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

Every U.S. president is included on this list. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most 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

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

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

Zachary Taylor: Soldier, Planter, Statesman of the Old Southwest by K. Jack Bauer

Read by Roy Avers

13 hours, 34 minutes

Biography of the twelfth president of the United States based on recent scholarship. Bauer, after much research, still sees Taylor as an enigma. He portrays him as a narrow, jealous, but competent soldier who emerged as a presidential possibility as a result of his activities in the Mexican War.

[Download from BARD: Zachary Taylor: Soldier, Planter, Statesman of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB025350

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

Read by Bob Moore

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

Wilson by A. Scott Berg

Read by Michael Scherer

33 hours, 10 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lindbergh (DB 46913) chronicles the life of the twenty-eighth American president, Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924). Covers Wilson's southern, Civil War-era childhood; career in academia; New Jersey governorship; 1912 presidential election; decision to take the United States into World War I; and debilitating illness. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Wilson](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077640

The Presidency of James K. Polk by Paul H. Bergeron

Read by Lou Harpenau

12 hours, 59 minutes

The author believes Polk was a highly effective president whose very successes earned him criticism. A strong president, Polk restored the status of the cabinet, after Jackson's circumvention of it, by appointing a group of advisors known as the kitchen cabinet. During Polk's term the two-party system matured, and the issues that had surfaced during the early 1840s--the national bank and the tariff--were resolved.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of James K. Polk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031104

Andrew Jackson, His Life and Times by H.W. Brands

Read by John H. Mayer

25 hours, 56 minutes

A biographical study of Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) from his South Carolina upbringing and years as a lawyer and Tennessee congressman to his military exploits and contributions as president. Portrays his respect for states' rights while being devoted to preserving the Union. Commercial audiobook. Violence and some strong language. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Andrew Jackson, His Life and Times](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB060681

Unpresidented: a Biography of Donald Trump by Martha Brockenbrough

Read by Martha Brockenbrough and Chris Ciulla

8 hours, 41 minutes

Profiles America's forty-fifth president, delving into his early years, his background and family, and his rise from reality TV to the nation's highest political office. Discusses his political and personal conduct. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Unpresidented: a Biography of Donald Trump](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096187

Thomas Jefferson, an Intimate History by Fawn M. Brodie

Read by Bill Wallace

24 hours, 59 minutes

History professor researches Thomas Jefferson using primary sources and presents not only his public but also his inner life. Documents his long association with his slave mistress, Sally Hemings, the half-sister of his late wife, Martha. 1974.

[Download from BARD: Thomas Jefferson, an Intimate History](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057671

Also available in braille BRA013134

Abraham Lincoln. Volume 1: a Life by Michael Burlingame

Read by Kerry Dukin

55 hours, 15 minutes

Details the life of sixteenth president of the United States Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). This first volume covers Lincoln's early childhood as a farm boy in Indiana and Illinois, his troubled relationship with his father, his legal training and political ambitions, and his great personal transformation. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Abraham Lincoln. Volume 1: a Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079440

The Passions of Andrew Jackson by Andrew Burstein

Read by Robert Sams

13 hours, 59 minutes

An intimate portrait of the man who served as America's seventh president between 1829-1837. Burstein examines Jackson's formative years on the rugged Carolina frontier, his defiant rise from poverty to become a general, and his role in the Aaron Burr conspiracy. He emphasizes the close political friendships that influenced Jackson's life. 2003.

[Download from BARD: The Passions of Andrew Jackson](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057910

Decision Points by George W. Bush

Read by Bill Wallace

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

A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety by Jimmy Carter

Read by Jake Williams

9 hours, 11 minutes

Nobel Peace Prize winner and thirty-ninth President of the United States Jimmy Carter reflects on his life, both private and public. He discusses his youth in rural Georgia, his family, his military service, his decision to enter politics, and more. Carter reveals what he is proud of as well as his regrets. 2015

[Download from BARD: A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083306

Keeping Faith Memoirs of a President by Jimmy Carter

Read by Hal Tenny

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 digital cartridge DB018686

Lincoln a Life of Purpose and Power by Richard Carwardine

Read by Jake Williams

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

James Madison: a Life Reconsidered by Lynne Cheney

Read by Eliza Foss

18 hours, 39 minutes

Former Second Lady of the United States examines the life of Madison (1751-1836), founding father and fourth president of the United States. Details his rise in leadership of the nascent country as well as the political landscape after the Revolution. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2014.

