



## The Presidency & the Bureaucracy

### In this lesson:

- Presidency/Roles
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### Presidency/Roles:

- **Different Roles:**
  - **Chief Executive**
  - **Shaper of Public Policy**
  - **Leader of Party**
  - **Chief Legislator**
  - **Commander in Chief**
  - **Head of State**
- **Chief Executive**
  - **According to Constitution:**
    - Enforce federal laws: make sure that laws that Congress passes are followed/enacted
    - Manage federal bureaucracy: number 1 government boss of State Department
  - **Appointment Power - can appoint...**
    - Cabinet heads: people who run bureaucratic agencies/aides
    - Independent commissioner: leaders of independent agencies (EPA, FCC)
    - Diplomats/Ambassadors: representatives to foreign countries
    - Judicial Appointments: all federal judges/attorneys/US Marshals
  - **Removal power**
    - Most appointees “serve at pleasure of President” if he wants them to resign, they will
    - The President can’t remove...
      - Federal judges: Judicial branch is independent, free of outside influence
      - Commissioners of Independent Agencies: they are independent after apportionment
  - **The White House Staff**
    - Made up of key residential assistants
    - Job is to provide president with policy options and analysis
    - Chief of Staff
      - Highest ranking member
      - Manage flow of people and information into Oval Office



- No Senate Approval needed for President to hire/fire staff members
- These people need to have loyalty to President
- **The President's Cabinet**
  - 14 executive department heads & attorney general: the people who run the bureaucratic agencies
  - These 15 departments employ 2/3rds of the federal government civilian employees
  - Diversity: modern presidents look to fill their cabinet with people who represent a diverse America
  - Potential Problems with Cabinet - members' loyalty to Department instead of the President
  - President's problems with controlling cabinet representatives
    - Interest groups: influence Cabinet representatives
    - Long careers: Department > President
    - Congress: compete for influence on Cabinet
- **Executive Office of the President**
  - Office of Management and Budget (OMB): the largest office within the Executive Branch with 500 career officials; assist the President in preparing Federal Budget
  - National Security Council (NSC): comprised of foreign & military advisors; advise President on issues of national security/foreign affairs
  - Council of Economic Affairs (CEA): made up of 5 leading economists who advise Presidents on economic policy; prepare annual Economic Report of the President
- **Chief Legislator**
  - **Formal (Constitutional) Presidential Legislative Powers:**
    - State of the Union: recommend measures and issues that Congress should address
    - Veto Power: reject laws Congress passes
    - Line-item Veto: reject specific "line items" on an appropriation bill while allowing the rest (rejected by Supreme Court in 1997)
  - **Informal Presidential Legislative Powers:**
    - Party Leader: sets party agenda; has very strong influence in Congress
    - National Leader: especially in crisis, President recommends Congress what to do
    - Agenda Setter: FDR - present; the President initiates major legislation to Congress
  - **Working with Congress: how to influence Congress**



- Use legislative liaisons: President has members of WH Staff who will lobby Congress for President; assist legislators in writing bills how President wants; keep track of vote counts
- Work with leadership: work directly with majority/minority leaders
- “Bully pulpit”: President’s media attraction power used to focus public attention on issues he wants (more important than any Congressman)
- Popularity: more popular President = more pressure on Congress to support agenda
- Offer Pork: win legislators by offering pork/ideas for vote
- **Divided Government: when President/Congress or House/Senate = different parties**
  - Consequences: increases partisanship, gridlock (slowed down legislative process), unpopularity
  - How to overcome it? Bully pulpit, veto threat, make deals, alliances
- **Chief Diplomat**
  - **Treaties**
    - How does it become a law?
      - President negotiates with foreign leaders
      - Senate ratifies it with  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote
    - Advantages
      - Permanent arrangement with broad support of Congress and public
    - Disadvantages
      - Difficult to get Senate approval
  - **Executive Agreements**
    - How does it happen?
      - President negotiates with foreign leaders
    - Advantages
      - No Senate needed
    - Disadvantages
      - Not official by US Law
      - Can be overturned by future Presidents
- **Judicial Powers**
  - **Checks on Judicial System**
    - Reprieve: postponement of a sentence; results in...
    - Pardon: President forgives crime (no punishment)
  - How does President choose a Supreme Court Justice
    - Judicial Philosophy: sees eye-to-eye with President
    - Diversity: recently Presidents pick people that represent the US as a whole
- **Commander in Chief**
  - **Formal Powers:**



