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FILIP FALETOLU KAWATIRI



Courtesy: Wikipedia

De Gaulle during World War II, wearing the two stars of a général de brigade on his sleeve.

President of France Co-Prince of Andorra

## Charles de Gaulle

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle (French: [ʃaʁl də gol]; 22 November 1890 – 9 November 1970) was a French general and statesman. He was the leader of Free France (1940–44) and the head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic (1944–46). In 1958, he founded the Fifth Republic and was elected as the President of France, a position he held until his resignation in 1969. He was the dominant figure of France during the Cold War era and his memory continues to influence French politics.

Born in Lille, he graduated from Saint-Cyr in 1912. He was a decorated officer of the First World War, wounded several times, and later taken prisoner at Verdun. During the interwar period, he advocated mobile armoured divisions. During the German invasion of May 1940, he led an armoured division which counterattacked the invaders; he was then appointed Under-Secretary for War. Refusing to accept his government's armistice with Nazi Germany, de Gaulle exhorted the French population to resist occupation and to continue the fight in his Appeal of 18 June. He led a government in exile and the Free French Forces against the Axis. Despite frosty relations with Britain and especially the United States, he emerged as the undisputed leader of the French resistance. He became Head of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in June 1944, the interim government of France following its Liberation. As early as 1944, de Gaulle introduced a dirigiste economic policy, which included substantial state-directed control over a capitalist economy which was followed by 30 years of unprecedented growth, known as Les Trente Glorieuses ("The Glorious Thirty").

Frustrated by the return of petty partisanship in the new Fourth Republic, he resigned in early 1946 but continued to be politically active as founder of the Rassemblement du Peuple Français (RPF) party, which means "Rally of the French People." He retired in the early 1950s and wrote a book about his experience in the war titled War Memoirs, which quickly became a classic of modern French literature. When the Algerian War was ripping apart the unstable Fourth Republic, the National Assembly brought him back to power during the May 1958 crisis. He founded the Fifth Republic with a strong presidency, and he was elected to continue in that role. He managed to keep France together while taking steps to end the war, much to the anger of the Pieds-Noirs (Frenchmen settled in Algeria) and the military; both previously had supported his return to power to maintain colonial rule. He granted independence to Algeria and progressively to other French colonies.

# Charles de Gaulle **President of France Co-Prince of Andorra** In office 8 January 1959 – 28 April 1969 Prime Minister Michel Debré Georges Pompidou Maurice Couve de Murville Preceded by René Coty Succeeded by Alain Poher (Acting) **Prime Minister of France** In office 1 June 1958 – 8 January 1959 **President** René Coty Preceded by Pierre Pflimlin Succeeded by Michel Debré Chairman of the Provisional Government of France In office 20 August 1944 - 20 January 1946 Preceded by Philippe Pétain (Chief of the French State) Succeeded by Félix Gouin **Leader of the Free French** In office 18 June 1940 – 3 July 1944 Preceded by Position established

Position abolished

Succeeded by

In the context of the Cold War, de Gaulle initiated his "Politics of Grandeur," asserting that France as a major power should not rely on other countries, such as the US, for its national security and prosperity. To this end, de Gaulle pursued a policy of "national independence" which led him to withdraw from NATO's military integrated command and to launch an independent nuclear development program that made France the fourth nuclear power. He restored cordial Franco-German relations to create a European counterweight between the Anglo-American and Soviet spheres of influence through the signing of the Élysée Treaty on January 22, 1963. However, he opposed any development of a supranational Europe, favouring a Europe of sovereign nations. De Gaulle openly criticised the US intervention in Vietnam and the "exorbitant privilege" of the US dollar. In his later years, his support for an independent Quebec and his two vetoes against Britain's entry into the European Economic Community generated considerable controversy.

Although re-elected President in 1965, in May 1968 he appeared likely to lose power amid widespread protests by students and workers, but survived the crisis with backing from the Army and won an election with an increased majority in the Assembly. De Gaulle resigned in 1969 after losing a referendum in which he proposed more decentralization. He died a year later at his residence in Colombey-les-Deux-Églises, leaving his Presidential memoirs unfinished. Many French political parties and figures claim the Gaullist legacy.

De Gaulle was ranked as "Le Plus Grand Français de tous les temps" (the Greatest Frenchman of All Time).<sup>[1]</sup>

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Wikipedia   	Minister of Defence					
	In office					
1 Jun	e 1958 – 8 January 1959					
Preceded by	Pierre de Chevigné					
Succeeded by						
Minister of Algerian Affairs						
In office						
12 June 1958 – 9 January 1959						
Preceded by	André Mutter					
Succeeded by						
	Personal details					
Born	Charles André Joseph Pierre					
	Marie de Gaulle					
	22 November 1890					
	Lille, France					
Died	9 November 1970 (aged 79)					
	Colombey-les-Deux-Églises, France					
D 42 1						
Resting place	Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises Churchyard					
	Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises,					
	France					
Political party	Union for the New Republic					
Spouse(s)	Yvonne Vendroux (1921–1970)					
Children						
Children	Philippe Élisabeth					
	Anne					
Alma mater	École spéciale militaire de Saint-					
Trina mater	Cyr					
Signature	•					
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	Military service					
Allegiance	French Third Republic					
	Free France					
Service/branch	French Army					
	French Armed Forces					
	Free French Forces					
Years of	1912–1944					
service						
Rank	Brigade general					
Unit	Infantry					
	Armoured cavalry					
Commands	Free French Forces					
	2/50					

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Battles/wars	World War I  • Battle of Verdun				
	• Battle of the Somme				
	World War II				
	<ul> <li>Battle of France</li> </ul>				
	• Battle of Montcornet				
	Battle of Dakar				
	<ul> <li>Liberation of Paris</li> </ul>				
Awards	See list				

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### Early life

#### Childhood and origins

De Gaulle was born in the industrial region of Lille in the Nord department, the third of five children. He was raised in a devoutly Catholic and traditional family. His father, Henri de Gaulle, was a professor of history and literature at a Jesuit college who eventually founded his own school. [2] Henri de Gaulle came from a long line of parliamentary gentry from Normandy and Burgundy. [3][4] The name is thought to be Flemish in origin, and may well derive from *van der Waulle* (from the rampart). [5] De Gaulle's mother, Jeanne (née Maillot), descended from a family of wealthy entrepreneurs from Lille. She had French, Irish, Scottish, Flemish, and German ancestry. [3][4]

The family had lost most of its land in the French Revolution, which it opposed. [6] De Gaulle's father encouraged historical and philosophical



De Gaulle's birth house in Lille, now a national museum

debate between his children at mealtimes, and through his encouragement, de Gaulle grew familiar with French history from an early age. Struck by his mother's tale of how she cried as a child when she heard of the French capitulation to the Germans at Sedan in 1870, he developed a keen interest in military strategy. He was also influenced by his uncle, also called Charles de Gaulle, who was a historian and passionate Celticist who wrote books and pamphlets advocating the union of the Welsh, Scots, Irish and Bretons into one people. His grandfather Julien-Philippe was also a historian, and his grandmother Josephine-Marie wrote poems which impassioned his Christian faith. [7][8]

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