[Download from BARD: James Madison: a Life Reconsidered](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079696

Grant by Ron Chernow

Read by Mark Bramhall

48 hours, 5 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Washington (DB 72132) and Alexander Hamilton (DB 58364) provides a detailed portrait of Civil War general and eventual president Ulysses S. Grant. Discusses Grant's life prior to the Civil War, his business troubles, his remarkable role in the war, his later political career, and more. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Grant](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089541

Washington a Life by Ron Chernow

Read by Michael Scherer

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

The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson by Kendrick A. Clements

Read by K. D. Henry

13 hours, 9 minutes

A professor of history examined both primary and secondary sources in the United States and abroad to research this study of the principal issues and events of the Wilson administration. Clements traces the evolution of Wilson's political thought after he was elected president in 1912. He writes about Wilson's dealings with Congress; his support of agricultural, industrial, and foreign policy reforms; and his controversial role in World War I.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB035613

My Life by Bill Clinton

Read by Bill Clinton

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 digital cartridge DB058101

The Presidency of William Howard Taft by Paolo Enrico Coletta

Read by Hal Tenny

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 digital cartridge DB031186

William Henry Harrison by Gail Collins

Read by Bill Burton

4 hours, 22 minutes

Biography of ninth U.S. president William Henry Harrison (1773-1841), a member of the Whig party, who served for only thirty-one days before succumbing to pneumonia. Describes his aristocratic Virginia birth, military career fighting Indians, and governorship of the Indiana Territory. 2012.

[Download from BARD: William Henry Harrison](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078417

The Lost Founding Father: John Quincy Adams and the Transformation of American Politics by William J. Cooper

Read by Richard Poe

16 hours, 39 minutes

A historian recounts the often-dismissed role that John Quincy Adams played in early American history and politics. Discusses his fight against slavery, the Jacksonian tide, the gag rule, and more. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Lost Founding Father: John Quincy Adams...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089811

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

Read by Jake Williams

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

James Monroe by W. P. Cresson

Read by Peter Johnson.

18 hours, 35 minutes

Biography of the fifth U.S. President, "the last of the Virginians." Recounts the achievements of President Monroe's eight-year term, a stirring period in American history. Also describes his poverty-stricken later years in New York City and his death in 1831.

[Download from BARD: James Monroe](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022875

The Fox at Bay: Martin Van Buren and the Presidency, 1837-1841 by James C. Curtis

Read by Patricia S. Giles

8 hours, 19 minutes

President Van Buren's administration, his role as chief executive, his activities as a party leader and his flawed political skills.

[Download from BARD: The Fox at Bay: Martin Van Buren and the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB013622

Lone Star Rising: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1908-1960 by Robert Dallek

Read by Bob Butz

30 hours, 12 minutes

This is the first of a two-volume biography by a historian who researched original sources for seven years. Dallek finds much about the former president's character to be offensive. Nevertheless, he focuses on the importance and impact of Johnson's achievements, such as civil rights legislation, weighing them against his liabilities. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Lone Star Rising: Lyndon Johnson and His...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034378

An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963 by Robert Dallek

Read by Bill Wallace

33 hours, 53 minutes

This portrait of the former president emphasizes the virtues and faults that made him "seem both exceptional and ordinary." Source materials shed light on JFK's lifelong health problems, family influences on his character, and his philandering as well as his navy service record, congressional terms, and presidential policies. Bestseller. 2003.

