
The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch

The Presidency and the Constitution

1. Strong or weak?
2. Checks on power



The Executive Branch

Roles of the President

Roles of the President

**Commander-in-
Chief**



Roles of the President

Head of State



Roles of the President

**Chief
Legislator**

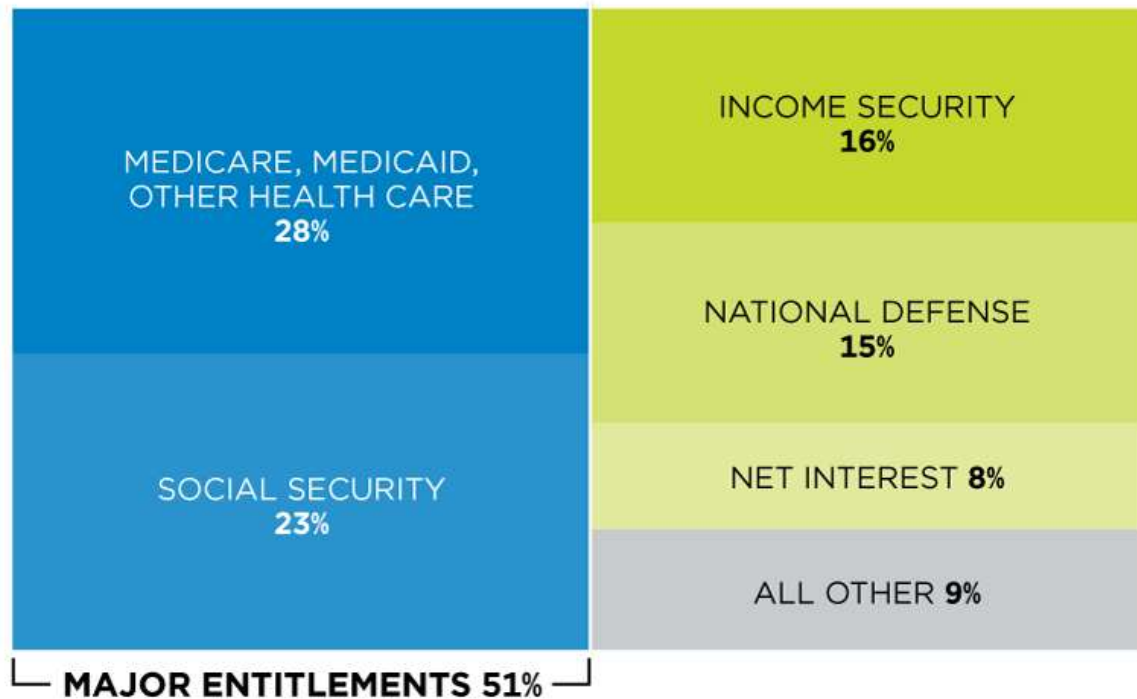


Roles of the President

**Budget
Maker**

WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 2019 BUDGET



Source: OMB.

 heritage.org

Roles of the President

Manager of the Economy

"WE HAVE THIS FANTASY THAT OUR INTERESTS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE SUPER-RICH ARE THE SAME — LIKE SOMEHOW THE RICH WILL EVENTUALLY GET SO FULL THAT THEY'LL EXPLODE, AND THE CANDY WILL RAIN DOWN ON THE REST OF US. LIKE THEY'RE SOME KIND OF PIÑATA OF BENEVOLENCE. BUT HERE'S THE THING ABOUT A PIÑATA: IT DOESN'T OPEN ON ITS OWN. YOU HAVE TO BEAT IT WITH A STICK."

ALTERNET

-BILL MAHER



The Executive Branch

Sources of Presidential Power

Sources of Presidential Power

The Electoral Mandate



Sources of Presidential Power

Access to the Mass
Media
(the
“Bully
Pulpit”)



