

Chapter 1 : 5 Most Influential First Ladies of the 20th Century - Listosaur | Hungry for Knowledge

A few first ladies even played an important role in their husband's administration, working alongside the president to help enact policies. As a result, the role of first lady has evolved over the years.

Visit Website Did you know? He ordered his agents to monitor Roosevelt and keep what became an extensive file on her. Roosevelt, an awkward, serious child, was educated by private tutors until age 15, when she was sent to Allenswood Academy, a school for girls in England. The two had met as children and became reacquainted after Eleanor returned from school in England. Franklin and Eleanor had six children, five of whom survived to adulthood: Anna , James , Elliott , Franklin Jr. Three years later, he was appointed assistant secretary of the U. Navy, a position he held until , when he made an unsuccessful run for the U. In , Franklin Roosevelt was diagnosed with polio, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. Six years later, Roosevelt was elected to the White House. Eleanor Roosevelt as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was initially reluctant to step into the role of first lady, fearful about losing her hard-won autonomy and knowing she would have to give up her Todhunter teaching job and other activities and organizations she cared about. The Roosevelts entered the White House in the midst of the Great Depression which began in and lasted approximately a decade , and the president and Congress soon implemented a series of economic recovery initiatives known as the New Deal. She was an early champion of civil rights for African Americans, as well as an advocate for women, American workers, the poor and young people. She also supported government-funded programs for artists and writers. Roosevelt encouraged her husband to appoint more women to federal positions, and she held hundreds of press conferences for female reporters only at a time when women were typically barred from White House press conferences. She used the column to share information about her activities and communicate her positions on a wide range of social and political issues. The Roosevelts had one of the most notable political partnerships in American history, as well as a complex personal relationship. Early on in their marriage, in , Eleanor discovered her husband was having an affair with her social secretary, Lucy Mercer Eleanor offered Franklin a divorce; however, he chose to stay in the marriage for various reasons, including the fact that divorce carried a social stigma and would have hurt his political career. Although Franklin Roosevelt agreed never to see Mercer again, the two resumed contact, and she was with the president in Warm Springs, Georgia , when he died from a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, , at age The previous November, Roosevelt had been elected to an unprecedented fourth term as president. There was speculation she would run for public office; instead, she chose to remain highly active as a private citizen. From to , Roosevelt served as a U. Roosevelt considered the document, which continues to serve as a model for how people and nations should treat each other, one of her most significant achievements. From until her death the following year, Roosevelt headed the first Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, at the request of President John Kennedy Roosevelt remained involved in Democratic Party activities during her post-White House years, campaigning for candidates around the country. Additionally, she hosted radio programs and a television news show, and continued to write her newspaper column and give lectures. Over the course of her life, Roosevelt wrote 27 books and more than 8, columns. Death Eleanor Roosevelt died at age 78 on November 7, , in New York City, from aplastic anemia, tuberculosis and heart failure. Her funeral was attended by President Kennedy and former presidents Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower She was buried next to her husband on the grounds of the Roosevelt estate in Hyde Park. Start your free trial today.

Chapter 2 : Influential First Ladies: Nancy Reagan : Drug Crusader by Amy Van Zee (, Hardcover) | eBay

This week has been a critical time for first ladies, old and new. On Wednesday, Barbara Bush was hospitalized for Bronchitis after she experienced fatigue and coughing. On Friday, the inauguration.

Like other first ladies, Melania seems to have her own agenda. In fact, many first ladies proved very influential during their tenure. Researchers at Siena College, C-SPAN, and the White House Historical Association created surveys for scholars and historians to rank first ladies on a variety of influence indicators and to reveal which first ladies were the most influential women in the White House. Read on to check out the most influential first ladies in American history.

Nancy Reagan She held an anti-drug campaign. And she went on speaking tours across the country. This first lady was accused of running the country.

Edith Wilson She took control of things after her husband had a stroke. And some of her decisions had serious consequences. This first lady wanted to stay out of the spotlight, but enabled her president to end a war.

Edith Roosevelt She extensively renovated the White House. In fact, Roosevelt makes the list of presidents with the most unpresidential personalities. But Edith Roosevelt left her mark on the White House and its grounds. She undertook extensive renovations of the White House, added new landscaping, and even modernized the public rooms. History notes that Roosevelt established a precedent by hiring the first federally-salaried White House social secretary, who answered mail, conveyed news to the press, and helped run the household. She also corresponded with a junior British ambassador, who kept the Roosevelts apprised of the Russo-Japanese war and enabled the president to negotiate an end to the conflict. This first lady chose her causes, and continued working for them even after she left the White House.

