

to end a presidency the power of impeachment PDF

To end a presidency, the power of impeachment stands as a fundamental constitutional mechanism in the United States, designed to hold the highest elected officials accountable and preserve the integrity of the democratic process. This process, rooted in the U.S. Constitution, provides a constitutional pathway for Congress to remove a sitting president or other federal officials from office if they are found guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors." Understanding how impeachment functions, its historical applications, and its implications is crucial for grasping its role in American governance.

What is Impeachment?

Impeachment is a formal process by which a legislative body, such as the United States Congress, charges a government official, including the president, with misconduct. It does not automatically remove the official from office; rather, it is akin to an indictment in criminal law—an initial step that initiates a trial to determine guilt.

Constitutional Basis of Impeachment

The authority for impeachment is explicitly granted in the U.S. Constitution, primarily in Article II, Section 4, and Article I, Sections 2 and 3. These provisions stipulate that:

- The House of Representatives has the sole power to impeach (formally accuse).
- The Senate has the sole power to conduct the impeachment trial and ultimately decide whether to remove the official from office.

High Crimes and Misdemeanors

While the Constitution does not define "high crimes and misdemeanors" explicitly, this phrase has been interpreted broadly to include serious abuses of power, corruption, treason, bribery, or other significant misconduct.

The Impeachment Process

The process of impeaching a president involves multiple steps, beginning with investigation and culminating in a Senate trial. Each stage is critical in ensuring fairness and adherence to

constitutional principles.

Step 1: Initiation in the House of Representatives

The process begins with the introduction of articles of impeachment, which are formal charges against the official. These can be initiated by any member of the House but usually stem from investigations by committees such as the House Judiciary Committee.

- Investigation: The House may hold hearings, gather evidence, and interview witnesses.
- Drafting Articles: Based on findings, articles of impeachment are drafted detailing the misconduct.
- Vote on Articles: The full House votes on each article; a simple majority is required for impeachment.

Step 2: Senate Trial

Once the House votes to impeach, the process moves to the Senate, which conducts a trial to determine whether the official should be removed from office.

- Senate as Jury: Senators serve as jurors, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over presidential impeachment trials.
- Presentation of Evidence: House managers act as prosecutors, presenting evidence and arguments.
- Defense: The accused official can present a defense and call witnesses.
- Verdict: After the trial, Senators vote on whether to convict and remove the official. A two-thirds majority is required for conviction.

Historical Examples of Presidential Impeachment

Throughout U.S. history, impeachment has been a significant constitutional tool, though it has rarely resulted in removal from office.

Andrew Johnson (1868)

- Background: Johnson faced impeachment primarily over his approach to Reconstruction and opposition to Radical Republicans.
- Articles of Impeachment: Included violations of the Tenure of Office Act.
- Outcome: The Senate acquitted him by one vote, and he remained in office.

Bill Clinton (1998)

- Charges: Perjury and obstruction of justice related to his extramarital affair.
- Impeachment: Passed by the House but fell short in the Senate.
- Outcome: Clinton was acquitted and completed his term.

Donald Trump (2019 and 2021)

- First Impeachment (2019): Charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress related to Ukraine.
- Second Impeachment (2021): Incitement of insurrection following the Capitol riot.
- Outcome: Both times, the Senate acquitted Trump.

Can Impeachment End a Presidency?

Yes. Although impeachment itself does not automatically remove a president from office, it sets the stage for potential removal if the Senate convicts. The constitutional process is designed to be rigorous, requiring a significant legislative consensus to succeed.

Implications of Impeachment

- Removal from Office: Conviction in the Senate results in immediate removal, and the official may be barred from holding future office.
- Political Consequences: Even if not convicted, impeachment can tarnish a president's legacy and influence future political prospects.
- Legal and Moral Accountability: Impeachment underscores the accountability of elected officials to constitutional standards.

Limitations and Challenges of Impeachment

While impeachment is a powerful tool, it faces several limitations and challenges:

- **Partisan Politics:** Impeachment proceedings often become highly partisan, influencing the likelihood of conviction.
- **High Bar for Conviction:** A two-thirds majority in the Senate is required, making removal difficult unless there is broad bipartisan support.
- **Timing and Political Will:** The political climate and public opinion heavily influence the

process.

