



# Herbert Hoover

31st President

Born: August 10, 1874

Birthplace: West Branch, IA

Died: Oct. 20, 1964

Burial Site: West Branch, IA

Spouse: Lou Henry

Occupation: Engineer

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1929-1933

Vice President: Charles Curtis

Herbert Clark Hoover, who had been Warren Harding's secretary of commerce, brought to the presidency an unparalleled reputation of public service as an engineer, administrator and humanitarian.

He received a bachelor's degree at Stanford and became a mining engineer. In 1900, Hoover directed food relief for victims of the Boxer Rebellion while chief engineer of the imperial mines in China.

Hoover was in England when the First World War broke out, and it was mainly through his efforts that aid was given to war-devastated Belgium.

Recognized as a world leader, Hoover easily defeated Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York, the Democratic choice, in an election that saw the largest total vote up to that time.

He was not to remain popular long because in the financial fall of 1929, when the spiralling stock market suddenly faltered, the United States found itself in the Great Depression. Hoover became the "scapegoat" for the Depression.

Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt was to sweep into office as voters looked for a new president to lead them out of the Depression.