quint Forgey

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/07/twitter-national-archives-realdonaldtrump-479743>

-- The social media company says its permanent suspension of the former president's personal account means a federally preserved version will also be blocked from the platform. Just two days ago, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas lamented in a 12-page opinion that technology has placed "control of so much speech in the hands of a few private parties," suggesting Congress may need to step in.

Why Jimmy Carter may be the most misunderstood president in American history

PBS, 7 April 2021

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/why-jimmy-carter-may-be-the-most-misunderstood-president-in-american-history>

-- Jonathan Alter argues in his latest book, "His Very Best," that Jimmy Carter is perhaps the most misunderstood president in American history. Alter joined Judy Woodruff to discuss.

Biography offers a look at the political rise of George Washington who was key figure in crucial historical moments

The Virginia Gazette, 6 April 2021

Wilford Kale

<https://www.dailypress.com/virginiagazette/opinion/va-vg-ed-books-washington-0407-20210406-3gyiqis2v5d3pmb4igwek2cyn4-story.html>

-- A review of "George Washington, The Political Rise of America's Founding Father" by David O. Stewart.

San Francisco school board to REVERSE decision to strip names of Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson from school buildings after being ridiculed for labeling them 'racist'

Daily Mail, 6 April 2021

Daily Mail Reporter and AP

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9439761/San-Francisco-school-board-vote-school-renaming-again.html>

-- The school board faced multiple lawsuits over its original decision, and was mocked for trying to 'cancel' revered historical figures. Other historical figures on the hitlist were James Monroe and Herbert Hoover, also Revolutionary War hero Paul Revere and author Robert Louis Stevenson.

The Ice Man Painteth

Art News, 6 April 2021

Zoé Samudzi

<https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/features/the-ice-man-george-w-bush-1234588832/>

-- A review of George W. Bush's latest book of his paintings, "Out Many, One" (2021), Random House. Also commentary on Bush's painting style and view on immigration in America, the subject of his new book.

Why Would Anyone Want to be President?

Project Syndicate, 6 April 2021

Elizabeth Drew

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/joe-biden-challenges-in-office-us-presidency-by-elizabeth-drew-2021-04>

-- A critique of President Biden's early days in office, the good and the bad.

Joe Biden's bid to remake America

The Courier, 5 April 2021

Patrick J. Buchanan

<https://thecourier.com/news/312981/joe-bidens-bid-to-remake-america/>

-- Biden's proposed American Jobs Program will take a great leap forward toward irreversible control of the destiny of the Republic. U.S. corporations will fund this with a large slice of their earnings.

The Real Presidential Immigration Villain Is Bill Clinton

The Daily Beast, 5 April 2021

Ruben Navarrette Jr.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-real-presidential-immigration-villain-is-bill-clinton>

-- The real hard-asses on immigration are usually Democrats. And the hardest of all was Bill Clinton. As part of the Democratic Leadership Council middle-of-the-road Democrats worried about being outflanked by Republicans as soft on immigration enforcement.

The Thorny Politics Of Presidential Portraiture

Smithsonian Magazine, 5 April 2021

Alice George

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/thorny-politics-presidential-portraiture-180977400/>

-- Once the museum reopens following months of closure due to Covid concerns, a portrait of former President Trump will go on view until the official painting of the nation's 45th leaders is commissioned and unveiled. The article discusses the process by which the Smithsonian uses to populate the museum's presidential portraits.

Trump Keeps History at Bay by Putting Off Presidential Library

Bloomberg, 5 April 2021

Mark Niquette and Jennifer Jacobs

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-05/trump-keeps-history-at-bay-by-putting-off-presidential-library>

-- Trump holds out for possibility of another run in 2024 and he is holding out on plans to establish a library to avoid suggesting he's done being president.

White House adapts Easter tradition to pandemic

ABC7 KRCR, 5 April 2021

Associated Press

<https://krcrtv.com/news/coronavirus/white-house-adapts-easter-tradition-to-pandemic>

-- The White House was forced to cancel the annual White House Easter Egg Roll for the second straight year due to the coronavirus pandemic. However President Biden and his wife Jill delivered brief remarks from the White House with the Easter Bunny by their side—played by his military aide, Air Force Lt. Col. Brandon Westling.

Why Christian votes want more politicians like Donald Trump

The New York Post, 3 April 2021

Saleno Zito

<https://nypost.com/2021/04/03/why-christian-voters-want-more-politicians-like-donald-trump/>

-- White evangelical and conservative Christian voters robustly supported Trump's reelection last November. Exit numbers show he earned 76 percent of their support.

Lessons from an Obama-era transportation and recovery program

The Seattle Times, 2 April 2021

Ian Duncan, The Washington Post

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation-politics/lessons-from-an-obama-era-transportation-and-recovery-program/>

-- How New Hampshire Avenue (Maryland) is now blemished with cracks and potholes—emblematic of the Obama administration “shovel-ready,” job-creating effort paid for with \$48 billion in new transportation money. Will the Biden \$600 billion program for transportation spending avoid the same problems?

Trump’s Latino Support Was More Widespread Than Thought, Report Finds

The New York Times, 2 April 2021

Giovanni Russonello and Patricia Mazzei

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/us/politics/trump-latino-voters-2020.html>

-- The Democratically aligned research firm Equis Labs, reports that Latinos increasingly were willing to embrace Mr. Trump during the 2020 campaign.

How Biden Is Like Ike

SLATE, 1 April 2021

Fred Kaplan

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/04/biden-borrows-eisenhowers-cold-war-sales-pitch-for-his-infrastructure-plan.html>

-- President Biden’s \$2 trillion, decadelong infrastructure plan has been compared to the massive spending programs for former presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson. But in selling the idea, Biden has taken a page from a less flamboyant predecessor—and a Republican, at that—Dwight Eisenhower.

Is Biden Really The Second Coming of F.D.R And L.B.J.?

The New Yorker, 1 April 2021

Susan B. Glasser

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-bidens-washington/is-biden-really-the-second-coming-of-fdr-and-lbj>

-- Proposing historic legislation is not transformative; passing it is.

Joseph R. Biden is just an okay name for a president

The Elm (Washington College), 1 April 2020

Katy Shenk

<https://blog.washcoll.edu/wordpress/theelm/2021/04/joseph-r-biden-is-just-an-okay-name-for-a-president/>

-- Discusses the problems with President Biden’s name, including his middle name (Robinette) which was his paternal grandmother’s middle name, the lack of power to his first name Joe, and the addition of Jr. which is diminutive. The name is neither the worst nor best Presidential name, just mediocre.

Biden looks for an infrastructure win where Obama and Trump failed

Politico, 31 March 2021

Megan Cassella and Tanya Snyder

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/31/biden-infrastructure-plan-unveiling-478684>

-- President Joe Biden unveiled a \$2 trillion proposal to transform America's infrastructure over the next eight years. He stated he was "convinced that if we act now, in 50 years people are going to look back and say, this was the moment that American won the future."

"We Have to Help Our Country": Trump Signals He's Seriously Considering 2024 Run

Spectrum News NY 1, 31 March 2021

Ryan Chatelain

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2021/03/31/donald-trump-signals-he-s-serious-about-2024-run>

-- In an interview with his daughter-in-law Lara Trump, who recently joined Fox News as a paid contributor, Trump came close to declaring his candidacy. He attacked Joe Biden's foreign policy and criticized how China treated American representatives disrespectfully as a recent meeting, and noted that he had no problem with North Korea, unlike current relations with the Biden administration.

Donald Trump launches official website of 45th US President

The Times of India, 30 March 2021

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/donald-trump-launches-official-website-of-45th-us-president/articleshow/81756201.cms>

-- Former US President Trump and former First Lady Melania Trump announced the launch of the official website on Monday. The site allows supporters to request their participation in events, submit letters and ask for personalized greetings.

First ladies uniquely shape US history

News@TheU (University of Miami), 30 March 2021

Michael R. Malone

<https://news.miami.edu/stories/2021/03/first-ladies-uniquely-shape-u.s.-history.html>

-- Despite the constraints of societal mores and complex family dynamics, a number of president's wives have managed to leave a lasting impact on the country, advancing women's rights and other signature causes while reflecting the changing dimensions of women's power and potential. They include Eleanor Roosevelt, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Hillary Clinton, and Michelle Obama.

