The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents: “Executive Retreat” - 1865-1901

Andrew Johnson 0:00-12:04

1. How did being a Democrat lead to problems for Andrew Johnson?
2. Johnson made a record number of vetoes. How did Congress respond?
3. Johnson was the first president to be impeached. What led to his impeachment?
4. The political struggles of the Johnson administration are fundamentally a struggle for power between Congress and the presidency. Who won this struggle?

Ulysses S. Grant 12:28-19:50

1. How did Grant fight against the violence of the KKK?
2. What did the government do to combat the Long Depression that began in 1873?
3. What had people in Grant’s administration do that turned into scandals?

Rutherford B. Hayes 20:08-26:20

1. How did rich, powerful men like Andrew Carnegie & John D. Rockefeller increase their wealth and power?
2. The 1876 election ended with three disputed states. How did they resolve this dispute?
3. Why were the presidents too weak to lead the nation?
4. Since the presidents were almost useless, who was really in charge of the nation?

James A. Garfield 26:20-27:28

1. Garfield had been incapacitated (meaning he couldn’t really function). This had almost no result on the government of the United States whatsoever. What does this tell you about the nature of the U.S. government in this period?

Chester A. Arthur 27:28-29:30

1. Why did the public dislike Arthur?

Grover Cleveland 29:30-33:02

1. How did the election of 1884 affect Cleveland’s presidency?

Benjamin Harrison 33:02-34:34

1. Harrison really didn’t lead when he was president. What did he do with his time?

Grover Cleveland 34:34-36:25

1. What led to the failure of Cleveland’s administration and a great deal of anger against his Democratic party?

William McKinley 36:25-44:10

1. What strategy did McKinley use to get elected?
2. Why was McKinley reluctant to use the military and what finally convinced him to go to war?
3. What new roles did America take on in the Spanish-American War?

KEY - Episode 4

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents: “Executive Retreat” - 1865-1901

Andrew Johnson 0:00-12:04

1. How did being a Democrat lead to problems for Andrew Johnson?
   * He had been elected on the Republican ticket, mostly by Republicans, and faced a Republican Congress.
2. Johnson made a record number of vetoes. How did Congress respond?
   * They began by overriding the president’s vetoes (71% of them).
3. Johnson was the first president to be impeached. What led to his impeachment?
   * Congress passed a law that did not allow him to fire his own cabinet members. Johnson fired one anyway.
   * Students could also write about the extremely contentious atmosphere between Congress and the President.
4. The political struggles of the Johnson administration are fundamentally a struggle for power between Congress and the presidency. Who won this struggle?
   * Congress

Ulysses S. Grant 12:28-19:50

1. How did Grant fight against the violence of the KKK?
   * He asked Congress to pass a law suspending their rights. He then had federal troops arrest many Klan leaders and sent a surge of federal troops to disperse the rest.
2. What did the government do to combat the Long Depression that began in 1873?
   * Grant suggested putting people to work on public projects, but his idea was shot down.
   * Congress passed a law that would print money, but Grant vetoed it.
   * In the end, the government basically did nothing.
3. What had people in Grant’s administration do that turned into scandals?
   * They mostly received kickbacks from railroad companies.

Rutherford B. Hayes 20:08-26:20

1. How did rich, powerful men like Andrew Carnegie & John D. Rockefeller increase their wealth and power?
   * They bought failing companies at “fire-sale prices.” They bought all of the failing companies. The video also notes that this was only possible because the government was relatively weak compared to industrialists (some students may put this).
2. The 1876 election ended with three disputed states. How did they resolve this dispute?
   * The Compromise of 1877. Republicans agreed to remove the last federal troops from the South in the three disputed states in exchange for the election of Hayes.
3. Why were the presidents too weak to lead the nation?
   * No one had forgotten what happened to Johnson when he went up against Congress and the presidents did not want to see it happen to them.
   * Because Grant’s administration was known for its corruption, people wanted quiet, uninvolved presidents.
4. Since the presidents were almost useless, who was really in charge of the nation?
   * The captains of industry.

James A. Garfield 26:20-27:28

1. Garfield had been incapacitated (meaning he couldn’t really function). This had almost no result on the government of the United States whatsoever. What does this tell you about the nature of the U.S. government in this period?
   * Virtually all of the power resided with Congress.
   * “Presidential responsibility had dropped a great deal.”

Chester A. Arthur 27:28-29:30

1. Why did the public dislike Arthur?
   * He had done virtually nothing. He had never really been elected to a major office. Instead, he was a product of the spoils system.

