
important people Who are the top 10 most important people of the 20 - 21st Centuries

Posted by Ali Syed - 2008/06/29 20:00

Without going to the extreme past where we all shall dwell forever in this posting. Who are the top 10 most influential people who lived anytime between 1900 to now. You MUST order your choices by importance and explain why you picked who you did. Also, please be imaginative and pick some artists and non-military obvious choices. Have fun and always be original. Ali

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Posted by Cernunnos - 2008/06/29 20:00

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Posted by Kevin M. DeVita - 2008/06/29 20:00

Well, off the top of my head, here is my list: 10. George Bush Sr. - welcoming the eastern block out of communism and iraq (for which the world community is still dealing with). :) 9. Adolf Hitler - forever changing the landscape of europe through war and extermination. 8. Joseph Stalin - for his part in initiating the cold war (and wwii). 7. Mao Zedong - putting china on a course to be a world power (almost there). 6. Woodrow Wilson - wwi and mainly the league of nations... then united nations 5. Albert Einstein - atomic power (both destructive and constructive). 4. Winston Churchill - for his plans in wwi and his leadership in wwii. 3. Lenin - communist revolution, that eventually spread across the globe. 2. Henry Ford - for expanding the purchasing power of the working class. 1. Theodore Roosevelt - for making the usa a world power (instead of isolating the usa), and eventually a hegemonic power (after wwii).

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Posted by rosignol - 2008/06/29 20:00

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Posted by Steve Dufour - 2008/06/29 20:00

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Posted by Michael G. Koerner - 2008/06/29 20:00

I'd vote for FDR as the single most successful and important political leader. If we can vote for bad guys and failures then Hitler had the most impact of any individual. I would certainly include Pope John Paul II in that list, his election in 1978 rocked Communist Europe at its very foundation. It was the first event that lead up to its complete collapse 11 years later, a most unlikely event in everyones' minds at the time. The fact that that collapse happened without a single shot being fired in anger still astonishes me. Other 20th century people I would include: Lenin Stalin Ronald Reagan Wright Brothers Henry Ford Jonas Salk

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Posted by Emperor - 2008/06/29 20:00

1. Theodore Roosevelt - for making the usa a world power (instead of isolating the usa), Sorry, by the time Roosevelt broke into politics, this was in the process of happening.

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Posted by tj bandrowsky - 2008/06/29 20:00

The US / UK alliance has guaranteed western europe control of the Atlantic for decades now. While we take the US British alliance almost for granted, back in those days there was a lot of mistrust - in early 1930s there was some thought that US and UK might be the next great rivals. If there was a big POD, what happens if Britian and US get into a Naval buildup in the 1920s and 1930s, and that Washington Naval Treaty does NOT take place. POD: 1940, USA continues naval buildup... as Britian is potentially facing a superpower on the other side of the Atlantic and a continental European Power she negotiates a peace with Germany to try and match USA in naval arms race. Hitler invades Russia and this time wins or at least ties. The world devolves into four camps, the Nazis, the Communists, the USA and the British Empire. 1. Franklin Delano Roosevelt / Winston Churchill: Formed USA UK alliance and share Atlantic 2. Dwight David Eisenhower / Sir Alan Brooke: Made that alliance work at a practical (military level). And then, in that vein: 3. The Beatles. NATO could not worked without the British Invasion of 1964. Before the Beatles, Brits were stuffy arrogant and bitter. The boys from Liverpool made the British likeable. Without Ringo, John, George and Paul, the USA does not go from being hostile / skeptical of Europe to having the death of Lady Di being an American national tragedy, a great admiration for Thatcher and Blair, and watching British Parliament on American TV and wishing our politicians could debate with the same skill. Add to that the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Who, and then Douglas Adams, Dr. Who, Dark Shadows, Led Zeppelin, Teletubbies, the Sex Pistols and the Clash and the Cure and there's simply no way the Americans would EVER let anything happen to their friends on the other side of the Atlantic. When's the Royal Navy going to build some ships? Come on Brits, get with it! :-)

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Posted by Lyn David Thomas - 2008/06/29 20:00

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Posted by Kevin M. DeVita - 2008/06/29 20:00

happening. In the process, yes. But TR pushed America forward into the world more than anyone else before him. He was very aggressive with American foreign policy during times of peace, which has become an American characteristic (according to Hans Blix). His style of foreign policy is still evident today.

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Posted by Pete Barrett - 2008/06/29 20:00

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Posted by Emperor - 2008/06/29 20:00

I'd explain this concept to you more, but you sound like a kid and I wouldn't want to waste my time. Yawn. Look, I leave human refuse in the toilet that has displayed more worth and intelligence than you, so don't even try playing that.

