



POLITICAL LEADERS

WHO ARE LEADERS?

A political leader, or a politician, can be anyone who has taken up the responsibility of governing a tribe, city, state, region or even an entire nation. History has given us a plethora of political leaders, both good and bad, who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of their countries and the people living in the country. Political leaders are not just people who govern nations during peace times but also during times of crisis. They are people who are responsible for making and implementing strategies and policies meant to better serve the interests of the country they govern. These leaders are chosen through various processes, some examples of which would be through elections, in a democratic nation, and through lineage or birthright, in case of a monarchy, or even dictatorships wherein one individual declares himself the head of state. A look at the political leader's hall of fame would reveal names like Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, Adolf Hitler, Winston Churchill and even Genghis Khan. What follows next are the biographies of some of the most famous politicians along with information on their life's story, trivia about them, their timelines and some other interesting facts about their professional and personal lives.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Turn the pages of America's political history, and you are sure to find one man who clearly outshines all others and manages to attract the attention and interest of all, till date, - Abraham Lincoln! Nicknamed 'Honest Abe' or 'Father Abraham', Lincoln was, by far, one of the most powerful and greatest Presidents' that America has ever witnessed. Rising from a modest and humble beginning, it was his sheer determination and honest effort that led him to the nation's highest office. An astute politician and proficient lawyer, he played a vital role in unification of the states and led from the front for the cause of abolishing slavery from the country, eventually giving people equal rights, irrespective of caste, color or creed. He not only envisioned but actually brought to the forefront a truly democratic government which was led by the concept of 'by the people, of the people and for the people'. What's more, Lincoln led the country when it faced its greatest constitutional, military and moral crises. He not only turned up victorious but also was effective in strengthening the national government and modernizing the economy. He was a saviour of the Union and an emancipator for the slaves. However, just as astonishing was his rise to the top-notch position and his eventual governance, his death was equally bewildering as he became the first U.S. President ever to be assassinated. Though in his life Abraham Lincoln has been felicitated with no awards and honors, as there did not exist any awards then, he has till date retained a spot in the Top Three Presidents since 1940s.



ADOLF HITLER

'Germany will either be a world power or will not be at all', said the head of the Nazi Party and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Adolf Hitler. He was the Chancellor of Germany during the Third Reich and the chief mastermind behind World War II. Known to the world as the indomitable 'Führer', he was responsible for the mass and systematic extermination of millions of Jews and non-Aryans, whom he deemed unfit or inferior to the ideal 'Aryan' race. The founder of Nazism and a staunch anti-Semite, he made efforts to build a territorially larger and purer nation for German folk through his megalomaniac ways which prompted and also ended the World War, leading his country to abyss. He was also a prolific writer, artist and a militarist, known for his exceptional leadership talents and his effervescent nature. This German leader rose to prominence from the rank of a mere soldier owing to his exceptional oratory skills and went on to become one of the most feared despots of his time. His dream to establish 'New Order' in Germany was a culmination of his long and tyrannical, yet fascinating dictatorship. He transformed the face of the-then Weimar Republic into a single-party autocracy, based on the dictatorial ideology of a total 'Nazi German' hegemony. Hitler's early years with the Nazi Party and his aggressive foreign policies were considered one of the main factors for the outbreak of World War II, which ultimately led to his downfall and a mass destruction around Central and Eastern Europe.



MAHATMA GANDHI

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi was a major political and spiritual leader of India who led the country in the non-cooperation movement in 1922 and Salt march in 1930 and later in Quit India movement in 1942 during its struggle for independence. Known as Beloved Baapu in India, Mahatma Gandhi adopted the policy of mass disobedience and non-violent resistance as weapons against the British Rule in India and followed a principle of Ahimsa (total Non-Violence). He endured several hardships, was arrested and occasionally beaten in his journey and struggle to Justice and Freedom. However, his struggle does not restrict to India itself, as the leader played a key role in the Civil Rights movement in South Africa and secured them the right to justice and equality. His birthday 2 October is commemorated as Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday and as the International Non-Violence day across the world.

