



The Most Over-Rated and Under-Rated Political Figures in History

A Poll of 100+ of America's Conservative Leaders

December 2023

Historians lean far left and present a distorted analysis of the people and events of world history. A recent poll of American history professors rated Barack Obama as one of the greatest American presidents and Donald Trump as one of the worst. FDR and Woodrow Wilson are almost always rated “great” presidents, while Warren Harding and Ulysses S. Grant are rated failed presidents. FDR and Wilson vastly expanded government spending and power, while Harding and Grant cut the size of government.






In order to counter this liberal/progressive historical view of political leaders, we polled more than 100 of the most influential conservative thought leaders – a list that includes U.S. Senators, members of the U.S. House, governors, think tank scholars, business leaders, and prominent conservative writers and economists.

The question posed was: “Who would you rank as the single most overrated political figure in history and who would you rank as the single most underrated?”






We received responses from 120 of these top conservative leaders.

Note, the respondents were NOT asked to choose the best and worst political leader, but rather, who do they believe the history books over and under rate? George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, for example, were only selected by a few as under-rated, because they are generally rated highly already. Joe Biden only received a few votes for most overrated, because he is generally rated poorly already.

For the most overrated category, the person who was far and away the leading choice was Barack Obama. Here were the top five:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------|----|--|------------------------|
| 1) |  | Barack Obama | 4) |  | John F. Kennedy |
| 2) |  | Franklin Roosevelt | 5) |  | Joe Biden |
| 3) |  | Woodrow Wilson | | | |

For the most underrated category, the winner by a small margin was Calvin Coolidge. Here were the top five:

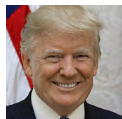
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|----|---|------------------------|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1) |  | Calvin Coolidge | 4) |  | Dwight Eisenhower |
| 2) |  | Donald Trump | 5) |  | Bill Clinton |
| 3) |  | Ronald Reagan | | | |

Below we provide the full list of selections with the number of votes received for those who received multiple votes. There were some figures who received votes for both categories. That list includes Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, John F. Kennedy, and Abraham Lincoln, Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter.

Ranking of Underrated Political Figures



Calvin Coolidge: 29



Donald Trump: 22



Ronald Reagan: 21



Dwight Eisenhower: 7



Bill Clinton: 5



James Polk: 4



Abraham Lincoln: 3



Pope John Paul II: 3



George Washington: 3



William McKinley: 2



Warren Harding: 2



Jesus: 2



Newt Gingrich: 2



Robert Bartley: 2



Jack Kemp: 2



Grover Cleveland: 2



Richard Nixon: 2



Jimmy Carter: 2



Ulysses S. Grant: 2

Ranking of Overrated Political Figures



Barack Obama: 40



Franklin Roosevelt: 22



Woodrow Wilson: 9



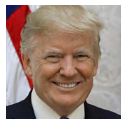
John F. Kennedy: 5



Joe Biden: 4



Abraham Lincoln: 3



Donald Trump: 3



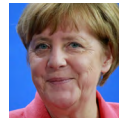
Bill Clinton: 3



Mitt Romney: 3



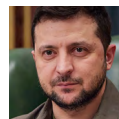
Che Guevara: 3



Angela Merkel: 3



Nancy Pelosi: 2



Volodymyr Zelensky: 2

This poll was conducted by the Committee to Unleash Prosperity. CTUP is a 501c3 educational organization dedicated to promoting public policies that increase economic growth, freedom and prosperity for all.



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