Honey, I forgot to duck': the attempt to assassinate Ronald Reagan, 40 years on

The Guardian, 30 March 2021

David Smith in Washington

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/29/ronald-reagan-assassination-attempt-us-president>

-- A description of the scene after the shooting of President Reagan 40 years ago at the Washington Hilton, including details of each person shot, and the capture of the would-be assassin John Hinckley. Reagan quipped to his wife Nancy, upon arrival at the hospital—"I'm sorry, honey, I forgot to duck".

Opinion: Biden is facing a Roosevelt moment

The Washington Post, 30 March 2021

Opinion by Katrina vanden Heuvel, Columnist

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/30/biden-is-facing-roosevelt-moment/>

-- The writer asks the questions, "Will Biden and the razor-thin Democratic majorities in Congress be able to finally bury the conservative era of market fundamentalism that has so clearly failed?"

The Enormous Energy Legacy Of President George W. Bush

Forbes, 30 March 2021

Robert Rapier, Senior Contributor

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rrapier/2021/03/30/the-enormous-energy-legacy-of-president-george-w-bush/?sh=a4bf0656c521>

-- Reviewing past presidents impact on energy markets, President George W. Bush energy legacy ranks near the top. Like his father, he had ties to the oil industry, as did his vice president, Dick Cheney.

Biden Changes His Own 'Paradigm'

The New York Times, 29 March 2021

Giovanni Russonello

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/29/us/politics/joe-biden.html>

-- The president is quietly undercutting the exact brand of center-lane politics that he worked hard to enshrine as a senator.

What Joe Biden can learn from Calvin Coolidge on immigration

The Hill, 28 March 2021

Paul C. Atkinson, Opinion Contributor

<https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/545227-what-joe-biden-can-learn-from-calvin-coolidge-on-immigration>

-- In February 1921 Calvin Coolidge stated, "Since we are confronted with the clamor of multitudes who desire the opportunity offered by American life, we must face the

situation unflinchingly, determined to relinquish not one iota of our obligations to others, yet not so sentimental as to overlook our obligations to ourselves.”

Biden’s Presidency Is the Modern Version of Jimmy Carter’s

Real Clear Politics, 27 March 2021

Alfredo Ortiz, Commentary

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2021/03/27/bidens_presidency_is_the_modern_version_of_jimmy_carters_145489.html

-- Biden’s term is shaping up to mirror the stagflation and high energy prices that American’s endured in the late-1700’s under President Carter.

The Supreme Court’s coming war with Joe Biden, explained

Vox, 27 March 2021

Ian Millhiser

<https://www.vox.com/22276279/supreme-court-war-joe-biden-agency-regulation-administrative-neil-gorsuch-epa-nondelegation>

-- The Supreme Court is poised to give itself a veto power over much of the Biden administration’s authority.

Bill Clinton on Georgia’s new voting restrictions: ‘An attack on our democracy’

The Hill, 26 March 2021

Brooke Seipel

<https://thehill.com/homenews/news/545182-bill-clinton-on-georgias-new-voting-restrictions-an-attack-on-our-democracy>

-- Former President Clinton criticized Georgia’s new voting law signed this week, calling it “a blatant attempt to suppress “Black votes and “and attack on our democracy.”

Civics lesson: James Madison masterminded parts of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. So why isn’t he more popular?

The Spokesman-Review (Spokane), 26 March 2021

Nico Portuondo

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/mar/14/civics-lesson-this-former-president-masterminded-p/>

-- Madison’s presidency, which lasted from 1809 to 1817, was irreparably damaged by the mostly unsuccessful War of 1812 against England, in which the British briefly captured Washington D.C. in 1814 and set fire to both the White House and Capitol.

Jackson man wants to get Andrew out of town’s name

The Conway Daily Sun, 26 March 2021

Tom Eastman

https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/jackson-man-wants-to-get-andrew-out-of-towns-name/article_bf324902-8da7-11eb-ac45-6b53361e2244.html

-- A resident of Jackson, New Hampshire since 1975 would like to see the town renamed—for a different Jackson. If voters pass a new law, former President Andrew

Jackson's name would be replaced by the 19th century White Mountains geologist Charles T. Jackson. Jackson, the geologist, was never a slave owner.

Mitt Romney receives John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award

NBC News, 26 March 2021

Elisha Fieldstadt

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/mitt-romney-receives-john-f-kennedy-profile-courage-award-n1262134>

-- Republican Senator Mitt Romney is the recipient of this year's John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for his vote to convict former President Donald Trump during his first impeachment trial "and his consistent and courageous defense of democracy."

Why former President Barack Obama picked Joe Biden as his VP in 2008: 'We couldn't have been more different'

CNBC Make It, 26 March 2021

Minda Zetlin, Contributor

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/26/why-former-president-barack-obama-picked-joe-biden-as-his-vp-we-couldnt-have-been-more-different.html>

-- In his memoir, "A Promised Land," Obama details the qualities that led to his choice of Biden as his running mate in 2008. His primary reason was the thought that people who were uncomfortable voting for a relative newcomer would be reassured by the presence of a senior senator on the ticket.

Biden makes 'no apologies' for undoing Trump migration policies despite border crisis; assails GOP on voting rights

The Dallas Morning News, 25 March 2021

Todd J. Gillman

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2021/03/25/border-crisis-puts-biden-on-hot-seat-at-first-press-conference/>

-- President Biden downplayed the recent surge of migrants at the border, using his first formal news conference on Thursday to assail Republicans for "sick" and "un-American" efforts to undermine voting rights.

President Harry S. Truman Returns To Washington, D.C., As A Bronze Statue Ready To Shake Your Hand

KCUR 89.3, 25 March 2021

Laura Spencer

<https://www.kcur.org/arts-life/2021-03-25/president-harry-s-truman-returns-to-washington-d-c-as-a-bronze-statue-ready-to-shake-your-hand>

-- Artist and sculptor Tom Corbin of Kansas City, Missouri is working on a clay bust of former President Truman which will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol in 2022.

Republicans Blast Biden For 'Hiding' Ahead Of President's First Press Conference

Forbes, 25 March 2021

Jack Brewster

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2021/03/25/republicans-blast-biden-for-hiding-ahead-of-presidents-first-press-conference/?sh=10865a993d93>

-- Ahead of President Biden's first presidential press conference, Republicans are accusing him of dodging the press corps and running a highly-scripted White House operation. Former President Trump took up more airtime than Biden during the first months of his administration, but also revoked press passes of dozens of journalists in 2019 and frequently berated reporters.

Biden is using FDR as his role model. He's made the no-drama Obama era look wild.

USA Today, 24 March 2021

Paul Brandus, Opinion columnist

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2021/03/24/joe-biden-first-news-conference-presidential-test-column/6964568002/>

-- Biden's low-key presidency shifts into higher gear with his first news conference. If he's lucky, it will be dull despite the many crises he's facing.

Biden readies for 1st news conference, White House tradition

ABC News 4, 24 March 2021

Calvin Woodward, Associated Press

<https://abcnews4.com/news/nation-world/the-disturbing-influence-of-presidential-news-conferences-03-24-2021>

-- An article on the history of the first press conferences of many previous presidents. Eisenhower was the first president to have his press conferences televised.

FBI offers reward on 43rd anniversary of heist at Truman Library

KMBC News 9 ABC, Kansas City, Missouri, 24 March 2021

<https://www.kmbc.com/article/fbi-offers-reward-on-43rd-anniversary-of-heist-at-truman-library/35928357>

-- On 24 March 1978 two people broke into the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri and stole swords and dagger valued at \$700,000 to \$1,000,00. They were gifts to Truman from the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Saud and the Shah of Iran.

If Joe Biden really has dementia, can he be removed? The process could get messy

The Spectator, 23 March 2021

Francis Pike

<https://spectator.us/topic/cognitive-decline-joe-biden-presidency-old-age-25th-amendment/>

-- A discussion of the 78-year-old Biden's mental faculties since the election and how cognitive impairment is normal in the elderly.

Biden Claims It's Unfair To Attack Administration Over U.S. Borders That Were Created By James K. Polk

The Onion, 22 March 2021

<https://politics.theonion.com/biden-claims-it-s-unfair-to-attack-administration-over-1846528578>

-- President Joe Biden claimed Monday that it was unfair to attack his administration over borders that former President James K. Polk (1845-1849) was responsible for creating.

