

Charles de Gaulle

[His Excellency](#)

Charles de Gaulle

The [President of France](#)

[GCLH](#) [GCM](#) [CL](#) [CC](#) [MIV](#) [Mcg](#)

[18th President of the French Republic](#)

In office

January 8, 1959 – April 28, 1969

Preceded by [René Coty](#)

Succeeded by [Georges Pompidou](#)

[149th Prime Minister of France](#)

In office

1 June 1958 – 8 January 1959

Preceded by [Pierre Pflimlin](#)

Succeeded by [Michel Debré](#)

Personal details

Born	22 November 1890 Lille, France
Died	9 November 1970 (aged 79) Colombey-les-deux-Églises , France
Nationality	French
Political party	UDR
Spouse(s)	Yvonne de Gaulle Philippe
Children	Élisabeth (dead) Anne (dead)

General Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle (22 November 1890 - 9 November 1970) was a [French](#) military and political leader. He was president of [France](#) from 1959 to 1969. He was a founding member and leader of the French Resistance during the Second World War.

De Gaulle chaired the [Provisional Government of the French Republic](#) from 1944 to 1946 in order to re-establish [democracy](#) in France.

In 1958, he came out of retirement: the [Algerian War](#) was happening. He rewrote the [Constitution](#) of France and founded the Fifth Republic after it was approved by a [referendum](#). He was elected President of France later that year, a position to which he was re-elected in 1965 and held until his resignation in 1969.

The National Assembly brought him back to power in May 1958. He granted independence to [Algeria](#). 900,000 French people in Algeria (called *les pieds-noire*) left for France. The Organisation armée secrète (OAS) tried to kill

him. [Frederick Forsyth](#) used this incident as a basis for his [novel *The Day of the Jackal*](#).

After the Algerian conflict, de Gaulle wanted to improve the French economy, and have an independent foreign policy. This was called by foreign observers the "politics of grandeur" (*politique de grandeur*).^[1] See [Gaullism](#).

The French [economy](#) recorded high growth rates. In 1964, for the first time in nearly 100 years, France's [GDP](#) overtook that of the [United Kingdom](#). This period is still remembered in France with some nostalgia as the peak of the [Trente Glorieuses](#) ("Thirty Glorious Years" of economic growth between 1945 and 1974).^[2]

De Gaulle had many admirers, but he was also one of the most hated men in modern French history.^{[3][4]}

- His most famous saying was: "*L'etat? c'est moi!*", roughly "The State? it's me!"

Death

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

De Gaulle died in [Colombey-les-Deux-Églises](#) in 1970 while playing cards because of a [brain aneurysm](#).

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. [↑] Kolodziej, Edward A (1974). *French International Policy under de Gaulle and Pompidou: The Politics of Grandeur*. p. 618.
2. [↑] Haine, W. Scott (1974). *Culture and Customs of France*. Westport CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006. p. 315. [ISBN 978-0-313-32892-3](#).
3. [↑] Jackson, Julian. 1999. General de Gaulle and his enemies: Anti-Gaullism in France since 1940. *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 6th Ser., vol. 9, pp. 43–65. JSTORE ^[1]
4. [↑] Bernstein, Serge, and Peter Morris. *The Republic of de Gaulle 1958–1969* (The Cambridge History of Modern France) (2006) [excerpt and text search](#)

[Time Persons of the Year](#)

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

• [Mohammad Mosaddegh](#) (1951)

• [Elizabeth II](#) (1952)

• [Konrad Adenauer](#) (1953)

American Women (1975)

2001-present

- e

- Executive Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louis-Eugène Cavaignac • Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte
<u>Government of National Defense (1870-1871)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louis-Jules Trochu
<u>Third Republic (1871-1940)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolphe Thiers • Patrice de MacMahon • Jules Grévy • Sadi Carnot • Jean Casimir-Perier • Félix Faure • Émile Loubet • Armand Fallières • Raymond Poincaré • Paul Deschanel • Alexandre Millerand • Gaston Doumergue • Paul Doumer • Albert Lebrun
<u>Vichy France (1940-1944)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippe Pétain
<u>Provisional Government (1944-1947)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles de Gaulle • Félix Gouin • Georges Bidault • Vincent Auriol • Léon Blum
<u>Fourth Republic (1947-1958)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vincent Auriol • René Coty
<u>Fifth Republic (1958-present)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles de Gaulle • Alain Poher* • Georges Pompidou • Alain Poher* • Valéry Giscard d'Estaing • François Mitterrand • Jacques Chirac • Nicolas Sarkozy • François Hollande • Emmanuel Macron

Debatable or disputed rulers are in italics. Acting heads of state are denoted by an asterisk. Millerand held the presidency in an acting capacity before being fully elected.

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