

SURVEY RESULTS

BEST DECISIONS

Ranking	Decision	Total Selections	Selections as a Percentage of All Responses	Weighted Total
1	Marshall Plan (1948)	283	90.42%	1889
2	Creation of the United Nations (1945)	201	64.22%	1366
3	Treaty of Alliance with France (1778)	155	49.52%	1269
4	Louisiana Purchase (1803)	169	53.99%	1179
5	Lend-Lease Act (1941)	175	55.91%	1160
6	Creation of NATO (1949)	185	59.11%	1028
7	Creation of the Bretton Woods System (1944)	112	35.78%	6s21
8	Act Prohibiting the Importation of Slaves (1807)	82	26.20%	601
9	Monroe Doctrine (1823)	79	25.24%	476
10	Handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)	80	25.56%	468
11	Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (1968)	86	27.48%	427
12	Immigration Act of 1965	84	26.84%	395
13	Berlin Airlift (1948-1949)	81	25.88%	372
14	Opening to China (1971-72)	95	30.35%	362
15	Good Neighbor Policy Toward Latin America (1933)	63	20.13%	324
16	Entry into World War I (1917)	68	21.73%	320
17	Management of the Collapse of the Soviet Union (1990-1991)	67	21.41%	306
18	Support for the Reunification of Germany (1990-1991)	76	24.28%	288
19	Proclamation of Neutrality (1793)	43	13.74%	277
20	SALT I Agreement and the ABM Treaty (1972)	64	20.45%	271
21	Helsinki Final Act (1975)	59	18.85%	265
22	Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963)	56	17.89%	260
23	Override of Reagan's Veto of the Anti-Apartheid Sanctions Bill (1986)	59	18.85%	253

24	Camp David Accords (1978)	81	25.88%	249
25	American Relief Mission to Post-WWI Europe (1919)	46	14.70%	229
26	Purchase of Alaska (1867)	61	19.49%	219
27	Adams-Onis (Transcontinental) Treaty (1819)	34	10.86%	212
28	Truman Doctrine (1947)	38	12.14%	208
29	Panama Canal Treaties (1978)	56	17.89%	186
30	Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (1987)	41	13.10%	164
31	Treaty of Versailles (1919)	29	9.27%	163
32	Destroyers-for-Bases Deal (1940)	32	10.22%	157
33	Washington Naval Conference and the Four-Power, Five-Power, and Nine-Power Treaties (1921-1922)	29	9.27%	147
34	Open Door Policy with China (1899-1900)	31	9.90%	140
35	Creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1947)	31	9.90%	138
36	Iran Nuclear Deal (2015)	51	16.29%	133
37	START Agreements (1991, 1993)	36	11.50%	132
38	Salt II Treaty (1979)	39	12.46%	126
39	Yalta Conference (1945)	21	6.71%	105
40 (tie)	Trent Affair Diplomacy (1861)	18	5.75%	102
40 (tie)	Formal Recognition of the People's Republic of China (1979)	34	10.86%	102
42	Jay Treaty (1795)	22	7.03%	96
43	Creation of the Organization of American States (1948)	19	6.07%	86
44	War of 1812	13	4.15%	85
45 (tie)	Mexican-American War (1846-1848)	18	5.75%	84
45 (tie)	Suez Canal Crisis (1956)	27	8.63%	84
47	Declaration of Neutrality in World War I (1914)	19	6.07%	81
48	Oregon Treaty (1846)	20	6.39%	78
49	Recognition of Israel (1948)	24	7.67%	76
50 (tie)	Spanish-American War (1898)	13	4.15%	68