Biden regularly consults with Barack Obama on a 'range of issues,' Psaki says

Fox News, 22 March 2021

Brittany De Lea

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-white-house-communication-barack-obama>

-- Press Secretary Jen Psaki said she expects the pair will continue to consult throughout Biden's presidency.

'A similar challenger': how Joe Biden echoes Kennedys on US foreign policy

The Guardian, 21 March 2021

David Smith in Washington

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/21/joe-biden-kennedys-us-foreign-policy>

-- Biden is the oldest man ever elected president, and he appears to have an affinity for the youngest ever elected: John F. Kennedy. He has a bust of Robert F. Kennedy in his office, and photo of him meeting Pope Francis behind his desk, suggesting his Catholic link the the Kennedy's.

How Trump Broke—And Then Saved—Impeachment

The Atlantic, 21 March 2021

Tim Naftali, Clinical associate professor of history at NYU

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/how-trump-brokeand-then-saved-impeachment/618340/>

-- A short history of impeachment, and the difference between former President Trump's 2019 and 2021 impeachment trials.

If you know Mr. Madison's Constitution, you'll want to preserve it

Courier Times, 21 March 2021

Jeffrey Sikkenga

<https://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/story/opinion/2021/03/21/if-you-know-mr-madisons-constitution-youll-want-preserve/4763956001/>

-- Madison knew the constitution wasn't perfect, which is why he offered what are the first 10 amendments: the Bill of Rights-the constitution can be improved. Unlike Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and King there is no monument to Madison—his monument is the Constitution.

Conservative George W. Bush Is Now Too Liberal for His Party

New York Magazine, 20 March 2021

Ed Kilgore

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/03/george-w-bush-is-too-liberal-for-the-republican-party.html>

-- A discussion of both George W. Bush and Jeb Bush and how their differences in political views from Trump and other conservative Republicans have cast them more to the center of politics on many issues, such as immigration.

Gerald Ford stumbled like Joe Biden in 1975 – and got roasted for it

New York Post, 19 March 2021

Laura Italiano

<https://nypost.com/2021/03/19/gerald-ford-stumbled-like-biden-in-1975-and-got-roasted/>

-- After former president Gerald Ford slipped and fell on the stairs exiting Air Force One in Austria in 1975, he was pilloried in a series of ruthless and hilarious Saturday Night Live skits.

President Clinton: US in ‘dogfight’ for democracy

Cornell Chronicle (Cornell University), 19 March 2021

James Dean

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2021/03/president-clinton-us-dogfight-democracy>

-- Former President Clinton posed the question, “Are you willing to do what it takes to revive our democracy?” at an 18 March 2021 webinar on the state of democracy hosted by the Institute of Politics and Global Affairs at Cornell University.

All American presidents have made spectacles of themselves—and there’s nothing wrong with that

The Conversation, 18 March 2021

Maurizio Valsania, Professor of American History, Università di Torino

<https://theconversation.com/all-american-presidents-have-made-spectacles-of-themselves-and-theres-nothing-wrong-with-that-157026>

-- While many Americans were sick and tired of Trump, the man has already become a classic. Trump will remain in the public debate for centuries. Many Americans saw him as doing away with the hypocrisy of Ivy League-educated liberals.

Donald Trump’s wealth takes tumble during presidency

BBC, 18 March 2021

Justin Harper

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-56438914>

-- Trump’s net worth dropped by about \$700m to \$2.3bn (£1.65bn) during his time as president, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Presidential historian and author Michael Beschloss explains what makes a great president

Campus Times (The University of Rochester, NY), 18 March 2021

Benjamin Schiffman

<http://www.campustimes.org/2021/03/15/presidential-historian-and-author-michael-beschloss-speaks-to-ur-about-the-qualities-of-past-presidents-and-the-state-of-american-democracy/>

-- Beschloss talks about his lunch with President Nixon in 1972 and how his knowledge of the presidency was immense. Nixon explained what he thought makes a great president. Beschloss suggested he believes the great presidents have the “guts of George Washington, the ability to explain tough decisions like Abraham Lincoln, a sense of history like Harry Truman, and the ability to reach across the aisle like the founders and Lyndon B. Johnson.”

Donald Trump says he’s ‘not a fan’ of Meghan and hopes she runs for US president in 2024

The Telegraph, 17 March 2021

Josie Ensor, US Correspondent

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/17/donald-trump-says-not-fan-meghan-hopes-runs-us-president-2024/>

-- Former president Trump said he would have “an even stronger feeling toward running” if the Duchess of Sussex launched a White House bid

Hill: Where is the real ‘Moderate Joe’ Biden?

The North State Journal, 17 March 2021

Frank Hill

<https://nsjonline.com/article/2021/03/hill-where-is-the-real-moderate-joe-biden/>

-- The author suggests that Biden’s first days in office provide no indication he is a moderate. He lists several reasons why Biden is not a moderate, to include, signing the massive \$1.9 trillion COVID stimulus bill.

Biden to Hold First News Conference on March 25

Voice of America, By Reuters, 16 March 2021

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/us-politics/biden-hold-first-news-conference-march-25>

-- President Biden will hold his first formal news conference of his presidency on 24 March 2021 in Darby, Pennsylvania. He has drawn criticism for waiting so long after his inauguration to hold an extended question-and-answer session with reporters.

Children of early U.S. presidents lived lives of successes, pain, turmoil, achievements

The Virginia Gazette, 16 March 2021

Dr. Jonathan L. Stolz

<https://www.dailypress.com/viriniagazette/opinion/va-vg-ed-column-presidential-children-0313-20210316-zkib7aqq3zcu3cujeo3kkcpeje-story.html>

-- Includes references to Abigail “Nabby” Adams, the eldest daughter of John Adams, Zachary Taylor’s children who suffered malaria, and Alice Roosevelt who led Teddy Roosevelt to proclaim, “I can either run the country or attend to Alice, but I cannot possibly do both.”

Marines honor President Madison’s 270th birthday at gravesite in Orange

Culpeper Star Exponent, 16 March 2021

https://starexponent.com/news/marines-honor-presidents-madisons-270th-birthday-at-gravesite-in-orange/article_8e66b8b4-f803-5693-bf3d-57bd88fd90e3.html

-- U.S. Marines from Quantico placed a wreath at the grave of Fourth U.S. President James Madison in Orange County on Tuesday, March 16, what would have been his 270th birthday.

State senate proposal would honor Carter as longest living president

Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC), 16 March 2021

Arielle Kass

<https://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-news/state-senate-proposal-would-honor-carter-as-longest-living-president/VT23HBR3AJHCJCG7DEISVQD6B4/>

-- A resolution by Georgia state Senator Sheikh Rahman (D) would celebrate the 96 year old former Georgia governor who was president from 1977-1981.

President Clinton to speak on the future of U.S. democracy

Cornell Chronicle (Cornell University), 15 March 2021

Jessica Ames

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2021/03/president-clinton-speak-future-us-democracy>

-- Launching the new Milstein State of Democracy Addresses, President Bill Clinton will join former U.S. Rep. Steve Israel on March 18 for a conversation about the future of democracy in America, followed by a reaction by a small panel of Cornell experts.

The Lost Story of Lady Bird

The Atlantic, 15 March 2021

Julia E. Sweig, Author of *Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight*

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/rediscovering-lbjs-top-adviser/618265/>

-- The article address the question of “Why do most chroniclers of LBJ’s presidency miss the centrality and influence of the first lady?”.

This day in history, March 15: President Lyndon B. Johnson calls for new legislation to guarantee every American’s right to vote

Chicago Tribune, 15 March 2021

By Associated Press

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/history/ct-aud-today-history-almanac-march-15-20210315-uwww5oivqbgztalene5hovoia-story.html>

-- On 15 March 1965 President Johnson called for new legislation to guarantee every American’s right to avoid, while addressing a joint session of Congress. The result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

14 photos of St. Patrick’s Day celebrations at the White House through the years

Insider, 15 March 2021

Talia Lakritz

<https://www.insider.com/st-patricks-day-white-house-photos-2021-3>

-- Several photographs of presidents celebrating St. Patrick’s Day in the White House. Photos included Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and others.

Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage to celebrate Jackson’s 254th birthday

WKRN.COM (Hermitage, TN), 14 March 2021

<https://www.wkrn.com/news/andrew-jacksons-hermitage-to-celebrate-jacksons-254th-birthday/>

-- The celebration on March 15 will include special speakers, a wreath-laying ceremony, and the return of “The Duel” an address from the Hermitage mansion balcony. Attending will be Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee Adjutant General Major General Jeffrey H. Holmes and Andrew Jackson VI, the great-great-great grandson of Jackson and his wife Rachel.

