

Henry Ford

A Summary

- ❏ Founder of Ford Motor Company
- ❏ Creator of the Model T: The first affordable car
- ❏ Instrumental to the development of the industrial age
- ❏ Was strongly anti-Jew, and published *The International Jew: the World's Foremost Problem*

Henry Ford

His Early Life

- ❏ Devastated by his mother's death in 1876
- ❏ Worked several places as a machinist/repairman
- ❏ Married Clara Ala Bryant in 1888
- ❏ Had one child: Edsel Ford (1893)

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His Early Career

- ❏ Got an engineering job for the Edison Illuminating Company in 1891
- ❏ Became Chief Engineer in 1893
- ❏ This led to Ford's first vehicle, the Quadricycle

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Continuing His Career

📦 Met Thomas Edison 1896, who encouraged Ford to continue developing automobiles

📦 The “999” was the result. Barney Oldfield used it to win an automobile race in October 1902

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His Beliefs

📦 He attended an Episcopal church during his childhood; I could not find records of him attending church later in life but I would assume that he did

📦 Strongly anti-Jew, he even published a book: *The International Jew: the World's Foremost Problem*

📦 Adolf Hitler himself regarded Ford as an “*inspiration*” and had a portrait of Ford in his study.

📦 Received the Grand Cross of the German Eagle in July 1938

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His Beliefs

📖 Exactly how strongly he felt about the Jews is a matter of much debate, Ford himself never said whether he approved of concentration camps, for example.

📖 In 1914 Ford published an anti-smoking book: *The Case Against the Little White Slaver*, and he had it distributed to youth across America. This was strange at the time because smoking wasn't known as something that hurt your health.

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Business Philosophy

📦 Implemented the assembly line, drastically increasing output and efficiency

📦 Also created the \$5 day, which was double what competitors offered. This way Ford had only the best workers, and they could afford to buy his product.

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Business Booms

- 📦 The first of October 1908 brought the Model T, which revolutionized the industry. It was the first car that was easy to drive and an affordable option for the working class.
- 📦 Profits increased twofold for several consecutive years, due in large part to the fact that the conveyor belts Ford had put in his plants enabled him to produce many times more cars than any competitor.

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Business Booms Some More

📦 Once the competition started catching up, Ford unveiled the Model A

📦 The Model A was in production from 1927 to 1931, with a number totaling over 4 million

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His Life Concludes

- 📦 His health slowly degraded, starting in the late 1930's
- 📦 Henry Ford died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1947
- 📦 Over 5000 people per hour filed past his casket during the viewing in Greenfield Village, a collection of historical buildings that he started.

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The Result

Despite some of his controversial opinions, Henry Ford was in general a great man who revolutionized his time. His contributions to transportation and production have had an immense impact on how the world works today. He will forever be remembered as one of the fathers of the modern industrial era.