50 (tie)	NATO Expansion (1994)	28	8.95%	68
52 (tie)	Anglo-American Convention of 1818	10	3.19%	62
52 (tie)	Liberation of Kuwait (1991)	19	6.07%	62
54	Egyptian-Israeli Peace Agreement (1979)	23	7.35%	60
55	Tehran Conference (1943)	11	3.51%	56
56	Annexation of Texas (1845)	12	3.83%	52
57	Alliance for Progress (1961)	14	4.47%	51
58	North American Free Trade Agreement (1993)	21	6.71%	50
59	Creation of the World Trade Organization (1995)	24	7.67%	49
60	Intervention in Kosovo (1999)	12	3.83%	48
61	Entry into Korean War (1950)	16	5.11%	42
62	Teller Amendment (1898)	10	3.19%	39
63	Potsdam Agreement (1945)	8	2.56%	38
64	Bombing of Hiroshima (1945)	5	1.60%	31
65	Embargo on Aviation Fuel, Scrap iron, and Oil to Japan (1940-1941)	7	2.24%	27
66	Taiwan Relations Act (1979)	8	2.56%	25
67 (tie)	Annexation of Hawaii (1898)	7	2.24%	24
67 (tie)	Senate Rejection of the Treaty of Versailles (1919)	5	1.60%	24
69	Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China (2000)	10	3.19%	23
70	Invasion of Iraq (2003)	4	1.28%	20
71	Dollar Diplomacy (1909-1913)	6	1.92%	19
72 (tie)	Withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal (2018)	5	1.60%	18
72 (tie)	Withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (2017)	5	1.60%	18
74 (tie)	Indian Removal Act (1830)	5	1.60%	17
74 (tie)	Intervention in Lebanon (1958)	3	0.96%	17
76	Embargo of 1807/Non-Intercourse Act of 1808	3	0.96%	16
77 (tie)	Neutrality Acts (1935-1939)	3	0.96%	14
77 (tie)	Support for Israel in Yom Kippur War (1973)	3	0.96%	14
79	Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement (2017)	4	1.28%	13
80 (tie)	Bombing of Nagasaki (1945)	3	0.96%	12

80 (tie)	Senate Rejection of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1999)	2	0.64%	12
80 (tie)	Invasion of Afghanistan (2001)	4	1.28%	12
83 (tie)	Vietnamization (1969)	3	0.96%	10
83 (tie)	Economic Decoupling from China (2018-2020)	7	2.24%	10
85	Withdrawal from ABM Treaty (2001)	1	0.32%	9
86	Enhanced Interrogation of Terrorism Detainees (2002)	1	0.32%	7
87 (tie)	Indian Appropriations Act of 1871	1	0.32%	6
87 (tie)	Overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem (1963)	2	0.64%	6
87 (tie)	Intervention in Libya (2011)	2	0.64%	6
90	Iran-Contra Affair (1986-1987)	2	0.64%	5
91 (tie)	Nonrecognition of New Latin American States (1818)	1	0.32%	4
91 (tie)	Platt Amendment (1901)	1	0.32%	4
91 (tie)	Limits on Jewish Refugees from Germany (1939-1944)	1	0.32%	4
91 (tie)	Crossing the 38th Parallel in the Korean War (1950)	3	0.96%	4
95 (tie)	Annexation of the Philippines (1899)	1	0.32%	3
95 (tie)	Support for the Overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh (1953)	1	0.32%	3
95 (tie)	Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961)	2	0.64%	3
96	Admitting the Shah of Iran into the United States (1979)	1	0.32%	2
97 (tie)	Deployment of Combat Forces to Vietnam (1965)	1	0.32%	1
97 (tie)	Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations (1967)	1	0.32%	1
98 (tie)	Nonrecognition of Haiti (1804)	2	0.64%	0
98 (tie)	Forcible Removal of Cherokee Nation (1838)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Indian Appropriations Act of 1851	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Dawes Act (1887)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Suppression of the Boxer Rebellion (1900)	0	0.00%	0

98 (tie)	Intervention in Nicaragua (1912)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Interventions in the Dominican Republic (1912, 1916)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Occupation of Veracruz (1913)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Pershing Expedition (1916)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Intervention in Russia (1918-1920)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Immigration Act of 1924	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Smoot-Hawley Tariff (1930)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Refusal to Recognize People's Republic of China (1949)	1	0.32%	0
98 (tie)	Support for the Overthrow of Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz Coup (1954)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Secret Bombing and Invasion of Cambodia (1970)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Support for the Overthrow of Salvador Allende (1973)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Support for the Mujahideen in Afghanistan (1981-1989)	0	0.00%	0
98 (tie)	Intervention in Lebanon (1982)	0	0.00%	0

