

The Most Pro-Union President?

Unions were first started in 1794 in order for workers to collectively negotiate with their employer to help protect their and future workers interests and rights. It was labor unions that lead to the end of child labor at the start of the 20th century and help provide health benefits and aid to workers who were retired or injured. However, it didn't start out so nice as labor union laws weren't made so when the first labor union started and asked for higher wages the company sued them under criminal conspiracy and the court ruled in the company's favor and the union went bankrupt. The government would show how they aligned with the company rather than the union as in 1894 a union for a train company went on strike for standard reasons like wages and treatment and the then President Grover Cleveland sent federal troops and fights broke out between the workers and the soldiers which led to the deaths of about 30 people. Also, later in 1914 in Colorado coal miners were going on strike for poor working conditions as they were living in tents, so the mining company hired guards and the Colorado National Guard to go and burn down the tents which killed 21 people and this conflict would continue until the federal troops arrived which led to the Colorado Coalfield War with the deaths being about 69 to 199 people. This is why unions are so important for workers because without the ability to negotiate with their employers for work conditions, fair pay, and much more they would just be fired for simply wanting better conditions and companies would be able to treat their employees like dirt with no repercussions. That begs the question. Which president is more pro-union? Through the research, the president that did the most for unions would be Franklin Delanor Roosevelt by him signing in the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the National Industrial Recovery Act.

First, is the National Labor Relations Act. This act was passed in 1935 and the main purpose of this act was to allow workers to organize into trade unions, strike, and engage in collective bargaining. This is great because as stated before when others tried this it resulted in harsh push back from not only the company but also the government and these incidents sometimes lead to the point of people getting killed. With workers having these abilities it creates a healthier and safer environment for them, because for example they can advocate for safer work conditions like more stable guard rails and when they come to an agreement with their employers this can create a healthy relationship between the two.

Next, is the Fair Labor Standards Act. The act was passed in 1938 and this made sure that workers had a set minimum wage, allowed overtime pay, record keeping, and put in standards for child labor. This one is really important as this act set the standards for work in the United States of America and in hindsight the act is ingenious. For it being ingenious is for the fact of two reasons with the first putting standards for child labor because having pre-teens or even younger working in factories with safety conditions being sub-par is a crime and the second reason setting minimum wage for workers because as of writing this in 2024 how people understand this is that it sets the minimum amount of money someone needs to live, respectful to their state. This makes it ingenious because if this wasn't made how would workers get fair pay especially if inflation hits which becomes a hard one to answer because this act solves that issue.

Finally, there is the National Industrial Recovery Act. This act was passed in 1933 and this authorized the president to regulate the industry for fair wages, there prices, and to stimulate economic recovery. This is useful because the government can step in to help with the economy which really needed to happen during the great depression and this act also helped with workers who wanted to collectively bargain by making it more of a right. The act opened jobs for people

when it went into effect and with the other stuff in the act it helped boost the economy. This is why people really love FDR and consider him to be one of the best presidents and hopefully later recognize him as the most pro-union.

Through the research, the most pro-union president would be Franklin Delanor Roosevelt by him signing in the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the National Industrial Recovery Act. They set what the American working system would be with the acts setting standards that people still talk about and use to this day. With workers having the ability to strike, bargain, and the act gave workers a minimum wage, overtime pay, a forty-hour work week, and so much more. That's why FDR is the most pro-union because he set in stone practices and standards that the American public used to help the economy flourish and even with future presidents expanding on these acts if it wasn't for Franklin Delanor Roosevelt who knows what would have happened to America and for unions and might still have the troubles coming into the work force as they did when they first began.