

The Presidency

Textbook Chapter 14

Coach Flu

Revised 2017-2018

The Presidents

- **Great Expectations**

- Americans want a president who is powerful and who can do good like Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Kennedy.
- Yet Americans do not like a concentration of power because they are individualistic and skeptical of authority.

The Presidents



- Formal Requirements:
 - Must be 35 years old
 - Must have resided in U.S. for 14 years
 - Natural born citizen
- Informal "Requirements":
 - White (except Barack Obama)
 - Male
 - Protestant (except two JFK and Biden)
- All manner of professions, but mostly political ones (former state governors, for example)

The Presidents



🕒 Elections: The Normal Road to the White House

- 🕒 Once elected, the president serves a term of four years.
- 🕒 In 1951, the 22nd Amendment limited the number of terms to two.
- 🕒 Most Presidents have been elected to office.

The Presidents



resigned



■ Secession and Impeachment

- The vice-President secedes if the president leaves office due to death or resignation or convicted of impeachment
 - Impeachment is investigated by the House, tried by the Senate with the Chief Justice presiding.
 - 3 Presidents have been impeached: A. Johnson & Clinton and Donald Trump (twice)- none were convicted.

Incomplete Terms

Table 13.2 Incomplete Presidential Terms

PRESIDENT	TERM	SUCCEEDED BY
William Henry Harrison	March 4, 1841–April 4, 1841	John Tyler
Zachary Taylor	March 4, 1849–July 9, 1850	Millard Fillmore
Abraham Lincoln	March 4, 1865–April 15, 1865 ^a	Andrew Johnson
James A. Garfield	March 4, 1881–September 19, 1881	Chester A. Arthur
William McKinley	March 4, 1901–September 14, 1901 ^a	Theodore Roosevelt
Warren G. Harding	March 4, 1921–August 2, 1923	Calvin Coolidge
Franklin D. Roosevelt	January 20, 1945–April 12, 1945 ^b	Harry S. Truman
John F. Kennedy	January 20, 1961–November 22, 1963	Lyndon B. Johnson
Richard M. Nixon	January 20, 1973–August 9, 1974 ^a	Gerald R. Ford

^aSecond term.

^bFourth term.

The Presidents

TABLE 13.1

Recent Presidents

PRESIDENT	TERM	PARTY	BACKGROUND
Dwight D. Eisenhower 	1953–1961	Republican	- Commander of Allied forces in Europe in World War II - Never voted until he ran for president
John F. Kennedy 	1961–1963	Democrat	- U.S. senator from Massachusetts - From very wealthy family - War hero
Lyndon B. Johnson 	1963–1969	Democrat	- Senate majority leader - Chosen as Kennedy's running mate; succeeded him after the assassination
Richard M. Nixon 	1969–1974	Republican	- U.S. senator from California - Served two terms as Eisenhower's vice president - Lost presidential election of 1960 to John F. Kennedy
Gerald R. Ford 	1974–1977	Republican	- House minority leader - First person ever nominated as vice president under Twenty-fifth Amendment
Jimmy Carter 	1977–1981	Democrat	- Governor of Georgia - Peanut farmer

PRESIDENT	TERM	PARTY	BACKGROUND
Ronald W. Reagan 	1981–1989	Republican	- Governor of California - Well-known actor
George Bush 	1989–1993	Republican	- U.S. representative from Texas - Director of CIA - Ambassador to UN - Served two terms as Reagan's vice president
William J. Clinton 	1993–2001	Democrat	- Governor of Arkansas - Rhodes Scholar
George W. Bush 	2001–2009	Republican	- Governor of Texas - Son of President George Bush - Elected without plurality of the vote
New President 	2009–	Barack Obama	- Senator from Illinois - First African American elected as president

United States President (47)



Donald Trump
(R)