- Deploy troops: power as commander in chief to respond to threats or carry out war declared by Congress
- Recognize Nations: has the sole power to decide which government the US recognises as legit
- Receive Ambassadors: welcome, meet with, and certify other country's ambassadors
- **Informal Powers:**
  - Recognized Global Leader: most powerful and recognized leader in world/expected to promote democracy, freedom, and human rights
  - Resolve International Crisis: because of military/economic strength, people look to President to solve urgent international crises
- **Presidential Increase in War Powers:**
  - Only Congress can declare war but there have been times where the President has deployed troops barely approved and it has failed (Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq War, Afghanistan War)
  - 1973: Congress passed War Powers Resolution
    - President must notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops
    - President must bring troops home within 90 days unless extended authorization of use of force by Congress
  - War Powers Act = unsuccessful
    - Authorization of use of military force is always renewed by Congress
    - President uses CIA to carry out military action overseas without Congressional oversight
- **Federalist No. 70: written by Alexander Hamilton outlining his position on presidency; proposed having**
  - **String executive leader: Argued for powerful singular presidency**
  - **No weak presidency: warned that a weak president/council would weaken the nation**

### The Bureaucracy

- **Large and complex organization of appointed (unelected) officials**
- **Common features**
  - Hierarchical Authority: a chain of command where power/authority flows from top to bottom
  - Job Specialization: every employee has specific duties/responsibilities
  - Formal Rules: all employees must follow all procedures and regulations
- **Federal Bureaucracy Structure:**



- **The Cabinet Departments**
  - All 15 departments led by a secretary except Department of Justice (has Attorney General)
  - All 15 heads picked by President and approved by Senate
  - Treasury: prints currency
- **Non Cabinet Level Bureaucratic Institutions:**
  - Independent Regulatory Agencies: protects public by regulating important parts of economy (Federal Communications Commission - FCC)
    - Led by small commissions appointed by President, approved by Senate
    - Commissioners can't be removed by president
  - Government Corporations: provide service that can't be provided will privately/profitably (US Postal Services)
    - Goal isn't to make money but to support public good
  - Independent Executive Agencies: Resemble full cabinet departments but have smaller areas of responsibility/authority (EPA, NASA)
    - Mini cabinet agency
- **Bureaucratic Implementation:**
  - Policy Implementation: this is left up to the designated bureaucratic institution that will be overseeing/enforcing the law (decided by Congress passing, enabling legislation)
  - Administrative Discretion: when Congress passes laws to create a new program, it doesn't establish all of details about how to carry out (implement) its law
  - Rule making: when a bureaucracy makes rules that affect how legislation operates through administrative discretion granted by Congress; rules that have to be followed
- **Bureaucratic Regulation, Adjudication, and Problems:**
  - Regulation: use of government/bureaucratic authority to control/change practice in private sector economy
  - Deregulation: lifting of restrictions on business industry (popular efforts)
  - Administrative Adjudication: executive agencies function like Courts: hold hearing so agencies settle disputes
  - Problems?
    - Conflicting goals
    - Bad design
    - Lack of funding
    - Fragmentation of responsibilities
- **Interest Groups & the Bureaucracy**
  - **Iron Triangles: alliance among**
    - Bureaucratic agency
    - Interest group



- **Congress (committee)**

- Each member provides key services, information, and beneficial policies for others
- Basically permanent
- So powerful, often called sub governments

- **Issue Networks:**

- **Temporary web that develops over the debate of major policy decision or legislative act while being debated**
- President often chooses people from an issue network who support their views to fill agency positions
- Can include: policy experts, media pundits, congressional staffs, interest groups, big businesses, and bureaucracies