**11. The Executive Branch and the Bureaucracy**

Introduction:Though the Framers nearly unanimously agreed about the need for a strong central government and a greatly empowered Congress, they did not agree about the proper role of the president or the weep of his authority. In contrast to Article I’s laundry list of provisions for authority of the legislative branch, Article II details few presidential powers. Distrust of a powerful chief executive led to the Constitution’s intentionally vague prescriptions for the presidency. Nevertheless, it is these constitutional powers, when coupled with a president’s own personal style and abilities, that allow him to lead the nation.

Constitutional Origins of the Presidency

Delegates to the constitutional convention studied the writing of philosophers **Montesquieu and Locke**, analyzed the powers of the British monarchs, and studied the role of governors in the American colonial governments.

The delegates **decided they did not want a king**; they wanted power to rest with the people. Debate arose over a single versus a plural executive, and a weak executive appointed by Congress versus a strong executive independent of the legislature. The final compromise created a single executive with powers limited by the **checks and balances** of the legislative and judicial branches.

Qualifications

**Article II** of the Constitution establishes the formal qualifications of the president:

* **Natural born citizen**
* **At least 35 years of age**
* **Resident of U.S. 14 years prior to election**

Historically, many candidates who have run for the office of the president have also shared several characteristics:

* Political or military experience
* Political acceptability
* **Married**
* While male
* **Protestant**
* Northern European ancestry

In the 2008 presidential election, Barack Obama presented himself as a new type of presidential candidate. His victory in the general election allowed him to become the first African-American to obtain the presidency. Donald Trump became president after the 2016 election despite having never being elected to any political office before.

Term and Tenure

The concept of a popularly elected president is an American invention. After much debate and compromise, the Founding Fathers created a single executive, **elected indirectly through an electoral college for a four-year term.**

Until the addition of the **Twenty-Second Amendment in 1951** the number of terms of the president was unlimited. After **Franklin D. Roosevelt** won the office an unprecedented four times, the Twenty-Second Amendment was added, limiting the president to two elected terms.

Succession and Disability

The constitution provides that if the president can no longer serve in office the vice president will carry out the powers and duties of the office. The constitution does not state that the vice president shall actually become president; **that tradition began with the death of W.H. Harrison**.

After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the **Twenty-Fifth amendment** was added to the Constitution, stating that vice president becomes president in the office if the president becomes vacant.

That amendment also provides for the new president **to nominate a new vice president**, with the approval of a majority of both houses of Congress. The first use of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment occurred when Spiro Agnew resigned the vice presidency and was replaced by **Gerald Ford** in 1973.

The following year it was used again when **President Richard Nixon resigned**; Vice President Gerald Ford became president; and Ford nominated, and Congress confirmed, Nelson Rockefeller as his new vice president.

The Twenty-Fifth Amendment also provides for the presidential disability. If the president is unable to perform the duties of his office, **the vice president may become “acting president”** under one of the following conditions:

* The president informs Congress of the inability to perform the duties of president.
* The vice president and a majority of the cabinet inform Congress, in writing, that the president is disabled and unable to perform those duties.

The president may resume the duties of office upon informing Congress that no disability exists. If the vice president and a majority of the cabinet disagree, Congress has 21 days to decide the issue of presidential disability **by a two-thirds vote of both houses.**

Impeachment and Removal

The Constitution allows for the removal of a president from office through the impeachment process. **Impeachment** involves **bringing charges of wrongdoing against a government official**. The United States Constitution gives **the House of Representatives** the authority to impeach the president of vice president for “Treason, Bribery, or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

Once charges of impeachment have been levied against the president or vice president, **the Senate then sits in judgment of the charges**. The chief justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial. If found guilty of the charges, the official may be removed from office. Conviction requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

The Road to the White Houses

There are two basic methods of becoming president: **succeed to the office or win election to the office**. Most presidents have been elected to the office. Many nominees seeking the office have gained political experience through elected or appointed offices—in Congress (mostly the Senate), as state governors, as vice president, or as a cabinet member. Several nominees gained recognition as military leaders.

The Electoral College System

According to the Constitution and the Twelfth Amendment, an **electoral college** elects the president and vice president. **Each state chooses a number of electors equal to its number of members in the House of Representatives and Senate** in a method set by the state legislatures. In general election, voters go to the polls and vote for the candidates of their choice.