Grover Cleveland 29:30-33:02

1. How did the election of 1884 affect Cleveland’s presidency?
   * The media was highly partisan, so Cleveland never trusted them and ran the country accordingly.

Benjamin Harrison 33:02-34:34

1. Harrison really didn’t lead when he was president. What did he do with his time?
   * He would sneak out at noon and go hunting.

Grover Cleveland 34:34-36:25

1. What led to the failure of Cleveland’s administration and a great deal of anger against his Democratic party?
   * He did not believe in government intervention to help people in economic hard times.

William McKinley 36:25-44:10

1. What strategy did McKinley use to get elected?
   * He spent most of his money on pamphlets and posters and only gave political speeches from his front porch.
2. Why was McKinley reluctant to use the military and what finally convinced him to go to war?
   * Because he was a veteran of the Civil War and had seen war’s destruction.
   * The destruction of the Maine and increasing public pressure.
3. What new roles did America take on in the Spanish-American War?
   * Colonial power; world power

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents:

“Call of Duty” - 1899-1921

Theodore Roosevelt 00:00-21:18

1. Roosevelt was a weak and sickly child, but was a strong and healthy adult. What did he do to make that change?
2. Why was Roosevelt concerned about the control wielded by big business?
3. Roosevelt’s attitude to toward presidential powers was significantly different than previous presidents. When Roosevelt looked at the constitution, for what did he look?
4. Roosevelt was the first president to really advocate policy directly with the American people. How did Roosevelt increase his popularity and keep the attention on the presidency? Name at least **three** ways.
5. Theodore Roosevelt’s daughter said, “To understand my father, you need to realize that he must be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral.” What does this quote reveal about Roosevelt?
6. What is an Executive Order?
7. Roosevelt dreamt of building a canal to make transoceanic naval transport easier. What problem did he run into and how did he solve it?
8. Roosevelt sent the new, expanded navy around the world. It was called “The Great White Fleet.” What was the purpose of this journey?

William Howard Taft 21:18-2:

1. How did Taft view the presidency?
2. Describe the division within the Republican Party and explain how Taft increased this rift.
3. What were the “long-lasting implications” of Roosevelt’s choice to leave the Republican Party?

Woodrow Wilson 26:24-44:10

1. Wilson wanted to improve conditions for America’s poor. How did he get Congress to go along with his plans?
2. Wilson felt America was tied up by special interest groups. He wanted to fix this and “make America a fair playing ground again.” How did Wilson attempt to resolve this problem?
3. The narrator said, “Fighting for democracy abroad gave Wilson the power to curtail freedom at home.” Explain what this means and give an example from Wilson’s presidency.
4. How did U.S. involvement in WWI represent a change from previous U.S. policy?
5. Why was Wilson unable to get the League of Nations treaty ratified?
6. Wilson said, “The president can be as big a man as he can be.” What did he mean by this?

KEY - Episode 5

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents:

“Call of Duty” - 1899-1921

Theodore Roosevelt 00:00-21:18

1. Roosevelt was a weak and sickly child, but was a strong and healthy adult. What did he do to make that change?
   * He took up boxing; he went West and became a cowboy.
2. Why was Roosevelt concerned about the control wielded by big business?
   * Food consumed half of the average family’s salary.
   * Business interests controlled the government and he believed that the people should control it.
   * Businesses were preventing smaller businesses from starting/growing.
3. Roosevelt’s attitude to toward presidential powers was significantly different than previous presidents. When Roosevelt looked at the constitution, for what did he look?
   * Whether the Constitution prevented him from doing something. “Can I not do it?” If it didn’t say he couldn’t, then he could.
4. Roosevelt was the first president to really advocate policy directly with the American people. How did Roosevelt increase his popularity and keep the attention on the presidency? Name at least **three** ways.
   * He used all the new gadgets and made sure he was photographed using them.
   * He was an enormous multi-tasker, doing things like giving interviews while being shaved.
   * He was constantly speaking and made sure his thoughts were recorded.
   * He “turned his personal life into a photo op.”
5. Theodore Roosevelt’s daughter said, “To understand my father, you need to realize that he must be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral.” What does this quote reveal about Roosevelt?
   * He always wanted to be the center of attention.
6. What is an Executive Order?
   * When the president bypasses the legislative process and issues policy directly.
7. Roosevelt dreamt of building a canal to make transoceanic naval transport easier. What problem did he run into and how did he solve it?
   * The land where he needed to build his canal was owned by Colombia and they would not allow it.
   * To solve the problem, Roosevelt fomented a revolution among the Panamanians.
8. Roosevelt sent the new, expanded navy around the world. It was called “The Great White Fleet.” What was the purpose of this journey?
   * He was setting the stage for the U.S. to become an international power player.
   * To show the “big stick.”
   * To make a statement about U.S. power.