Laura Bush She focused on education. Laura Bush, whom historians characterize as one of the most popular first ladies of the modern era. Biography notes that since leaving the White House, Laura Bush has continued working for the causes she believes in. This first lady was a wife to one president and mother to another.

Barbara Bush She promoted literacy among children. Biography notes that, interestingly enough, Barbara Bush is the only woman besides Abigail Adams to be both a wife and a mother to a president of the United States. Bush became president in , and George W. Bush became president in This first lady committed herself to public service, like a few other first ladies.

Rosalynn Carter She promoted mental health research. Carter supported the Mental Health Systems Act of History reports that like her husband, Jimmy Carter, Rosalynn Carter remained committed to public service as her time in the White House came to an end. She promoted projects such as the nonprofit Carter Center and Habitat for Humanity. This first lady set a good example for subsequent first ladies.

Martha Washington She set the standard for first ladies. As first lady, Washington managed the presidential household and held weekly receptions. This first lady spoke candidly about her opinions and her struggles.

Betty Ford She championed numerous causes. White House Historical Association Next on the list of the most influential first ladies? Betty Ford, whom scholars characterize as one of the most politically active first ladies. Ford championed numerous causes during her time in the White House, including breast cancer awareness and the Equal Rights Amendment. She also founded the Betty Ford Center, which took up the cause of combatting substance abuse and drug addiction.

Lady Bird Johnson She worked on environmental causes. Johnson chose the environment as her key cause during her time in the White House, and dedicated her time to wildlife preservation and national beautification projects. The New York Times notes that while Johnson is primarily remembered for her advocacy for highway beautification, she actually has a much larger legacy. This first lady later ran for president herself.

Hillary Clinton She advocated for health care reform. Plus, she maintained a high-profile political career after she left the White House, serving as a New York senator and secretary of state, plus running for president.

Michelle Obama She tackled childhood obesity.

Dolley Madison She set a precedent for first ladies. Generations of Americans have been fascinated by this first lady. She served as first lady for fewer than three years, but nonetheless made an indelible impact on the United States.

Abigail Adams She took on formal hosting duties at the White House. Thus, she played an important role in the first years of the United States. She and her husband, John Adams, were actually the first couple to live in the White House. There, Abigail Adams fulfilled formal hosting duties in the new capital of our young country. This is the most

influential first lady of all time. Eleanor Roosevelt She advised her husband. Scholars note that she played a very active role in advising her husband. And interestingly enough, she was also the very first first lady to hold her own press conferences. Commission on Human Rights. How does Melania Trump compare? She has expressed interest in combating cyberbullying. Check out The Cheat Sheet on Facebook!

Chapter 3 : The 10 Most Influential First Ladies of All Time | Her Campus

When looking at the most influential first ladies in history, there are several great ones that come to mind: Eleanor Roosevelt, Lady Bird Johnson, and Edith Wilson are some of the more popular ones.

Betty Ford smiling near microphone outside the White House. She consistently spoke out against racism and sexism, went to labor meetings to listen to workers, and had her own column in the newspaper. Later in her life, Roosevelt became chair of the U. She was assigned to the U. Jacqueline Kennedy Jacqueline Kennedy. She reorganized the entertainment for social events at the White House and is remembered for her style and grace. She was popular with foreign dignitaries. Dolley Madison Dolley Madison. She also personally took up social causes during her time in the White House. She is also a strong promoter of the arts and arts education, and speaks out about feminism and sexism. Hillary Clinton First Lady Hillary Clinton attends a reception given in her honor by the Bulgarian presidential couple. She held offices in the East Wing and the West Wing. Lady Bird Johnson played a huge as First Lady in helping clean up the capital and beautify it. Betty Ford helped raise breast cancer awareness after personally having a mastectomy in She was pro-choice, a feminist, and a proud supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment. She was a very popular First Lady and was incredibly candid while in her role. She was open about being a recovering alcoholic, and helped raise awareness for addiction. She set a precedent for how the role should be handling. She managed the presidential household and hosted weekly receptions. While in the White House, she assisted with refugees, especially children.

Chapter 4 : America's Most Influential First Ladies

Serving as first lady for over 12 years, Eleanor Roosevelt was an influential figure during the Great Depression and World War II. She played an active role in advising her husband and was the.