In December, the electors of the respective candidates **meet in each state capital to cast ballots for president and vice president**. The Electoral College then sends the ballots to the president of the Senate, where they are opened before a joint session of Congress and counted.

To win the election, a candidate **must receive a majority of electoral votes (270).** If no candidate for president receives a majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives chooses the president **from among the top three candidates**. If no candidate for vice president receives the majority of electoral votes, the Senate chooses the vice president from the top two candidates.

The Vice Presidency

During much of American history, the office of the vice president has been seen as one to be avoided by ambitious politicians. Constitutionally, the vice president has two duties.

* **Preside over the Senate**, casting tie-breaking votes if necessary
* Help determine the presidential disability under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment and **take over the presidency if necessary**

Because the vice president may someday become the president, the formal qualifications for vice president **are the same as those for the president**. The vice president serves a four-year term; however, the number of terms a vice president may serve is not limited.

The selection of the nominee for vice president occurs at the national convention when the presidential nominee selects a “running mate.” Often the choice of the nominee is influence by the party’s desire to **balance the ticket**, that is, to improve the candidate’s chances of winning the election by choosing someone from a different faction of the party **or from a different geographic section of the country**.

With the assassination of Kennedy and attempts on the lives of Ford and Reagan, more attention has focused on the vice president. **Today, the vice** **president is often given a larger role in government**, taking part in the cabinet meeting, serving on the National Security Council, and acting as the president’s representative on diplomatic missions. More consideration is also given to the background, health, and other qualification of vice presidents.

Presidential Powers

**Article II of the Constitution outlines the powers of the president**. The checks and balances of the other branches of government limit them. The power of the modern presidency comes from the men who have held the office and have shaped the use of these powers. Historians have often rated presidents strong or weak.

After the 1960s and 1970s, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., argued that the presidency had become so powerful that an “imperial presidency” existed, applying the term to Richard Nixon and his administration in particular. Richard Neustadt contended that the president’s powers lie in the ability to persuade others through **negotiation, influence, and compromise**. From 2002 to 2008 President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney argued for greatly expanded powers for the presidency in both domestic and foreign affairs. Presidential powers can be categorized as executive, legislative, diplomatic, military, judicial, and party powers.

**Executive Powers**

* **Enforces laws**, treaties, and court decisions
* Issues **executive orders** to carry out policies (I.E. Truman and Integration of armed forces, Eisenhower and desegregation of American schools)
* **Appoints officials, removes officials**
* Assumes emergency powers
* Presides over the cabinet and executive branch

**Legislative Powers**

* Gives annual **State of the Union message (constitutionally required)** identifying problems, recommending policies, and submitting specific proposals (president’s legislative agenda). Expectations are that the president will propose a comprehensive legislative program to deal with national problems (the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 requires the president to **prepare and propose a federal budget).**
* Issues annual budget and economic reports.
* **Signs or vetoes bills**.
* Proposes legislation (through a Congressional representative) and uses influence to get it passed.
* **Calls for special sessions of Congress.**

Though the president cannot change the wording of a bill, several presidents have offered **signing statements** when signing a bill into law. These statements **explain their interpretation of a bill**, their understanding of what is expected of them to carry it out, or just a commentary on the law.

A signing statement allows a president to say, in effect, “Here’s how I understand what I’m signing and here’s how I plan to enforce it.” Critics of the signing statement argue that it violates the basic lawmaking design and overly enhances a president’s last-minute input on a bill.

Signing statements have been used since the early 19th century by Presidents to comment on the law being signed. Unlike vetoes, signing statements are not part of the legislative process as set forth in the Constitution, **and have no legal effect.**

Signing statements have played a role **in conflicts between the Executive and Legislative branches** in the past. For example, President Franklin Roosevelt indicated in a signing statement in 1943, during World War II, that he felt Section 304 of the Urgent Deficiency Appropriations Act of 1943 was unconstitutional, but that he had no choice but to sign the bill "to avoid delaying our conduct of the war."

