

Zachary Taylor (00:00-8:09)

1. What was Zachary Taylor’s political background before becoming president?
2. The issue of slavery had been “kicked down the road” since the earliest days of America. What events forced it to become an issue during Taylor’s administration?
3. What actions by President Taylor angered the South?

Millard Fillmore (8:09-12:04)

4. How did the Compromise of 1850 lead to the destruction of Fillmore’s career?
5. Historian Richard Norton Smith said, “Millard Fillmore is a punch line today, but if you took Millard Fillmore out of history, America would be a very different place.” What would America have been like without Millard Fillmore?

Franklin Pierce (12:04-19:59)

6. Why did they choose Franklin Pierce?
7. The hot-button issue of Pierce’s day became the route of the transcontinental railroad. Southerners agree on Stephen Douglas’s northern route in exchange for what?
8. How did the compromise in the above question lead to difficulties?
9. Historian H.W. Brands said, “The president, who is supposed to be the one who represents the country as a whole, found that there was no country as a whole to represent. There were these two different sections, and to try to somehow pull them together would have been beyond the capacity of any individual.” Agree or disagree with this statement and cite historical evidence to support your position.

James Buchanan (20:00-24:10)

10. Describe Buchanan's feelings about the South.

11. How did Buchanan respond to the Dred Scott decision?

Abraham Lincoln (24:10-44:09)

12. What event triggered the secession of South Carolina?

13. The South controlled the area around Fort Sumter, but not the fort itself. Lincoln knew they needed help, but did not want to start a war. What did Lincoln choose to do?

14. Lincoln greatly expanded the power of the presidency. Name at least three ways he did so.

15. Lincoln was one of our most effective Commander-in-Chiefs. What was Lincoln's military background?

16. In issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, what authority did Lincoln cite?

17. Historian Edward L. Ayers said, "So I think there's an important lesson, is that we look back on these presidents, and they weren't always monuments." What did he mean by this?

18. Harper's Weekly was America's most popular periodical at the time of Lincoln's assassination. What did Harper's Weekly say about Lincoln?