WORST DECISIONS

Ranking	Decision	Total Selections	Selections as a Percentage of All Responses	Weighted Total
1	Invasion of Iraq (2003)	275	87.86%	1924
2	Deployment of Combat Forces to Vietnam (1965)	148	47.28%	1000
3	Indian Removal Act (1830)	154	49.20%	999
4	Support for the Overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh (1953)	160	51.12%	745
5	Senate Rejection of the Treaty of Versailles (1919)	109	34.82%	742
6	Forcible Removal of Cherokee Nation (1838)	116	37.06%	665
7	Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement (2017)	135	43.13%	647

8	Limits on Jewish Refugees from Germany (1939-1944)	124	39.62%	617
9	Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)	95	30.35%	574
10	Bombing of Nagasaki (1945)	90	28.75%	561
11	Secret Bombing and Invasion of Cambodia (1970)	105	33.55%	524
12	Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)	121	38.66%	506
13	Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961)	117	37.38%	472
14	Support for the Overthrow of Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz Coup (1954)	100	31.95%	408
15 (tie)	Annexation of the Philippines (1899)	79	25.24%	380
15 (tie)	Bombing of Hiroshima (1945)	58	18.53%	380
17	Enhanced Interrogation of Terrorism Detainees (2002)	89	28.43%	360
18	Invasion of Afghanistan (2001)	72	23.00%	342
19	Immigration Act of 1924	73	23.32%	327
20	Support for the Overthrow of Salvador Allende (1973)	87	27.80%	326
21	Smoot-Hawley Tariff (1930)	57	18.21%	301
22	Nonrecognition of Haiti (1804)	65	20.77%	297
23	Crossing the 38th Parallel in the Korean War (1950)	50	15.97%	276
24	Overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem (1963)	49	15.65%	255
25	Iran-Contra Affair (1986-1987)	81	25.88%	249
26	Mexican-American War (1846-1848)	50	15.97%	247
27	Withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal (2018)	89	28.43%	237
28	Refusal to Recognize People's Republic of China (1949)	52	16.61%	233
29	Withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (2017)	63	20.13%	224
30	Support for the Mujahideen in Afghanistan (1981-1989)	45	14.38%	187
31	Intervention in Russia (1918-1920)	36	11.50%	174
32	NATO Expansion (1994)	41	13.10%	173
33	Spanish-American War (1898)	23	7.35%	133
34	War of 1812	24	7.67%	130

35 (tie)	Embargo of 1807/Non-Intercourse Act of 1808	20	6.39%	117
35 (tie)	Neutrality Acts (1935-1939)	20	6.39%	117
36	Truman Doctrine (1947)	23	7.35%	115
37	Dawes Act (1887)	26	8.31%	111
38	Platt Amendment (1901)	23	7.35%	99
39	Withdrawal from ABM Treaty (2001)	26	8.31%	96
40 (tie)	Treaty of Versailles (1919)	14	4.47%	85
40 (tie)	Recognition of Israel (1948)	18	5.75%	85
42	Annexation of Hawaii (1898)	18	5.75%	84
43 (tie)	Nonrecognition of New Latin American States (1818)	18	5.75%	81
43 (tie)	Indian Appropriations Act of 1871	16	5.11%	81
44	Intervention in Libya (2011)	23	7.35%	78
45 (tie)	Entry into World War I (1917)	13	4.15%	73
45 (tie)	Embargo on Aviation Fuel, Scrap iron, and Oil to Japan (1940-1941)	13	4.15%	73
47	Management of the Collapse of the Soviet Union (1990-1991)	13	4.15%	69
48 (tie)	Declaration of Neutrality in World War I (1914)	11	3.51%	63
48 (tie)	Senate Rejection of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1999)	17	5.43%	63
50	Monroe Doctrine (1823)	10	3.19%	58
51 (tie)	Indian Appropriations Act of 1851	16	5.11%	57
51 (tie)	Admitting the Shah of Iran into the United States (1979)	20	6.39%	57
53 (tie)	Vietnamization (1969)	12	3.83%	51
53 (tie)	North American Free Trade Agreement (1993)	13	4.15%	51
55	Iran Nuclear Deal (2015)	8	2.56%	50
56 (tie)	Dollar Diplomacy (1909-1913)	11	3.51%	49
56 (tie)	Intervention in Nicaragua (1912)	19	6.07%	49
58	Entry into Korean War (1950)	13	4.15%	47
59	Economic Decoupling from China (2018-2020)	15	4.79%	43
60	Annexation of Texas (1845)	12	3.83%	41