William Howard Taft 21:18-2:

1. How did Taft view the presidency?
   * He did not want to be president - he saw it as a prison.
2. Describe the division within the Republican Party and explain how Taft increased this rift.
   * It was a battle between the conservatives and the progressives.
   * Taft increased the rift when he sided with the conservatives on many issues. When he tried to compromise and went after the steel trust, it only angered the progressives more because Roosevelt believed it was one of the few “beneficial” trusts.
3. What were the “long-lasting implications” of Roosevelt’s choice to leave the Republican Party?
   * The progressives left with him. They never really returned to the Republican Party.

Woodrow Wilson 26:24-44:10

1. Wilson wanted to improve conditions for America’s poor. How did he get Congress to go along with his plans?
   * He “seduced” them. He invited them to come and participate in meetings at the White House. He made them think that his ideas were their own. He convinced them through the power of his oratory.
2. Wilson felt America was tied up by special interest groups. He wanted to fix this and “make America a fair playing ground again.” How did Wilson attempt to resolve this problem?
   * He convinced Congress to pass the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. He established the Federal Reserve System.
3. The narrator said, “Fighting for democracy abroad gave Wilson the power to curtail freedom at home.” Explain what this means and give an example from Wilson’s presidency.
   * It means that in times of war the American people and Congress tend to choose security over freedom, allowing the president increased power over them.
   * Wilson jailed some people, including some he had run against (Eugene Debs). He urged Congress to pass the Lever Fuel and Control Act, which allowed Wilson to dictate price and distribution of things necessary for the war.
4. How did U.S. involvement in WWI represent a change from previous U.S. policy?
   * Since Washington, the U.S. had stayed out of European affairs, and now Wilson was charging into involvement with Europe.
5. Why was Wilson unable to get the League of Nations treaty ratified?
   * The Republican-controlled Congress did not like Article X (that required defense of member nations). Wilson refused to compromise.
   * He had a stroke while speaking on the topic in Pueblo, Colorado and could not continue pushing his ideas.
   * Wilson refused to sign a modified version of the treaty.
6. Wilson said, “The president can be as big a man as he can be.” What did he mean by this?
   * The man can make the office. If you have an imaginative enough idea of the presidency, then you can transform the office and what it can do.

Ultimate Guide to the Presidents: “Changing of the Guard” - 1920-1945

Warren Harding 00:00-9:08

1. In the election of 1920, why were the American people crying for change?
2. There were many factors that led to the election of Warren Harding. Name at least **two**.
3. According to the video, Harding was a terrible president. What made him so bad?
4. Harding had a few major scandals. All of these scandals have the same basic cause. What was the cause of the scandals?

Calvin Coolidge 9:08-16:55

1. Coolidge was left cleaning up after the scandals of Harding’s administration. What did he do to restore the dignity of the presidency?
2. For what personality trait was Coolidge known?
3. The 20s was an especially prosperous time. According to the video, what led to this prosperous state?

Herbert Hoover 16:55-21:32

1. Herbert Hoover had a different background from most other presidents. What was Hoover’s background?
2. Historian H.W. Brands said, “If he’d been elected in 1920, Herbert Hoover would have been a great president…It was his misfortune to be the right man at the wrong time.” What did Brands mean by this?
3. Why wouldn’t Hoover help the desperate American people during the Depression?
4. How did Depression-era American view Hoover?

Franklin Delano Roosevelt 21:32-44:10

1. How did Roosevelt’s inaugural address help the nation?
2. Roosevelt’s first step was to shut down and restructure the banks. Most notably, he started insuring the banks. When they reopened, what happened?
3. How did Roosevelt control his public image?
4. FDR was frustrated when the Supreme Court ruled against him. What did he do in response?
5. In spite of all of FDR’s New Deal programs, what was the economy of the 1930s like?
6. What role did Eleanor Roosevelt play in the administration?
7. Roosevelt faced an isolationist Congress. Since he knew Congress wouldn’t declare war, what did Roosevelt do?
8. According to historian Michael Flamm, what ended the Great Depression?
9. Roosevelt made a great many changes, especially increasing employees for the war effort. Why did Congress go along with FDR’s plans?
10. What was “one of the great flaws or mistakes” of Roosevelt’s presidency?
11. In what ways did Roosevelt change the American presidency and raise expectations of a president?