- **Legal vs. Political Process:** Impeachment is a political process, not a criminal trial, which limits legal penalties to removal and disqualification from future office.

Impact of Impeachment on American Governance

Impeachment serves multiple roles in American democracy:

- Checks and Balances: Ensures the executive branch remains accountable to Congress and the Constitution.
- Public Accountability: Highlights misconduct and provides a platform for national debate.
- Preservation of Rule of Law: Reinforces the principle that no one, not even the president, is above the law.

Conclusion

In summary, the power of impeachment is a vital constitutional safeguard that can end a presidency when misconduct warrants removal. While impeaching a president is a complex, often politically charged process, it remains a crucial mechanism for maintaining the integrity of the U.S. government. The history of impeachment underscores its importance in holding leaders accountable and protecting democratic institutions. As the nation continues to navigate political challenges, the impeachment process will undoubtedly remain a key feature of American constitutional law, capable of ending a presidency when necessary to uphold the rule of law and democratic principles.

To End a Presidency: The Power of Impeachment

In the complex landscape of American governance, few constitutional mechanisms evoke as much debate and controversy as impeachment. This process, designed as a check on executive power, allows Congress to remove a sitting president from office if they are found guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors." While often portrayed as a political tool, impeachment is fundamentally a constitutional procedure rooted in the principles of accountability and the separation of powers. This article delves into the intricacies of how impeachment serves as a means to end a presidency, exploring its constitutional foundation, procedural pathways, historical precedents, and the political realities that shape its application.

The Constitutional Foundation of Impeachment

The Constitutional Text

The power of impeachment is explicitly granted to Congress by the United States Constitution.

Article II, Section 4 states:

"The President, Vice President, and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

This clause establishes two critical concepts:

- Impeachment as a political process, not a criminal trial: While criminal law requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt, impeachment is a political judgment.
- High crimes and misdemeanors: The phrase is intentionally broad, allowing Congress discretion in defining misconduct warranting removal.

The Role of Congressional Authority

Congress possesses the exclusive authority to initiate and conduct impeachment proceedings. The House of Representatives holds the "sole power of impeachment," meaning it can bring charges against a federal official. The Senate, on the other hand, acts as the trial court for impeachment cases, with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presiding over presidential impeachment trials.

Implication: The entire process is rooted in legislative authority, emphasizing that impeachment is a political process, not a criminal prosecution. It is designed to protect the nation from executive abuses and ensure accountability.

The Process of Impeachment and Removal

Step 1: Initiation in the House of Representatives

The impeachment process begins with investigations and hearings. The House Judiciary Committee or other relevant committees typically review allegations, gather evidence, and hold hearings. If they find sufficient grounds, they can draft articles of impeachment?formal charges against the president.

Key points:

- Articles of impeachment specify the charges.
- A simple majority vote in the House is required to approve articles of impeachment.
- Once approved, the president is formally impeached, akin to an indictment.

Step 2: Trial in the Senate

Following impeachment, the process moves to the Senate, which conducts a trial to determine whether to remove the president from office. The Senate acts as a jury, and the Chief Justice presides over the trial.

Key points:

- The Senate requires a two-thirds supermajority to convict and remove the president.
- Conviction results in removal from office and possible disqualification from holding future office.
- Senators serve as jurors, and House managers act as prosecutors.

Step 3: The Outcome

- Conviction: The president is removed from office and may face disqualification from holding future federal office.
- Acquittal: The president remains in office if the Senate fails to reach the two-thirds threshold.

Implication: The process is inherently political, with the outcome hinging on Congressional majorities and political dynamics.

Historical Precedents of Presidential Impeachment

Andrew Johnson (1868)

- Context: Johnson faced impeachment primarily over disagreements regarding Reconstruction policies.
- Charges: Violations of the Tenure of Office Act, among others.
- Outcome: Acquitted by one vote in the Senate; remained in office.

Bill Clinton (1998)

- Context: Clinton was impeached on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice related to his extramarital affair.
- Outcome: Acquitted by the Senate; continued presidency.

