

Chapter 13: The Presidency



Heads of State and Government

- ✧ Head of State:
Ceremonial
Duties
- ✧ Head of
Government:
Policy Making
Authority



David Cameron

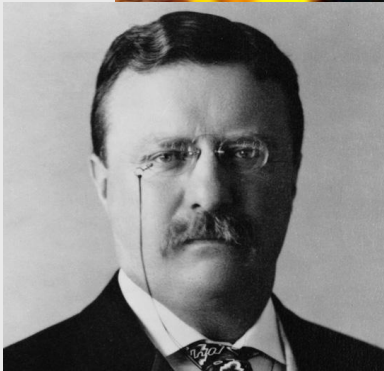


Queen Elizabeth

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 current President)
 - Male
 - Protestant (except one)
- All manner of professions, but mostly political ones (former state governors, for example)



Youngest



Youngest elected
Only Catholic

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

- 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.
 - Only two presidents have been impeached: A. Johnson & Clinton- neither was convicted.



resigned



Incomplete Terms

Table 13.2 Incomplete Presidential Terms

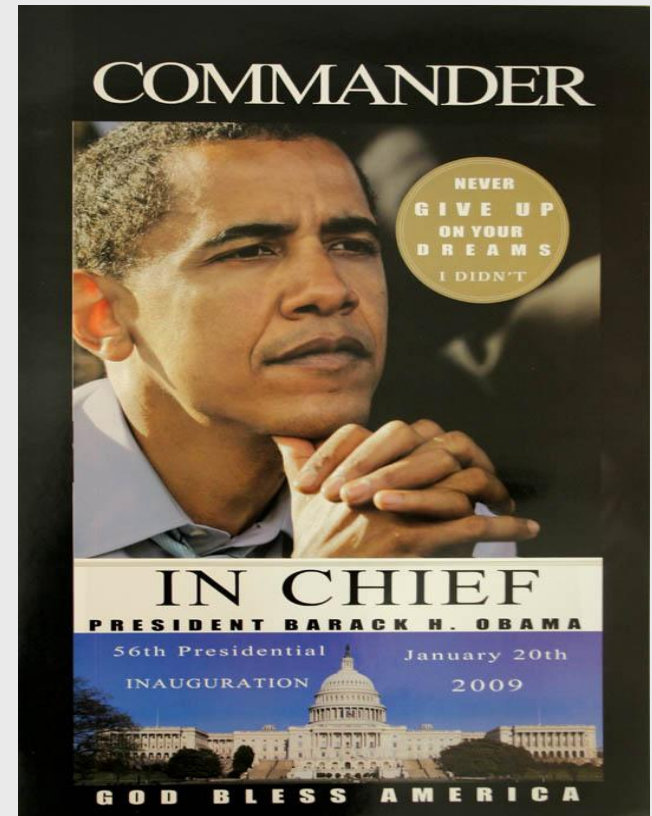
PRESIDENT	TERM	SUCCEDED BY
William Henry Harrison	March 4, 1841–April 4, 1841	John Tyler
Zachary Taylor	March 4, 1849–July 9, 1850	Millard Fillmore
Abraham Lincoln	March 4, 1865–April 15, 1865 ^a	Andrew Johnson
James A. Garfield	March 4, 1881–September 19, 1881	Chester A. Arthur
William McKinley	March 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.

Constitutional Powers

- ◆ National Security-
 - ◆ Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces
 - ◆ Make treaties with other nations
- ◆ Legislative-
 - ◆ Veto bills
 - ◆ State of the Union Address
- ◆ Administrative Nominations
- ◆ Judicial Nominations
- ◆ Inherent Powers
 - ◆ Louisiana Purchase



Informal Powers

- Executive order—a presidential order that has the force of law and does not require congressional approval
- Executive agreement—a presidential agreement with another country that does not require Senate approval

The Executive Branch



- The Vice President
 - Few official constitutional duties
 - Recent presidents have given their VPs important jobs
- The Cabinet
 - Presidential advisors, not in Constitution
 - Is made up of the cabinet secretaries of the federal departments, confirmed by the Senate

