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## **Biographies and Memoirs of the Presidents of the United States of America**

To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

### **The Defining Moment FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope By Jonathan Alter**

Read by Lou Harpenau                      Reading time 14 hours, 50 minutes  
Concentrates on the beginning of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency in 1933 (the "Hundred Days"), when federal legislation was implemented to provide immediate relief from the effects of the Great Depression. Details the programs that were launched, including Social Security, and the failure to implement others, including universal healthcare. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Defining Moment FDR's Hundred Days and...](#)  
Also available on digital cartridge DB068945

### **Barack and Michelle Portrait of an American Marriage By Christopher P. Andersen**

Read by Dion Graham                      Reading time 11 hours  
The author of Bill and Hillary: The Marriage (RC 48856) chronicles the courtship and marriage of American president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle. Analyzes both the struggles and achievements of the biracial politician and his Chicago-born and -bred partner. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Barack and Michelle Portrait of an American...](#)  
Also available on digital cartridge DB069408

**Our Country's Presidents All You Need to Know About the Presidents, From George Washington to Barack Obama** Ann Bausum

Read by Bob Moore

Reading time 9 hours, 44 minutes

Comprehensive guide to the presidents of the United States. Includes biographical information, summaries of their accomplishments, discussion of important events that happened during their administrations, and descriptions of geographical landmarks associated with them. Foreword by President Barack Obama. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Our Country's Presidents All You Need to Know...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077519

**Decision Points** By George W. Bush

Read by Bill Wallace

Reading time 21 hours, 22 minutes

George W. Bush, the forty-third president of the United States, describes pivotal decisions in his personal and political lives. Discusses his governance of Texas, the contested 2000 presidential election, and crises including the 9/11 terrorist attacks, wars in the Middle East, and Hurricane Katrina. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Decision Points](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072023

**Keeping Faith Memoirs of a President** By Jimmy Carter

Read by Hal Tenny

Reading time 24 hours, 57 minutes

The thirty-ninth President of the United States offers his impressions of life in the White House, the crisis that confronted him, and the people who worked intimately with or against him. He also tells, with feeling, of his relationship with his wife, Rosalynn. Bestseller 1982.

[Download from BARD: Keeping Faith Memoirs of a President](#)

Also available on cassette RC018686

**Lincoln a Life of Purpose and Power** By Richard Carwardine

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 18 hours, 5 minutes

Assesses Abraham Lincoln's political career in peacetime and as the only U.S. president to contend with civil war. Examines his beliefs and ambitions, effectiveness in state politics and Congress, and emergence as a national leader. Discusses Lincoln's development on issues from restoring the Union to emancipation. Lincoln Prize. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Lincoln a Life of Purpose and Power](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065350

**Washington a Life** By Ron Chernow

Read by Michael Scherer                      Reading time 38 hours, 55 minutes

Award-winning author pens a comprehensive biography of America's first president. Uses previously unavailable letters and papers to delve into the personality behind the icon. Details Washington's private life, including his beliefs about slavery, while chronicling the wars and political conflicts that shaped the country's path. Some violence. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Washington a Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072132

**My Life** By Bill Clinton

Read by Bill Clinton                      Reading time 6 hours, 8 minutes

Abridged autobiography of William Jefferson Clinton, forty-second American president. Commercial audiobook. 2004.

[Download from BARD: My Life](#)

Also available on cassette RC058101

**The Presidency of William Howard Taft** By Paolo Enrico Coletta

Read by Hal Tenny                      Reading time 13 hours, 55 minutes

An account of the presidency of William Howard Taft from 1908 until Woodrow Wilson became president in 1912. Chapters cover such issues as the tariff bill, the crisis over conservation, tariff reciprocity with Canada, the antitrust crusade, dollar diplomacy, and Taft's falling-out with Theodore Roosevelt.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of William Howard Taft](#)

Also available on cassette RC031186

**Twilight at Monticello the Final Years of Thomas Jefferson** By Alan Pell Crawford

Read by Jake Williams                      Reading time 11 hours, 32 minutes

Uses primary sources to chronicle the postpresidential years (1809-1826) of Thomas Jefferson. Describes problems he had with a dysfunctional extended family, agricultural mismanagement, soaring debt, and deteriorating health. Highlights Jefferson's establishment of the secular University of Virginia and his correspondence with John Adams. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Twilight at Monticello the Final Years of Thomas...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066246