Constitutional Powers of the President

- National Security Powers—commander in chief of armed forces, treaty-maker with other nations (with Senate confirmation), nomination of ambassadors, receiving ambassadors from other nations
- Legislative Powers—presenting information in the State of the Union, recommending legislation to Congress, convene both houses of Congress, adjourn Congress, veto legislation
- Administrative Powers—execute the laws, nominate certain government officials, request opinions of officials, fill administrative vacancies
- Judicial Powers—grant reprieves and pardons for federal offences, nominate federal judges (with Senate confirmation)

Presidential Powers

TABLE 13.3

Constitutional Powers of the President

NATIONAL SECURITY POWERS

Serve as commander in chief of the armed forces
Make treaties with other nations, subject to the agreement of two-thirds of the Senate
Nominate ambassadors, with the agreement of a majority of the Senate
Receive ambassadors of other nations, thereby conferring diplomatic recognition on other governments

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

Present information on the state of the union to Congress
Recommend legislation to Congress
Convene both houses of Congress on extraordinary occasions
Adjourn Congress if the House and Senate cannot agree on adjournment
Veto legislation (Congress may overrule with two-thirds vote of each house)

ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS

"Take care that the laws be faithfully executed"
Nominate officials as provided for by Congress and with the agreement of a majority of the Senate
Request written opinions of administrative officials
Fill administrative vacancies during congressional recesses

JUDICIAL POWERS

Grant reprieves and pardons for federal offenses (except impeachment)
Nominate federal judges, who are confirmed by a majority of the Senate

Running the Government: The Chief Executive

- As Chief Executive, the president presides over the administration of government.
 - Constitution: “take care that the laws be faithfully executed”
 - Today, federal bureaucracy spends \$2.8 trillion a year and numbers more than 4 million employees.
 - Presidents appoint 500 high-level positions and 2,500 lesser jobs.

Running the Government: The Chief Executive

- **The Vice President**

- Basically just “waits” for things to do
- Power has grown over time, as recent presidents have given their VPs important jobs

- **The Cabinet**

- Presidential advisors, not in Constitution
- Made up of 14 cabinet secretaries and one Attorney General, confirmed by the Senate

Running the Government: The Chief Executive

TABLE 13.4

The Cabinet Departments

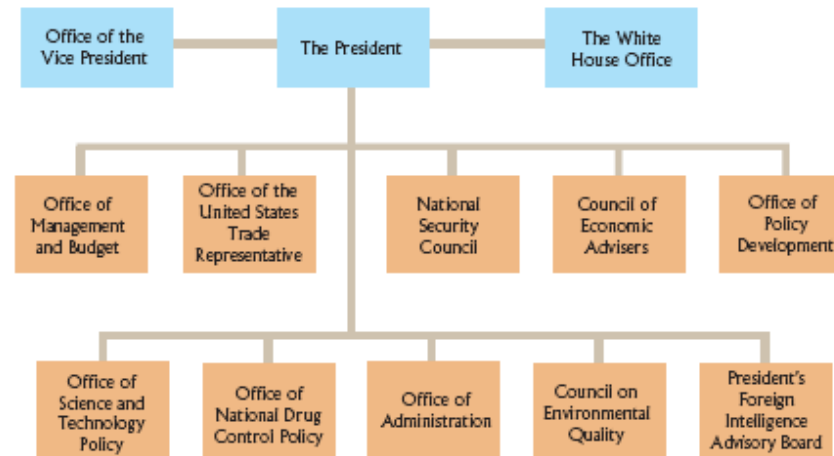
DEPARTMENT	YEAR CREATED	FUNCTION
State	1789	Makes foreign policy, including treaty negotiations
Treasury	1789	Serves as the government's banker
Defense	1947	Formed by the consolidation of the former Departments of War and the Navy
Justice	1870	Serves as the government's attorney; headed by the attorney general
Interior	1849	Manages the nation's natural resources, including wildlife and public lands
Agriculture	1862	Administers farm and food stamp programs and aids farmers
Commerce	1903	Aids businesses and conducts the U.S. census
Labor	1913	Formed through separation from the Department of Commerce; runs programs and aids labor in various ways
Health and Human Services	1953	Originally created as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, it lost its education function in 1979 and Social Security in 1995
Housing and Urban Development	1966	Responsible for housing and urban programs
Transportation	1966	Responsible for mass transportation and highway programs
Energy	1977	Responsible for energy policy and research, including atomic energy
Education	1979	Responsible for the federal government's education programs
Veterans Affairs	1988	Responsible for programs aiding veterans
Homeland Security	2002	Responsible for protecting against terrorism and responding to natural disasters