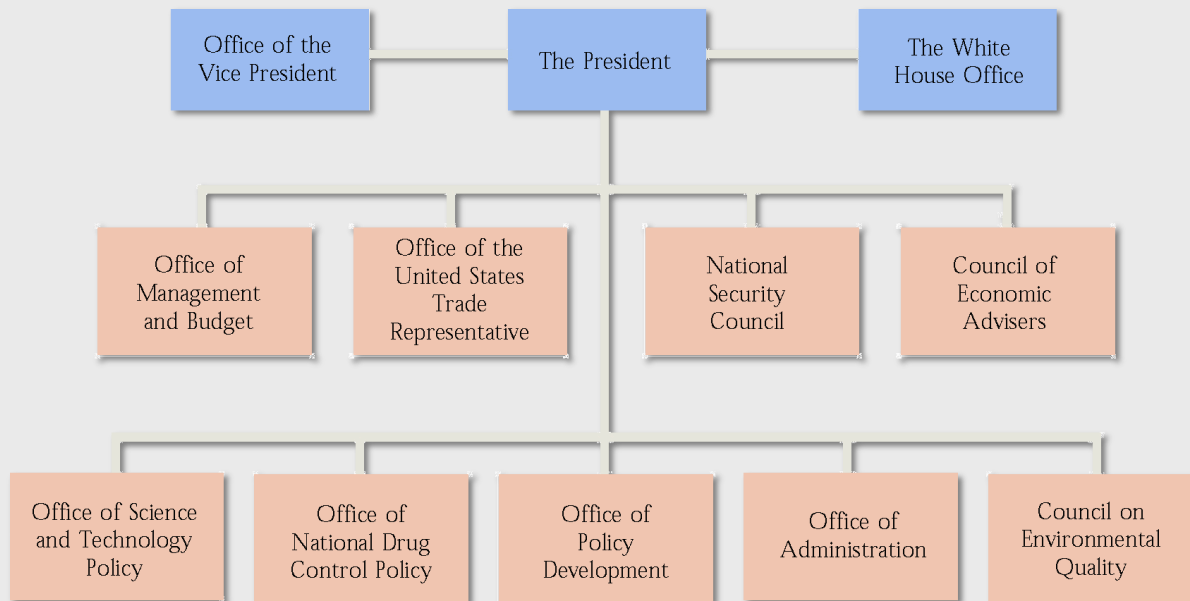


Running the Government: The Chief Executive

The Executive Office

Made up of several policymaking and advisory bodies

Three principle groups: NSC, CEA, OMB



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.

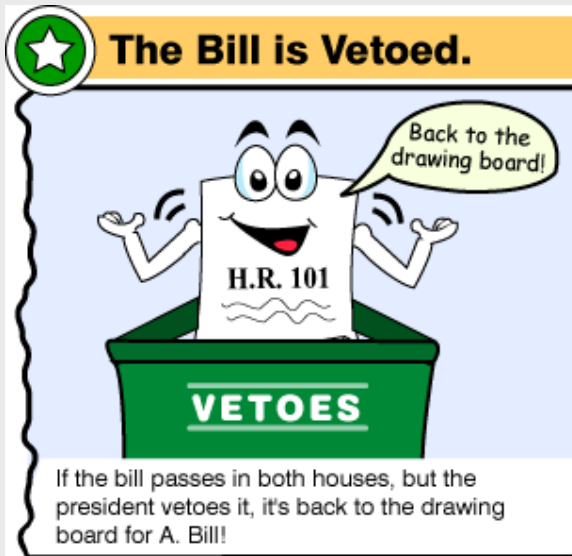
First Lady

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.

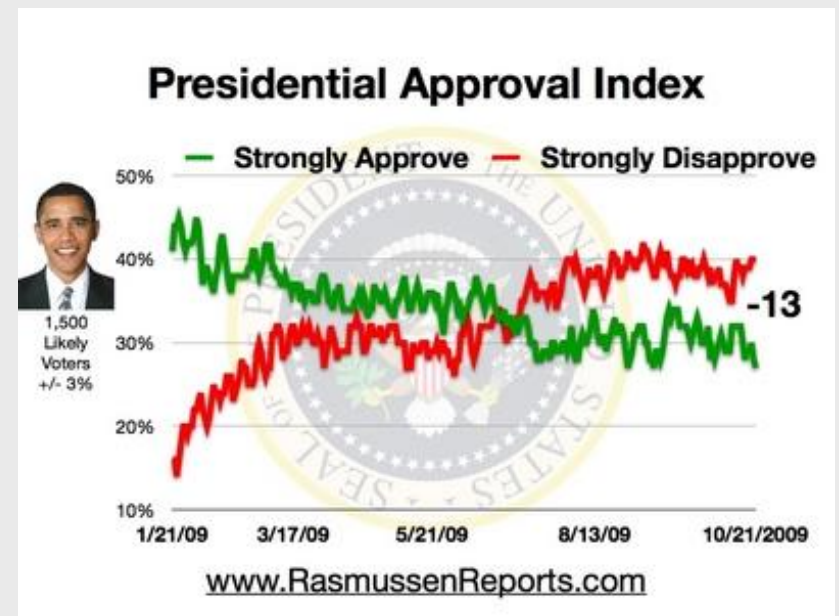
Signing Statements

- 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.

