

## THE PRESIDENT

### DEVELOPMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

- all presidents have had similar formal grants of power and constraints via the Constitution
- the power and success of the presidency is dependent upon:
  - the personality of the president
  - the informal powers of the presidency
  - the goals of the president
  - the timing of events (events often shape the presidency -- crises often lead to an expansion of presidential powers)

### CONSTITUTIONAL POWER OF THE PRESIDENT

- Article II is short and details few powers for the president
- the president received certain enumerated powers in the Constitution, however the first line of Article II may be the most important grant of power to the president
- It states "the executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America"
- the executive power clause has been the basis for implied powers allowing the powers of the president to exceed the list of enumerated powers in Article II

#### The President...

- legislative power
- chief of state
- treaty-making power
- chief executive
- veto power
- appointment power
- commander-in-chief
- chief diplomat
- pardoning power
- legislative power

### THE MODERN PRESIDENCY

- in the 20th century, the presidency has become ever more powerful
- the modern presidency began with FDR who was elected to four terms during two national crises
  - the Great Depression
  - World War II
- FDR also personalized the presidency with "fireside chats"

#### The Modern President...

- leads a large government
- plays an active and leading role in foreign and domestic policy
- plays a strong legislative role via executive orders
- uses technology to get "close to Americans"

### MODERN PRESIDENCY: CHIEF LEGISLATOR

- FDR shifted the president's powers from that of simply executing policy to making it
- "It is the duty of the president to propose and it is the privilege of Congress to dispose" --FDR
- conflicting views of the presidency: "presidentialist" v. "congressionalist" views of the office

#### THE MODERN PRESIDENCY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- executive orders: rule or regulation issued by president and sent to an agency that has the effect of the law
- executive orders can be sweeping and powerful, e.g. Truman's integration of the armed forces

#### THE MODERN PRESIDENCY: "THE BULLY PULPIT"

- "going public"
- reaching out to the public to gain support for programs
- going over the heads of opposition leaders, Congress

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT

- as the powers of the presidency have grown, the number of presidential assistants/staff has grown:
  - the cabinet (advisory group)
  - the Executive Office of the President (EOP)
  - White House Staff (personal assistants to the president)
  - the first lady

#### THE CABINET

- the cabinet isn't mentioned in the Constitution and is formulated by each president as he seems fit
- the cabinet consists of the heads of the major bureaucratic departments (State, Defense, Treasury, etc.)
- job duties: provide advice to the president and help him/her execute laws

#### THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (EOP)

- the EOP was established by FDR and is a very important inner circle of advisors to the president
- the EOP is staffed by persons responsible to the president alone
- the EOP includes such important offices as the National Security Council, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Office of Management and Budget

#### WHITE HOUSE STAFF

- the people most directly responsible to the president are the White House staff such as personal assistants, senior aides, and administrative personnel
- there is no Senate confirmation and their power comes solely from their personal relationship with the president
- the White House staff reached a height of 583 members in 1972, but has gotten smaller since then generally running at around 400