Wednesday, March 6, , We admit that role of the First Lady is very challenging! First Lady is the wife of the Head of the State who basically plays a very important and responsible role in the society. Over the years, many first ladies have fulfilled their roles and are continuing to do so. Be it social, political or the educational roles, first ladies have been successful in bringing a positive change in the society. While few first ladies worked behind their husbands, there are many powerful first ladies who have come in front to make use of their position and bring justice. Thus, role of the first lady has evolved since many years. The current first lady of the second term president, Barack Obama is voted one of the most powerful and influential first ladies in the history. Be it for her fashion or social roles, Michelle has kept up with the expectations and is playing her role effectively. Here is a list of most powerful and influential first ladies in the world. Betty Ford The high profile public figure openly discussed about her personal problems especially ones related to health. Wife of Gerald Ford, the influential first lady advocated the Equal Rights Amendment, legalization of abortion and spread awareness on breast cancer. Hillary Clinton Although Hillary Clinton quit politics, she is one of the most powerful and influential first ladies in the American politics. Caroline Harrison White House has been renovated many times, however, this powerful first lady brought electricity, first Christmas tree and painted the White House china. A supporter of women rights, Caroline was the first president-general of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jacqueline Kennedy Apart from being known as a fashionable woman, Jacqueline played her role as the first lady and worked on restoring and refurnishing the White House. After the assassination of her husband, Jacqueline was respected for poise and dignity. Queen Rania She is known for her efforts on behalf of education, human rights and woman issues. Queen Rania is not only one of the most powerful and influential but also one of the most beautiful woman in the world. Eleanor Roosevelt For many Americans, Eleanor is considered as one of the most influential and powerful first ladies in the history. She fought for New Deal proposals, civil rights and rights of women.

Chapter 5 : Most Influential First Ladies in History - Hankering for History

Ask the average American to list the five most influential U.S. presidents of the 20th century and a handful of names will be quickly mentioned. Ask the same person to name the five most influential first ladies of the 20th century and you'll likely be met with silence. That's not surprising.

She had a taste for fine fashion which gained both negative and positive attention. She would travel to schools across to country to initiate this campaign. She would sit in on his cabinet meetings and would go in his place to meetings with foreign and domestic leaders. Her major initiative as First Lady was assisting with refugees, especially the children. She led a delegation in Thailand to discuss the issue of refugees from South Asia. Carter was named the honorary chair of the Friendship Force International, a cultural exchange program that was started in She was a proud supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, was pro-choice, and a feminist. She was a candid and very popular First Lady even though some Republicans accused her of being too liberal. Ford help raise awareness for addiction when she announced that she was a recovering alcoholic. Abigail Adams The letters exchanged between the then First Lady and her husband, President John Adams, offer much insight into the politics of the time. She was a very informed woman and was ahead of her time. Madison is most well known for her actions during the burning of Washington during the War of When the British invaded the capital, Dolley packed the silver and other valuable items into a wagon and shipped them to the Bank of Maryland for safety. She then grabbed the original presidential portrait of George Washington and fled the city. Jackie reorganized the entertainment for social events at the White House and notably redecorated the interiors of the White House. Hillary Rodham Clinton Hillary was the first First Lady to hold a postgraduate degree and a full-time professional career before becoming First Lady. After her husbands presidency, she became the first First Lady to hold public office when she was elected senator of New York. She announced her candidacy again in for the election and became the Democratic nominee for president. During her husbands twelve years as president, Eleanor travelled very often and made many public appearances and speeches. She went to labor meetings and made sure workers knew that the White House was aware of their struggle. She spoke out against racism and sexism. She completely transformed the role of First Lady. She later became chair of the U. Kennedy would assign her to the U.

Chapter 6 : Woman In Power: Here Are The Most Influential First Ladies Of The United States – Mutually

America's Most Influential First Ladies: Clinton, Truman, More (PHOTOS) From Barbara Bush to Eleanor Roosevelt, game-changing first ladies since are ranked by a panel of experts.