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



Power from the People: The Public Presidency

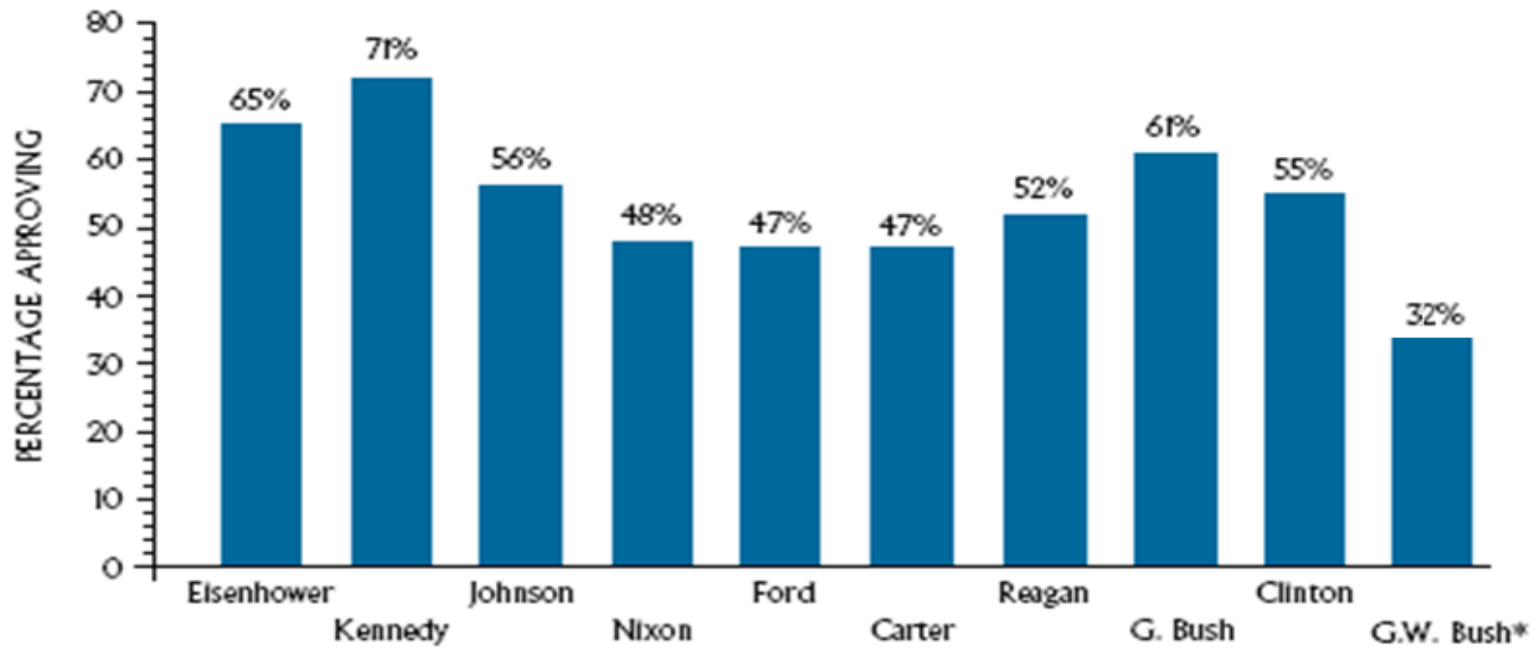


■ Going Public

- *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.