KEY - Episode 6

Ultimate Guide to the Presidents: “Changing of the Guard” - 1920-1945

Warren Harding 00:00-9:08

1. In the election of 1920, why were the American people crying for change?
   * They had been “dieting” too long. For the past 20 years, presidents had been asking for their sacrifices in many ways, (war, economic collapse, and labor strikes) and now they more reward for their efforts.
2. There were many factors that led to the election of Warren Harding. Name at least **two**.
   * He promised “normalcy.”
   * He was a regular guy who wanted to please everybody.
   * He was affable and non-threatening.
   * The people wanted more conservatism and less progressivism.
3. According to the video, Harding was a terrible president. What made him so bad?
   * He didn’t understand how to do the job, so he just let others do it for him. He threw lots of large, wild parties at the White House, while the people expected him to set the example
4. Harding had a few major scandals. All of these scandals have the same basic cause. What was the cause of the scandals?
   * Harding had given up control of his administration to people who used the power for personal gain.
   * One of the talking heads says “he was just weak,” so I’ll take that answer, too.

Calvin Coolidge 9:08-16:55

1. Coolidge was left cleaning up after the scandals of Harding’s administration. What did he do to restore the dignity of the presidency?
   * He ordered a thorough investigation into the Teapot Dome Scandal.
   * He committed his presidency to firm, clear principles.
2. For what personality trait was Coolidge known?
   * He was a very reserved, quiet man.
3. The `20s was an especially prosperous time. According to the video, what led to this prosperous state?
   * Extremely low taxes and therefore high consumer spending.

Herbert Hoover 16:55-21:32

1. Herbert Hoover had a different background from most other presidents. What was Hoover’s background?
   * He was a businessman.
2. Historian H.W. Brands said, “If he’d been elected in 1920, Herbert Hoover would have been a great president…It was his misfortune to be the right man at the wrong time.” What did Brands mean by this?
   * Hoover’s policies would have worked perfectly in a prosperous era but he was ill-equipped to handle the Depression. As it was, his policies made the Depression worse.
3. Why wouldn’t Hoover help the desperate American people during the Depression?
   * He didn’t think it was the place of the government to help the people or interfere in the economy. He thought if the government interfered with the economy, it might just make things worse.
4. How did Depression-era American view Hoover?
   * Very negatively. They blamed him for the Depression and called homeless camps “Hoovervilles.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt 21:32-44:10

1. How did Roosevelt’s inaugural address help the nation?
   * It began to address their “psychological needs.” It helped to engender confidence in America.
2. Roosevelt’s first step was to shut down and restructure the banks. Most notably, he started insuring the banks. When they reopened, what happened?
   * People actually lined up to put their money into the banks.
3. How did Roosevelt control his public image?
   * He did not allow himself to be photographed in his wheelchair, but most importantly he held a series of “fireside chats.” He understood that the presidency was theatre.
4. FDR was frustrated when the Supreme Court ruled against him. What did he do in response?
   * He tried to pack the Supreme Court – to add six new justices.
5. In spite of all of FDR’s New Deal programs, what was the economy of the 1930s like?
   * It was a depression within the Great Depression – it was especially terrible. Note that Republicans increased seats in both houses due to this.
6. What role did Eleanor Roosevelt play in the administration?
   * She would travel, gather information, and leave her husband reports on what was going on (in labor and race relations in particular). She was the presidents “eyes and ears.”
7. Roosevelt faced an isolationist Congress. Since he knew Congress wouldn’t declare war, what did Roosevelt do?
   * Prepared for war. He doubled the size of the Navy, instituted a draft, and supported Britain with weapons. Basically, he turned the U.S. into the “arsenal of democracy.”
8. According to historian Michael Flamm, what ended the Great Depression?
   * World War II – specifically, the enormous federal spending to support it.
9. Roosevelt made a great many changes, especially increasing employees for the war effort. Why did Congress go along with FDR’s plans?
   * Because Congress was frightened, too.
10. What was “one of the great flaws or mistakes” of Roosevelt’s presidency?
    * The Japanese-American relocation and internment.
11. In what ways did Roosevelt change the American presidency and raise expectations of a president?
    * People will now look to the president in times of crisis, to take care of them, and to solve their problems.