[Download from BARD: An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056246

Theodore Roosevelt: a Strenuous Life by Kathleen Dalton

Read by Mary Kane

32 hours, 4 minutes

Chronicles Teddy Roosevelt's personal life and political legacy. Emphasizes his struggle to overcome childhood illnesses, his adventurous spirit, and his dedication to family, depicting him as a rugged but complex man of contradictions. Discusses how his conservative political views evolved to embrace progressive social reforms. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Theodore Roosevelt: a Strenuous Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055994

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

Read by Gregory Gorton

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

The Presidencies of James A. Garfield & Chester A. Arthur by Justus D. Doenecke

Read by Hal Tenny

11 hours, 12 minutes

An analysis of the brief presidency of James A. Garfield, who held office from March 4, 1881, until his death from an assassin's bullet in September of 1881, and the subsequent administration of Chester A. Arthur. The era, which has been called "the Gilded Age" by historians, bridged the time between the Civil War and the progressive movement.

[Download from BARD: The Presidencies of James A. Garfield...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031099

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

Read by Barry Bernson

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

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 digital cartridge DB029223

President Carter: the White House Years by Stuart E. Eizenstat

Read by Brian Troxell

37 hours, 26 minutes

A history of the Carter administration by the president's former chief domestic policy adviser. Details Carter's work behind the scenes, his policies, his triumphs, and his missteps. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: President Carter: the White House Years](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090877

Richard Nixon: the Life by John A. Farrell

Read by Dan Woren

28 hours, 56 minutes

A biography of the controversial president. The author begins with young Navy lieutenant "Nick" Nixon's 1946 congressional campaign and follows his upward trajectory and ultimate downfall and resignation from the presidency. Addresses both the positive and negative aspects of his career. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Richard Nixon: the Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087710

The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President by Noah Feldman

Read by John H. Mayer

34 hours, 14 minutes

A discussion of the significant changes James Madison brought about in politics as a founder, a partisan, and as the first wartime president. Examines his work with the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the founding of the Democratic-Republican Party, and more. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089946

The Presidency of Calvin Coolidge by Robert H. Ferrell

Read by Butch Hoover

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 digital cartridge DB049654

The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers by Thomas J. Fleming

Read by Jim Zeiger

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

The Man from Monticello: an Intimate Life of Thomas Jefferson by Thomas Fleming

Read by Robert Donley

15 hours, 46 minutes

Life of the third president of the United States, from his youthful hopes and dreams to his maturation as statesman, diplomat, architect, and author. 1969.

[Download from BARD: The Man from Monticello: an Intimate Life of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB018629

Also available in braille BRA016706

A Time to Heal the Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford by Gerald R. Ford

Read by Bob Butz

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 digital cartridge DB013829

Ike and Dick Portrait of a Strange Political Marriage by Jeffrey Frank

Read by Ray Hagen

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

Rising Star: the Making of Barack Obama by David J. Garrow

Read by Mark Ashby

58 hours, 44 minutes

A biography covering the earlier years of Barack Obama's life and the trajectory that eventually led to his role as president of the United States. Discusses Obama's tumultuous upbringing, his college years, his early career, and his entry into the political field. Also chronicles his years in the Senate. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Rising Star: the Making of Barack Obama](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089169

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

Read by Janis Gray

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

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 digital cartridge DB031428

Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant by Ulysses S. Grant

Read by Hal Tenny

29 hours, 48 minutes

The general tells about his life and the martial accomplishments that made him great. His ancestry, boyhood experiences, and years at West Point are described. He writes of his marriage to Julia Dent, but the main thrust of this work is the devastation of war. 1982.