Approval Ratings

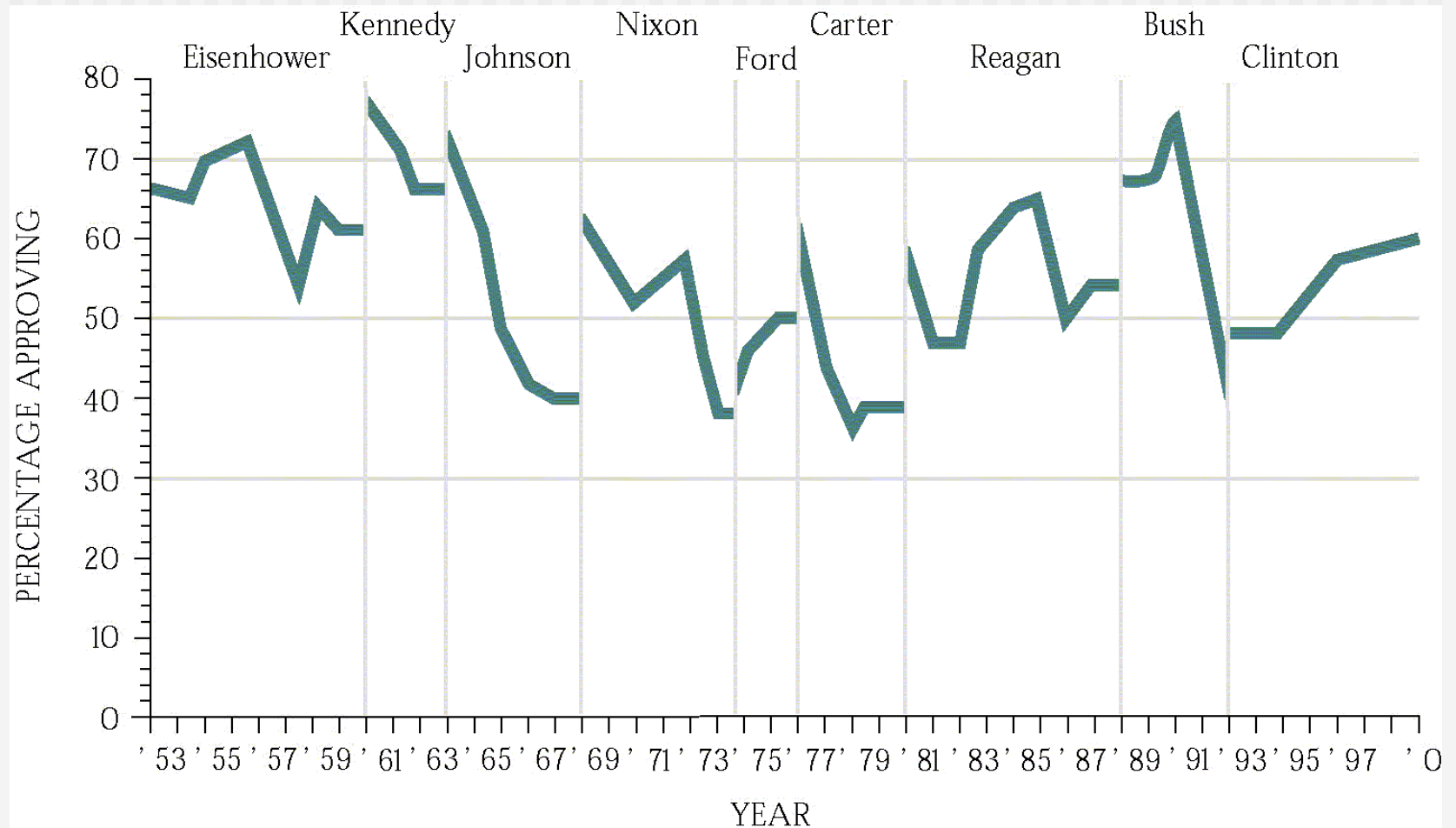


* Estimate by the Associated Press as of January, 2007

Power from the People: The Public Presidency

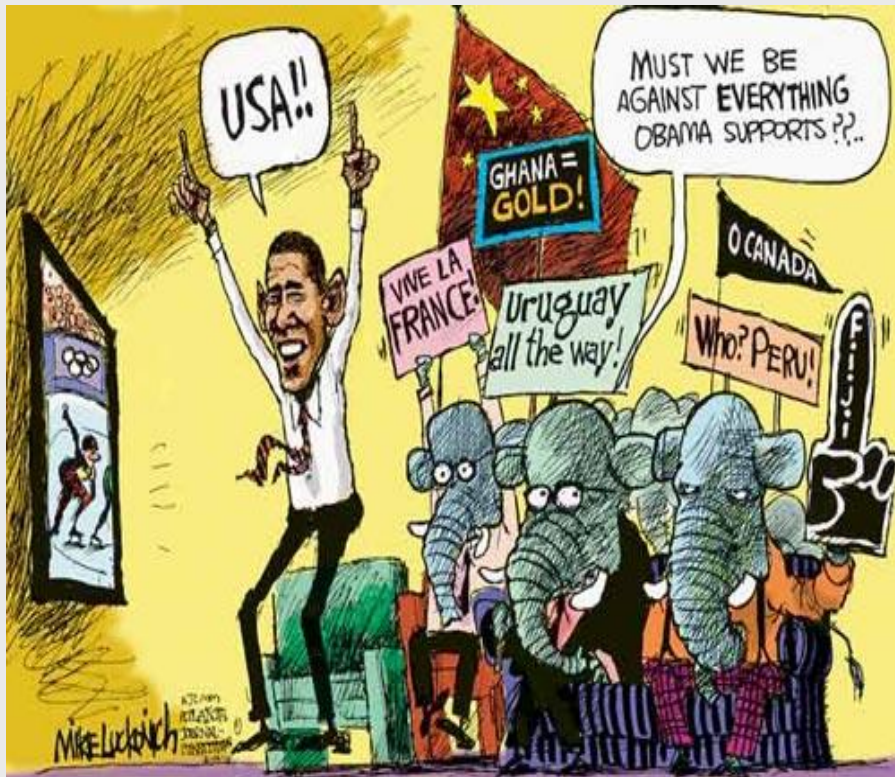
- Presidential Approval
 - Receives much effort by the White House
 - Product of many factors: war, the economy, the “honeymoon” period
 - Changes can highlight good / bad decisions

Approval Ratings



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

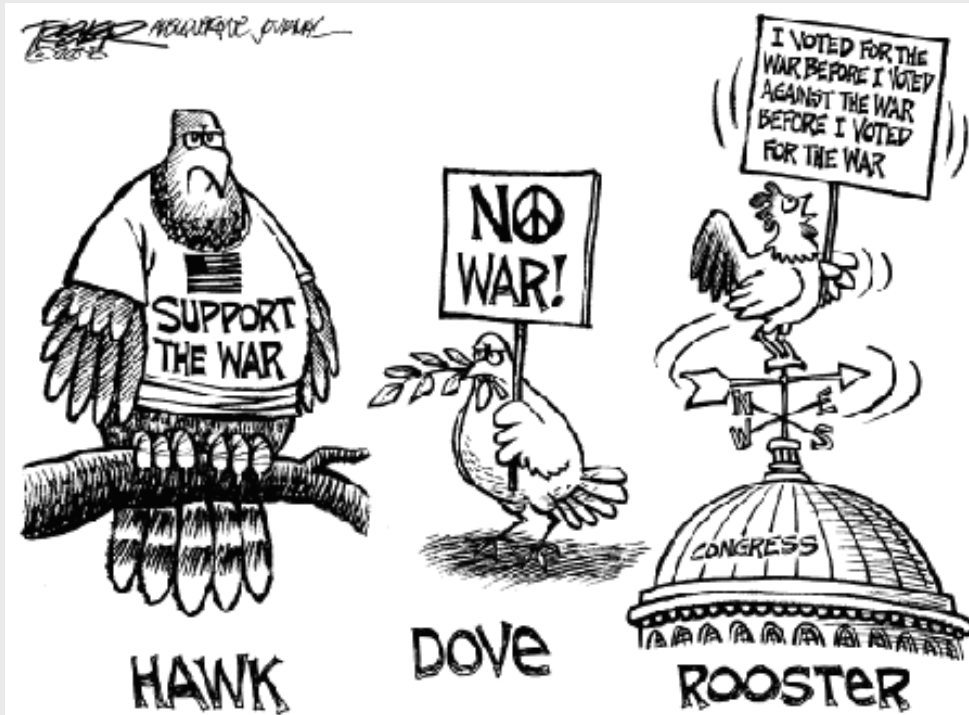


- Commander in Chief
 - Writers of the Constitution wanted civilian control of the military
 - Presidents often make important military decisions
 - Presidents command a standing military and nuclear arsenal
 - Presidents can deploy troops without congressional consent.

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 30 days.
- Most presidents have ignored it.
- Supreme Court avoided it using the political questions doctrine.



The President and National Security Policy



- 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