Running the Government: The Chief Executive

- **The Executive Office**
 - Made up of policymaking and advisory bodies
 - Three principle groups: NSC, CEA, OMB

FIGURE 13.1

Executive Office of the President



Source: White House (www.whitehouse.gov/government/eop.html); Office of the Federal Register, *The United States Government Manual*, 2007/2008 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2008), 87-101.

Running the Government: The Chief Executive

The White House Office



- The White House Staff are the chief aides and staff for the president.
- They are chosen on the basis of their loyalty to the president
- Need not be confirmed
- The national security advisor is an example.

First Lady

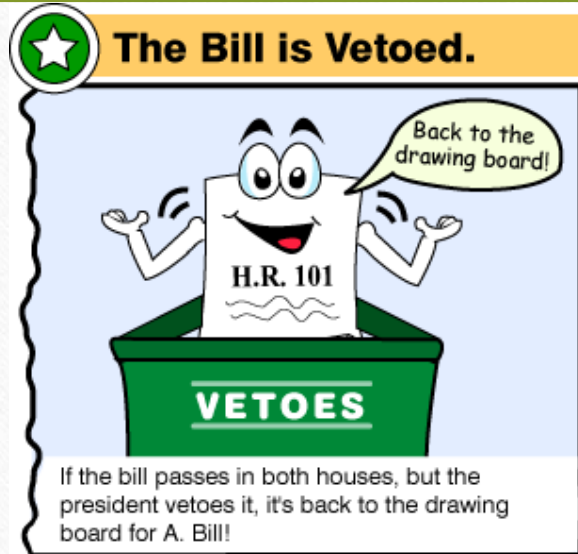
No official government position, but many get involved politically

Recent ones focus on a single issue



Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers

■ Chief Legislator



- Veto: Sending a bill back to Congress with the reasons for rejecting it. Can be overridden.
- Pocket Veto: Letting a bill die by not signing it in 10 days when Congress is adjourned.
- Line Item Veto: The ability to veto parts of a bill. Some state governors have it, but not the president. The president must sign or veto all of a bill.

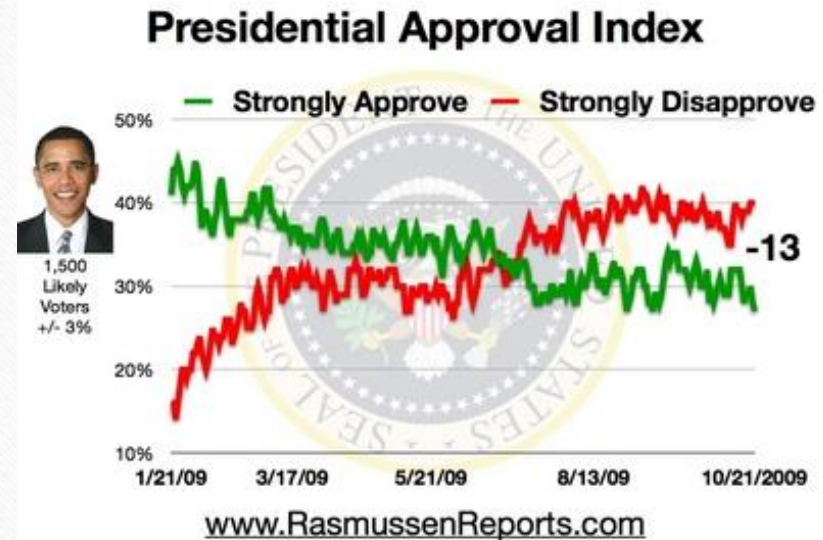
Signing Statements

- A signing statement is a written message issued by the president upon signing a bill into law that states objectives to some of the provisions in the bill.
- They are not provided for in the Constitution.
- George W. Bush increased their use, and Obama has continued this trend.
- They usually are statements on how the president believes a new laws should or should not be enforced. (Congress tends to not like this as it could impact the laws success)

Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers

Mandates

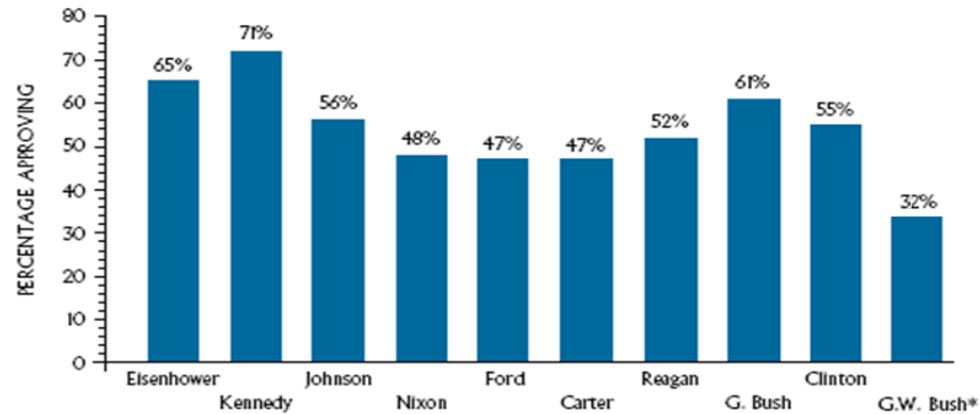
- Perception that the voters strongly support the president's leadership and policies
- Mandates are infrequent, but presidents may claim a mandate anyway



Gallup Presidential Approval Ratings

- Link to up to date Biden's Info
- [Link](#)