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Posted by Kevin M. DeVita - 2008/06/29 20:00

and intelligence than you, so don't even try playing that. It wasn't 'refuse' you saw in the toilet, but your reflection staring back at you. :) Have a nice day! :)

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Posted by Kenny Boylan - 2008/06/29 20:00

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Posted by David Johnston - 2008/06/29 20:00

alijs...@hotmail.com (Ali Syed) wrote in news:26c82868.0211291353.9b1060e@posting.google.com: Without going

to the extreme past where we all shall dwell forever in this posting. Who are the top 10 most influential people who lived anytime between 1900 to now. You MUST order your choices by importance and explain why you picked who you did. Also, please be imaginative and pick some artists and non-military obvious choices. Have fun and always be original. Ali Interesting theres not a single mention of the Kaiser. I don't think the Kaiser was much more important than any of the other national leaders at that time.

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Posted by FreakyDeacon - 2008/06/29 20:00

Have fun and always be original. #1 - Princip. Without Princip, there is no WWI. Without WWI, there is no communist revolution in Russia. Without WWI, there is no WWII. Without WWII there is no Israel, no Cold War, no American Superpower. Without WWI, the US and the UK are still rivals. Without WWI, the Ottomans arent carved into mandates which aren't carved into states, and thus, there is no Saddam. Without WWI, and the lack of an American superpower, the US isnt the Great Satan, and Osama never flies. All for want of Princip.

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Posted by Meteorite Debris - 2008/06/29 20:00

On 29 Nov 2002 13:53:26 -0800 the ET form known as Ali Syed<alijs...@hotmail.com sent a radio signal across the vast expanse of deep space -._.

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Posted by rosignol - 2008/06/29 20:00

Funny, when I but G.B. Sr. as number 10, I KNEW there would be some a**hole who would make a negative personal comment... I love making people jump. :) It has been argued on this NG successfully that Raegan and Bush were most certainly *not* the only or perhaps not even the main factors in the fall of Communism at least 5 times this year alone. It's not a personal comment. I'd only call those arguements successful in the sense that they didn't degenerate into BoP-violating flamewars. As a general rule of thumb, the person sitting in the big chair is going to claim the credit for good things that happen while they're sitting it. Thus, we have Reagan and Bush claiming credit for the collapse of communism, and Clinton claiming credit for the prosperity of the 1990s- even when the specific cause-and-effect that brought these things about are rather murky. But I don't begrudge them the credit, largely because these people also tend to get the blame for the bad things that happen while they're in the big chair, even when there was no practical way to do anything about it.

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Posted by Richard Gadsden - 2008/06/29 20:00

As a general rule of thumb, the person sitting in the big chair is going to claim the credit for good things that happen while they're sitting it. Thus, we have Reagan and Bush claiming credit for the collapse of communism, and Clinton claiming credit for the prosperity of the 1990s- even when the specific cause-and-effect that brought these things about are rather murky. It's one thing to give someone credit for something that went on within their country while they were in office; it's another thing altogether to give them credit for something that went on elsewhere in the world. If you're going to credit one person for the collapse of communism, then Mikhail Sergeyeovich Gorbachev is the obvious candidate. 1. with the obvious exception of a deliberate military or political intervention elsewhere

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Posted by Emperor - 2008/06/29 20:00

I'd only call those arguments successful in the sense that they didn't degenerate into BoP-violating flamewars. Actually, a couple did.

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Posted by Chris Williams - 2008/06/29 20:00

If you're going to credit one person for the collapse of communism, then Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is the obvious candidate. I blame Stresemann. The rest was inevitable. Chris

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Posted by Chris Williams - 2008/06/29 20:00

If you're going to credit one person for the collapse of communism, then Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is the obvious candidate. I blame Stresemann. The rest was inevitable. read 'Ebert' above. Soz. Chris 'idiot' Williams

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Posted by rosignol - 2008/06/29 20:00

I'd only call those arguments successful in the sense that they didn't degenerate into BoP-violating flamewars. Actually, a couple did. A good reason not to revisit the issue, eh?