Donald Trump (2019, 2021)

- First impeachment: Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress related to Ukraine. Acquitted.
- Second impeachment: Incitement of insurrection after Jan. 6 Capitol riot. Acquitted again.

Observation: In all cases, impeachment did not lead to removal, illustrating the high bar for conviction and the political nature of the process.

How Impeachment Can End a Presidency

The Political Dynamics

While impeachment is a constitutional process, its success ultimately depends on political support within Congress. Factors influencing the process include:

- Partisan alignments
- Public opinion
- Evidence of misconduct
- Political calculations

A president can be impeached but remain in office if not convicted, as in previous cases. Conversely, a president can be removed if the Senate votes to convict, effectively ending the presidency.

The Threshold for Removal

The two-thirds supermajority requirement in the Senate makes removal a challenging process, often requiring bipartisan consensus on serious misconduct. This high threshold ensures stability but can also hinder swift accountability.

Implication: Impeachment is both a constitutional safeguard and a political gamble, with the potential to end a presidency but only under specific circumstances.

The Political and Legal Implications of Ending a Presidency via Impeachment

Legal vs. Political Consequences

- Legal: Conviction results in removal from office; disqualification from future federal office is also possible.
- Political: Impeachment can tarnish a president's legacy and influence future political careers, even if not convicted.

The Role of Public Opinion and Media

Public perception plays a significant role in impeachment proceedings. Strong media coverage can influence congressional votes, either rallying support or opposition.

The Aftermath of Impeachment

- Impeachment can set a precedent for accountability.
- It can also deepen political polarization.
- The process may lead to further investigations, legal proceedings, or reforms.

Limitations and Criticisms of Impeachment as a Tool to End a Presidency

Partisan Bias

Impeachment has often been criticized as a tool used by political parties to target opponents rather than a genuine pursuit of justice.

Political Risks

- Impeachment may backfire politically, leading to partisan backlash.
- The process can be divisive, impacting governance.

Constitutional Ambiguities

The broad language of "high crimes and misdemeanors" leaves room for interpretation, which can be exploited or contested.

Conclusion: Impeachment as a Constitutional Check

Impeachment remains a vital, albeit challenging, mechanism to end a presidency when a leader commits serious misconduct. Its success hinges on constitutional provisions, legislative proceedings, and political will. While it is not a criminal trial, the process underscores the foundational principle of accountability in American democracy. Understanding how impeachment can effectively end a presidency involves appreciating the constitutional architecture, historical precedents, and the political realities that shape its application. Ultimately, impeachment exemplifies the delicate balance of power designed to prevent executive overreach and uphold the rule of law—a process that, when used appropriately, can serve as a definitive act to remove a president from office.

Question What is the process of impeaching a president and how does it end their presidency? Impeachment is a formal process where Congress charges a president with misconduct. If the House of Representatives votes to impeach and the Senate convicts with a two-thirds majority, the president is removed from office, effectively ending their presidency. Can impeachment be used for any reason to end a presidency? Impeachment is typically reserved for 'high crimes and misdemeanors.' It is a political process, and while it can be used for various reasons, it requires substantial evidence and political will to succeed in removing a sitting president. How does the impeachment process differ from criminal prosecution of a president? Impeachment is a political process conducted by Congress to determine if a president should be removed from office, whereas criminal prosecution involves legal proceedings in courts to punish criminal behavior. Impeachment does not necessarily lead to criminal charges or penalties. Has impeachment ever successfully ended a presidency in U.S. history? Yes, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House in 1998 but was acquitted by the Senate and remained in office. President Andrew Johnson was also impeached in 1868 but was not removed. Only President Richard Nixon resigned before he could be impeached and removed. What are the political implications of using impeachment to end a presidency? Impeachment can be highly divisive, impacting public trust and political stability. It can serve as a check on executive power but also risks deepening partisan conflicts and setting precedents for future political battles. Is impeachment a quick process, or does it take a long time to end a presidency? Impeachment can be a lengthy process, often taking months or even years, involving investigations, hearings, votes in the House, and a trial in the Senate. The duration depends on the complexity of the case and political considerations.