**Diplomatic Powers**

* Appoints **ambassadors and other diplomats**
* Negotiates treaties and **executive agreements**
* **Meets with foreign leaders in international conferences**
* Accords diplomatic recognition to foreign governments
* Receives foreign dignitaries

**Military Powers**

* **Serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces**
* Has final decision-making authority in matters of national and foreign defense
* Provides for domestic order

Roles of the President

1. **Chief of State**

* The ceremonial head of the government and the symbol of all Americans
	+ “…the personal embodiment and representative of their dignity and majesty”

2. **Chief Executive**

* + The President has broad powers to carry out and enforce the laws of the United States

3. **Chief Administrator**

* + Head of government offices
		- 2.7 million employees
		- 2.5 trillion dollar budget

4. **Chief Diplomat**

* + The President conducts foreign policy and is the nation’s spokesperson to the rest of the world

5. **Commander in Chief**

* + The President is the head of the armed forces
	+ The Constitution says this person must be a civilian and not an active military member
		- Washington, Grant, Eisenhower

6. **Chief Legislator**

* + The President is the main source of public policies and for the most part sets the agenda for what Congress works on

7. The President can also be considered **Chief Citizen**

* + The moral leader of the nation and the person who protects the interests of the people

**Judicial Powers**

* Appoints **members of the federal judiciary** (i.e. Supreme Court Justices)
* Grants reprieves, **pardons**, and amnesty

**Party Powers**

* Is the recognized **leader of the party**
* Chooses vice-presidential nominee
* Strengthens the party by helping members get elected **(coattails)**
* Appoints party members to government positions **(patronage)**
* Influences policies and platform of the party

Executive Privilege

Past presidents have interpreted the Constitution to allow for executive privilege, **the ability of the president to protect personal material**. However, you will not find the term executive privilege actually written in the Constitution.

**President Nixon** tried to use executive privilege when he refused to turn over the Watergate tapes (recorded conversations) to Congress. In the Supreme Court Case of **U.S. v. Nixon** (1974) the court ruled that Nixon did not possess executive privilege and had to turn over the recorded conversations to a congressional investigative committee. He resigned shortly after this decision in the face of certain impeachment.

Inherent Power

Besides the delegated powers listed in the Constitution, the president has an **implied power** unique to the three branches—an inherent power to make policy **without the approval of Congress**.

This power is derived from the chief-executive clause in the Constitution and the defined power of the president as commander-in-chief. The policy directives can come in the form of **executive orders and executive actions**, as well as making foreign policy decisions that involve the commitment of troops and weapons to foreign countries.

The Bully Pulpit

If you think of the presidents who have been powerful and influential and who have demonstrated leadership, they all have one thing in common. These presidents, such as **Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan**, all used the “bully pulpit” to advance their policies and communicate with the American people.

Theodore Roosevelt who saw the White House as his bully pulpit, **or a terrific platform to advance his personal agenda** coined this term. The bully pulpit is used by presidents to:

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

Especially with the 24/7 news cycle covered by the media and social media, a president who knows how to use the bully pulpit has a powerful tool **to advance the goals of his administration.**

Limitations on Presidential Powers

In order to avoid the possibility of abuses by the executive, the Founding Fathers provided for checks upon the powers of the executive.

**Congressional checks**

* **override presidential vetoes**; requires a 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress.
* power of the purse; agency **budgets must be authorized and appropriated by Congress.**
	+ In 1974 Congress passed the Congressional Budget and **Impoundment** Control Act, which denied the president the right to refuse to spend money appropriates by Congress and gave Congress a greater role in the budget process.
* Power of **impeachment.**
* approval powers over appointments.
* legislation that limits the president’s powers (for example, the **War Powers Act** limited the president’s ability to use military force.)
* **Legislative vetoes** to reject the actions of the president or executive agency by a vote of one or both houses of Congress without the consent of the president; declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1983.

**Judicial checks**

* **judicial review** of executive actions

**Political checks**

* **public opinion**
* media attention
* popularity

Presidential Character

**Political scientist James David Barber** examined the importance of a president’s personality and character, classifying presidents into four distinct types based on their childhood and other experiences. Barber measured each president’s assertiveness in office as active or passive, and how positive or negative his feelings were about the office itself. His classifications were:

