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Subject: Re: OT; Who was the first president of th US?  
Posted by [uptown jimmy](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 00:18:11 GMT  
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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Content-Type: text/plain;  
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Ask North Koreans about "talking points".=20

The fellows who headed the federal government(s) before Washington are =  
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ought to know more about them, but they weren't "Presidents" in the =  
sense that Americans think of the office today.

Jimmy

"jef knight" <thestudio@allknightmusic.com> wrote in message =  
news:44ad3156@linux...

though not a united statesian, I'm none-the-less fascinated by how the =  
history of your nation was continually, over time, reduced to, well, =  
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gene lennon wrote:=20

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_0012\_01C6A070.2338E3B0  
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<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>Jimmy</FONT></DIV>  
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>  
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  href=3D"mailto:thestudio@allknightmusic.com">thestudio@allknightmusic.com=  
</A>&gt;=20  
  wrote in message <A=20  
  href=3D"news:44ad3156@linux">news:44ad3156@linux</A>...</DIV>though =  
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-----=\_NextPart\_000\_0012\_01C6A070.2338E3B0--

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Subject: OT; Who was the first president of th US?  
Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 09:42:06 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

----- And you thought you knew American history.....  
Subject: Who was the first President?

I'm sure that George Washington was your best guess.

After all, no one else comes to mind.

But think back to your history books - The United States declared its independence in 1776, yet Washington did not take office until April 30, 1789.

So who was running the country during these initial years of this young country?

It was the first eight U. S. Presidents.

In fact, the first President of the United States was one John Hanson.

I can hear you now - John who?

John Hanson, the first President of the United States.

Don't go checking the encyclopedia for this guy's name - he is one of those great men that are lost to history. If you're extremely lucky, you may actually find a brief mention of his name.

The new country was actually formed on March 1, 1781 with the adoption of The Articles of Confederation.

This document was actually proposed on June 11, 1776, but not agreed upon by Congress until November 15, 1777.

Maryland refused to sign this document until Virginia and New York ceded their western lands (Maryland was afraid that these states would gain too much power in the new government from such large amounts of land).

Once the signing took place in 1781, a President was needed to run the country.

John Hanson was chosen unanimously by Congress (which included George Washington). In fact, all the other potential candidates refused to run against him, as he was a major player in the revolution and an extremely influential member of Congress.

As the first President, Hanson had quite the shoes to fill. No one had ever been President and the role was poorly defined. His actions in office would set precedent for all future Presidents.

He took office just as the Revolutionary War ended. Almost immediately, the troops demanded to be paid. As would be expected after any long war, there were no funds to meet the salaries. As a result, the soldiers threatened to overthrow the new government and put Washington on the throne as a monarch.

All the members of Congress ran for their lives, leaving Hanson as the only guy left running the government. He somehow managed to calm the troops down and hold the country together. If he had failed, the government would have fallen almost immediately and everyone would have been bowing to King Washington.

Hanson, as President, ordered all foreign troops off American soil, as well as the removal of all foreign flags. This was quite the feat, considering the fact that so many European countries had a stake in the United States since the days following Columbus. Hanson established the Great Seal of the United States, which all Presidents have since been required to use on all official documents.

President Hanson also established the first Treasury Department, the first Secretary of War, and the first Foreign Affairs Department.

Lastly, he declared that the fourth Thursday of every November was to be Thanksgiving Day, which is still true today.

The Articles of Confederation only allowed a President to serve a one year term during any three year period, so Hanson actually accomplished quite a bit in such little time.

Seven other presidents were elected after him -  
Elias Boudinot (1782-83),  
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So what happened?

Why don't we hear about the first eight presidents?

It's quite simple - The Articles of Confederation didn't work well. The individual states had too much power and nothing could be agreed upon.

A new doctrine needed to be written - something we know as the Constitution.

And that leads us to the end of our story.

George Washington was definitely not the first President of the United

States. He was the first President of the United States under the Constitution we follow today.

And the first eight Presidents are forgotten in history.

