Twitter Thread by Lyman Stone ■■■



Lyman Stone ■■■
@lymanstoneky

Ulysses S. Grant would like a WORD

> Hogan Gidley: Trump is "the most masculine person to ever hold the White House as the president of the United States" https://t.co/fcoYWyaEhz
>
> — Eliza Relman (@eliza_relman) January 11, 2021

Or Teddy Roosevelt. Or Dwight Eisenhower. Or Andrew Jackson. Or Abraham Lincoln. Or George Washington. Or Zachary Taylor. Or any of numerous presidents who were honest-to-goodness battle-hardened warriors.

James Monroe fought the Hessians at Trenton and nearly died of wounds sustained there, then wintered in Valley Forge, then fought until Monmouth, then repeatedly tried to raise new regiments for the war until he went bankrupt doing it.

James Monroe, of the Era of Good Feelings, longest serving president of all time.... was in the boats crossing the icy Delaware.

Andrew Jackson was in a duel. He was shot in the chest right by his heart.

But he didn't go down. He stood there and, while bleeding out, steadily took aim and killed the dude who shot him.

Stone cold.

A guy tried to kill Jackson, shooting at hime twice, but the guns misfired. Jackson retaliated by beating the man nearly to death with his cane. Davy Crockett (!!!) had to intervene to save the assassin's life.

Also James Monroe was not the longest serving president dunno how I got that in my head.

I mean look even *James Buchanan* got combat experience in 1812.

Probably the best analog for Trump is Grover Cleveland.

Grover Cleveland hired a substitute to take his place in the Civil War.

Herbert Hoover spent 55 days under siege in Beijing during the Boxer Rebellion. Not quite the same but still kind of a thing.

FDR to his credit *attempted* to join WWI but his resignation from the Navy department was denied; his services as a higher-up were deemed too useful to let him go.

Zacharly Taylor was basically the American Genghis Khan. The dude repeatedly won field promotions on account of personal bravery, excellence as a field commander, and generally having a reputation for charging headlong into danger.

He was accomplished in unconventional (i.e. brutal and inhumane) wars against native Americans.

And then he was the guy Polk chose to start a war with Mexico. He did so. And then he conquered Mexico.

He was known for not wearing any marker that he was an officer in battle because he disliked lording it over his men. And when 16,000 MExican troops under Santa Ana attacked his 4,000 at Buena Vista, he stood and won.

Also he was a Kentuckian so that means he was definitionally a cut above the average American.

Teddy Roosevelt, I mean, that guy

One time he was on a hill in Cuba, and he got to watch it get taken by the innovative use of gatling guns supporting regiment of black cavalrymen!

TR was so manly that he could tell you all about how manly he was.

I'm joking of course his actual insanely tough story is when he got shot while giving a speech and then decided to just keep going and finish the speech.

The dude was DETERMINED TO POAST.

Numerous presidents had front-line experience in the Civil War, WWI, or WWII. HW Bush was shot down in WWII. Even W was at least a guardsman.

HW Bush getting shot down makes it sound like I'm being down on him; I'm not. He was promoted for his excellence beforehand, got shot down in a harrowing battle (captured aviators in that battle were *cannibalized* by the Japanese)... and then returned to service!

Anyways.

Trump is not the manliest president ever.

He is probably the richest president ever, even in inflation-adjusted terms, although what basis you choose for land valuation and valuation of enslaved people held as property gets a bit tricky there.

Certainly, Trump is NOT the wealthiest U.S. president in terms of "wealth as a share of total national wealth." That is almost certainly George Washington.

Trump is also not the most physically imposing president. Three presidents were taller and 5 (including Clinton and HW bush) are the same height.

He is the third HEAVIEST president, of course, after Grover Cleveland (remember him from above?) and Taft, of stuck-in-the-tub fame.

Trump does have the 4th highest BMI of any president, after Taft, Cleveland, and McKinley. He is obese.

Bet he doesn't even lift, bruh

Now, look. I have no military service. I have not killed a man in a duel. I have not been shot while speechifying. In a ranking of most manly presidents, I also would not rank very highly.

But I'm not a president riding on a tough-guy brand for my rapidly-diminishing popularity.