Approval Ratings



* Estimate by the Associated Press as of January, 2007

Donald Trump's Presidential Job Approval Ratings

Based on weekly averages of Gallup tracking

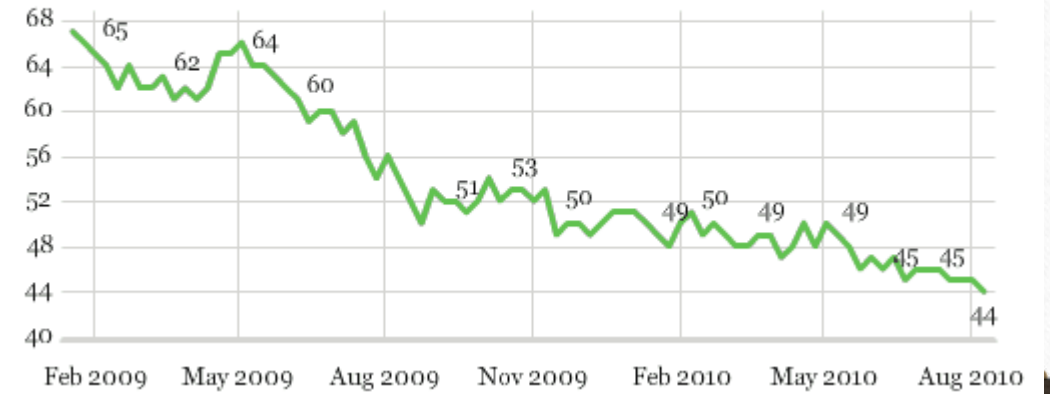
■ % Approve



GALLUP

Barack Obama's Presidential Job Approval Ratings

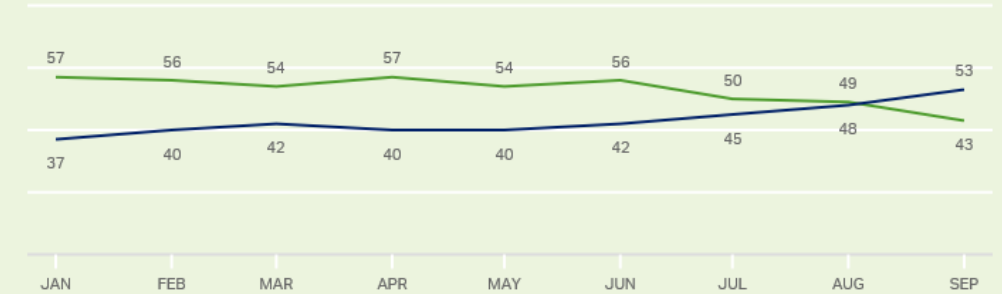
% Approve, weekly aggregates



President Joe Biden's Job Approval Rating Since He Took Office

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

— % Approve — % Disapprove



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Approval Ratings

Presidential Approval Ratings Since Kenedy

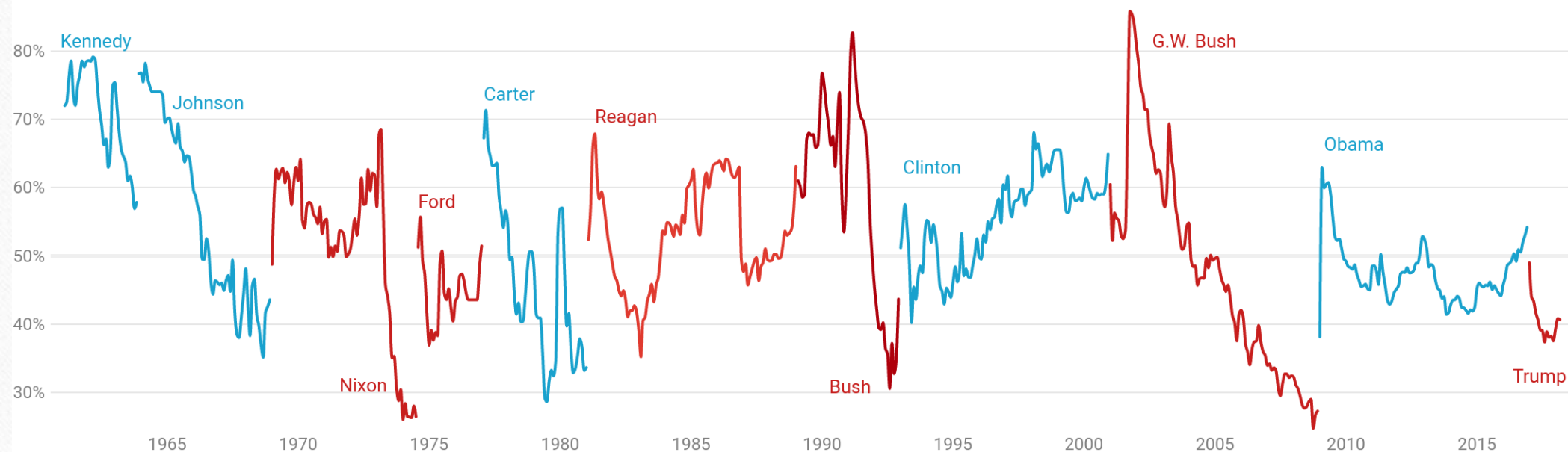
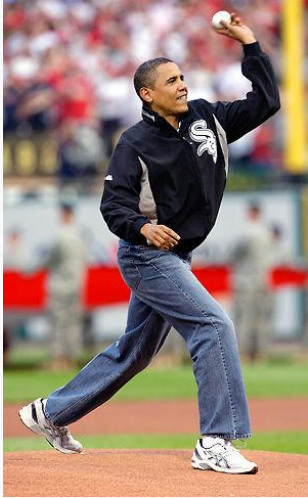


Chart: Gregor Aisch, Datawrapper • Source: [FiveThirtyEight](#) • [Get the data](#)

Power from the People: The Public Presidency

- Presidents have three audiences they must communicate with.
 - Politicians in D.C.
 - Party members and leaders.
 - The public
- Presidential Approval
 - Receives much effort by the White House
 - Product of many factors: war, the economy, the “honeymoon” period
 - Changes can highlight good / bad decisions



Power from the People: The Public Presidency

- Going Public
 - *Public support is perhaps the greatest source of influence a president has.*
 - Presidential appearances are staged to get the public's attention.
 - As head of state, presidents often perform many ceremonial functions- which usually result in favorable press coverage.