Yet beginning with Eleanor Roosevelt and continuing into the latter half of the century, first ladies began taking a more active role in promoting social and charitable causes. That made compiling this list a challenge in choosing the first ladies whose influence has had a lasting impact on our society. For example, Lady Bird Johnson was left off the list although she inspired highway beautification efforts. Hillary Clinton would have made the top five save for the fact her legacy is still evolving. But she had a profound effect on American society. For lack of a better description, Kennedy brought some class to the White House. Youthful, attractive, and dignified, Kennedy was the exact opposite of most first ladies prior to her arrival. Her love of the arts was evident as she sought to revitalize the White House and make it a showcase to foreign dignitaries. Her fashion sense was impeccable and influenced fashion for millions of American women. Her popularity among foreign leaders was invaluable as she accompanied her husband on many diplomatic trips. And her quiet dignity during tragedy galvanized a nation. Despite questionable results, Mrs. In she became the first first lady to address the General Assembly of the United Nations on the need for stronger drug-trafficking laws. In she founded the Nancy Reagan Foundation to further the research on the dangers of drugs. Betty Ford Betty Ford will best be remembered for her efforts in seeking equality for women, closely followed by her role in raising awareness of breast cancer and substance abuse. Following the tumultuous years of the Nixon Administration, Gerald and Betty Ford brought stability and public confidence back to the office of the presidency, in itself a formidable accomplishment. Following her own mastectomy in , Mrs. Ford made countless public appearances to help further breast cancer research, urging women to be proactive in the diagnosis of that deadly disease. Ford was certainly no shrinking violet during her three years in the White House. An outspoken woman, she could be counted on to comment loudly and often about issues that concerned her. Her favorite issue was equal rights for women, but she was also a strong advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment, pro-choice, feminism, and equal pay for women. Following an intervention by her family, Ford underwent treatment for drug and alcohol abuse and eventually established the Betty Ford Center to help combat substance abuse. As with other issues she believed in, she spoke openly about her own struggle with drugs and alcohol, thus giving a face to a prevalent but rarely spoken about illness in America. Rosalynn Carter Rosalynn Carter served as first lady of our nation from and early on it became apparent that her favorite cause was mental health and related research. In addition she was a Board Member Emeritus for the National Mental Health Association and started the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, an organization focused on educating caregivers and providing support for them. Also during her White House years she chaired the Friendship Force International, an organization created to help refugees in Cambodia and Laos following the Vietnam War. In addition, she served as President of Every Child By Two, an organization created to increase childhood immunization in the United States, and was a board member for Habitat for Humanity. Eleanor Roosevelt Eleanor Roosevelt mirrored her husband in her vocal belief that America would not only recover from the Great Depression but would emerge stronger than before. A woman of considerable wealth, she became the foundation of hope for the poor and outcasts in the United States. She lobbied tirelessly for civil rights when that issue was very unpopular. Speaking on radio or in person, she was quick to offer words of encouragement. She was a strong supporter of Freedom House, advocating democracy and human rights; she served as a United Nations delegate from ; and she was Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Roosevelt embodied all that the position of first lady could and should be. Written by Bill Holland Bill Holland has two decades of classroom teaching experience in history, geography, political science and science.

Chapter 7 : Move Over, Melania Trump: These Are the Most Influential First Ladies in American History

Over the years, the United States has seen a wide range of First Ladies as the role evolved over the years. Many of them have used their position to advocate for specific issues, and others have played an important role within their husband's administration, helping enact policies and create change.

Washington dutifully oversaw all the official functions and obligations required by the presidency. Her self-sacrifice and discipline set the standard for First Ladies. Martha Washington, circa 1789, Rembrandt Peale Collection: She first assumed the responsibilities of First Lady on behalf of widowed President Thomas Jefferson, and she only relinquished it 16 years later after her husband James Madison succeeded Jefferson for two presidential terms. During that time, Mrs. Madison served as the welcoming face of America to visiting dignitaries, while also showing considerable political savvy in advising her presidential husband. She also demonstrated gritty patriotism: Madison rushed many of its national treasures to safety before the invading army set about destroying the building Dolley Madison, 1800, William S. She met future husband Millard Fillmore at school – she a teacher, he a student two-years younger – and later aided his rising political career all the way to the presidency. Once there, she oversaw the creation of the White House library – selecting books and overseeing the collection as it grew towards its current status as one of the richest historical book archives in the country. That proved no small feat: Though initially forbidden from engaging in any of the political and organizing activity that had been central to her adult life, Mrs. Roosevelt gradually broke out of the withdrawn and reserved strictures of earlier First Ladies by wading into a population suffering the worst deprivations of The Depression. While never shirking official duties back in Washington, Mrs. Roosevelt took up many different social and cultural causes during her travels across the nation, holding press conferences, hosting radio programs and writing newspaper columns along the way. National Archives collection Betty Ford: Ford became an outspoken supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment for women, and similarly took a pro-choice position that rankled some conservatives. As part of this work, Mrs. Ford spoke publicly about the rights of women to lead their lives free of judgment and stigma – stances normally considered the domain of liberals in that era. In spite of criticism from some fellow Republicans, Mrs. As brave in private life as she was in public, Mrs. She later acknowledged her addiction to alcohol and prescription drugs, helping launch the Betty Ford Center in to assist people with chemical dependencies. Learn more about the presidency and American Democracy. Story by Bruce Crumley.

Chapter 8 : 7 Most Influential First Ladies - www.nxgvision.com

Serving as first lady for over 12 years, Eleanor Roosevelt was an influential figure during the Great Depression and World War II. She played an active role in advising her husband and was the first first lady to hold her own press conferences.