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents

“Hail to the Chief” - 1945-1964

Harry S. Truman 00:00-19:45

1. Describe Truman’s background.
2. Why did Truman decide to use the atomic bomb?
3. Truman had to deal with a new problem - the economy. How did Truman’s problem with the economy differ from most other president’s economic problems?
4. How was Europe divided between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?
5. How did changes in the government in the early Cold War period increase the power of the presidency?
6. What was Truman’s platform as he ran for reelection (what was his big message for the American people)?
7. Why did Truman fail to get a formal declaration of war in Korea?

Dwight D. Eisenhower 19:45-25:10

1. Eisenhower did not want to commit troops to battle. What did he do instead?
2. “Basically everything that Eisenhower does in domestic affairs is in some ways linked…to national security concerns.” Give at least one example of this.
3. What was Eisenhower’s final warning to the American people?

John F. Kennedy 25:10-36:48

1. Kennedy was very much an idealist. Why did he have difficulty turning his ideas into action?
2. Most of Kennedy’s advisors insisted that the U.S. invade Cuba. Kennedy instead followed his brother’s advice. What did Kennedy do?
3. For two years, Kennedy said he would end segregation “with the stroke of a pen.” When he did not do so, what did black Americans do?

Lyndon B. Johnson 36:48-44:13

1. What was the “Johnson Treatment?”
2. What was Johnson’s attitude towards the poor and minorities?
3. Johnson called his plan for America the “Great Society.” What did the Great Society program entail?
4. Why did Johnson get America involved in the war in Vietnam?

Key - Episode 7

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents Hail to the Chief: 1945-1964

Harry S. Truman 00:00-19:45

1. Describe Truman’s background.
   * He was not very successful - he could not serve in the military and could not afford college, so he worked the family farm. He was largely self-educated, eventually working his way up to Senator before becoming vice president late into FDR’s administration.
2. Why did Truman decide to use the atomic bomb?
   * He had reports that an all-out invasion would cost a lot of American lives - he wanted to avoid that.
3. Truman had to deal with a new problem - the economy. How did Truman’s problem with the economy differ from most other president’s economic problems?
   * There was too much money - therefore prices went up and products couldn’t be found
4. How was Europe divided between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?
   * The sphere of influence of the U.S. existed in the western part of Europe; the U.S.S.R. controlled the east.
5. How did changes in the government in the early Cold War period increase the power of the presidency?
   * The National Security Act gave him access to intelligence that was available to him alone - it was not even available to Congress.
   * They formed the CIA, which provides intelligence information that only the president can access.
6. What was Truman’s platform as he ran for reelection (what was his big message for the American people)?
   * He ran against Congress - what he termed a do-nothing congress.
7. Why did Truman fail to get a formal declaration of war in Korea?
   * He was afraid that getting involved in a full-scale war in Korea would leave Western Europe open to Soviet aggression.

Dwight D. Eisenhower 19:45-25:10

1. Eisenhower did not want to commit troops to battle. What did he do instead?
   * He focused on covert action in proxy wars - he used the CIA to topple governments and used financial resources to shore up other groups (like Vietnam).
2. “Basically everything that Eisenhower does in domestic affairs is in some ways linked…to national security concerns.” Give at least one example of this.
   * The federal highway system was built to evacuate cities or move troops.
   * He pushed for more education in areas that are important to national security.
3. What was Eisenhower’s final warning to the American people?
   * Guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence by the military-industrial complex.

John F. Kennedy 25:10-36:48

1. Kennedy was very much an idealist. Why did he have difficulty turning his ideas into action?
   * Congress opposed him.
2. Most of Kennedy’s advisors insisted that the U.S. invade Cuba. Kennedy instead followed his brother’s advice. What did Kennedy do?
   * He pledged not to invade Cuba and privately agreed to remove his missiles from Turkey.
3. For two years, Kennedy said he would end segregation “with the stroke of a pen.” When he did not do so, what did African-Americans do?
   * Either sent him pens or 250,000 marched on Washington, D.C.

Lyndon B. Johnson 36:48-44:13

1. What was the “Johnson Treatment?”
   * He would get in close to you and invade your personal space until he had your vote.
2. What was Johnson’s attitude towards the poor and minorities?
   * He wanted to help them - he had a great deal of empathy. He wanted everyone to be treated equally.
3. Johnson called his plan for America the “Great Society.” What did the Great Society program entail?
   * It fundamentally changed who we are. Medicare, Medicaid, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Arts & Humanities Act. Head Start. The first environmental legislation in America.
4. Why did Johnson get America involved in the war in Vietnam?
   * He wanted to keep his popularity in order to keep support for his Great Society programs. There was also a belief that the war was absolutely necessary to prevent the spread of communism in Asia.