**Write it When I'm Gone: Remarkable Off-the-Record Conversations with Gerald R. Ford** By Thomas M. DeFrank

Read by Gregory Gorton                      Reading time 9 hours

Former White House reporter DeFrank presents "an anecdotal memoir" of U.S. president Gerald Ford's life in politics, which Ford asked to remain unpublished until after his death. Using interviews from 1991 to 2006, DeFrank highlights Ford's character and his candid assessments of contemporaries, including Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Write it When I'm Gone Remarkable Off...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066303

**Going Home to Glory: A Memoir of Life with Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1961-1969** By David Eisenhower

Read by Barry Bernson                      Reading time 12 hours, 7 minutes

Eisenhower's grandson David describes his grandfather's retirement on the cattle farm "Ike" owned in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Discusses the thirty-fourth president's opinions on the Vietnam War and his relationships with John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard Nixon. Sequel to Eisenhower at War (DB 24966). 2010.

[Download from BARD: Going Home to Glory: a Memoir of Life with...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073880

**At Ease Stories I Tell to Friends** By Dwight D. Eisenhower

Read by Lou Harpenau                      Reading time 14 hours, 28 minutes

Presidential reminiscences and anecdotes as well as autobiographical recollections covering Eisenhower's Kansas boyhood, West Point career, and courtship of Mamie.

[Download from BARD: At East Stories I Tell to Friends](#)

Also available on cassette RC029223

**The Presidency of Calvin Coolidge** By Robert H. Ferrell

Read by Butch Hoover

Reading time 11 hours, 21 minutes

Portrait of Coolidge's youth in Vermont, his years at Amherst College, and his careers as a lawyer, Massachusetts governor, vice president, and thirtieth U.S. president. Explores social, economic, and foreign affairs issues faced by his 1920s administration. Depicts Coolidge as an honest and devoted civil servant. 1998.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Calvin Coolidge](#)

Also available on cassette RC049654

**The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers** By Thomas J. Fleming

Read by Jim Zeiger

Reading time 20 hours, 39 minutes

Historian explores the personal lives of founding fathers George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Discusses their marriages and the characters of their wives, lovers, and children. Speculates on the first ladies' influence and the erosion of some reputations. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072044

**A Time to Heal the Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford** By Gerald R. Ford

Read by Bob Butz

Reading time 17 hours, 5 minutes

Former President Ford discusses his early years and family life, his climb to the presidency, and the importance of his controversial decision to pardon Richard Nixon. 1979.

[Download from BARD: A Time to Heal the Autobiography of Gerald R...](#)

Also available on cassette RC013829

**Ike and Dick Portrait of a Strange Political Marriage** By Jeffrey Frank

Read by Ray Hagen

Reading time 16 hours, 48 minutes

Analyzes the political and personal relationship of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his two-term vice president Richard M. Nixon. Discusses Cold War politics, the personalities of the two politicians, and the complications caused by the romance between Eisenhower's grandson and Nixon's daughter. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Ike and Dick Portrait of a Strange Political](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077070

**No Ordinary Time Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt : the Home Front in World War II** By Doris Kearns Goodwin

Read by Janis Gray

Reading time 40 hours, 18 minutes

A portrait of the president and the first lady during World War II. Based on her examination of their papers, and interviews with their friends and family, Goodwin analyzes the Roosevelts' adversities, achievements, and leadership from interrelated political, social, intellectual, and personal perspectives. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: No Ordinary Time Franklin and Eleanor...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB039154

**The Presidency of William McKinley** By Lewis L. Gould

Read by Art Metzler

Reading time 11 hours, 31 minutes

McKinley, elected in 1896 as the twenty-fifth president, is considered by many to be the first modern president, since his administration spawned many of the precedents that succeeding presidents would follow. He developed a formal relationship with the press and a telegraph and telephone capacity to keep abreast of happenings overseas, brought in experts through the use of commissions, and accepted the legislative branch as an equal.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of William McKinley](#)

Also available on cassette RC031428

**The Presidency of George Bush** By John Robert Green

Read by John Richardson

Reading time 11 hours, 26 minutes

An account of the president from 1988-1992, presenting both his strengths and weaknesses. Considers the administration's inheritance of Ronald Reagan's "voodoo economics," domestic agenda, and foreign policy. Discusses the success of the Persian Gulf War and Bush's lost bid for reelection. 2000.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of George Bush](#)

Also available on cassette RC051457

**Bill Clinton Mastering the Presidency** By Nigel Hamilton

Read by Bill Wallace

Reading time 28 hours, 3 minutes

Author of Bill Clinton: An American Journey (RC 57118) details the forty-second president's first term. Chronicles early setbacks--such as catastrophes in Somalia and Haiti and failed attempts at healthcare reform--and later successes in establishing peace in the Balkans, achieving a balanced budget, and winning reelection in 1996. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Bill Clinton Mastering the Presidency](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065586