Power from the People: The Public Presidency

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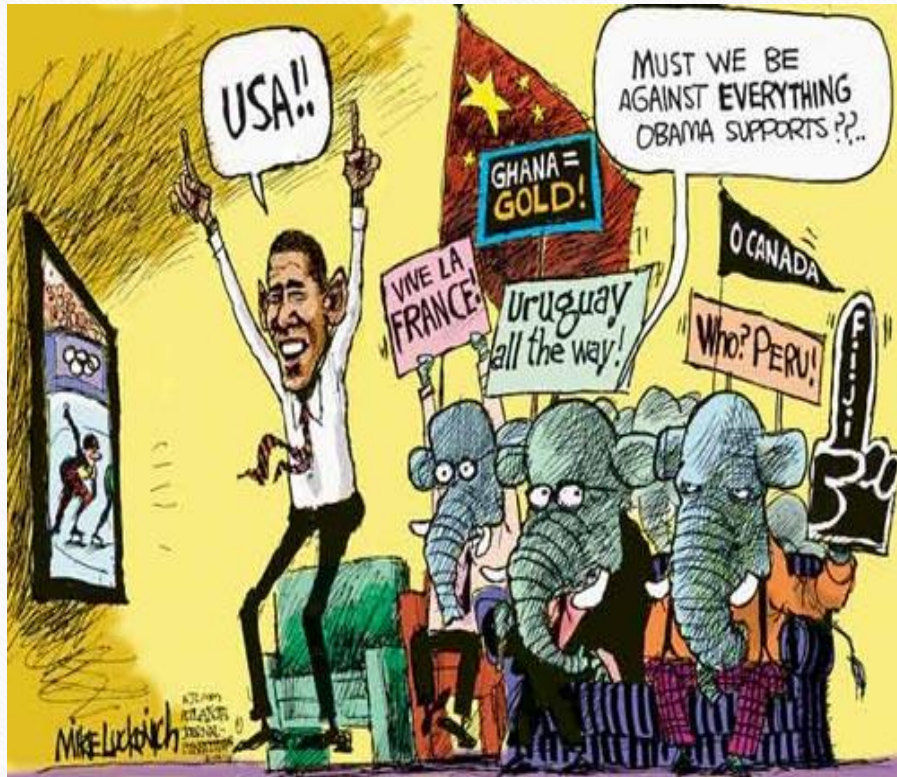
Bully Pulpit



- Manage a crisis
- Demonstrate leadership
- Announce appointment of cabinet members and Supreme Court Justices
 - Set and clarify the national agenda
 - Achieve a legislative agenda
 - Announce foreign policy initiatives

Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers

- Legislative Skills



- Variety of forms: bargaining, making personal appeals, consulting with Congress, setting priorities in the State of the Union address.
- Most important is bargaining with Congress.
- Presidents should use their “honeymoon” period
- Nation’s key agenda builder

The President and National Security Policy

■ Chief Diplomat

- Negotiates treaties with other countries
- Treaties must be ratified by the Senate
- Signs executive agreements to take care of routine matters with other countries
- May negotiate for peace between other countries
- Leads U.S. allies in defense & economic issues

