



President Trump's tweet for Melania Trump's birthday, April 30, 2017

1. First Lady Of The United States

## File 5 p. 60 • American dynasties

To crown the greatest political families in the U.S., historian Stephen Hess came up with a ranking system that factors in<sup>1</sup> succession (minimum of three generations) and power (number of offices<sup>2</sup> held).

### 1) The Kennedys

The top family of U.S. politics has had one president (John F.), three senators, four representatives and one cabinet member. Dozens of grandchildren suggest more to come.

#### Government positions held:

Presidents ★

Representatives ★ ★ ★ ★

Senators ★ ★ ★

Cabinet members ★

### 2) The Roosevelts

The Bushes aren't unique in counting two presidents. The Roosevelts did it (Theodore and Franklin), along with a vice-president, two governors and four representatives.

#### Government positions held:

Presidents ★ ★

Governors ★

Vice-presidents ★

Representatives ★ ★ ★ ★

### 3) The Rockfellers

Perhaps better known for their robber baron<sup>3</sup> riches, the Rockefeller children found political success. Nelson was vice-president. There were also three governors and two senators.

#### Government positions held:

Vice-presidents ★

Senators ★ ★

Governors ★ ★ ★

Representatives ★ ★

*www.macleans.ca*

1. take into account

2. government position

3. unscrupulous

businessmen

## File 5 p. 62 • First ladies' power

Throughout history, First Ladies have been charged with traditional “female” roles, from planning the menu at state dinners to decorating the White House at Christmas.

When they're in the White House, First Ladies often focus their efforts around broadly supported, family-friendly issues, like literacy or nutrition. Their recent comments about family separation at the border<sup>1</sup>, though pointedly political, also fit with a First Lady's traditional focus on family issues.

But they also have a long tradition of being more outspoken than their husbands on key issues, even when they occupy the same White House. [...] Eleanor Roosevelt supported an anti-lynching bill<sup>2</sup> that her husband was resisting. Barbara Bush visited babies with AIDS<sup>3</sup> in 1989, her first year in the White House. Michelle Obama used her 2016 Democratic National Convention speech to popularize the phrase “When they go low, we go high” in reference to Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton used a 1995 speech in Beijing to declare that “Women's rights are human rights.” Without ever running for office or holding an official political position, First Ladies become among the most visible people in the country.

Hilary Weaver, *vanityfair.com*, June 20, 2018

**1.** a part of President Trump's immigration policy

**2.** a bill to put an end to the lynching of black citizens

**3.** SIDA

## File 5 p. 63 • The public and private lives of candidates

As a voter, I simply want to know that [the president] is someone who has lived. I do not want to know the details. I value privacy and I value a presidential candidate who demands<sup>1</sup> it too. [...]

Two of the greatest leaders of the last century were Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Roosevelt had a serious illness but did not flaunt<sup>2</sup> his disability. Nor did he publicize<sup>3</sup> the fact that he was terribly ill with heart failure in 1944. Churchill was an alcoholic. I do not know whether he could stop drinking if he chose, because there is no evidence that he ever chose to.

Neither could be elected today because these things would disqualify them. And that would have been a catastrophe for Western civilization. Abraham Lincoln was clearly manic depressive. John F. Kennedy was a prodigious womanizer. [...]

There was more to all these men and having them lose elections because of their vices would have been disastrous. What would we have done without them? Yet, none could be elected today.

George Friedman, *huffingtonpost.com*, 2017

1. *exiger*    2. *display*    3. *make public*

## File 5 p. 63 • Politicians' privacy

"I think the press should look into politicians' private lives. I think they should find out what the issue<sup>1</sup> is. If you're running to be the highest law enforcement<sup>2</sup> in the land, if you're looked up to as a role model for children [...], I think it's a legitimate issue. It provides a window into the character of the individual. I think the press has an obligation to run that down<sup>3</sup>.

Do you agree that the press should investigate matters of "character"?

If yes, why?

- High standards for world leaders
- Role models for children
- Must trust our leaders

If no, why ?

- No one's perfect
- Performance more important
- Should concentrate on issues

Randy Tate, [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

**1.** problem    **2.** *force publique*    **3.** explore

The use of social media in politics including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube has dramatically changed the way campaigns are run and how Americans interact with their elected officials. Here are three ways how. [...]

### **Direct contact with voters**

Social media tools including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube allow politicians to speak directly to voters without spending a dime<sup>1</sup>. Using those social media allows politicians to circumvent<sup>2</sup> the traditional method of reaching voters through paid advertising or earned media.

### **Weighing public opinion**

The value of social media is in its immediacy. Politicians and campaign do absolutely nothing without first knowing how their policy statements or moves will play<sup>3</sup> among the electorate, and Twitter and Facebook both allow them to instantaneously gauge<sup>4</sup> how the public is responding to an issue or controversy. Politicians can then adjust their campaigns accordingly. [...]

### **It's hip**

One reason social media is effective is that it engages younger voters. Typically, older Americans tend to make up the largest portion of voters who actually go to the polls. But Twitter and Facebook have energized younger voters, which has had a profound impact on elections.

Tom Murse, *thoughtco.com*, 2018

**1.** centime    **2.** contourner    **3.** will be received by    **4.** measure

## File 5 p. 69 • The legacy of Michelle Obama

Looking back at Michelle Obama's time in the White House, historians note that she leaves behind an unprecedented legacy, not just as the nation's first black First Lady and fierce defender of her husband's

policies, but as a champion for a healthier nation and access to educational opportunity.

"What strikes me about Michelle Obama is how much she made the position her own," Allida Black, the First Ladies' historian at the White House Historical Association, told NBC News. "She not only became increasingly comfortable but also increasingly influential as First Lady in ways that really were her own, and they were ways that were different." In 2008, after her husband's landmark victory, Obama came to the role "somewhat reluctantly and somewhat unsure" of how it would affect her family, said Anita McBride, director of the First Ladies Initiative at American University. Her primary concern was conserving a private life for herself and her two young daughters, Sasha and Malia, McBride said. That was one thing that never changed as she found her footing on the national stage.[...]

During the 2012 Democratic National Convention, the First Lady declared that her "most important title is still 'mom-in-chief'." And indeed, from her earliest initiatives she largely focused on programs dedicated to improving the lives of children.

One of her first highly visible projects was a new garden on the South Lawn of the White House in April 2009. The garden would be the genesis of her *Let's Move!* initiative, where she took on childhood obesity and lack of access to healthy food.

The following year, Obama became one of few First Ladies able to get legislation passed. The act served to update school meal nutritional standards, offer healthier meal options for students and increase the number of students who had access to school lunch at little or no cost.