Related keywords: impeachment process, presidential removal, congressional authority, impeachment procedures, constitutional impeachment, impeachment trial, impeachment vote, presidential accountability, legislative power, executive branch oversight

Section 2 the harding presidency guided answers

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Introduction to Warren G. Harding's Presidency

Warren G. Harding served as the 29th President of the United States from 1921 until his death in 1923. His presidency is often characterized by a focus on normalcy, a term he used to describe his vision of returning the nation to pre-World War I stability and prosperity. Despite his optimistic outlook, Harding's tenure was marred by scandals and controversies that have significantly shaped historical perspectives on his leadership. This article provides comprehensive guided answers on

the key aspects of Harding's presidency, addressing its policies, achievements, scandals, and legacy.

Background and Election of Warren G. Harding

Early Life and Political Career

- Born on November 2, 1865, in Corsica, Ohio
- Worked as a newspaper publisher before entering politics
- Served as a Ohio State Senator and Lieutenant Governor
- Elected U.S. Senator from Ohio in 1914

1920 Presidential Election

- Harding was a Republican candidate with broad appeal
- Faced James M. Cox, the Democratic nominee
- Campaign slogan: "Return to Normalcy"
- Harding won the election in a landslide, reflecting public desire for stability post-WWI

Key Policies and Domestic Achievements

Economic Policies and Prosperity

- Emphasis on pro-business policies and limited government intervention
- Tariff policies aimed at protecting American industries (e.g., Fordney-McCumber Tariff)
- Support for tax cuts and reduction of government debt
- Promoted laissez-faire economic principles, contributing to the Roaring Twenties economic boom

Civil Rights and Social Policies

- Limited progress on civil rights; African Americans faced discrimination and segregation
- Opposed anti-lynching legislation
- Minimal efforts toward social reform during his presidency

Foreign Policy and International Relations

- Advocated for a policy of isolationism, emphasizing non-intervention
- Signed treaties such as the Washington Naval Conference (1921-1922) to limit naval arms race
- Supported the Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) aimed at renouncing war, though after Harding's presidency

Scandals and Controversies

The Teapot Dome Scandal

- One of the most infamous scandals of Harding's presidency
- Involved secret leasing of federal oil reserves at Teapot Dome, Wyoming, to private companies
- Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior, was implicated and convicted of corruption
- Highlighted corruption within Harding's administration and damaged his reputation

Other Corruption Cases

- Harding's administration was marred by multiple scandals involving misuse of government funds
- Appointments and decisions often influenced by personal connections and bribery
- Despite Harding's personal integrity, the administration's scandals overshadowed his presidency

Harding's Leadership Style and Political Approach

Personality and Governance

- Known for his affability, charm, and popularity
- Preferred a hands-off approach to governance, trusting his cabinet members
- Often criticized for appointing unqualified individuals to key positions

Impact on the Republican Party

- Harding's presidency helped restore the Republican Party's dominance after Wilson's Democratic administration
- His election marked a shift toward conservative, pro-business policies
- His leadership laid the groundwork for subsequent Republican administrations

Legacy of Warren G. Harding

Assessment of Achievements

- Promoted economic growth and stability during the early 1920s
- Supported policies that favored business interests and free enterprise
- Played a role in promoting international disarmament efforts

Criticism and Controversies

- His administration's corruption scandals tarnished his legacy
- Failure to effectively address racial inequalities and social issues
- His death in 1923 led to subsequent investigations into his administration's misconduct

Historical Perspective

- Harding is often ranked among the less effective U.S. Presidents due to scandals and leadership shortcomings
- Some historians argue he was a victim of circumstances beyond his control
- Nonetheless, his presidency marked a pivotal period of economic growth and shifting political dynamics in America

Guided Answers to Common Questions about Harding's Presidency

What were the main achievements of Warren G. Harding's presidency?

- Promoted economic prosperity through pro-business policies
- Supported international disarmament treaties such as the Washington Naval Conference
- Restored a sense of normalcy and stability after WWI

What scandals are associated with Harding's administration?

- The Teapot Dome scandal involving oil reserve leasing
- Corruption and bribery in various government agencies
- Appointments of unqualified or corrupt officials

How did Harding's presidency influence American politics?

- Reinforced the dominance of the Republican Party in the 1920s
- Emphasized pro-business policies that shaped economic policy
- Highlighted the need for government reform and accountability

What is Warren G. Harding's legacy today?