* ***Active-positive*** *–* takes pleasure in the work of the office, easily adjusts to new situations and is confident in himself (FDR, Truman, Kennedy, Ford, Carter, Bush)
* ***Active-negative*** *–* hard worker but doesn’t enjoy the work, insecure in the position, may be obsessive or antagonistic (Wilson, Hoover, LBJ, Nixon)
* ***Passive-positive*** *–* easygoing, wanting agreement from others with no dissent, may be overly confident (Taft, Harding, Reagan)
* ***Passive-negative*** *–* dislikes politics and tends to withdraw from close relationships (Collidge, Eisenhower)

The Bureaucracy

The bureaucracy is responsible for ensuring that **the policies and programs enacted by Congress and the executive departments are carried out**. Because the bureaucracy is responsible for executing the laws, providing for defense, and administering social programs, it is considered part of the executive branch of government. To ensure impartiality, bureaucratic agencies are supposed to function above partisan politics and also ensure that the laws are administered without prejudice.

There are approximately 4 million bureaucrats who are salaried employees of the federal government, with about 2.7 million civilians and 1.4 million in the military. About 30 percent of the civilian employees work for the Defense Department, while about 15 percent work for various social agencies, including Social Security and Welfare. **No bureaucrat is elected.**

The fifteen cabinet secretaries and the heads of intendent agencies are appointed by the president with the consent of the Senate. **The largest bureaucratic agency is the Department of Defense**. Most of the hundreds of thousands of civilian employees who work for the government work for one of the fifteen executive departments or one of the other cabinet level agencies considered by the White House to be part of the cabinet (such as the Director of Management and Budget or the Director of the Drug Control Office).

Bureaucracies generally follow three basic principles:

* ***Hierarchical authority***—similar to a pyramid, with those at the top having authority over those below
* ***Job specialization***—each worker has defined duties and responsibilities, a division of labor among workers
* ***Formal rules***—established regulating and procedures that must be followed

**History and Growth**

* *Beginnings—*standards for office included qualifications and political acceptability
* ***Spoils system***—practice of giving offices and government favors to **political supporters and friends** (Started with Andrew Jackson)
* ***Reform movement***—competitive exams were tried but failed due to inadequate funding from Congress
* ***Pendleton Act*—Civil Service Act of 1883**, passed after the assassination of Garfield by a disappointed office-seeker; replaced the spoils system with a merit system as the basis for hiring and promotion
* ***Hatch Act* *of 1939, amended in 1993***—prohibits government employees from engaging in political activities while on duty, running for office or seeking political funding while off duty, or if in sensitive positions, may not be involved with political activities on or off duty, or if in sensitive positions, may not be involved with political activities on or off duty
* ***Civil Service Reform Act of 1978***—created the Office of Personnel Management (replaced the Civil Service Commission) to recruit, train and establish classifications and salaries for federal employees

**Organization**

The federal bureaucracy is generally divided into four basic types:

* ***Cabinet departments***—15 executive departments created to advise the president and operate a specific policy area of governmental activity (Department of State, Department of Labor, Department of the Interior); each department is **headed by a secretary**, except the Department of Justice, which is headed by the attorney general
* ***Independent executive agencies***—similar to departments but without cabinet status (NASA, Small Business Administration)
* ***Independent regulatory agencies***—independent from the executive; created to regulate or police (Securities and Exchange Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Federal Reserve Board)
* ***Government corporations***—created by Congress to carry out business-like activities; generally charge for services (Tennessee Valley Authority, National Railroad Passenger Corporation [AMTRAK], United States Postal Service)

**Who Runs Regulatory Agencies**

Independent regulatory agencies are run by **panels of administrators called Boards of Commissioners**. These commissioners are appointed by the president with the consent of the Senate. The terms of these commissioners usually overlap the term of the appointing president. The staggered term is intended to minimize political pressure from the White House. Depending on the commission, terms can range from 3 to 14 years.

Perhaps the best-known regulatory board is the **Federal Reserve Board (the Fed)** because its policies directly affect the buying power of the public. The Fed accomplishes this by regulating banks, the value and supply of money, and interest rates. Its members serve 14-year terms. Its chairman serves a four-year term. One previous head, Alan Greenspan, has served both Democrat and Republican presidents. Today the Fed is run by **Janet Yellen**, who is the first woman to hold the position.

**Who Controls the Bureaucracy?**

Because most boards of commissions and regulatory agencies are appointed by the President with Senate consent, political considerations always play a part in the appointment process. However, presidents come and go with great regularity, as do the appointed governing boards and commissions. It is the **rank and file bureaucrats who are permanent**, and they do not like political meddling.