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Posted by Ali Syed - 2008/06/29 20:00

I want to thank all those people who have responded with some very original picks and some pretty obvious choices as well. Here are my 10 most influential people from 1900-now

- 1) Hitler This man was and still is a symbol of extreme nationalism and the root cause of WWII (the single most influential event of 1900 to now).(By products: every major post-WWI event from the Marshall Plan to the Cold War).
- 2) Gorbachev I chose Mikhail instead of Stalin because its harder to tear down the Iron Curtain than it was to create it. Besides I believe Stalin or not, the Cold War was a product of the outcome of events from WWII and not be Moscow or Washington alone. Gorbachev instigated reforms that were shocking and unheard of in a style of government that ruled by systemic terror. Gorbachev in my opinion, is more important than any other Soviet leader. You may disagree with me but, Gorbachev's reforms have unleashed some amazing political alliances and some disturbing by products (Chechnya, Soviet scientists selling their secrets..etc)
- 3) JFK Apart from the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis, his role on the events of Vietnam, the numerous proxy wars against the Soviets in the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa, Kennedy shaped a generation of civil servants and challenged his nation to mission to the moon (which they accomplished). JFK is one of the most influential people because he touched the lives of many that were inspired by his vision (by products: Civil Rights movement, a sharp buildup of American power in the UN and in NATO).
- 4) Norman Bethune Surprise surprise but I don't pick Mao I pick Bethune instead. Why? Because while Mao was the most influential person in China (and still is to date), Bethune serviced the Chinese Communists with medicine, advice and admiration. A spill over of this is that it was the by product of Bethune's influence which helped open China to the West (first though Canada and then through Nixon's Ping Pong diplomacy). Norman Bethune was an odd character which helped change the Chinese perception of Westerners (before Bethune Westerners were all grouped as Imperialists...Bethune challenged this identity).
- 5) Ronald Reagan The American president was the pioneer of a vision of a Space Defense system that would shield North America from Nuclear ballistic attack. SDI was ahead of its time just like Reagan's policies which challenged Soviet leadership in every proxy war and event on the Earth. Reagan brought the Soviets to an internal realization that they could no longer sustain the military expenditures against the Americans. Reagan's bumbling mistakes in the Middle East (dual diplomacy and poor foreign policy application) helped create some serious negative by products we still have today. However, Reagan's economic policies, his European and Asian foreign policies were all a tremendous success and helped challenge and change the world in the positive. (By products SDI, dual diplomacy,

the end of the Soviet Union and a stronger reliance on the Stock Market). 6) James Watson and Francis Crick (Sorry folks this is a tie) They discovered DNA and fundamentally challenged science to do more. (By products: gene therapy, DNA forensics, DNA based cloning, genetic engineering, Human Genome map) 7) Elvis Presley The King of Rock(though I am not a fan) has influenced generations of wannabe pop stars and music superstars. Elvis was the right person and the right time and created some serious changes in the world of music and how a rock star uses the media for their advantage. (By product: music's redirection towards Rock (Elvis style), Mega Rock superstardom, redefined concert performances and how musicians were perceived by the media....alos pushed the most disgusting Sandwich of all time). 8) Amitabh Bachan The Bollywood actor has made more movies than could be possible (he has tried to retire three times and failed due to demand). Bachan's acting is based on the school of over acting and would make most Westerners laugh in disbelief that he his so beloved in Bombay. He has never mad a flop movie and has influenced every major Actor in Bollywood since he began his career. He was also involved in major military purchases for India under the Rajiv Gandhi government. This gives him clout for influencing the Indian-Pakistani situation. (By products: Bollywood actors who copy his acting skill, a sub-Continent of devoted fans that have led to serious influence on Western culture - proIndian tilt in West is caused by his influences on the Indian society on whole). 9) Bob Woodward / Matt Drudge (Tie) Woodward 's career as a journalist is impressive. What's more impressive is Woodward's influence on the generations of journalists after him and those who have read his work and were inspired. Woodward is attributed to bringing down a President which, is no simple feat. His insight and political connections make him a very powerful invetsigative journalist. (By products: truly inspiring journalism) Drudge was the first to pioneer tabloid style reporting of the news and was the man responsible for exposing the ClintonLewinsky affair. Drudge's site traffic is impressive including the number of influential people who read his column or battle is conservative slant on the news. (By products: tabloid news based internet sites) 10) Mother Teresa The recently deceased elderly nun gave her life to a service and a cause to the poor weak and silent majority of impoverished people of the Indo-Sub Continent. She redefined the nature of virtue and helped influence countless of good samaritan works and people sho sacrificed their lives for the poor. She stands as a true philanthropist and a humanitarian. (By products: influenced charities around the world, gave hope and help to the poor and taught us all lessons of life.) You may not agree with my choices (I could change some in an hour probably). But the exercise was to be original and creative with your selections. Ali

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Posted by Arkadiusz Danilecki - 2008/06/29 20:00

9) Bob Woodward / Matt Drudge (Tie) ditto. Where is Pope? Without pope, there would be no 1989 revolution. And i say it as an atheist. a.d.danilecki

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