A look at shaping Lincoln into the 16th U.S. president

The News-Gazette (Champaign, Illinois), 14 March 2021

Susan McKinney

https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/susan-mckinney-a-look-at-shaping-lincoln-into-the-16th-u-s-president/article_9192f04d-f7a9-5cd9-b516-a8f601470e58.html

-- A review of “Lincoln’s Mentors,” by Michael J. Gerhardt, which explores a very important time in Abraham Lincoln’s life, 1849-1861.

Democrats Repent for Bill Clinton

The New York Times, 14 March 2021

Charles M. Blow, Opinion Columnist

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/14/opinion/democrats-bill-clinton.html>

-- In the last decade, the party and the former president himself have been forced to admit the failures of his administration.

The woman who helped a president change America during his first 100 days

The Washington Post, 14 March 2021

Ronald Shafer

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/03/14/frances-perkins-fdr-100-days-new-deal/>

-- Labor Secretary Frances Perkins was the woman, who was the main architect of Social Security and much of FDR's New Deal.

Former Presidents Obama, Bush and Clinton promote Covid vaccine in new ad

Revolt, 13 March 2021

Christopher Harris

<https://www.revolt.tv/2021/3/13/22329033/presidents-obama-bush-clinton-covid-vaccine>

-- The 42nd, 43rd, and 44th presidents urged the country to get vaccinated when they're eligible. "The vaccine means hope," Obama says in the video.

Grand jury indicts suspect in toppling of Theodore Roosevelt statue in Portland protest

The Oregonian, 12 March 2021

Jaimie Ding, The OregonianLive

<https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2021/03/grand-jury-indicts-driver-in-toppling-of-theodore-roosevelt-statue.html>

-- Brandon Bartells, 38, of Washington was charged with one count each of riot and first-degree criminal mischief. The statue, "Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider" was pulled down along with Abraham Lincoln's statue on South Park Blocks by a group of 200 protesters in an 11 October event promoted as an "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage".

Dog Bites Man at White house

Voice of America, 9 March 2021

Steve Herman

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/dog-bites-man-white-house>

-- The youngest of the Biden's two German shepherds, Major, bit a member of the White House security staff. White House press secretary Jen Psaki confirmed that there was no plan to euthanize Major for his bad behavior.

Portraits of George W. Bush and Bill Clinton are back on prominent display, a White House official said.

The New York Times, 9 March 2021

Marie Fazio and Katie Rogers

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/09/us/politics/clinton-bush-portraits-white-house.html>

-- The White House has restored the official portraits of former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton to a traditional display spot after they were moved to a less prominent location last year, a Biden administration official said.

How Andrew Jackson set up a ‘good government’ for Pensacola and Florida

pensacola news journal, 7 March 2021

Dean DeBolt, Special to the News Journal

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2021/03/07/andrew-jackson-set-up-good-government-pensacola-and-florida/4579079001/>

-- A discussion of President Monroe’s efforts to set up a government in the new territory of Florida, and the role of Andrew Jackson beginning in 1821 to implement these plans.

Inside The Secret Society of White House Social Secretaries

Town&Country, 7 March 2021

Marisa Meltzer

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/money-and-power/a35460077/white-house-social-secretary-role/>

-- The role of the White House social secretary, is described in the article by Roxanne Roberts (Washington Post) as the “ghost writers of the entertaining world. Their job is to assist the First Lady or Second Gentleman—whoever is in charge—on entertaining at the highest level.”

Sir, you’re no Grover Cleveland: Donald Trump doesn’t deserve two non-consecutive terms

Salon, 7 March 2021

Matthew Rozsa

<https://www.salon.com/2021/03/07/sir-youre-no-grover-cleveland-donald-trump-doesnt-deserve-two-non-consecutive-terms/>

-- If Trump runs for president in 2024 he will join the ranks of five other presidents, with only Grover Cleveland serving a non-consecutive second term. However the article points out that Cleveland opposed women’s right to vote, and supported racist Jim Crow laws.

Trump – once and future king?

Norwalk Reflector, 7 March 2021

Patrick Buchanan, Visiting Viewpoint

<https://norwalkreflector.com/news/307485/trump-once-and-future-king/>

-- Buchanan notes that four Republican presidents in the 20th century were defeated while seeking a second term. None was nominated again.

Haley, Noem Differ in Approach to Trump as 2024 Jockeying Begins

The Wall Street Journal, 6 March 2021

John McCormick

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/haley-noem-differ-in-approach-to-trump-as-2024-jockeying-begins-11615032000>

-- Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and current South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem are considered prospective GOP presidential contenders for 2024.

A president of consequence - Felix M Larkin on Reassessing Kennedy

The Irish Times, 5 March 2021

Felix M Larkin, An Irishman's Diary

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/a-president-of-consequence-felix-m-larkin-on-reassessing-kennedy-1.4498372>

-- The author lists reasons that include, Kennedy was transformative and changed the character of the presidency, and that he was the first Roman Catholic president born in the 20th century.

Balancing Innovation and Competition: Thomas Jefferson's View of Obviousness for Mechanical Inventions

IPWATCHDOG, 5 March 2021

John Cordani

<https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2021/03/05/balancing-innovation-competition-thomas-jeffersons-view-obviousness-mechanical-inventions/id=130589/>

-- Discussion of patents and inventions and the letter Jefferson gave Isaac McPherson that provided a detailed explanation of his views on improper use of patents for common technology.

From Washington to Trump: What Is Dereliction of Duty?

Governing, 4 March 2021

Lindsay Chervinsky, Historian and Contributor

<https://www.governing.com/now/From-Washington-to-Trump-What-Is-Dereliction-of-Duty.html>

-- Presidents take an oath to defend and protect the Constitution from enemies foreign and domestic. But how do they handle other threats, such as pandemics and economic depressions?

President Trump Endorses Senator John Kennedy

News 15, KLA-F NBC, 4 March 2021

Olivia Sanders

<https://www.kadn.com/content/news/President-Trump-Endorses-Senator-John-Kennedy-573920271.html>

-- Former President Donald Trump formally endorsed Republican Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) for his reelection to the US Senate in 2022.

The president's other house: A Trip to Harry S. Truman's Little White House in Key West

South Florida SunSentinel, 2 March 2021

Mark Gauert

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/travel/florida/fl-fea-travel-to-little-white-house-in-key-west-florida-20210302-5pzeoo2uufabflud4bi6reuwei-story.html>

-- The house has served as the functioning White House of President Truman and has also been used by Presidents William Howard Taft, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, among others.

Barack Obama Sings with Bruce Springsteen While They Talk Power of Music in Their Lives

People, 1 March 2021

Sean Neumann

<https://people.com/music/barack-obama-sings-duets-with-bruce-springsteen/>

-- Obama and Springsteen have an hour-long discussion about the power of music on the third episode of *Renegades*, including how it influenced the former's two terms in the White House.

Biden Backs Amazon Warehouse Worker's Union Drive

NPR, 1 March 2021

Jaclyn Diaz

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/01/972410944/biden-backs-amazon-warehouse-workers-union-drive>

-- Without naming the massive e-commerce company specifically, President Biden said in a video posted late Sunday that he supports the organizing drive in Bessemer, Alabama (location of the Amazon warehouse).

Biden won't release White house virtual visitor logs

Politico, 1 March 2021

Anita Kumar

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/01/biden-white-house-transparency-trump-obama-471868>

-- Five weeks into office, Biden has fallen short of his former Boss, Barack Obama in several areas. Examples include the schedules for the president and vice president aren't posted online; The White House comment line is shut down; and there are no citizen petitions on the White House's website.

Lady Bird Johnson's audio diaries: A first lady narrates her powerful role in history

The Washington Post, 1 March 2021

Michael S. Rosenwald

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/03/01/lady-bird-johnson-audio-diaries/>

-- How Lady Bird Johnson began talking into a tape recorder nearly every day of Lyndon Johnson's presidency, leaving behind an almost overlooked audio diary of one of history's most momentous presidencies.

