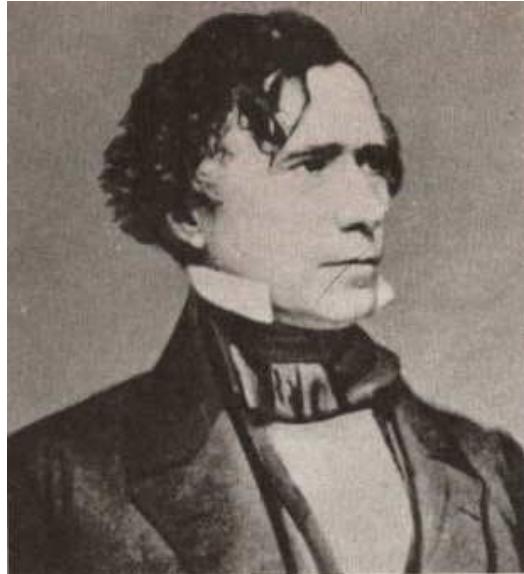


# FRANKLIN PIERCE



*Franklin Pierce*

- **Terms** Franklin Pierce was the 14<sup>th</sup> president of the United States and served from 1853 to 1857, for one term.
- **Election** Pierce made no speeches during his campaign, and since there were no real issues between the Democrats and the Whigs, the voters had to choose Pierce or his chief opponent, General Scott, on their personal characteristics and party loyalty. Pierce received a popular majority of less than 50,000 votes, but he carried all but four states in the Electoral College.

### ➤ **Acts Passed**

- Commodore Matthew Perry anchored four U.S. ships in Tokyo Bay, which was not allowed to foreigners. His visit, and everything he did while there, opened up Japan to trade with the west.
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### ➤ **Problems**

- Ostend Manifesto (1854)- The attempt to acquire Cuba ended embarrassingly in the Ostend Manifesto, a famous declaration by three American diplomats of America's alleged determination to seize the island.
- Kansas–Nebraska Act- A federal law passed on May 30, 1854, that organizing a territorial government for the lands that later became the states Kansas and Nebraska. Opponents saw it as the triumph of the “Slave Power” and they formed the new Republican Party to defeat it. The Act was a key step on the way to the American Civil War.

### ➤ **Trivia**

- Pierce died of cirrhosis of the liver as a result of years of heavy drinking.
- Pierce was arrested while in office for running over an old woman with his horse, but his case was dropped due to insufficient evidence in 1853.
- Franklin Pierce was the first President to have a Christmas tree in the White House.
- Pierce, not avoiding actions that lead to the Civil War, began to be known by many as one of the worst presidents of the United States.