[Download from BARD: Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB024377

The Presidency of George Bush by John Robert Green

Read by John Richardson

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 digital cartridge DB051457

The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford by John Robert Greene

Read by Randy Atcher

10 hours, 44 minutes

Aiming to add dimension to a presidency often seen as "healing" or "caretaking," Greene calls on declassified information to probe critical events. He explores the possibility that a Ford pardon was a condition of Nixon's resignation and that Cambodia was bombed, not to rescue the Mayaguez crew, but to make Ford look presidential. Greene also sketches the life of Ford, born Leslie Lynch King, and the role of Betty Ford. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042134

Lincoln: a Very Short Introduction by Allen C. Guelzo

Read by Bill Burton

5 hours, 16 minutes

Award-winning scholar explores the historical and cultural forces that shaped the nation's sixteenth president. Recaps Lincoln's decision to become a lawyer after failing as a shopkeeper and his unremarkable early political career. Analyzes the evolution of his opposition to slavery, his leadership during the Civil War, and his legacy. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Lincoln: a Very Short Introduction](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086399

Bill Clinton Mastering the Presidency by Nigel Hamilton

Read by Bill Wallace

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

Woodrow Wilson by August Heckscher

Read by Lou Harpenau

29 hours, 35 minutes

A biography of the twenty-eighth president of the United States by a former president of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and editor of the *Wilson* papers. The author traces Wilson's academic life as a political-science professor and university president, followed by his political career as a governor and the chief executive. Heckscher discusses Wilson's failure to act on his opposition to racial segregation, and his crusade for entry into the League of Nations.

[Download from BARD: Woodrow Wilson](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB035502

The Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes by Ari Arthur Hoogenboom

Read by Art Metzler

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 digital cartridge DB031187

Herbert Hoover: a Life by Glen Jeansonne

Read by Mark Deakins

16 hours, 30 minutes

Historian describes the life of the controversial president, dismissing some previous assumptions about him. Jeansonne presents Hoover as a political progressive in the mold of Theodore Roosevelt, and the most resourceful American since Benjamin Franklin. Covers Hoover's childhood, early career as an engineer, and political achievements. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Herbert Hoover: a Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086243

Autobiography by Thomas Jefferson

Read by House Jameson

4 hours, 39 minutes

Personal memoirs from his childhood through the composition, revision and signing of the Declaration of Independence when he was thirty-three.

[Download from BARD: Autobiography](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB017008

President James Buchanan: a Biography by Philip Shriver Klein

Read by Bradley Bransford

23 hours, 50 minutes

Detailed biography of the fifteenth president of the United States covers his forty-eight years in politics and traces his rise from Pennsylvania country lawyer to congressman and ultimately to the presidency. Explains his handling of the social and political problems which ultimately lead to the outbreak of the Civil War.

[Download from BARD: President James Buchanan: a Biography](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014976

Ike an American Hero by Michael Korda

Read by Mark Ashby

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

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

In the Days of McKinley by Margaret Leech

Read by Flo Gibson

28 hours, 5 minutes

Biography of the 25th President of the United States, tracing his personal and political life to the time of his assassination in 1901.

[Download from BARD: In the Days of McKinley](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014507

Jefferson the President: First Term, 1801-1805 by Dumas Malone

Read by Roy Avers

21 hours, 40 minutes

One of the major achievements of Jefferson's first administration was the purchase of the Louisiana territory from France. During this time Jefferson became the acknowledged leader of his party and a patron of learning and science.

[Download from BARD: Jefferson the President: First Term, 1801-1805](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB026157

The Last of the Fathers: James Madison and the Republican Legacy by Drew R. McCoy

Read by Art Metzler

16 hours, 30 minutes

An associate professor of American history at Harvard University concentrates on Madison's final years, from 1817, when he retired from public office, until his death in 1836. As the only surviving member of the revolutionary patriarchs, Madison represented a bridge between the founding of a constitutional government and the emerging of a democratic society.

[Download from BARD: The Last of the Fathers: James Madison and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031565

John Adams by David McCullough

Read by Gary Telles

33 hours, 4 minutes

Award-winning author chronicles the life and times of America's second president, New Englander John Adams (1735-1826). Examines his pivotal role as revolutionary, diplomat, and politician as well as his friendship--and rivalry--with Thomas Jefferson. Primary sources detail his relationship with his wife, Abigail, four children, and notable contemporaries. Pulitzer Prize 2002. Bestseller. 2001.