Thomas Jefferson would cringe at the destruction of local media

Tampa Bay Times, 28 February 2021

John G. Chachas, Guest Columnist

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2021/02/28/thomas-jefferson-would-criinge-at-the-destruction-of-local-media-column/>

-- Refers to Jefferson's dispatch to Edward Carrington in 1787 on the eve of the French Revolution. Jefferson wrote if he had to choose between "...a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government,... I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Peace Corps celebrates 60 years of service, and JFK still looms large

Boston Globe, 28 February 2021

Lucas Phillips, Globe Correspondent

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/03/01/metro/peace-corps-celebrates-60-years-service-jfk-still-looms-large/>

-- 60 years ago President John Kennedy signed an executive order creating the Peace Corps. The program has been temporarily halted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden Places His Catholic Faith Front and Center

Voice of America, 27 February 2021

Steve Sherman

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/biden-places-his-catholic-faith-front-and-center>

-- Biden is the second Roman Catholic to lead the United States—John Kennedy being the first. At his inauguration, a Jesuit priest offered the invocation. In the oval office he has a photo of him meeting Pope Francis. He has been described by Father Thomas Reese, a Jesuit priest, as a "traditional pious Catholic."

President Donald Trump Probably Donated His Entire \$1.6M Salary Back to The U.S. Government – Here Are The Details

Forbes, 27 February 2021

Adam Andrzejewski, Senior Contributor

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/adamandrzejewski/2021/02/27/president-donald-trump-probably-donated-his-entire-16m-salary-back-to-the-us-government--here-are-the-details/?sh=180541d61a8d>

-- Trump donated his annual \$400,000 (before taxes) salary. The presidential salary is a requirement of the U.S. Constitution in Article III, Section 1, Clause 7, which also states Presidents are not legally allowed to decline their salary, but can donate it to organizations of their choosing. Details of where the \$1.6M was donated were not provided.

What kind of a leader is Joe Biden?

Tampa Bay Times, Opinion, 27 February 2021

Amanda Makki

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2021/02/27/what-kind-of-a-leader-is-joe-biden-column/>

-- Makki compares Biden to Lyndon Johnson, who also spent decades in the Senate, but notes that Biden can't compare to LBJ. Rather Biden reflects his old boss, Barack Obama, with the same "arrogant take-it-or-leave-it approach".

Donald Trump Has Earned Membership in the President's Club, the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity. What Does It Mean?

Governing, 26 February 2021

Clay Jenkinson, Editor-at-Large

<https://www.governing.com/context/Donald-Trump-in-the-Presidents-Club-the-Worlds-Most-Exclusive-Fraternity.html>

-- A book by Nancy Gibbs (Shorenstein Center) and Michael Duffy (The Washington Post), *The President's Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity*, has just been released.

The Roosevelt School set to open soon at LIU in Brookville

LI Herald.com (Long Island), 26 February 2021

George Wallace

<https://www.liherald.com/stories/the-roosevelt-school-set-to-open-soon-at-liu-in-brookville,130392?>

-- Long Island University Post and President Theodore Roosevelt's great-grandson, Tweed Roosevelt, are working to upgrade the university's curriculum in international relations, diplomacy, leadership, and public policy. The Roosevelt School will open in the fall of 2021 and prepare students for careers in these fields.

Fact Check: Is Biden Required to Give the SOTU Address in Person in His Inaugural Year?

Newsweek, 25 February 2021

Graham McNally

<https://www.newsweek.com/fact-check-biden-required-give-sotu-address-person-his-inaugural-year-1572156>

-- The answer is no. There is no rule that it must be delivered in person, or that it must be delivered by a certain date.

A president and author's enduring friendship

The Virginia Gazette, 24 February 2021

Dr. Jonathan L. Stolz

<https://www.dailypress.com/viriniagazette/opinion/va-vg-ed-pierce-hawthorn-0220-20210224-y3jtlxohijcrtphoyshk36s4tm-story.html>

-- Over four decades, America's 14th president, Franklin Pierce, and novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne cultivated a close relationship which sadly ended in 1864 when Hawthorne died in his sleep from a serious illness.

Inside Biden's White House and the symbolism of Oval Office design

The Crimson White (University of Alabama), 24 February 2021

Tara Davenport

<https://cw.ua.edu/79004/culture/inside-bidens-white-house-and-the-symbolism-of-oval-office-design/>

-- Biden replaced Trump's light-colored patterned carpet, with an unpatterned deep blue carpet, last used by Clinton. Biden removed the military flags displayed during Trump's term, replacing them with simpler, traditional use of the American flag, and the flag bearing the presidential seal. Biden also chose to display a collection of family photos behind his desk.

The Memo: DC honeymoon period for Biden comes to a quick end

The Hill, 24 February 2021

Niall Stanage

<https://thehill.com/homenews/the-memo/540201-the-memo-dc-honeymoon-period-for-biden-comes-to-a-quick-end>

-- Among the new president's problems are three of his nominees facing stiff resistance, and legislative efforts to address immigration and climate change face an uphill battle.

The Secret Life of The White House

The New Yorker, 24 February 2021

Susannah Jacob

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-political-scene/the-secret-life-of-the-white-house>

-- How the residence staff, many who have worked at the White House for decades, balance their service of the First Family with their long-term loyalty to the house itself.

Vaccinated for virus, Jimmy Carter and wife back in church

Associated Press, 24 February 2021

<https://apnews.com/article/baptist-coronavirus-pandemic-jimmy-carter-rosalynn-carter-5d40e69bfc2a317faad05993f1be55bd>

-- Having received their vaccinations for COVID-19, the former president and his wife have returned to one of their favorite things-church.

Thomas Jefferson statue, James Madison portrait among artifacts damaged in Capitol riot, officials say

USA Today, 23 February 2021

Nicholas Wu

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/02/23/capitol-riot-thomas-jefferson-statue-among-damage-officials-say/4563422001/>

-- Chemical damage to presidential statues and paintings, the destruction of the inauguration platform, and the lasting impact on staff are among the damage Capitol administrative officials are set to detail to lawmakers as they probe the aftermath of the Jan 6. riot.

A look at President Ford's impact on Black History Month

woodtv, 22 February 2021

Justin Kollar

<https://www.woodtv.com/hidden-history/black-history-month/a-look-at-president-fords-impact-on-black-history-month/>

-- President Gerald R. Ford was the first president to acknowledge Black History Month, though he did not create it.

Lee Harvey Oswald ordered to kill JFK by Soviets, ex-CIA chief claims

New York Post, 22 February 2021

Larry Getlen

<https://nypost.com/2021/02/22/soviets-ordered-lee-harvey-oswald-to-kill-jfk-ex-cia-chief/>

-- Ambassador R. James Woolsey, who ran the CIA from 1993-1995, makes claim in new book, "Operation Dragon: Inside the Kremlin's Secret War on America".

On George Washington's birthday, his farewell address unites a divided Senate

The Washington Post, 22 February 2021

Gillian Brockell

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/02/22/george-washington-farewell-address-senate/>

-- In Washington's September 1796 farewell address to the public he announced he would not seek a third term. The rest of the speech focused on his warning to the nation against political parties, regional divides and foreign interference.

The GOP can't escape Trump without letting go of Reagan

The Washington Post, Perspective, 22 February 2021

Daniel S. Lucks

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/02/22/gop-cant-escape-trump-without-letting-go-reagan/>

-- The GOP lionizes Reagan. But he had more in common with Trump than they'd like to admit.

Why Impeachment Doesn't Work

The New Yorker, 22 February 2021

Jelani Cobb

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/why-impeachment-doesnt-work>

-- Cobb suggests that it is possible that Trump's matching set of trials will establish another point: the over-all weakness of impeachment as a device to rein in the Presidency—if a weapon is truly potent, you probably don't have to use it twice.

Stamps for Ohio's presidents inspire a recap of U.S. history

The Chronicle, 21 February 2021

Dennis Sadowski

<https://chroniclet.com/news/252106/stamps-for-ohios-presidents-inspire-a-recap-of-us-history/>

-- Ohio has long been known as "the Mother of Presidents," as eight of the 46 U.S. presidents are from the state. It has been nearly a century since an Ohioan, Warren Harding, occupied the White House. The article reviews U.S. postage stamps which portray Ohio presidents From William Henry Harrison to Harding.