While in office, presidents do have the power to promote their supporters and to use the budget to increase or decrease the influence of an agency. Reducing an agency’s budget reduces its staff, which reduces its effectiveness. Increasing the agency’s budget can have the opposite effect. **Presidents can also reorganize an agency**.

Congressional power over the bureaucracy is greater than that of the president. The Senate can affirm or reject presidential appointments. Congress can also abolish an agency or change its jurisdiction if it is unhappy with power implementation. Finally, it is the Congress, through the **appropriations process**, that has the final say over how much money agencies will receive.

**Influences of the Federal Bureaucracy**

* ***Executive influences****—*appointing the right people, issuing executive orders, affecting the agency’s budget, reorganization of the agency.
* **Congressional influences***—*influencing appointments, affecting the agency’s budget, holding hearing, rewriting legislation or making legislation more detailed.
* ***Iron triangles*** *(sub governments)*—iron triangles are **alliances that develop between bureaucratic agencies, interest groups, or congressional committees or subcommittees**. Because of a common goal, these alliances may work to help each other achieve their goals, with Congress and president often deferring to their influence.
* ***Issue networks***—individuals in Washington—located within interest groups, Congressional staff, think tanks, universities, and the media—who regularly discuss and advocate public policies. Unlike iron triangles, issue networks continually form and disband according to policy issues.

**The Executive Office of the President (EOP)**

The executive Office of the President includes the closest advisors to the president although it was established in 1939; every president has reorganized the EOP according to his style of leadership. Within the executive office are several separate agencies.

* ***White House Office****—*personal and political staff members who help with the day-to-day management of the executive branch; includes the chief or staff, counsel to the president, or press secretary
* ***National Security Council****—*established by the National Security Act of 1947; advises the president on matters of domestic and foreign national security
* ***Office of the Management and Budget****—*helps the president prepare the annual federal budget
* ***Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives****—*created by George W. Bush to encourage and expand private efforts to deal with social problems
* ***Office of the National Drug Control Policy****—*advisory and planning agency to combat due nation’s drug problems
* ***Office of Policy Development****—*gives the president domestic policy advice
* *Council of Economic Advisors—*informs the president about economic developments and problems
* ***Office of U.*S. *Trade representative***—advises the president about foreign trade and helps negotiate foreign trade agreements
* ***Office of Administration****—*provides administrative services to personal of the EOC and gives direct support services to the president
* ***Council on Environmental Quality****—*coordinates federal environmental efforts and analyzes environmental policies and initiatives
* ***Office of Science and Technology Policy****—*advises the president on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international affairs; it also works with the private sector and state and local governments to implement effective science and technology policies
* ***Office of the Vice President****—*consists of the vice president’s staff

**Executive Departments**

* ***State*** *(1789)—*advises the president on **foreign policy**, negotiates treaties, represents the United States in international organizations (1st: Jefferson)
* ***Treasury*** *(1789)—*collects federal revenues, pays federal bills, **mints coins and prints paper money**, enforces alcohol, tobacco and firearm laws (1st: Hamilton)
* ***Defense*** *(1789)—*formed the department of Defense in 1947; manages the armed forces operates military bases
* ***Interior*** *(1849)—*manages **federal lands**, refuges, and parks, operate hydroelectric facilities, manages Native American affairs
* ***Justice*** *(1870)—*provides legal advice to the president, enforces federal laws, represents the United States in court, operates federal prisons
* ***Agriculture*** *(1889)—*provides agricultural assistance to farmers and ranchers, inspects food, manages national forests
* ***Commerce*** *(1903)—*grants patents and trademarks, **conducts the national census**, promotes international trade
* ***Labor*** *(1913)—*enforces federal labor laws (**Child labor, minimum wage, safe working conditions**), administers unemployment and job training programs
* ***Health and Human Services*** *(1953)—*administers **Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid Programs**, promotes health care research, enforces pure food and drug laws
* ***Housing and Urban Development*** *(1965)—*provides home financing and public housing programs, enforces fair housing laws
* ***Transportation*** *(1967)—*promotes mass transit programs and programs for highways, railroads, and air traffic enforces maritime law
* ***Energy*** *(1977)—*promotes development and conservation of fossil fuels, nuclear energy, research programs
* **Education** (1979) – administers federal aid programs to schools; engages in educational research
* ***Veterans Affairs*** *(1989) promotes the welfare of veterans of the armed forces*
* ***Homeland Security*** *(2002)—***prevents terrorist attacks within the U.S**., reduces America’s susceptibility to terrorism, minimizes damage and helps recovery from attacks that do occur; includes Coast Guard, Secret Service, Border Patrol, Immigration and Visa Services, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

