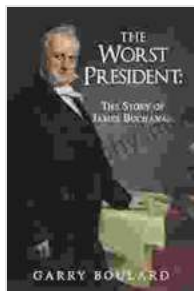


# The Worst President: The Story of James Buchanan, the Man Who Failed to Save the Union



James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, is often considered one of the worst presidents in American history. His presidency

was marked by a series of failures, including the secession of the Southern states and the outbreak of the Civil War. In this article, we will take a closer look at Buchanan's life and presidency, and explore the reasons why he is considered one of the worst presidents in American history.



## The Worst President--The Story of James Buchanan

by Garry Boulard

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 661 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 237 pages



### Early Life and Career

James Buchanan was born in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, on April 23, 1791. He was the son of James Buchanan Sr., a farmer, and Elizabeth Speer Buchanan. Buchanan had a privileged upbringing and attended some of the best schools in the country, including Dickinson College and the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating from law school, Buchanan began his career as a lawyer in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He quickly rose through the ranks of the Democratic Party and was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1814. In 1821, Buchanan was elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served for ten years. In 1832, Buchanan was appointed Minister to Russia by President Andrew Jackson. He served in this position for four years and returned to the United States in 1836.

## **Presidency**

In 1856, Buchanan was elected president of the United States. He took office at a time of great turmoil in the country. The issue of slavery was dividing the nation, and the Southern states were threatening to secede from the Union. Buchanan was a strong supporter of the Union, but he was also a believer in states' rights. He tried to appease both sides, but his efforts were unsuccessful. In 1861, the Southern states seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. Buchanan refused to use force to stop the secession, and the Civil War began.

## **Failures of Buchanan's Presidency**

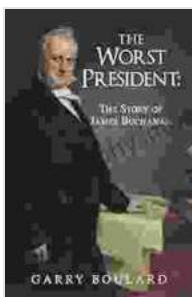
Buchanan's presidency was marked by a series of failures. He failed to prevent the secession of the Southern states, and he failed to stop the outbreak of the Civil War. He also failed to provide strong leadership during the war. Buchanan's indecisiveness and lack of leadership contributed to the Union's defeat at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861. After the battle, Buchanan was widely criticized for his handling of the war, and he became increasingly unpopular.

## **Legacy**

James Buchanan is considered one of the worst presidents in American history. His presidency was marked by a series of failures, including the secession of the Southern states and the outbreak of the Civil War. Buchanan's indecisiveness and lack of leadership contributed to the Union's defeat at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861. After the battle, Buchanan was widely criticized for his handling of the war, and he became increasingly unpopular. Buchanan left office in 1861 and retired to

Wheatland, his estate in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He died in 1868 at the age of 77.

James Buchanan was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant lawyer and politician, but he was also a weak and indecisive leader. His presidency was a disaster, and he is considered one of the worst presidents in American history. Buchanan's failures are a reminder of the importance of strong leadership in times of crisis.



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