The 2nd Worst President? Tyler

Falls Church News-Press (Virginia), 19 February 2021

<https://fcnp.com/2021/02/19/2nd-worst-president-john-tyler-who-later-became-confederate/>

-- Suggesting Tyler and Trump are the worst U.S. Presidents. Tyler was the 10th president, 1841-1845, who became president upon the death of William Henry Harrison and went on to seek and win election to the Confederate House of Representatives in 1861, thereby becoming a pro-slavery sworn enemy of the U.S.

McKinley Memorial On Chopping Block in Chicago Monuments Project

McKinley Park News (Chicago), 18 February 2021

Justin Kerr

<https://mckinleypark.news/news/1357-mckinley-memorial-on-chopping-block-in-chicago-monuments-project>

-- The William McKinley monument in Chicago's McKinley Park is under scrutiny for possible change or removal (chopping block) as Chicago examines historic monuments in the context of historic racism and oppression. The monument to President McKinley is in the northwest corner of the the park.

What's Next for Donald Trump in American Politics?

Voice of America, 18 February 2021

Patsy Widakuswara

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/us-politics/whats-next-donald-trump-american-politics>

-- Enduring Republican support for former President Donald Trump has left some conservatives wondering if the party still has a place for him.

Why Moscow demolished buildings before U.S. President Nixon's visit

Russia Beyond, 17 February 2021

Olga Mamaeva

<https://www.rbth.com/history/333417-moscow-demolished-buildings-nixon-visit>

-- The demolition was ordered by Leonid Brezhnev to upgrade the streets along the proposed route of visiting President Richard Nixon's motorcade. The article explains the historical significance of the demolished buildings.

'First Lady': Aaron Eckhart To Play Gerald Ford in Showtime Anthology Series

Deadline (Hollywood), 16 February 2021

Nellie Andreeva

<https://deadline.com/2021/02/first-lady-aaron-eckhart-cast-gerald-ford-showtime-anthology-series-1234694541/>

-- Eckhart is set to co-star opposite Viola David and Michelle Pfeiffer in *The First Lady*, Showtime's anthology which is told through the lens of the women at the heart of the White House. Season 1 focuses on Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford (Pfeiffer) and Michelle Obama (David).

Unity isn't impossible. George Washington showed the way

Deseret News, 16 February 2021

Boyd Matheson

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/2/16/22285834/unity-is-essential-for-protection-safety-liberty-and-prosperity-george-washington-farewell>

-- In his farewell address to the nation, President George Washington spent considerable time on the subject of unity. He challenged the citizens to speak of national unity as "the Palladium of you political safety and prosperity."

Louisiana's only president would have no tolerance for Capitol riots

The Advocate, 15 February 2021

Michael David Cohen, Guest columnist

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_662b1448-6c9f-11eb-9a76-3b3116e4c6bd.html

-- Rioters to the U.S. Capitol on 6 January 2021 smeared a red substance on a bust of the twelfth president (Zachary Taylor). The article points out several aspects of Taylor's career that included his preference for sober debate and commitment to peace and union.

Harry Truman Presidential Library and Museum continues prep for reopening

KSHB 41, Kansas City, 15 February 2021

Charlie Keegan

<https://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/harry-truman-presidential-library-and-museum-continues-prep-for-reopening>

-- The newly renovated library in Independence, Missouri will not be able to open on Presidents Day, as all presidential museums remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When opened, visitors will see the results of the \$30 million dollar update which includes a new entrance, layout and interactive exhibits.

Lincoln Was a Wrestler and Truman Never Went to College: Here Are the Most Surprising Facts About Every American President

24/7 Wallst, 14 February 2021

John Harrington

<https://247wallst.com/special-report/2021/02/14/lincoln-wrestler-truman-never-went-college-most-surprising-facts-every-american-president/>

-- Other facts about presidents include, Coolidge enjoying scalp massages with petroleum jelly while eating breakfast in bed, Jackson killed a man in a duel for insulting his wife Rachel, and Polk banned alcohol, card playing, and dancing from the White House.

Opinion: Harry Truman was our last president to deserve the ‘populist label’

The Washington Post, 14 February 2021

Washington Post Editorial Board

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/harry-truman-was-our-last-president-to-deserve-the-populist-label/2021/02/14/3e3b2ad2-6d61-11eb-9ead-673168d5b874_story.html

-- Refers to Truman asking help from former President Hebert Hoover to help him solve hunger, and how Hoover had tears running down his cheeks since it had been 13 years since anyone had paid him any attention. Truman’s account was referenced in Merle Miller’s book “Plain Speaking”.

David O. Stewart’s New Book On The Rise Of President George Washington

WAMC, 12 February 2021

Joe Donahue

<https://www.wamc.org/post/david-o-stewarts-new-book-rise-president-george-washington>

-- Stewart offers a remarkable new portrait of the founding father, “George Washington, The Political Rise of America’s Founding Father.”

President George Washington’s Farewell Address (1796)

New Hampshire Union Leader, 12 February 2021

https://www.unionleader.com/news/history/president-george-washingtons-farewell-address-1796/article_f3ce4f7f-afd0-5e3d-acb0-7ebfc12a1172.html

-- The complete address from 19 September 1796 is provided in this article.

First Ladies: Abigail Fillmore not fond of the role

Enterprise Record (Davie County), 11 February 2021

Mike Barnhardt

<https://www.ourdavie.com/2021/02/11/first-ladies-abigail-fillmore-not-fond-of-the-role/>

-- The wife of the 13th President of the United States was the first First Lady to hold a paying job outside of her home. She also asked Congress to appropriate \$2,000 for the first White House library. She died at the Willard Hotel in Washington of pneumonia after sitting outside in the cold blowing snow during President Franklin Pierce's inauguration.

Exclusive. Dozens of former Republican officials in talks to form anti-Trump third party

Reuters, 10 February 2021

Tim Reid

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-party-exclusive-idUSKBN2AB07P>

-- Dozens of former Republican officials, who view the party as unwilling to stand up to former President Donald Trump and his attempts to undermine U.S. democracy, are in talks to form a center-right breakaway party, four people involved in the discussions told Reuters. Names under consideration for a new party include the Integrity Party and the Center Right Party.

7 Reasons Presidents Day Is Nonsense

Washingtonian, 10 February 2021

Andrew Beaujon

<https://www.washingtonian.com/2021/02/10/7-reasons-presidents-day-is-nonsense/>

-- The humorous reasons listed include: It's not actually named Presidents Day; Virginia wouldn't let Lincoln get in on the holiday; No US President was born on Presidents Day; There's little agreement on how to spell the day's name; and The bogus name makes it seem like we're celebrating bad Presidents, too.

Impeachment Trials Were Rare in U.S. History, Now Senate Begins Third in Just Over 20 Years

Newsweek, 9 February 2021

Jason Lemon

<https://www.newsweek.com/impeachment-trials-were-rare-us-history-now-senate-begins-third-just-over-20-years-1567711>

-- Trump's 2nd Impeachment trial was only the fourth in U.S. history. Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Donald Trump are the only presidents to be impeached.

New history of photography focuses on presidents

Illinois News Bureau, 9 February 2021

Craig Chamberlain, Social Sciences Editor

<https://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/2091437586>

-- Cara Finnegan's new book "Photographic Presidents" addresses the evolution of photography through its interactions with U.S. presidents.

Original Glass Plate Negative Of President Benjamin Harrison In Chattanooga Found

The Chattanooga.com, 9 February 2021

<https://www.chattanooga.com/2021/2/9/423000/Original-Glass-Plate-Negative-Of.aspx>

-- The Picnooga/Chattanooga Historical Society acquired the original glass plate negative attributed to the photographer A.A. Haskell of President Harrison's April 15, 1891 visit to Chattanooga. The resolution is very sharp and detailed and was purchased in an estate sale in Massachusetts.

Now we see why Gerald Ford was wrong to pardon Richard Nixon

The Salt Lake Tribune, 8 February 2021

Devin Thorpe, Special to The Tribune

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/commentary/2021/02/08/devin-thorpe-now-we-see/>

-- Notes that Ford lost his election to Jimmy Carter due to his decision to pardon Richard Nixon, and the precedent that set.

Full National Impact of 2nd Trump Impeachment Could Take Decades to Unpack

Voice of America, 7 February 2021

Dora Mekouar

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/all-about-america/full-national-impact-2nd-trump-impeachment-could-take-decades-unpack>

-- Impeachments aside, Trump made good on his promises according to Barbara Perry (University of Virginia's Miller Center) – he lowered taxes on the wealthy, reduced federal regulations, appointed over 200 conservative federal judges—including three U.S. Supreme Court justices.