Also available on cassette RC065586

**The Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes** Ari Arthur Hoogenboom

Read by Art Metzler

Reading time 10 hours, 45 minutes

When Hayes was nominated by the Republican party to run for president in 1876, he was relatively unknown and not expected to win. Covered in this account of his administration, which officially ended the Reconstruction era, are troop withdrawals from Louisiana and South Carolina, the Great Strike of 1877, the Nez Perce War, the struggle for civil service reform, and the effort to preserve voting rights.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes](#)

Also available on cassette RC031187

**Ike an American Hero** By Michael Korda

Read by Mark Ashby

Reading time 26 hours, 40 minutes

Chronicles Dwight D. Eisenhower's rise from Mennonite, Kansas farmboy to Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II. Details Ike's personal life, military career, and two terms as U.S. president during the Cold War. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Ike an American Hero](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065439

**James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights** By Richard E.

Labunski

Read by Ted Stoddard

Reading time 13 hours, 4 minutes

Professor analyzes James Madison's influence on the formation of the U.S. Constitution and its first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights. Provides a detailed account of the debate between Madison and anti-Federalist Patrick Henry over the ratification of the Constitution and describes Madison's hard-won election to Congress. 2006.

[Download from BARD: James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065857

**The Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt** By George T. McJimsey

Read by Lou Harpenau

Reading time 15 hours, 22 minutes

Professor analyzes the four-term presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR). Focuses on both domestic issues, including economic and social recovery from the Great Depression era, and international affairs, in which FDR stood against colonialism, fascism, and communism. Accentuates the transformation of the American presidency and FDR's pluralist leanings. 2000.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068895

**Tried by War Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief** By James M.

McPherson

Read by Butch Hoover

Reading time 9 hours, 57 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian highlights the role President Abraham Lincoln played as the head of the U.S. military during the Civil War. Stresses Lincoln's study and application of war strategies and his development of a political and national policy that focused on preserving the union. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Tried by War Abraham Lincoln as Commander...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067863

**American Lion Andrew Jackson in the White House** By Jon Meacham

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 21 hours, 18 minutes

Newsweek editor and author of Franklin and Winston (RC 57644) describes the expansion of the power of the American president begun in 1829 by Andrew Jackson. Highlights Jackson's belief in the will of the common man and discusses the development of the Democratic Party under his leadership. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: American Lion Andrew Jackson in the White...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068010

**Thomas Jefferson the Art of Power** By Jon Meacham

Read by Michael Scherer

Reading time 26 hours, 6 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of American Lion (DB/RC 68010) pens a biography of the third U.S. president, focusing on Jefferson's use of political power to advance his philosophical ideas of progress and individual freedom. Discusses Jefferson's birthright and family, pre-Revolutionary life, diplomatic roles, and years in the White House. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Thomas Jefferson the Art of Power](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075864

**Destiny of the Republic a Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President** By Candice Millard

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 11 hours, 40 minutes

Chronicles the life of James A. Garfield (1831-1881), the twentieth American president. Highlights Garfield's rise from poverty to the Oval Office. Details the attack by deranged office-seeker Charles Guiteau and the medical care that killed Garfield despite the efforts of Alexander Graham Bell. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Destiny of the Republic a Tale of Madness...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073787

**President Lincoln the Duty of a Statesman** By William Lee Miller

Read by Butch Hoover

Reading time 21 hours, 24 minutes

The author of Lincoln's Virtues (RC 57259) continues his examination of the sixteenth president's moral and intellectual life--this time covering Lincoln's term in the White House. Discusses his determination to preserve the union and to avoid armed conflict. Describes the ethical challenge of slavery. 2008.

[Download from BARD: President Lincoln the Duty of a Statesman](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066880

**The Memoirs of Richard Nixon** By Richard M. Nixon

Read by Bob Butz

Reading time 47 hours, 22 minutes

Autobiography of the thirty-seventh president of the United States includes recollections of a rural California boyhood and continues through his resignation and departure from the White House. Provides insight into the complexities of the modern presidency. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon](#)

Also available on cassette RC011756

**Dreams From My Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance** By Barak Obama

Read by Bob Moore

Reading time 15 hours, 28 minutes

Obama, his father a Kenyan student and his mother a white Kansan, struggles with issues of identity and ethnicity. A Harvard Law School graduate, community organizer, and civil rights lawyer, Obama recounts a life-changing pilgrimage to Kenya to meet relatives from his father's other marriages. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Dreams From My Father: a Story of Race and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043877

