Trouble in Paradise

Hindustan, the Citizenry & Countrymen, lend us your ears for we’re about to give the third degree to a plethora of ‘Presidents.’ The leader of the free world isn't always free of controversy; bad decisions can change the fabric of our nation. Throughout history, our world has seen its fair share of controversies surrounding a plethora of its Presidents. A president must face it all, and as the years go by, many unpopular actions are made at the hands of various presidents in office. While many spent their time in office representing their country without incident, other Presidents implemented some positive policy initiatives that were largely overshadowed by scandals, cover-ups, and/or questionable leadership. With reflective minds in full effect, our GT Team presents 5 of the most controversial presidents in history.

Richard Nixon

One of the most popular political scandal of Washington D.C was on 27 May 1972, when U.S president Richard Nixon’s elections were in jeopardy as his administrative officials were found breaking into the Democratic National Committee Headquarters in Watergate Hotel who wiretapped phones, fixed bugs, stole some documents and clicked photos of others. But the security guard informed the police after getting the hint when they again broke into on June 17 to fix the bug that stopped working, resulting in 5 of them being arrested. Nixon claimed that nobody from the White House was involved in this scandal but through the video recordings dark arts were revealed that Nixon himself authorized hush money to CIA agent Hunt, forcing him to resign from his post.

Giani Zail Singh

In the early 80’s, Indira Gandhi placed her trusted lieutenant – Giani Zail Singh, the then home minister, in the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Many political commentators have labelled his term as the most disastrous Presidencies of India. Zail Singh, as a show of gratitude, described young Sanjay Gandhi as his mentor and then declared, “My leader has asked me to be President. If she had asked me to sweep the floor, then I would have picked up a broom and done it”

During his term, Indira Gandhi ordered the army into the Golden Temple. The president did not even know that Operation Blue Star was underway even though the Army is under the direct command of the President. Also it was au courant, that Zail Singh went out of his way to make Indira’s son, Rajiv Gandhi, climb to Prime Ministership.

Joseph Stalin

Joseph Stalin, the second leader of the Soviet Union, consolidated his power base with the great purges against his political and ideological opponents. Measures used ranged from imprisonment in work camps to assassinations. Several show trials were held in Moscow, to serve as examples for the trials that local courts were expected to exercise elsewhere in the country. Under the pretext of constructing `socialism in one country', Stalin terrorized large segments of the Soviet population, a term for prosperous farmers who were disinherited when agriculture was collectivized. He also orchestrated a massive famine in the Ukraine in which an estimated 5 million people died. It’s believed that with the purges, forced famines, state terrorism, labour camps, and forced migrations, Stalin was responsible for the death of around 40 million people within the skirts of the Soviet Union.

Adolf Hitler

Hitler had no intention of abiding by the rules of democracy. He intended only to use those rules to legally establish himself as the dictator. To accomplish that goal he solicited new elections. Hitler's plan was to establish a majority of elected Nazis in the Reichstag which would become a rubber stamp, passing whatever laws he desired, making it all supremely legal. Hitler manipulated the President into dissolving the Reichstag, having signed an emergency decree putting the state of Prussia into the hands of Hitler confidant and call for the new elections. Police officials loyal to the republic were replaced with Nazi officials loyal to Hitler, effective immediately. Also it was ordered that anybody being harassed, beaten, or even murdered by Nazis, had nobody to turn to for help. Police was ordered to show no mercy to those deemed hostile to Hitler. After the elections, the Nazis began a systematic takeover of the state governments throughout Deutschland.