[Download from BARD: John Adams](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB052275

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13426](#)

Also available in braille BR013426

Truman by David McCullough

Read by Lou Harpenau

45 hours, 17 minutes

A monumental study of the life and times of the plainspoken, plain-looking, "ordinary" man from Missouri who became an extraordinary president. McCullough details Truman's accomplishments as a politician and a statesman, as well as his failings and his lack of sophistication. And the author recreates the famous 1948 presidential election, which he calls Truman's finest hour.

[Download from BARD: Truman](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034820

The Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt by George T. McJimsey

Read by Lou Harpenau

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

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

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

Destiny and Power: the American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush by Jon Meacham

Read by Paul Michael

25 hours, 12 minutes

Drawing on extensive interviews and access to family diaries and papers, Meacham charts Bush's rise from county party chairmanship to congressman, UN ambassador, head of the Republican National Committee, envoy to China, director of the CIA, vice president under Ronald Reagan, and, finally, president of the United States. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Destiny and Power: the American Odyssey...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082900

Thomas Jefferson the Art of Power by Jon Meacham

Read by Michael Scherer

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

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

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

John F. Kennedy by Judie Mills

Read by Lou Harpenau

11 hours, 59 minutes

Details Kennedy's youth and political rise--his rivalry with his older brother, escapades at school, navy career, marriage, and race for president--with numerous quotes and anecdotes. The author's evaluation of Kennedy's years in office includes a sense of his political ambiguities as well as his successes. For high school and older readers.

[Download from BARD: John F. Kennedy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB029737

John Quincy Adams: a Public Life, a Private Life by Paul C. Nagel

Read by Rick Rohan

18 hours, 29 minutes

Based on Adams's diary and correspondence, this biography depicts his family life as well as his political career. Covers his negotiation of the Monroe Doctrine, his successful defense of the Amistad antislavery case before the Supreme Court, and his term as the sixth U.S. president.

[Download from BARD: John Quincy Adams: a Public Life, a Private Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045653

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11349](#)

Also available in braille BR011349

Franklin Pierce, Young Hickory of the Granite Hills by Roy Franklin Nichols

Read by Art Metzler

20 hours, 11 minutes

A full-scale study which goes beyond the stereotype of the fourteenth President to reveal a complex man whose life and career were hounded by tragedy.

[Download from BARD: Franklin Pierce, Young Hickory of the Granite Hills](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014743

The Memoirs of Richard Nixon by Richard M. Nixon

Read by Bob Butz

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 digital cartridge DB011756

With Malice Toward None: a Life of Abraham Lincoln by Stephen B. Oates

Read by Lou Harpenau

19 hours. 19 minutes

Award-winning historian uses primary and secondary sources to illuminate the personal and professional life of Abraham Lincoln. Depicts Lincoln's struggle to succeed in the legal and business fields, his disappointing early political career, and his wartime presidency. Discusses his depression and later estrangement from his wife. Some strong language. 1977.

[Download from BARD: With Malice Toward None: a Life of Abraham...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072893

Dreams From My Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

Read by Bob Moore

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

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

Also available in braille BR018106

JFK, the Presidency of John F. Kennedy by Herbert S. Parmet

Read by Brian Rublein

16 hours, 24 minutes

Insightful portrait of the thirty-fifth American president and his times. Presents cameos of Stevenson, Eisenhower, and Lyndon Johnson, among others, and explores Jack Kennedy's most significant relationships. Sequel to Jack: The Struggles of John F. Kennedy.

[Download from BARD: JFK, the Presidency of John F. Kennedy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019575

Ulysses S. Grant: Soldier & President by Geoffrey Perret

Read by Butch Hoover

20 hours, 22 minutes

A portrait of the enigmatic military commander whose Civil War strategy of attrition portended "the future of the United States Army." Traces his frontier youth, his West Point years, his heroism in the Mexican War, his bold leadership of Union forces under President Lincoln, and his service as president.

