


# James Buchanan: The Hidden History of the 15th President of the United States



A black and white portrait of James Buchanan, the 15th President of the United States. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt with a high collar. The background is dark. In the top right corner of the image, there is a small logo for 'THE HISTORY JUNKIE' featuring a cartoon character. The image is overlaid with a red banner at the bottom containing the text 'James Buchanan Quick Facts' in white. Below the banner is a list of four bullet points.

## James Buchanan Quick Facts

- Usually ranked as the worst President in American History.
- Supported the Dred Scott decision that caused harm to many African-Americans
- Tried to admit Kansas into the Union as a slave state which caused more division in the United States.
- President Buchanan was the only president to be a bachelor.

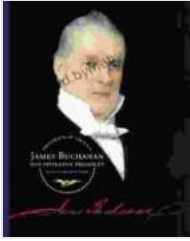
**James Buchanan (Presidents of the U.S.A.)** by Gerry Souter

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 26812 KB

Screen Reader: Supported



Print length : 48 pages

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James Buchanan was the 15th President of the United States, serving from 1857 to 1861. He is best known for his inaction during the secession crisis that led to the American Civil War. But there is much more to Buchanan's story than meets the eye.

In this book, historian Michael Holt uncovers the hidden history of James Buchanan, revealing a complex and fascinating figure who has been largely misunderstood by history. Holt draws on a wealth of new research to paint a vivid portrait of Buchanan's life and presidency, from his early years in Pennsylvania to his tragic end in exile.

Holt reveals that Buchanan was a man of contradictions. He was a brilliant lawyer and politician, but he was also deeply insecure and indecisive. He was a strong supporter of the Union, but he was also a slave owner. He was a man of great ambition, but he was also plagued by self-doubt.

Buchanan's presidency was a time of great turmoil and upheaval. The country was deeply divided over the issue of slavery, and Buchanan was unable to find a way to bridge the gap. As a result, the Union collapsed and the Civil War began.

Buchanan has been blamed for the Civil War, but Holt argues that he was not the only one responsible. The war was caused by a complex set of factors, including the long-standing debate over slavery, the rise of sectionalism, and the failure of the political system to find a way to accommodate the growing differences between the North and the South.

Holt's book is a major contribution to our understanding of James Buchanan and the presidency. It is a well-written and engaging account of a complex and fascinating figure who has been largely misunderstood by history.

## **Reviews**

"Michael Holt has written a brilliant and revisionist account of James Buchanan's presidency. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, the Civil War, or the presidency." - **Doris Kearns**

## **Goodwin**

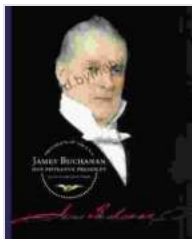
"Holt's book is a major contribution to our understanding of James Buchanan and the presidency. It is a well-written and engaging account of a complex and fascinating figure who has been largely misunderstood by history." - **James McPherson**

## **About the Author**

Michael Holt is a professor of American history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of several books, including *The Rise and Fall of the American Whig Party* and *By the People: A History of the American Revolution*.

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