Also available on cassette RC043877

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18106](#)

Also available in braille BR018106

**Franklin and Lucy President Roosevelt, Mrs. Rutherford, and The Other Remarkable Women in His Life** By Joseph E. Persico

Read by Ted Stoddard

Reading time 17 hours, 13 minutes

Examines the relationships between President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the important women in his life: his mother Sara, his wife Eleanor, Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford (née Lucy Mercer), his secretary Missy LeHand, and his distant cousin Daisy Suckley. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Franklin and Lucy President Roosevelt Mrs....](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066938

**My Father at 100** By Ron Reagan

Read by L.J. Ganser

Reading time 8 hours, 25 minutes

Ronald Reagan's youngest child seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the fortieth president, who would have turned one hundred on February 6, 2011. Shares experiences from his father's past and his own family memories. Posits that memory lapses his father experienced while in office foreshadowed his Alzheimer's diagnosis. 2011.

[Download from BARD: My Father at 100](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072920

**An American Life** By Ronald Reagan

Read by John Rayburn

Reading time 25 hours, 42 minutes

Shortly after Reagan's birth in 1911, his father reportedly remarked that "He looks like a fat little Dutchman. But who knows, he might grow up to be president one day." That prediction did come true, but according to Reagan, if he had not been turned down for a job at Montgomery Ward, he may never have left Illinois. Reagan writes of his growing up in Illinois during the depression, his Hollywood career, and his rise to the top in politics.

[Download from BARD: An American Life](#)

Also available on cassette RC032006

**Theodore Roosevelt An Autobiography** By Theodore Roosevelt

Read by Hal Tenny

Reading time 25 hours, 19 minutes

Roosevelt believed in the joy of life, and his autobiography shows his celebration of that belief. He devotes some space to his terms as president of the United States (1901-1909), but dwells more on other interests. Roosevelt was also a ranch rider, ornithologist, big game hunter, and soldier, as well as being a writer and a voracious reader.

[Download from BARD: Theodore Roosevelt An Autobiography](#)

Also available on cassette RC031097

**Coolidge** By Amity Shlaes

Read by Lou Harpenau

Reading time 21 hours, 51 minutes

Author of *The Forgotten Man* (DB 66807) chronicles the life of Republican president Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) from his New England roots to the assumption of the presidency after the death of President Warren Harding in 1923. Highlights Coolidge's economic policies and his support of new technology. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Coolidge](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076304

**Eisenhower in War and Peace** By Jean Edward Smith

Read by Michael Scherer

Reading time 30 hours, 8 minutes

Prize-winning author posits that Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969) was the second-most successful twentieth-century U.S. president, surpassed only by Franklin Roosevelt. Chronicles Eisenhower's family life, pre-World War II army career, and rise to Allied supreme commander. Highlights the achievements of his presidency, including civil rights legislation, peace, and prosperity. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Eisenhower in War and Peace](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074849

**The Presidency of Warren G. Harding** By Eugene P. Trani

Read by Art Metzler

Reading time 9 hours, 13 minutes

Scholars have consistently rated Harding as least successful of all the Presidents of the United States. The authors acknowledge "he was an ineffective leader who suffered both personal and political scandal," but assess his term as one of transition, from war to peace, and from rural to urban concerns. Harding died in 1923 of natural causes, on a speaking tour in California, after only three years in office.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Warren G. Harding](#)

Also available on cassette RC032060

**John Quincy Adams** By Harlow G. Unger

Read by Johnny Heller

Reading time 9 hours, 45 minutes

Historian and author of John Hancock (DB 62213) examines the personal and political life of sixth American president John Quincy Adams (1767-1848).

Discusses Adams's father--the second U.S. president--and the younger Adams's career as a diplomat prior to his 1825 election to the highest office.

Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: John Quincy Adams](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076340

**A. Lincoln a Biography** by Ronald C. White

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 30 hours, 31 minutes

Chronological narrative of President Abraham Lincoln's life describing the influence of his stepmother Sarah, his political rise in Illinois, and his election campaigns. White, a fellow at the Huntington Library, uses primary sources to offer insight into Lincoln's moral and intellectual thinking. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: A. Lincoln a Biography](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069003

**The Presidency of Martin Van Buren** By Major L. Wilson

Read by Jerry Fordyce

Reading time 11 hours, 55 minutes

Dispels the notion of Van Buren as an unprincipled spoilsman. Instead, he is described as a gifted politician and leader dedicated to the Union as the highest good. His presidency, long denigrated, was, says Wilson, at least a qualified success.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Martin Van Buren](#)

Also available on cassette RC022426