[Download from BARD: Ulysses S. Grant: Soldier & President](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB046098

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

Read by Ted Stoddard

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

The Presidencies of William Henry Harrison & John Tyler by Norma Lois Peterson

Read by Butch Hoover

13 hours, 52 minutes

In the 1840 election the Whigs placed William Henry Harrison on the ballot. The party, expecting the defeat of the Democratic incumbent, passed over Henry Clay, their actual leader, in search of a candidate who would respect congressional power. But death took the successful Harrison after a month in office. Tyler, the vice president, claimed the office and to the chagrin of the Whigs refused to be their puppet.

[Download from BARD: The Presidencies of William Henry Harrison...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036753

Millard Fillmore: Biography of a President by Robert Rayback

Read by Michael Way

13 hours, 53 minutes

A documented reappraisal of the thirteenth president considers his errors of judgement as weighed against his moral convictions and official actions.

[Download from BARD: Millard Fillmore: Biography of a President](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB015184

My Father at 100 by Ron Reagan

Read by L.J. Ganser

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

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 digital cartridge DB032006

Theodore Roosevelt An Autobiography by Theodore Roosevelt

Read by Hal Tenny

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 digital cartridge DB031097

Coolidge by Amity Shlaes

Read by Lou Harpenau

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

Bush by Jean Edward Smith

Read by Joe Wilson

35 hours, 6 minutes

Presidential biographer and author of *Eisenhower in war and peace* (DB 74849) attempts to portray the forty-third president in a critical yet fair manner.

Discusses Bush's decision to invade Iraq and the consequences of that choice, the financial crisis of 2008, Hurricane Katrina, the No Child Left Behind Act, and other aspects of Bush's legacy. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Bush](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086229

Eisenhower in War and Peace by Jean Edward Smith

Read by Michael Scherer

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

Grant by Jean Edward Smith

Read by Robert Sams

41 hours, 14 minutes

A political science professor examines the life of Ulysses S. Grant--his business failings, his brilliant military career, and his controversial presidency. Asserts that during his two terms in office Grant successfully guided the country through Reconstruction and the Panic of 1873, and supported the rights of freedmen and Native Americans. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Grant](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053324

The Presidency of Benjamin Harrison by Homer E. Socolofsky and Allan B. Spetter

Read by Andy Chappell

10 hours, 30 minutes

When Benjamin Harrison became the twenty-third president, he was following in the footsteps of his grandfather, William Henry Harrison. Only the fourth Republican president, he had a background similar to those of his predecessors. The authors, both history professors, discuss his contributions to America's Gilded Age, American expansionism, foreign policy, and administrative efficiency.

[Download from BARD: The Presidency of Benjamin Harrison](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032061

Reagan: an American Journey by Bob Spitz

Read by Paul Michael

32 hours, 32 minutes

Author of the Julia Child biography Dearie (DB 75317) discusses the life and work of President Ronald Reagan. Recounts his time in Hollywood, transition to politics, and presidency. Examines both his strengths and weaknesses as well as his legacy, including his peace talks with the Soviet Union. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Reagan: an American Journey](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092616

The Quiet Man: the Indispensable Presidency of George H.W. Bush by John H. Sununu

Read by Karl Miller

13 hours, 1 minute

Former presidential chief of staff John H. Sununu provides an insider's account of George H. W. Bush's term as President of the United States. Discusses Bush's policy achievements, the first Gulf War, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and domestic legislation, including the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. 2015

[Download from BARD: The Quiet Man: the Indispensable Presidency of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082519

Being Nixon: a Man Divided by Evan Thomas

Read by Bob Walter

20 hours, 31 minutes

Drawing on historical accounts, Thomas recounts the life and work of America's thirty-seventh president, including his background growing up in a Quaker household. He discusses Nixon's successes, his political achievements, and his darker schemes, which earned him the notorious nickname "Tricky Dick."

Strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Being Nixon: a Man Divided](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081931

The Presidency of Warren G. Harding by Eugene P. Trani

Read by Art Metzler

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 digital cartridge DB032060

John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit by James Traub

Read by J.P. Linton

33 hours, 4 minutes

Biography of the sixth president of the United States--and son of the second--John Quincy Adams (1767-1848). Discusses his early life as the son of a founding father, forays into political life--including roles as ambassador and secretary of state--presidency, family life, and the impact of his personality on political ambitions. 2016.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB086033

Memoirs of Harry S. Truman. Volume One: Year of Decisions by Harry S. Truman

Read by Randy Atcher

25 hours, 49 minutes

Truman wrote of his time in the White House shortly after leaving office. In this first volume of a two-volume work, he covers the year 1945, in which the country saw the death of Roosevelt, the conferences at Yalta and Potsdam, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the establishment of the United Nations.

[Download from BARD: Memoirs of Harry S. Truman. Volume One: Year...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB030020

John Quincy Adams by Harlow G. Unger

Read by Johnny Heller

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

Indomitable Will: LBJ in the Presidency by Mark K. Updegrave

Read by Tom Burch

15 hours, 6 minutes

Director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson presidential library examines the successes and failures of LBJ's five years in office. Uses interviews and reminiscences of staff members, legislators, journalists, Washington insiders, and family members to detail the force of Johnson's personality and his skill in influencing the legislative process. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Indomitable Will: LBJ in the Presidency](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078265

The Last Republicans: Inside the Extraordinary Relationship Between George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush by Mark K. Updegrave

Read by Barry Bernson

13 hours, 14 minutes

Presidential historian examines and compares the lives and careers of both Bush presidents, from their formative years through their post-presidential activity. Discusses the ways they have influenced each other, their views on topics such as family and public service, and their perspectives on the transformation of the Republican Party. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Last Republicans: Inside the Extraordinary...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090161

The Roosevelts: an Intimate History by Geoffrey C. Ward

Read by Barry Bernson

12 hours, 51 minutes

Historian and author of *Closest Companion* (DB 42168), Ward details the lives of presidents Theodore (1858-1919) and Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962). Explores their influences, triumphs, and tragedies. Companion book to PBS documentary by Ken Burns, and includes a preface by the filmmaker. Bestseller. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Roosevelts: an Intimate History](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080514

The Presidencies of Grover Cleveland by Richard E. Welch, Jr

Read by John Richardson

11 hours, 18 minutes

Cleveland, the twenty-second and twenty-fourth president, served during the Gilded Age in American history--a time when there was an intense conflict between old values and social changes. Welch shows how Cleveland's personality and ideology affected his terms in office in 1885-1889 and 1893-1897.

[Download from BARD: The Presidencies of Grover Cleveland](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB029846

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR07834](#)

Also available in braille BR007834

A. Lincoln a Biography by Ronald C. White

Read by Jake Williams

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

Hoover: an Extraordinary Life in Extraordinary Times by Kenneth Whyte

Read by Richard Ferrone

27 hours, 41 minutes

A reexamination of the life and career of President Herbert Hoover. Discusses his difficult childhood, his business career, his work during World War I, his presidency, his defeat by Roosevelt, and his return to grace as Truman's emissary to aid World War II refugees. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Hoover: an Extraordinary Life in Extraordinary...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089321

The Presidency of Martin Van Buren by Major L. Wilson

Read by Jerry Fordyce

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 digital cartridge DB022426

The Impeachers: the Trial of Andrew Johnson and the Dream of a Just Nation by Brenda Wineapple

Read by Gabra Zackman

14 hours, 39 minutes

An account of the first impeachment of a sitting American president. Describes the events that led to this occurrence, the key figures involved, and the subsequent implications for the country. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Impeachers: the Trial of Andrew Johnson...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095385