**Review**

**Essential Documents Related to This Section:**

Federalist 70 (Hamilton)

**Essential Learning Points:**

* Justifications for a single executive are set forth in Federalist No. 70 (Hamilton)
* Article II of the Constitution establishes the office of the president and outlines the powers and the duties of the office
* The presidency was a compromise creating a single executive with limited powers.
* President’s use powers and perform functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda.
* Formal and informal powers of the president include:
	+ Vetoes and pocket vetoes – formal powers that enable the president to check Congress
	+ Foreign policy – Both formal (Commander-in-Chief and treaties) and informal (agreements) powers that influence relations with foreign nations
	+ Bargaining and persuasion – informal power that enables the president to secure congressional action
	+ Executive Orders – implied from the president’s vested executive power, or from power delegated by Congress, executive orders are used by the president to manage the federal government
	+ Signing statements – informal power that informs Congress and the public of the president’s interpretation of laws passed by Congress and signed by the president
* The potential for conflict with the Senate depends upon the type of executive branch appointments, including:
	+ Cabinet members
	+ Ambassadors
	+ White House Staff
* Senate confirmation is an important check on the appointment powers, but the president’s longest lasting influence lies in life-tenured judicial appointments.
* Policy initiatives and executive orders promoted by the president often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda.
* Term-of-office and constitutional-power restrictions, including the passage of the Twenty-second Amendment, demonstrate changing presidential roles
* Different perspectives on the presidential role, ranging from a limited to a more expansive interpretation and use of power, continue to be debated in the context of contemporary events
* The communication impact of the presidency can be demonstrated through such factors as:
	+ Modern technology, social media, and rapid response to political issues
	+ Nationally broadcast State of the Union messages and the president’s bully pulpit used as tools for agenda setting.
* The Twenty-Fifth Amendment provides for the succession and disability of the president
* The House of Representatives impeaches and the Senate tries cases of impeachment of the president. Only two presidents have been impeached, and none removed from office.
* To become president one must succeed to the office or win election to the office.
* The Electoral College is an indirect method of electing the president.
* The constitutional duties of the Vice President include presiding over the Senate and determining presidential disability.
* Presidents have numerous powers: executive, legislative, diplomatic, military, judicial, and party.
* The powers of the president may be limited by congressional, judicial, and political checks.
* The bureaucracy is a systematic way of organizing government.
* The development of the current bureaucracy has undergone several changes and reforms.
* The organization of the bureaucracy may be divided into four major types: cabinet departments, independent executive agencies, independent regulatory agencies, and government corporations.
* Tasks performed by departments, agencies, commissions, and government corporations are represented by:
	+ Writing and enforcing regulations
	+ Issuing fines
	+ Testifying before Congress
	+ Issue networks and “iron triangles”
* Political patronage, civil service, and merit system reforms all impact the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by promoting professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.
* Discretionary and rule-making authority to implement policy are given to bureaucratic departments, agencies, and commissions, such as:
	+ Department of Homeland Security
	+ Department of Transportation
	+ Department of Veterans Affairs
	+ Department of Education
	+ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	+ Federal Elections Commission (FEC)
	+ Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
* Oversight and methods used by Congress to ensure legislation is implemented as intended are represented by:
	+ Committee hearings
	+ Power of the purse
* As a means to curtail the use of presidential power, congressional oversight serves as a check of executive authorization and appropriation.
* Presidential ideology, authority, and influence affect how executive branch agencies carry out the goals of the administration.
* Compliance monitoring can pose a challenge to policy implementation.
* Formal and informal powers of Congress, the president, and the courts over the bureaucracy are used to maintain its accountability

**Key Terms**

Impeachment Impoundment Cabinet

Executive Orders War Powers Act Iron triangles

Electoral College Legislative Vetoes Issue networks

Executive Agreements Bureaucracy Pardons

Hatch Act Bureaucratic Discretion Rule-Making