



Humble First Jobs...

Of Some Not-So-Humble People

The only truly predictable thing about life is its unpredictability. Nowhere is this more evident, arguably, than in the lives of some of the most famous (and infamous) world leaders who had the most humble beginnings.

Be it the billionaire who started his professional career waiting on tables... to the dictator who ruled more people than anyone else in modern times but who began as a peasant... to the current President of the United States who used to scoop ice cream for customers, history proves time and again that anything can and does happen in the lives of people.



Most people don't have careers handed to them on a silver platter. Occasionally, tales are told in which children of wealthy families enter the work force in humble capacities. It seems that the only person who was born into true greatness was the late (but not late enough) North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Il, who was born atop a mountain, at the edge of a double rainbow (at exactly which edge remains unclear), and was destined to a life of pure greatness—from the very second he was painted that way by North Korea's propagandists.

Nevertheless, everyone else it seems—even dictators and billionaires—had to start somewhere. At age 13, Andrew Carnegie began his career as a tailor, earning as little as \$1.50 per week before becoming one of the first people in modern history to be worth \$100 million.

Warren Buffett started off bagging groceries in his grandfather's store before moving on to bigger and better things... like delivering newspapers. By the time he turned 18, he had saved up some \$5,000 (quite a fortune back in the 1940s), money which he would eventually use to build up Berkshire Hathaway. In 2011, Buffett announced his purchase of the *Omaha World-Herald*—the very same newspaper for which he had delivered papers over half a century earlier.

Henry Ford began his life as a farmer before revolutionizing the auto industry with his moving assembly line.

Sometimes a humble job is necessary to develop character. Some people will refuse to accept any job that's "beneath them" and can waste many years awaiting the arrival of a non-existent dream job. Others will slave away at any job that comes their way, regardless of how menial or degrading the work is. But oftentimes, once the proverbial dust has settled, it is those individuals who end up reaching heights of unimaginable proportions.

Here is a list of some not-so-humble people who had humble first jobs....

El Duce

I was once interviewing an Italian nationalist about the life of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini when the following was revealed:

Before becoming involved in politics Mussolini tried his luck as a school-teacher for a few years. Even then he was known to have a terrible temper. My great-grandfather, who was one of his students, made the mistake of contradicting something his teacher had said. Mussolini flew into a rage and threw an inkwell at my great-grandfather's face.

Mussolini not only threw an inkwell at his own teacher (disclaimer: inkwells in classrooms have since been discontinued), but another time he stabbed a fellow



On October 29, 1922, fascist leader Benito Mussolini was offered the Italian premiership amid political and social upheaval.



Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini

July 29, 1883 – April 28 1945

AKA: Duce

Claim to Fame: Italian politician, journalist, and leader of the National Fascist Party, ruling Italy as dictator from 1922 until his ousting in 1943.

Fun Fact: Mussolini was a socialist before becoming a fascist. Born to a socialist father, Mussolini was named after leftist Mexican President Benito Juárez. His two middle names, Amilcare and Andrea, came from Italian socialists Amilcare Cipriani and Andrea Costa. He was expelled from the party over his support for World War I and then radically changed his views.

student, for which he was promptly kicked out of school (obviously, it was a very strict school with very high standards of behavior).

Despite that—or because of it—Little Benito was so enamored with his school experience that when he grew up he became a teacher himself. Somewhere along the line, though, he decided to make a slight deviation in his career path and become the dictator of Italy with plans to conquer the world.



Birthplace of Benito Mussolini in Predappio, now used as a museum.



Mussolini rescued by German troops from prison in Campo Imperatore on September 12, 1943—after he had been arrested by his own government.



Mussolini speaking to Fascist masses from the Palazzo (palace) Venezia.

It was a wonderful idea except for one minor hindrance: the Italian army—the same pathetic army that Hitler had to rescue time and time again, and which became the standing joke of WWII.

Some would argue that attempting world conquest via Italy was still easier than being a teacher. We'll never know, however, because Benito Mussolini, the only man who ever tried his hands at both in the same lifetime, was executed by his own people in 1945.