InsideGov decided to take a more in-depth look at the role of first ladies in U. Siena College collaborated with C-SPAN and the White House Historical Association to create surveys for scholars and historians in American history to rank first ladies on 10 different influence indicators.

Helen Taft Mean Rank: Taft also made headlines for her decision to replace the crew of all-white male ushers at the White House with African-American men.

Mamie Eisenhower Mean Rank: Eisenhower also took steps to counter segregation, including inviting African-American children to the famous White House Easter Egg Roll.

Sarah Polk Mean Rank: She assisted James throughout his political career, helping with speeches and advising him on important matters.

Julia Grant Mean Rank: Grace Coolidge Mean Rank: Ellen Wilson Mean Rank: However, her time in the White House was tragically cut short when she died from kidney disease in

Lucy Hayes Mean Rank: During her tenure in the White House, alcohol was banned from all events at the mansion.

Louisa Adams Mean Rank: Lou Hoover Mean Rank: Elizabeth "Bess" Truman Mean Rank: Roosevelt, Bess Truman was thrust into the role of first lady.

Nancy Reagan Mean Rank: Edith Wilson Mean Rank: Edith Roosevelt Mean Rank: She undertook extensive renovations of the White House, including new landscaping and modernizing the public rooms.

Laura Bush Mean Rank: Barbara Bush Mean Rank: As first lady, she founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and continues to support this cause today.

Rosalynn Carter Mean Rank: Martha Washington Mean Rank: During her time in the White House, she managed the presidential household and held weekly receptions.

Betty Ford Mean Rank: She also founded the Betty Ford Center to combat substance abuse and drug addiction.

Lady Bird Johnson Mean Rank: Hillary Clinton Mean Rank: Perhaps more than any other first lady, Clinton maintained a high-profile political career after leaving the White House, serving as a New York senator and secretary of State, and running for president.

Michelle Obama Mean Rank: Dolley Madison Mean Rank: Jacqueline Kennedy Mean Rank: Abigail Adams Mean Rank: She and President John Adams were the first couple to reside in the White House, and Abigail Adams continued her formal hosting duties in the new capital.

Eleanor Roosevelt Mean Rank: She played an active role in advising her husband and was the first first lady to hold her own press conferences. After President Franklin D. Commission on Human Rights. Seven of the top 10 are from the modern era since the FDR administration.

Chapter 9 : The most influential first ladies | WTOP

Woman In Power: Here Are The Most Influential First Ladies Of The United States The First Lady of the United States is a title held by the hostess of the White House, usually the wife of the President of the United States.

The following information is provided by Graphiq and InsideGov. During a recent address in Argentina, first lady Michelle Obama stressed the importance of empowering women across the world through education. InsideGov decided to take a more in-depth look at the role of first ladies in U. Siena College collaborated with C-SPAN and the White House Historical Association to create surveys for scholars and historians in American history to rank first ladies on 10 different influence indicators. Helen Taft Mean Rank: Taft also made headlines for her decision to replace the crew of all-white male ushers at the White House with African-American men. Eisenhower also took steps to counter segregation, including inviting African-American children to the famous White House Easter Egg Roll. Sarah Polk Mean Rank: She assisted James throughout his political career, helping with speeches and advising him on important matters. Grace Coolidge Mean Rank: However, her time in the White House was tragically cut short when she died from kidney disease in Lucy Hayes Mean Rank: During her tenure in the White House, alcohol was banned from all events at the mansion. Lou Hoover Mean Rank: Roosevelt, Bess Truman was thrust into the role of first lady. Nancy Reagan Mean Rank: Edith Roosevelt Mean Rank: She undertook extensive renovations of the White House, including new landscaping and modernizing the public rooms. Barbara Bush Mean Rank: As first lady, she founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and continues to support this cause today. Martha Washington Mean Rank: During her time in the White House, she managed the presidential household and held weekly receptions. She also founded the Betty Ford Center to combat substance abuse and drug addiction. Lady Bird Johnson Mean Rank: Perhaps more than any other first lady, Clinton maintained a high-profile political career after leaving the White House, serving as a New York senator and secretary of State, and running for president. Michelle Obama Mean Rank: Jacqueline Kennedy Mean Rank: She and President John Adams were the first couple to reside in the White House, and Abigail Adams continued her formal hosting duties in the new capital. Eleanor Roosevelt Mean Rank: She played an active role in advising her husband and was the first first lady to hold her own press conferences. After President Franklin D. Commission on Human Rights. Seven of the top 10 are from the modern era since the FDR administration.