- His presidency is often remembered for corruption scandals overshadowing his achievements
- Recognized for promoting economic growth and international diplomacy
- His leadership serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of integrity in government

Conclusion

Warren G. Harding's presidency remains a complex chapter in American history. While he achieved significant economic and diplomatic milestones, his administration was plagued by corruption scandals that tarnished his legacy. Understanding the key aspects of Harding's policies, leadership style, and scandals provides valuable insights into the political, social, and economic landscape of the early 1920s. Guided answers about his presidency help students and history enthusiasts grasp the nuances of this transformative yet controversial period in U.S. history, emphasizing the importance of leadership integrity and accountability in government.

Section 2: The Harding Presidency Guided Answers

The Harding presidency, spanning from 1921 to 1923, is often remembered for its contrasting features—promising beginnings marred by scandals and a focus on normalcy after the tumult of World War I. As students and history enthusiasts analyze this era, guided answers help clarify the complexities of President Warren G. Harding's leadership, policies, and the legacy he left behind. This detailed review aims to provide an in-depth understanding of Section 2 of the Harding presidency, offering insights, critical evaluations, and key features to assist learners in grasping the significance of this period in American history.

Introduction to Harding's Presidency

Warren G. Harding assumed office in March 1921 amid a nation eager for stability and a return to normalcy following the upheaval of World War I and the Progressive Era reforms. His presidency was characterized by a conservative shift, focus on economic growth, and a desire to restore traditional values. However, it was also marred by corruption scandals and internal conflicts, which have colored historical assessments of his leadership. Guided answers for this section emphasize

understanding Harding's main objectives, the political climate, and the initial steps he took as president.

Key Features of Harding's Presidency:

- Emphasis on "return to normalcy"
- Focus on economic development and business interests
- Efforts to reduce government intervention in the economy
- Attempted diplomacy and peace efforts post-WWI

Pros:

- Promoted economic growth and stability during the early 1920s
- Appointed able administrators and judges (e.g., Supreme Court Justice Owen Roberts)
- Supported veterans' benefits and post-war recovery efforts

Cons:

- Overshadowed by widespread corruption and scandals
- Lacked decisive leadership in some crises
- Policies favored big business often at the expense of workers and minorities

Major Policies and Initiatives

Understanding Harding's policies is crucial to evaluating his presidency. Guided answers focus on his key initiatives and their impacts.

Economic Policies and Business Support

Harding's administration championed pro-business policies, advocating for tariffs, tax cuts, and deregulatory measures aimed at fostering economic growth. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922, for instance, raised tariffs to protect American industries, though critics argued it contributed to global economic tensions.

Features:

- Lowered taxes on corporations and the wealthy

- Promoted business-friendly legislation
- Encouraged tariff policies to protect domestic industries

Pros:

- Sparked economic expansion and consumer confidence
- Increased industrial productivity and profitability

Cons:

- Benefited the wealthy disproportionately
- Contributed to economic inequalities
- Tariffs strained international trade relations

Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

Harding's foreign policy was marked by a desire for peace and stability. He supported disarmament treaties and sought to improve relations with other nations.

Key initiatives:

- The Washington Naval Conference (1921-1922): An effort to limit naval arms and prevent an arms race
- The Dawes Plan (1924): A plan to restructure German reparations, although it was after Harding's death, its groundwork was laid during his term
- Withdrawal from active involvement in Latin America and the Caribbean

Features:

- Focus on diplomatic negotiations over military intervention
- Emphasis on peaceful resolution of international disputes

Pros:

- Initiated successful disarmament talks
- Improved diplomatic relations with major powers

Cons:

- Limited engagement in Latin America, leading to some criticism of neglect
- International tensions persisted despite efforts

Scandals and Corruption

A significant aspect of Harding's presidency, as highlighted by guided answers, is the widespread corruption that overshadowed his administration. While Harding was personally considered honest, his appointees and associates engaged in unethical practices.

Teapot Dome Scandal

Arguably the most infamous scandal, the Teapot Dome involved the leasing of federal oil reserves to private companies in exchange for bribes. Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall was convicted of accepting bribes, marking a stain on Harding's legacy.