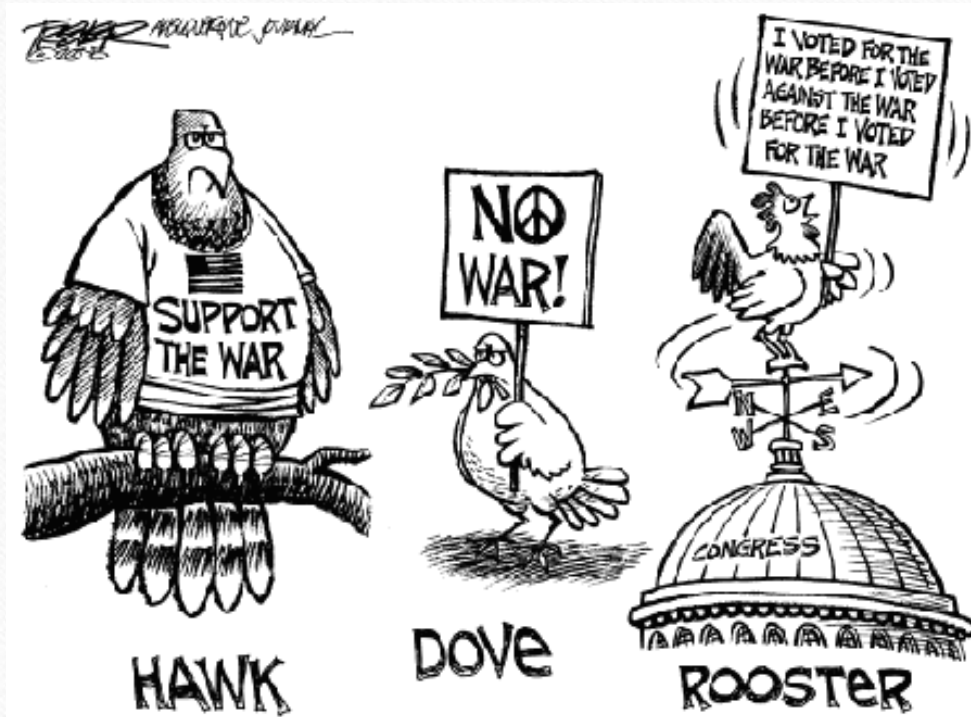


The President and National Security Policy

- Commander in Chief
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- Writers of the Constitution wanted civilian control of the military
 - Presidents often make important military decisions
 - Presidents command a standing military and nuclear arsenal
 - Presidents can deploy troops without congressional consent.



The President and National Security Policy



■ War Powers Resolution

- Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, but presidents can commit troops and equipment in conflicts
- War Powers Resolution requires the president to consult with Congress before sending troops, when possible
- It requires that Congress approve of any troop commitment beyond 60 days. (then 30 days to remove troops)
- Most presidents have ignored it.
- Supreme Court avoided it using the political questions doctrine.

The President and National Security Policy



[Link to Bullhorn Speech](#)

■ Crisis Manager

- The role the president plays can help or hurt the presidential image.
- With current technology, the president can act much faster than Congress to resolve a crisis.

■ Working with Congress

- President has lead role in foreign affairs.
- Presidents still have to work with Congress for support and funding of foreign policies.

The President and the Press

- Presidents and media are often adversaries.
- Many people in the White House deal with the media, but the press secretary is the main contact person
- Media is often more interested in the person, not the policies
- News coverage has become more negative



Organization of the White House Staff

There are three ways that presidential staff has been organized to function:

1. As a pyramid
2. Circular (
3. Ad hoc (heavy use of task forces, committees and informal group of friends that answer to the president directly)

