

# Dragonslayers: Six Presidents And Their War With The Swamp

The term "swamp" has been used to describe the perceived corruption and cronyism that permeates Washington, D.C. Throughout history, numerous presidents have attempted to "drain the swamp" and reform the nation's capital. This article will examine the efforts of six presidents who waged war on the swamp:

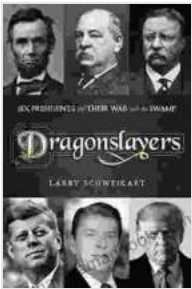
1. **Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)**
2. **Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)**
3. **Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)**
4. **Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)**
5. **Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)**
6. **Donald Trump (2017-2021)**

## **Andrew Jackson: "Old Hickory"**

Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States, was known as "Old Hickory" for his tough demeanor and unwavering principles. He despised the corruption and special interests that had infiltrated Washington, and he vowed to dismantle the "Monster Bank" (Second Bank of the United States).

Jackson believed that the bank held too much power over the economy and the government. He vetoed its recharter, sparking a bitter battle with the banking and business elite. Jackson ultimately prevailed, weakening

the power of the bank and establishing the precedent that presidents could challenge vested interests.



## Dragonslayers: Six Presidents and Their War with the Swamp by Larry Schweikart

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3431 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 285 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### Rutherford B. Hayes: "The Stalwart"

Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th president, assumed office during the Reconstruction era. He faced widespread corruption at both the state and federal levels. Hayes believed that the federal government had grown too powerful and impinged upon the rights of states.

He embarked on a campaign to restore local control and reduce patronage. Hayes vetoed "pork barrel" legislation that benefited special interests, and he issued an executive order that prohibited federal employees from soliciting campaign contributions. Hayes' efforts were met with resistance, but he made some progress in curbing corruption.

### Theodore Roosevelt: "The Trust Buster"

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president, was a larger-than-life figure known for his energy and charisma. He railed against the "malefactors of great wealth" who were manipulating the economy and government.

Roosevelt's main target was the trusts, giant corporations that used their market power to crush competition and enrich themselves. He broke up several trusts, including Standard Oil and American Tobacco, and established the Bureau of Corporations to monitor their activities. Roosevelt also passed legislation to regulate railroads and meatpacking industries.

### **Woodrow Wilson: "The Progressive Era"**

Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president, led the country during the Progressive Era, a time of widespread reform efforts. He introduced a series of measures aimed at reducing the influence of special interests and making government more responsive to the people.

Wilson's reforms included the Federal Reserve System, which gave the government greater control over the money supply; the Interstate Commerce Commission, which regulated railroads; and the Federal Trade Commission, which prevented unfair business practices. He also created the direct election of senators and granted women the right to vote.

### **Franklin D. Roosevelt: "The New Deal"**

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd president, took office during the Great Depression. He introduced a series of programs known as the New Deal, which were designed to stimulate the economy and provide relief to Americans.

Roosevelt believed that the government had a responsibility to regulate the economy and prevent the abuses that had led to the crisis. He passed legislation to create the Securities and Exchange Commission, which regulates the stock market; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures bank deposits; and the Social Security System, which provides retirement benefits to Americans.

### **Donald Trump: "The Swamp Drainer"**

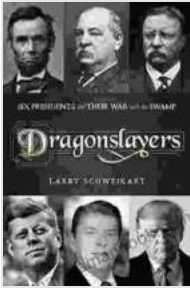
Donald Trump, the 45th president, campaigned on a promise to "drain the swamp" and end corruption in Washington. He vowed to reduce federal regulations, cut taxes, and dismantle government agencies that he believed were redundant or harmful.

Trump made some progress in scaling back regulations, particularly in the environmental and financial sectors. However, his efforts to reduce the federal bureaucracy were largely stymied by Congress. Trump also faced numerous investigations into his own dealings, and he was impeached twice by the House of Representatives, although he was acquitted both times by the Senate.

The war against the swamp has been a recurring theme throughout American history. Six presidents, each with their own unique approach, have attempted to drain the swamp of corruption and cronyism. While some have made progress, the problem has proven to be persistent.

The swamp is a complex ecosystem that involves lobbyists, special interests, and entrenched bureaucrats. It is difficult to eradicate, as it adapts and finds new ways to exert its influence. However, the efforts of

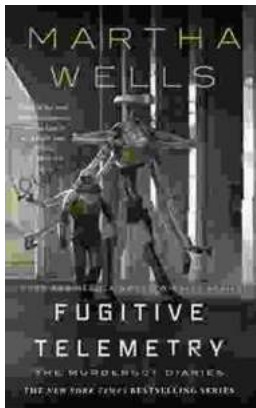
these six presidents underscore the importance of fighting corruption and holding government accountable to the people.



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