The Presidency
The Presidents

- Great Expectations
  - Americans want a president who is powerful and who can do good: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Kennedy.
  - But at the same time, they don’t want the president to get too powerful since we are individualistic and skeptical of authority.
The Presidents

• Who They Are
  • Formal Requirements:
    • Must be 35 years old
    • Must be a natural-born citizen
    • Must have resided in U.S. for 14 years
  • Informal “Requirements”:
    • White, Male, Protestant (except one)
    • All manner of professions, but mostly political ones
      (former state governors, for example)
The Presidents

- How They Got There
  - Elections: The Normal Road to the White House; Established in Article II
    - Once elected, the president gets a term of four years.
    - In 1951, the 22\textsuperscript{nd} Amendment limited the number of terms to two.
    - 12\textsuperscript{th} Amendment allowed for separate electors to vote for the president and vp
    - Most Presidents have been elected to office.
The Presidents

• How They Got There
  • Succession and Impeachment
    • Vice-President succeeds if the president leaves office due to death, resignation, or removal.
    • Impeachment is investigated by the House, and if impeached, tried by the Senate with the Chief Justice presiding.
    • Only two presidents have been impeached: A. Johnson & Clinton - neither was convicted.
    • The 25th Amendment clarifies what happens if the president becomes disabled.
Presidential Powers

- The Expansion of Power
  - Presidents may develop new roles for the office
  - Presidents may expand the power of the office
  - Presidential Orders- direct action of the Federal Bureaucracy/ carry the power of law
  - Presidential Pardon/Commutation- can commute sentence or pardon criminals
  - Presidential Privilege- Keep issues confidential- security
  - Presidential Agreements- informal agreements with other nation(s)
Running the Government: The Chief Executive

- The Vice President
  - Basically just “waits” for things to do
  - Recent presidents have given their VPs important jobs; president of the Senate

- The Cabinet
  - Presidential advisors, not in Constitution
  - Is made up of the top executives of the Federal Departments, confirmed by the Senate
Running the Government: The Chief Executive

- The White House Staff
  - Chief aides and staff for the president - some are more for the White House than the president
  - Presidents rely on their information and effort

- The 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 his reasons for rejecting it. Can be overridden.
  - Pocket Veto: Letting a bill die by not signing it - only works when Congress is adjourned.
  - Line Item Veto: The ability to veto parts of a bill. Some state governors have it, but not the president.
  - Vetoes are most used to prevent legislation.
Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers

- **Party Leadership**
  - **The Bonds of Party**
    - The psychological bond of being in the president’s party
  - **Slippage in Party Support**
    - Presidents cannot always count on party support, especially on controversial issues
  - **Leading the Party**
    - Presidents can offer party candidates support and punishment by withholding favors.
    - Presidential coattails occur when voters cast their ballots for congressional candidates of the president’s party because they support the president.
Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers

- **Public Support**
  - **Public Approval**
    - Operates mostly in the background
    - Public approval gives the president leverage, not command
  - **Mandates**
    - Perception that the voters strongly support the president’s character and policies
    - Mandates are infrequent, but presidents may claim a mandate anyway
Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers

- Legislative Skills
  - Variety of forms: bargaining, making personal appeals, consulting with Congress, setting priorities, etc.
  - Most important is bargaining with Congress.
  - Presidents can use their “honeymoon” period to their advantage.
  - Nation’s key agenda builder
The President and National Security Policy

• Chief Diplomat
  • Negotiates treaties with other countries
  • Treaties must be approved by the Senate
  • Use executive agreements to take care of routine matters with other countries
  • May negotiate for peace between other countries
  • Lead 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; can order troops into battle
    - Vietnam, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan
  - CANNOT DECLARE WAR - CONGRESS’ POWER
  - Presidents command a standing military and nuclear arsenal - unthinkable 200 years ago
The President and National Security Policy

- **War Powers**
  - Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, but presidents can commit troops and equipment in conflicts
  - War Powers Resolution was intended to limit the president’s use of the military - but may be unconstitutional
  - Presidents continue to test the limits of using the military in foreign conflicts
The President and National Security Policy

• Crisis Manager
  • A crisis is a sudden, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous event.
  • 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.
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.
Power from the People: The Public Presidency

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

Figure 13.3
Power from the People: The Public Presidency

- Policy Support
  - Being an effective speaker is important.
  - “The bully pulpit”
  - The public may still miss the message.

- Mobilizing the Public
  - The president may need to get the public to actually act by contacting Congress.
  - Difficult to do since public opinion and political action are needed.
The President and the Press

• Presidents and media are often adversaries due to different goals
• Many people in the White House deal with the media, but the press secretary is the main contact person
• Media are often more interested in the person, not the policies
• News coverage has become more negative
Understanding the American Presidency

- The Presidency and Democracy
  - There are still concerns over the president having too much power.
  - Others argue there are too many checks and balances on the president.

- The Presidency and the Scope of Government
  - Some presidents have increased the functions of government.