George P. Schultz, secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan, dies at 100

WABC-TV New York, 7 February 2021

Dion Lim

<https://abc7ny.com/george-shultz-secretary-of-state-death-ronald-reagan-sec/10320023/>

-- Schultz was also the Treasury Secretary under Richard Nixon and a fellow at The Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He earned a Ph.D from MIT following his service in WWII.

Task force recommends sign for Thomas Jefferson statue on MU campus

KY3 (Springfield, MO), 6 February 2021

Associated Press

<https://www.ky3.com/2021/02/06/task-force-recommends-sign-for-thomas-jefferson-statue-on-mu-campus/>

-- A task force is recommending that an explanatory sign be placed near a controversial statue of Thomas Jefferson on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. The sign would explain Jefferson's accomplishments as well as noting he owned slaves.

Here's what the Thomas Jefferson statue task force recommends

Columbia Daily Tribune, 5 February 2021

Roger McKinney

<https://www.columbiatribune.com/story/news/education/campus/2021/02/05/mizzou-thomas-jefferson-statue-task-force-makes-recommendations-missouri/4405916001/>

-- A University of Missouri task force has recommended placing a sign next to the Jefferson statue on the campus which describes his accomplishments and failings.

Just like regular people, presidents have romances, too

The Virginia Gazette, 5 February 2021

Dr. Jonathan Stolz, Opinion

<https://www.dailypress.com/virginiagazette/opinion/va-vg-ed-oped-presidential-sweethearts-0206-20210205-hg3gvrov3jgqxpgrfd3z3ssri-story.html>

- Covering presidents from the 1700's to contemporary times, the conclusion is that most marriages of America's chief executives have been surprisingly steadfast.

Proof that Donald Trump IS Richard Nixon and Joe Biden IS Gerald Ford

Arizona Republic, 2 February 2021

EJ Montini

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/ej-montini/2021/02/02/proof-donald-trump-richard-nixon-and-joe-biden-gerald-ford/4354857001/>

-- Refers to an essay written by Jan Morris in 1974 for Rolling Stone magazine.

Hayes Presidential offers free admission on Presidents Day

The Press (Ohio), 31 January 2021

<http://presspublications.com/content/hayes-presidential-offers-free-admission-presidents-day>

-- The museum and home of the 19th President is offering free admission on Presidents Day. Attendance will be capped to maintain proper physical distancing.

Could Trump Make A Comeback In 2024?

NPR, WAMU 88.5, 30 January 2021

Ron Elving

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/30/961919674/could-trump-make-a-comeback-in-2024>

-- The article notes that there is little precedent for a former president running again, let alone winning. Only one president, Grover Cleveland, who was defeated for reelection has come back to win again.

What Ulysses Grant Can Teach Joe Biden About Putting Down Violent Insurrections

Politico, 30 January 2021

Casey Michel

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/01/30/what-ulysses-grant-can-teach-joe-biden-about-putting-down-violent-insurrections-463976>

-- During Reconstruction, a raft of attempted insurrections flared up across the former Confederacy. The article discusses the differences and similarities to recent U.S.

events, and how they were handled by Grant, who was the former commander of the Union Army.

Backlash after San Francisco votes to rename Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson schools

The Hill, Changing America, 29 January 2021

Joseph Guzman

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/536469-backlash-after-san-francisco-votes-to-rename-lincoln-washington>

-- The names of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and other prominent figures will be removed from dozens of San Francisco public schools.

George W. Bush to thank Dick Cheney, father of Liz Cheney, 'for his daughter's service'

CNN Politics, 29 January 2021

Jamie Gangel and Caroline Kelly

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/29/politics/george-w-bush-thank-dick-cheney-liz-cheney/index.html>

-- Former President Bush is making it clear that he supports Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the No. 3 Republican in the House, who voted to impeach then-President Donald Trump.

Stanford's relationship to the Hoover Institution highlights Faculty Senate discussion

Stanford Today (Stanford University), 29 January 2021

Kate Chesley

<https://news.stanford.edu/today/2021/01/29/stanfords-relationship-hoover-institution-highlights-faculty-senate-discussion/>

-- Faculty members expressed support in the quarterly meeting for increased collaborations with the Hoover Institution. Condoleezza Rice pointed out that the institution contributes financially to both political parties on an equal basis. It was noted that the university as a whole leans Democratic.

Why are Michelle Obama and George W. Bush such good friends? Inside an unlikely bipartisan relationship built on hugs, songs and cough drops

Business Insider, Style, 27 January 2021

<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/style/celebrity/article/3119357/why-are-michelle-obama-and-george-w-bush-such-good>

-- Since 2009, former Republican president Bush and former first lady Obama have made their bond clear to the world in some surprisingly candid public moments. Several photos included in the article.

How Eisenhower thought Supreme Court justices should be chosen

MINNPOST, 26 January 2021

Eric Black

<https://www.minnpost.com/eric-black-ink/2021/01/how-eisenhower-thought-supreme-court-justices-should-be-chosen/>

-- Eisenhower had made two Supreme Court appointments during his first years in office. In his fourth year, heading into reelection in 1956, another vacancy occurred and the president thought it was important to make a statement that lifetime appointments should not be used to pile up justices from the president's own party.

Who is the worst American president of all time?

The Washington Post, 25 January 2021

Bruce J. Schulman, Huntington professor of history at Boston University

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/01/25/who-is-worst-american-president-all-time/>

-- Commentary on how presidents have been assessed currently and historically.

Andrew Jackson Foundation CEO says removal of portrait from Oval Office 'disappointing'

FOX17, WZTV Nashville, 22 January 2021

Adrian Mojica, Anthony Glover

<https://fox17.com/news/local/andrew-jackson-foundation-ceo-says-removal-of-portrait-from-oval-office-disappointing-white-house-president-joe-biden-social-justice-tennessee-politics-us-news>

-- The President & CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation says the removal of former president Andrew Jackson from the White House Oval Office by President Biden is "disappointing but not surprising." He noted that Jackson was nominated by the Democratic Party, and former presidents of both parties have displayed Jackson in their Oval Offices.

Nixon rehabilitated his image. Could Trump?

The Washington Post, 22 January 2021

Elizabeth Drew, author of "Washington Journal: Reporting Watergate and Richard Nixon's Downfall."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/nixon-trump-rebranding-rehabilitation/2021/01/22/603ecca4-5c29-11eb-b8bd-ee36b1cd18bf_story.html

-- Drew compares the two former presidents and how Nixon's post-presidency activities returned much of his reputation, wondering if Trump will follow that path.

‘Dear Bill’: The classy letters left in the Oval Office from one president to another

The Washington Post, 20 January 2021

Gillian Brockell

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/01/20/presidential-notes-inauguration-trump-biden/>

-- As President Trump’s term came to a close Wednesday, he embraced one tradition while ignoring so many others, leaving a note in the Oval Office for President-elect Joe Biden, White House spokesman Judd Deere told reporters. Biden described it as “a very generous letter,” but said it was private and that he wouldn’t share it until he had a chance to speak to Trump.

How a lame duck president signed Washington Territory’s birth certificate on Inauguration Eve

MYNorthwest (Seattle), 20 January 2021

Feliks Banel

<https://mynorthwest.com/2484840/lame-duck-president-millard-fillmore-washington-territory/>

-- On 2 March 1853 President Millard Fillmore signed legislation creating the Washington Territory. Fillmore was a Whig, one of the predecessors of the Republican Party, and incoming President Franklin Pierce was a Democrat.

The Political Pendulum Swings, but the Economy Does Its Own Thing

Barron’s, 20 January 2021

Kenneth G. Pringle

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/presidents-dont-influence-the-economy-as-much-as-you-might-think-51610620201>

-- A summary of the economic ups and downs that presidents from Coolidge to present day experienced, often having very little to do with either.

Richard Nixon Movies: What To Watch To Learn More About His Presidency, Resignation And Legacy

Cinema Blend, 19 January 2021

Philip Sledge

<https://www.cinemablend.com/news/2561455/richard-nixon-movies-what-to-watch-to-learn-more-about-his-presidency-resignation-and-legacy>

-- Included on the list are Oliver Stone’s “Nixon” (1995), All The President’s Men (1976), and Elvis & Nixon (2016) starring Michael Shannon and Kevin Spacey.