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents

“Mantle of Power” - 1965-2013

Lyndon B. Johnson (began in previous episode) 00:00-03:42

1. How did the war in Vietnam affect how the American people viewed Johnson?

Richard Nixon 03:42-11:44

1. Nixon inherited a nation that had several major problems. What problem did it face that was as bad as it had been right after the Civil War?
2. How did Nixon change U.S. policy toward China?
3. In an interview with David Frost, Nixon said, “When a president does it, that means it’s not illegal.” How did this attitude hurt Nixon’s political career?

Gerald Ford 11:44-16:17

1. One of Gerald Ford’s first actions was to pardon, or forgive, Richard Nixon. Why did Ford pardon Nixon?
2. How had the media changed the way they treated the president?

Jimmy Carter 16:17-20:06

1. During the election, Jimmy Carter portrayed himself as an everyman - a normal person. How did this hurt him once he was president?

Ronald Reagan 20:06-29:45

1. In the election, wow was Ronald Reagan different than Jimmy Carter?
2. What was Reagan’s greatest strength as president?
3. How did the attempted assassination actually help Reagan?
4. Describe Reagan’s relationship with the Soviet Union.

The Final Four 29:48-44:11

1. The terrorist attacks led to more than a simple military response. What did the U.S. begin to do in addition to war?
2. How has the 24-hour news cycle changed the presidency?
3. What remains the major issue regarding the power of the presidency?
4. How does a president’s second term differ from the first?

KEY - Episode 8

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents Mantle of Power: 1965-2013

Lyndon B. Johnson (began in previous episode) 00:00-03:42

1. How did the war in Vietnam affect how the American people viewed Johnson?
   * It undermined his credibility - it turned many Americans against him.

Richard Nixon 03:42-11:44

1. Nixon inherited a nation that had several major problems. What problem did it face that was as bad as it had been right after the Civil War?
   * The nation was very divided.
2. How did Nixon change U.S. policy toward China?
   * He made an alliance with China. He played China and the U.S.S.R. off against each other. He made us partners in economic affairs in particular.
3. In an interview with David Frost, Nixon said, “When a president does it, that means it’s not illegal.” How did this attitude hurt Nixon’s political career?
   * It led him to think that he could do what he wanted, including spy on the opposing party. This essentially ended his political career.

Gerald Ford 11:44-16:17

1. One of Gerald Ford’s first actions was to pardon, or forgive, Richard Nixon. Why did Ford pardon Nixon?
   * He needed to move on. He needed the press and the public to focus on a different issue.
2. How had the media changed the way they treated the president?
   * He had moved from becoming an object of respect to being an object of ridicule.

Jimmy Carter 16:17-20:06

1. During the election, Jimmy Carter portrayed himself as an everyman - a normal person. How did this hurt him once he was president?
   * He couldn’t get the others on his side - he really couldn’t convince the other people in Washington to go along with him. His attitude of goodness was charming in the election, but started to “wear a little thin” for the presidency itself.

Ronald Reagan 20:06-29:45

1. In the election, wow was Ronald Reagan different than Jimmy Carter?
   * Carter knew more, but Reagan communicated better. Carter tended to make the American people feel bad or guilty or discouraged about their country, where Reagan made them feel good about their country. Reagan seemed overwhelmingly sincere.
2. What was Reagan’s greatest strength as president?
   * He was the “Great Communicator.” He was comfortable with the media and was able to get his ideals before the American people.
3. How did the attempted assassination actually help Reagan?
   * Before that, he couldn’t get Congress on his side. His approval rating shot up.
4. Describe Reagan’s relationship with the Soviet Union.
   * He wanted to undo détente. He was very confrontational, increasing military spending and increasing our involvement in proxy warfare.

The Final Four 29:48-44:11

1. The terrorist attacks led to more than a simple military response. What did the U.S. begin to do in addition to war?
   * nation building - working to spread freedom and democracy
2. How has the 24-hour news cycle changed the presidency?
   * Presidents no longer have a time to stop and think - they have to respond very quickly.
   * They focus on minute details and will remember everything a candidate says.
3. What remains the major issue regarding the power of the presidency?
   * The balance between congressional and presidential power.
4. How does a president’s second term differ from the first?
   * They manage the accomplishments of their first term, while they have a greater freedom of action internationally.