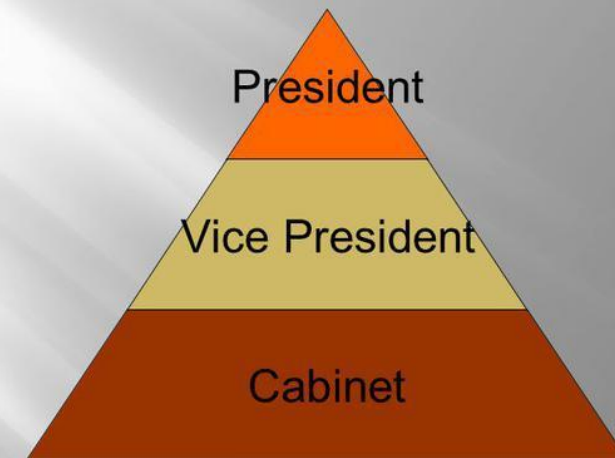
Organization of the White House Staff



- Pyramid Model

like chain of command that emphasizes a powerful Chief of Staff, who in most cases is highly visible and accessible to the press. In this model, the president can be viewed as sitting atop a pyramid, removed from advisors and interests below him. Under the president, the Chief of Staff runs the White House staff with a great deal of authority and acts as a clearinghouse for information and access to the president.

The executive branch of the Government



This branch is responsible for initiating and administering laws. The President is the Head of the Cabinet and he can veto a law that the Congress has passed. The President is elected every 4 years and cannot serve more than two terms.

The Vice-president of the USA is the head of the Senate.

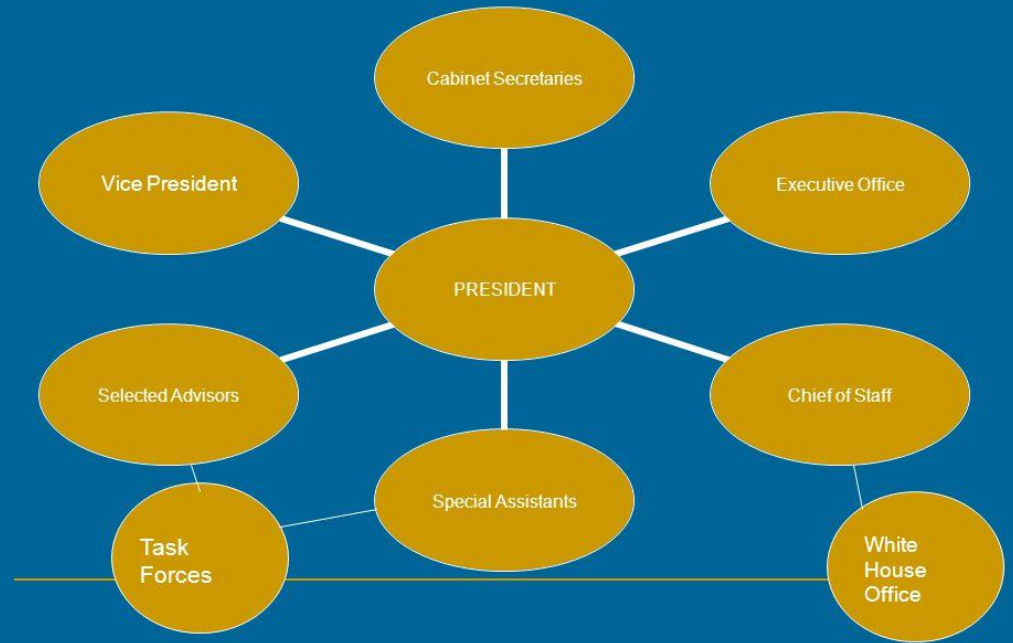
Organization of the White House Staff

- Circular Model

staff and advisors reported directly to the Oval Office. (Clinton 2nd term)



Organizational methods - Circular



Organization of the White House Staff

- **Ad Hoc Model**

combines leadership and management tactics that the CEO of a large corporation might use. President Clinton (1st Term) and President George W. Bush have used this style, which employs committees, task forces, and special advisors to help develop and implement policy.



Important Court Cases

- United States v. Nixon (1973) held that the presidential privilege does not cover all circumstances
-
- Nixon v. Fitzgerald (1982) held that a president can not be sued for damages for the decisions they make as president.
 - Clinton v. Jones (1997) held that a civil lawsuit against the president are not a distraction keeping the president from doing their job.
 - Trump v. United States (2024) held that former presidents have at least some immunity from criminal prosecution for “official acts” in office, no matter their “politics, policy, or party,” but stipulated that that protection doesn't cover everything only official acts of the presidency.