Trump is the Worst President in History

The Atlantic, 19 January 2021

Tim Naftali, Clinical associate professor of history at NYU

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/01/trump-worst-president-history/617730/>

-- Three particular failures secure Trump's status as the worst chief executive ever to hold office. Reasons stated include that he was the first president to be impeached twice, and he challenged the election results which resulted in his loss of a second term.

1933 presidential transition led to a lifelong hatred between Hebert Hoover and FDR

CBS2Iowa's News NOW, 19 January 2021

Nick Weig

<https://cbs2iowa.com/news/local/iowas-herbert-hoover-part-of-another-difficult-transfer-of-power>

-- Hoover wanted Roosevelt to work with him before his term started in March. Roosevelt did not want to tie his political future to a failed president. After FDR's death Harry Truman called upon Hoover to use his skills to help Europe rebuild and recover.

New York City's Often Overlooked History of Presidential Inaugurations

Spectrum News NY 1, 18 January 2021

Roger Clark

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2021/01/17/a-presidential-inauguration-in-new-york-city>

-- Two inaugurations were held in New York City. George Washington's at the Old Federal Hall near Wall Street, when New York was the nation's capital. The other was Chester Arthur's on 19 September 1881 in his home. Arthur replaced James Garfield who died from an assassin's bullet hours earlier.

The last president to skip his successor's inauguration was Tennessee's Andrew Johnson

Knox news, 18 January 2021

Travis Dorman, Knoxville News Sentinel

<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/politics/2021/01/19/last-president-skip-inauguration-andrew-johnson-tennessee/4174924001/>

- Trump declared in an 8 January tweet (Twitter) that he would not be going to the inauguration on January 20th.

Van Buren Presidential silver medal sales to begin in February

Coin World, 17 January 2021

Paul Gilkes

<https://www.coinworld.com/news/precious-metals/van-buren-presidential-silver-medal-sales-to-begin-in-february>

-- The 1-ounce .999 fine silver medal will be offered by the United States Mint at \$65. The medal is one in a series that includes George Washington, John Adams, and Andrew Jackson.

First president elected with Aspen votes

The Aspen Times, 17 January 2021

Tim Willoughby

<https://www.aspentimes.com/news/first-president-elected-with-aspen-votes/>

-- The 1881 inauguration of James Garfield was the first celebrated in Aspen, Colorado as it was the first presidential election in the town's history. However, there was no newspaper for seven more months in Aspen so there was no local news coverage.

A brief history of some of America's most fraught presidential transitions

National Geographic, 15 January 2021

Amy McKeever

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/history-fraught-presidential-transitions-united-states>

-- An account of several former presidents who have endured both turbulent periods and economic disasters, international crises, and even states seceding from the Union.

Gerald R. Ford family hopes to see 'dignified transfer of power' to heal the nation

MLive Michigan, 14 January 2021

Michael Kransz

<https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2021/01/gerald-r-ford-family-hopes-to-see-dignified-transfer-of-power-to-heal-the-nation.html>

-- The Gerald R. Ford family and its Foundation Trustees released a statement Wednesday after the House voted to impeach President Donald Trump that reflected on how a dignified transfer of power can bring healing to the nation. Ford lost his bid for a second term to former President Jimmy Carter, the foundation said Ford accepted the result, and loss, with "grace and humility" and both leaders insisted on a "dignified transfer of power."

Trump, Impeachment, and the Lessons of the Nixon Pardon

The New Yorker, 14 January 2021

Isaac Chotiner

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/trump-impeachment-and-the-lessons-of-the-nixon-pardon>

-- A discussion of President Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon for all crimes committed during his presidency. Reference to Rick Perlstein, who is the author of a series of books that discuss the rise of modern conservatism.

History suggests Donald Trump's post-White House options are narrow

Financial Times, 11 January 2021

Courtney Weaver

<https://www.ft.com/content/a44ded51-57e5-40fc-9752-a1aa55fb304b>

-- Discussion of the future of President Trump. Comparisons with former ex-presidents Bush, Carter, Clinton, Taft, Cleveland, Hoover, Fillmore, and others.

New Book Offers First-Hand Insights, Lessons Learned From Foreign Policy of George H.W. Bush

Texas A&M Today, 11 January 2021

<https://today.tamu.edu/2021/01/11/new-book-offers-first-hand-insights-lessons-learned-from-foreign-policy-of-george-h-w-bush/>

-- A newly published book, "Transforming Our World" was edited by Andrew S. Natsios and Andrew H. Card, Jr., two Bush 41 administration officials associated with the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. It features first-hand accounts from 18 former Bush 41 officials.

Bush Family's Texas Home Eyed for National Park Designation

NBCFLW, 9 January 2021

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/texas-news/bush-familys-texas-home-eyed-for-national-park-designation/2524143/>

-- George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara Bush and their children lived in the Midland, Texas home from November 1951 to November 1955. The National Park Service is studying a proposal for designating the house as a national park.

Donald Trump's presidency is ending a lot like Andrew Johnson's

The Hill, 9 January 2021

Kevin Walling, Opinion Contributor

<https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/533470-donald-trumps-presidency-is-ending-just-like-andrew-johnsons>

-- The similarities with both presidents foregoing attendance at the incoming president's inauguration, with Johnson even holding a final Cabinet meeting during Grant's inauguration before unceremoniously riding out of town.

Why the Whig Party Collapsed

History, 8 January 2021

David Roos

<https://www.history.com/news/whig-party-collapse>

-- The Whigs and Democrats were the two most powerful political parties in the United States in the mid-19th-century, with two Whigs elected to the White House. However, the consuming issue of slavery was the Whig's ultimate undoing, pitting Northern and

Southern Whigs against each other, scattering leadership to upstart third parties like the Know Nothings and the Republicans.

George W. Bush confirms he will attend Joe Biden's inauguration

Today, 6 January 2021

Scott Stump

<https://www.today.com/news/george-w-bush-confirms-he-will-attend-joe-biden-s-t205149>

-- The country's only living former Republican president has confirmed he will be in attendance when Biden is sworn in as the nation's 46th president.

January 6: ON THIS DAY in 1919, Col. Theodore Roosevelt dies suddenly in his sleep at his home at Oyster Bay

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 6 January 2021

<https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2021/01/06/january-6-on-this-day-in-1919-col-theodore-roosevelt-dies-suddenly-in-his-sleep-at-his-home-at-oyster-bay/>

-- The report from 6 January 1919 in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle stated that the former President came to his home on Sagamore Hill from the Roosevelt Hospital on Christmas Day, but was stricken a week later with a severe attack of rheumatism and sciatica. His two sons abroad, Kermit and Theodore, Jr., were officers with the American Forces in France and the Army of Occupation in Germany."

Trump set to be first president since 1932 to lose reelection, the House and the Senate

The Washington Post, 6 January 2021

Aaron Blake

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/01/06/trump-set-be-first-president-since-1932-lose-reelection-house-senate/>

-- Most modern presidents often win reelection, including all three of Trump's immediate predecessors. Trump became the 10th elected president to run a second time and lose.

Why Trump, Yet Again, Prompts Talk of 25th Amendment

The Washington Post, 6 January 2021

Laurence Arnold, Bloomberg

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/why-trump-yet-again-prompts-talk-of-25th-amendment/2021/01/06/e1713eca-5070-11eb-a1f5-fdaf28cfca90_story.html

-- The 25th amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides an avenue for a president to be removed from the helm of government—temporarily or for good, willingly or not—when necessary under extraordinary circumstances. Trump was not removed and finished his single term.

This day in history, January 5: President Nixon announces development of the space shuttle.

Chicago Tribune, 5 January 2021

Associated Press

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/history/sns-today-history-almanac-january-5-20210105-bytrpyhlhvbolhulc6dic5wmay-story.html>

-- A highlight from the 5 January 1972 edition of the Chicago Tribune noted that President Nixon approved the multi-billion dollar development of the space shuttle.

Tarnished Legacies

American Libraries Magazine, 4 January 2021

Lara Ewen

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2021/01/04/tarnished-legacies-presidential-libraries/>

-- Explanation of Executive Order 13950, issued in September 2020 by President Trump. Titled “Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping,” it was written to counter the “pernicious and false belief that America is an irredeemably racist and sexist country. It threatens to punitive pull funding from organizations that address institutional racism. Further explanation is provided on the impact on presidential libraries.

END