



# Powers & Roles of the President



## Chapter 14, Theme B



# Roles the President Plays

Describe each role, what powers he can exercise in the role & whether it is a formal or informal role:

- Commander in Chief
- Head of State
- Chief Diplomat
- Party Leader
- Chief Executive
- Chief Legislator
- Economic Planner

# Chief Executive

- What formal powers does this role entail?
  - Appointments:
    - Cabinet members & executive branch officials
    - Judges & Justices of the Federal Court System
  - Issue pardons & reprieves: Checks on jud. br.
- What informal powers does this role entail?
  - Issues executive orders: DEFINE & Give Ex.
    - Rule that has the force of law over the exec. branch
    - Allows Pres. to Circumvent Congress
  - Can use executive privilege: Limited by Rule of Law (US v. Nixon)
- Introduce and show videos!

# Commander in Chief

- What formal powers does this role entail?
  - Mobilize troops anywhere needed (foreign)
  - Call out National Guard where needed (domestic)
  - Commission all military officers
- What informal powers does this role entail?
  - Solely authorized to use nuclear weapons
  - Final authority on military decisions
- Introduce and show videos!

# Chief Diplomat

- What formal powers does this role entail?
  - Appointing Ambassadors & Diplomats
  - Negotiating Treaties
  - Receive foreign ambassadors and ministers
- What informal powers does this role entail?
  - Make executive agreements
    - What are the differences between these & treaties?
  - Recognize new governments
- Introduce and show videos!

# Chief Legislator

- What formal powers does this role entail?
  - Presentment Clause: President must sign, veto or set aside all bills passed by Congress
  - Recommends laws to Congress
  - Gives State of the Union Address
- What informal powers does this role entail?
  - Use of bully pulpit to push agenda: Uses media to appeal to the public
- Introduce and show videos!

# Head (or Chief) of State

- Only formal power is to receive foreign diplomats
- Acts as “Symbol” of the US
- Attends ceremonial functions on our behalf
  - State funerals
  - Greets guests to White House
  - Hands out national honors and medals
- Hosts & Attends National Events
  - Lighting Christmas Tree, Easter Egg Roll
  - “Face” of national pastimes (baseball, basketball)
- **Introduce and show videos!**

# Economic Planner

- Informal powers have been conferred to the President by Congress.
- Powers exercised as Economic Planner:
  - Compiles and Presents the annual US Budget to Congress (Starts in HOR)
  - Compiles budget with the help of the OMB
  - Submits annual economic report to Congress
  - Has the power of impoundment (Limited)
    - Budget Reform Act of 1974
- Introduce and show videos!



# Party Leader

- Spokesperson for their political party
- Dispenses **patronage**: Helps those who helped him with appointments
- Makes campaign appearances
- Conveys positions to Congress via his party's leadership
- “**Coattails**” help and hurt party in many way
- **Introduce and show videos!**

# Group Analysis

- Read through Truman's Daily Agenda.
- Outline as many roles he is playing and do each of the following for those roles:
  - What part of Truman's agenda illustrates that role?
  - Is that role formal or informal?
  - Explain why it is formal or informal.

# Enlarging the President's Power

- How has war enlarged the President's power?
  - Examples:
- How have economic crises expanded the President's power?
  - Examples:
- How have executive orders & helping to develop bureaucratic rules increased power?
  - Examples:

# Powers & Their Checks

For each power of the President, tell how that power is checked:

- Appoint Justices and Cabinet members
- Send troops any where in the world as commander in chief
- Make Treaties
- Veto legislation
- Execute or carry out laws or programs

# Powers & Their Checks

- Who has been more effective at reigning in the President's power: Congress or The Supreme Court?
- Congressional examples? Degree of success?
- Judicial examples? Degree of success?

# Assignment

- Read pp. 386-388 & complete CT handout.
- See Symbaloo board for links.
- Due Thursday!

For each clip, discuss the power exercised, the role & type of power

- Chief Legislator
- Chief Diplomat
- Commander in Chief
- Chief Diplomat
- Chief Executive
- Head of State