

Presidents and Wars

Managing conflicts and wars is an unpleasant job duty of the president. Learn about the following wars, with which country or group the United States was in conflict, and which president was in office at the time.

Barbary Wars Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were in office during the Barbary Wars.
The US fought against northern African nations who were acting as pirates against US merchant ships.
Civil War Abraham Lincoln is best known for his role in the Civil War between the southern slave
Confederate states and the northern Union states.
Creek War In 1812, the Creek Nation, divided by religious differences within its tribes, launched an
attack on Fort Mims in Alabama. After killing innocent white families at the fort, three US armies retaliated throughout Alabama and Georgia in 1813, while James Madison was President.
Granada President Ronald Reagan made the decision to occupy and replace the poorly run socialist
government of Granada.
Intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina Cooperating with NATO wishes, President Bill
Clinton sent U.S. troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina to help keep peace and defend human rights.
Invasion of Afghanistan George W. Bush sent U.S. forces into Afghanistan to destroy terrorist
organizations using the country as its base. This was the first response after the September 11 th attacks.
Invasion of Iraq George W. Bush sent U.S. troop into Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein from power.
Korean War Harry Truman was president when North Korean armies crossed into and attacked South
Korea. U.S. troops came to South Korea's aid. The war ended in July 1953 as Dwight D. Eisenhower took office.
Mexican American War James Knox Polk was president during the Mexican American War.
The war with Mexico was over a dispute on the border lines of Texas after it was annexed.
Persian Gulf War Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, resulting in George H. W. Bush sending U.S. Troops
into Iraq. Other NATO nations also sent troops.
Spanish-American War William McKinley was president in 1898 when the U.S. declared war against
Spain after the sinking of a U.S. battleship in Havana harbor. It ended Spanish control of overseas territories.
US invasion of Panama George H. W. Bush authorized the invasion of Panama to arrest and remove
from power Panama's dictator, Manuel Noriega. Noriega was convicted of trafficking drugs to the U.S.
Vietnam War The Vietnam War lasted from 1959 to 1975. Four presidents led the U.S during this time;
Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Baines Johnson and Richard Nixon. The U.S. leaders were dedicated to stopping the spread of Communism and sent troops to Vietnam with that goal.
War of 1812 The War of 1812 is often called the "Second war of Independence". U.S. military fought
against the British to defend its territories and states. James Madison was the president during this time.
War of Texas Independence Andrew Jackson was president during this time when Texas militia
fought the Mexican army over Texas Independence.
World War I Woodrow Wilson was president during WWI when U.S. troops allied with Great Britain,
France, Russia, Italy, and Japan fought a muddy territorial war in Europe against Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Turkey.
World War II Franklin Roosevelt was president during the bulk of WWII where U.S. troops fought
Germany and Japan on two fronts. Harry S. Truman authorized the dropping of the atomic bomb in Japan in efforts to end the war.