YOU HAVE TO BE A LOVER OF HISTORY TO APPRECIATE THIS!!

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Subject: Re: OT; Who was the first president of th US?  
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 13:59:37 GMT  
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---

rick <parnell68@hotmail.com> wrote:  
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>Subject: Who was the first President?  
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I was taught about the presidents proceeding Washington in high school, however I was taught the version close to the one in Wikipedia, which includes:

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Or this:  
<http://www.johnhanson.net/>

Gene

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Subject: Re: OT; Who was the first president of th US?  
Posted by [jef knight\[1\]](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 15:55:05 GMT  
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.  
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<br>

<br>

gene lennon wrote:

<blockquote cite="mid44ad1749\$1@linux" type="cite">

<pre wrap="">rick <a class="moz-txt-link-/rfc2396E" href="mailto:parnell68@hotmail.com">&lt;parnell68@hotmail.com&gt;</a> wrote:

</pre>

<blockquote type="cite">

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<a class="moz-txt-link-freetext"

href="http://www.johnhanson.net/">http://www.johnhanson.net/</a>

Gene

</pre>

</blockquote>

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Subject: Re: OT; Who was the first president of th US?

Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 15:55:45 GMT

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---

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Didn't this guy invent the internet?

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news:lkmpa2drpgdnfsvumec98cn37s2qo99hi@4ax.com...

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- 

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Subject: Re: OT; Who was the first president of th US?

Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 16:36:31 GMT

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who me????????? sure, just send the check to...me.

On Thu, 6 Jul 2006 09:55:45 -0600, "DJ"

<animix\_spam-this-ahole\_@animas.net> wrote:

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Posted by [rick](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 16:36:57 GMT  
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On 6 Jul 2006 23:59:37 +1000, "gene lennon"  
<glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: OT; Who was the first president of th US?  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 20:35:54 GMT  
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These guys were 'President' at a time when the US was just a bunch of treacherous  
British turncoats. I've always thought it uproarious that Benedict Arnold  
is vilified for turning his coat back a second time. The first one was fine,

but the second a terrible treachery.

The Articles of Confederation were almost designed to fail. Imagine a committee where nobody really has much common interest and everyone has veto power. That's pretty close to it.

Probably the two things that bound the US into a viable entity with some likelihood of success were a) the assumption of state war debts by the federal government and b) the agreement in the Constitution to table the issue of slavery. Jefferson never forgave himself for brokering a) and felt snookered by Hamilton, while b) was simply an acknowledgement that the two sides would not agree any time soon, which proved prescient since the issue took a hundred years of continued slavery and a savage war to figure out. Not that this helped the slaves much, but it did help glue the government together.

Lastly, the presidency has gained power in a steady line that suddenly gets exponential a little before WW II. Those early guys wouldn't have dreamed of doing what the last five have done without consulting congress. But that's another long, long story . . .

TCB

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>  
>The Articles of Confederation only allowed a President to serve a one  
>year term during any three year period, so Hanson actually  
>accomplished quite a bit in such little time.  
>  
>Seven other presidents were elected after him -  
>Elias Boudinot (1782-83),  
>Thomas Mifflin (1783-84),  
>Richard Henry Lee (1784-85),  
>John Hancock (1785-86),  
>Nathan Gorman (1786-87),  
>Arthur St. Clair (1787-88), and  
>Cyrus Griffin (1788-89) -  
>all prior to Washington taking office.  
>  
>So what happened?  
>  
>Why don't we hear about the first eight presidents?  
>  
>It's quite simple - The Articles of Confederation didn't work well.  
>The individual states had too much power and nothing could be agreed  
>upon.  
>  
>A new doctrine needed to be written - something we know as the  
>Constitution.  
>  
>And that leads us to the end of our story.  
>  
>George Washington was definitely not the first President of the United  
>States. He was the first President of the United States under the  
>Constitution we follow today.  
>  
>And the first eight Presidents are forgotten in history.  
>  
>YOU HAVE TO BE A LOVER OF HISTORY TO APPRECIATE THIS!!  
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