Features:

- Federal oil reserves were leased illegally
- High-level government officials involved in corruption

Pros:

- Led to reforms in government transparency and accountability
- Highlighted the need for stronger oversight

Cons:

- Damaged public trust in government
- Exemplified the corruption endemic within Harding's administration

Other Scandals

- **The Veterans Bureau scandal involving misappropriation of funds**
- **The Ohio Gang's various corrupt dealings**

Guided answers emphasize that these scandals did not necessarily reflect Harding's personal misconduct but indicated systemic issues within his administration.

Legacy and Impact

Understanding Harding's legacy, as elucidated in guided answers, involves balancing his achievements against the scandals and shortcomings.

Positive Aspects:

- Promoted economic growth and technological innovation
- Advocated for policies that supported business expansion
- Worked towards international disarmament and peace efforts

Negative Aspects:

- His administration's corruption tarnished his reputation
- Failed to address social issues affecting minorities and workers
- His lack of decisive leadership during crises sometimes hampered effective governance

Long-term Impact:

- Set the stage for the economic boom of the 1920s
- Highlighted the need for political reforms and increased government oversight
- Demonstrated the importance of integrity in public service

Guided answers suggest that Harding's presidency serves as a cautionary tale about the hazards of associating with corrupt officials but also underscores the potential for economic policy to influence national prosperity.

Conclusion: Evaluating Harding's Presidency

In summary, Section 2 on Harding's presidency, as guided answers clarify, offers a nuanced view of a leader who aimed to restore stability and promote economic growth but was hampered by corruption and internal weaknesses. His policies reflected a desire to return to pre-war normalcy, emphasizing business interests and peace diplomacy. However, scandals like Teapot Dome revealed systemic issues that overshadowed his accomplishments.

For students and history enthusiasts, understanding Harding's presidency involves weighing his achievements against the scandals, recognizing the context of post-WWI America, and appreciating the lessons learned about governance, integrity, and the importance of oversight. Guided answers serve as essential tools in navigating this complex era, helping learners develop a balanced perspective and critical understanding of one of America's more controversial presidencies.

In essence, Harding's presidency was a mixture of promise and peril—an era that demonstrated both the potential and pitfalls of leadership during a transformative period in American history.

Question What were the main challenges faced by Warren G. Harding during his presidency? Harding faced challenges such as economic instability following World War I, widespread political corruption, and the need to restore public trust in government institutions. **How did Harding's administration attempt to address corruption scandals?** Harding's administration sought to combat corruption by appointing reform-minded officials, supporting investigations into scandals like Teapot Dome, and advocating for greater government transparency. **What were Harding's major domestic policy initiatives?** Harding focused on promoting economic growth through tax cuts, reducing government regulation, and supporting pro-business policies, along with efforts to modernize infrastructure. **How did Harding's presidency impact U.S. foreign policy?** Harding aimed to promote peace and stability by advocating for disarmament treaties like the Washington Naval Conference and improving diplomatic relations with other nations. **What role did the Teapot Dome scandal play in Harding's presidency?** The Teapot Dome scandal was a major corruption case involving the leasing of federal oil reserves, which tarnished Harding's reputation and highlighted issues of government misconduct. **How did Harding's leadership style influence his presidency?** Harding's leadership was characterized by a desire to return to normalcy and a more informal, approachable style, but his reliance on friends and political insiders also contributed to corruption issues. **What was Harding's approach to civil rights and social issues?** Harding's stance on civil rights was mixed; while he spoke against racial discrimination, his administration did little to advance civil rights for African Americans and other marginalized groups. **How did Harding's presidency influence the Republican Party's direction in the 1920s?** Harding's presidency reinforced pro-business policies and a conservative approach, shaping the Republican Party's platform throughout the 1920s and emphasizing economic growth and limited government. **What is the historical significance of Harding's presidency?** Harding's presidency is significant for its emphasis on returning to normalcy after WWI, its impact on American political corruption, and its influence on the policies and political climate of the 1920s.

Related keywords: Harding Presidency, Section 2, Harding Administration, Warren G. Harding, 1920s U.S. history, Harding scandals, Teapot Dome, Harding policies, Harding achievements, Harding political career, Harding leadership

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