61	Occupation of Veracruz (1913)	8	2.56%	40
62 (tie)	Suppression of the Boxer Rebellion (1900)	9	2.88%	38
62 (tie)	Interventions in the Dominican Republic (1912, 1916)	16	5.11%	38
64	Handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)	5	1.60%	31
65 (tie)	Yalta Conference (1945)	7	2.24%	29
65 (tie)	Support for Israel in Yom Kippur War (1973)	10	3.19%	29
67 (tie)	Intervention in Lebanon (1982)	0	0.00%	23
67 (tie)	Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China (2000)	0	0.00%	23
68	Pershing Expedition (1916)	9	2.88%	19
69	Teller Amendment (1898)	10	3.19%	17
70	Jay Treaty (1795)	3	0.96%	16
71	Washington Naval Conference and the Four-Power, Five-Power, and Nine-Power Treaties (1921-1922)	3	0.96%	15
72 (tie)	Creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1947)	2	0.64%	13
72 (tie)	Intervention in Kosovo (1999)	2	0.64%	13
74 (tie)	Louisiana Purchase (1803)	8	2.56%	10
74 (tie)	Creation of the United Nations (1945)	2	0.64%	10
74 (tie)	Liberation of Kuwait (1991)	1	0.32%	10
77 (tie)	Oregon Treaty (1846)	2	0.64%	8
77 (tie)	Trent Affair Diplomacy (1861)	1	0.32%	8
77 (tie)	Open Door Policy with China (1899-1900)	1	0.32%	8
80 (tie)	Lend-Lease Act (1941)	4	1.28%	7
80 (tie)	Suez Canal Crisis (1956)	1	0.32%	7
80 (tie)	Taiwan Relations Act (1979)	4	1.28%	7
80 (tie)	Override of Reagan's Veto of the Anti-Apartheid Sanctions Bill (1986)	3	0.96%	7
84 (tie)	Proclamation of Neutrality (1793)	2	0.64%	6
84 (tie)	Adams-Onis (Transcontinental) Treaty (1819)	4	1.28%	6

84 (tie)	Good Neighbor Policy Toward Latin America (1933)	1	0.32%	6
87	Formal Recognition of the People's Republic of China (1979)	1	0.32%	5
88 (tie)	Creation of NATO (1949)	2	0.64%	3
88 (tie)	Creation of the World Trade Organization (1995)	4	1.28%	3
90 (tie)	Alliance for Progress (1961)	2	0.64%	2
90 (tie)	Camp David Accords (1978)	1	0.32%	2
92 (tie)	Potsdam Agreement (1945)	1	0.32%	1
92 (tie)	Panama Canal Treaties (1978)	1	0.32%	1
94 (tie)	Treaty of Alliance with France (1778)	1	0.32%	0
94 (tie)	Act Prohibiting the Importation of Slaves (1807)	1	0.32%	0
94 (tie)	Anglo-American Convention of 1818	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Purchase of Alaska (1867)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	American Relief Mission to Post-WWI Europe (1919)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Destroyers-for-Bases Deal (1940)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Tehran Conference (1943)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Creation of the Bretton Woods System (1944)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Creation of the Organization of American States (1948)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Marshall Plan (1948)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Berlin Airlift (1948-1949)	2	0.64%	0
94 (tie)	Intervention in Lebanon (1958)	2	0.64%	0
94 (tie)	Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Immigration Act of 1965	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations (1967)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (1968)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Opening to China (1971-72)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	SALT I Agreement and the ABM Treaty (1972)	1	0.32%	0
94 (tie)	Helinski Final Act (1975)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Egyptian-Israeli Peace Agreement (1979)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Salt II Treaty (1979)	0	0.00%	0

94 (tie)	Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (1987)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	Support for the Reunification of Germany (1990-1991)	0	0.00%	0
94 (tie)	START Agreements (1991, 1993)	0	0.00%	0