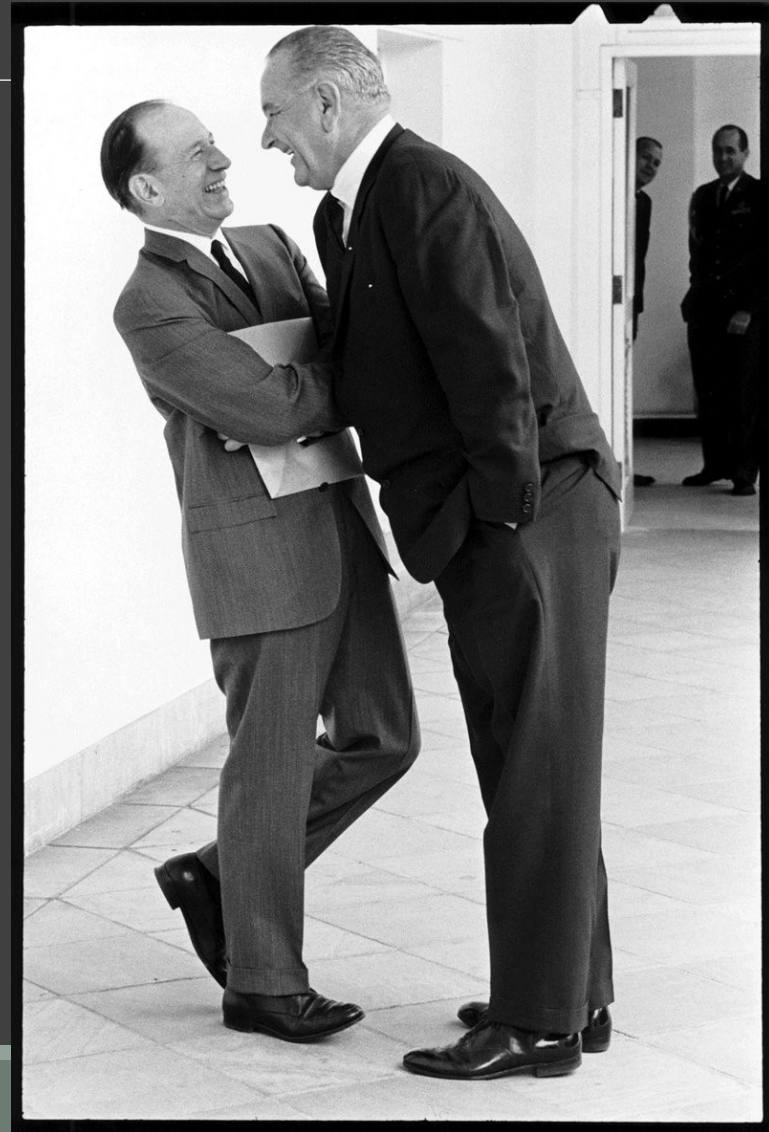
Sources of Presidential Power

**Presidential
Popularity**



Sources of Presidential Power

The
Power
to
Persuade



Sources of Presidential Power

The Ability to
Reward
and
Punish



Sources of Presidential Power

The White House Staff



The Executive Branch

Recent Abuses of Presidential Power

Recent Abuses of Presidential Power

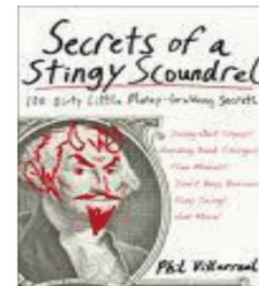
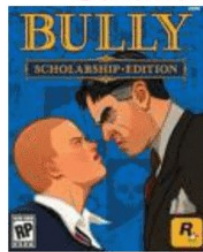
Impoundment (Nixon)

Impoundment of funds

- When the President refuses to spend money appropriated by Congress
 - ▣ Nixon was infamous for this
- Budget Reform Act of 1974
 - ▣ Congress requires President to spend all appropriated funds
- **EXECUTIVE ORDERS** – *president enforces the Constitution, treaty, law or modify rules of the*

bureaucracy; has the force of law

Ex. FDR – Japanese internment camps, Obama shut down Guantanamo Bay, Johnson enforced integration



Recent Abuses of Presidential Power

The Vietnam War (Johnson, Nixon)



Recent Abuses of Presidential Power Watergate (Nixon)

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CXXIII . No. 42,566 © 1974 The New York Times Company NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1974 LATE CITY EDITION 15 CENTS

Weather: Partly cloudy today; cool tonight. Fair, pleasant tomorrow. Temp. range: today 65-78; Thursday 64-85. Highest Temp.-Hum. Index yesterday: 75. Details on Page 56.

NIXON RESIGNS

HE URGES A TIME OF 'HEALING'; FORD WILL TAKE OFFICE TODAY

'Sacrifice' Is Praised; Kissinger to Remain

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—I will pledge to you tomorrow Vice President Ford praised and in the future, my best of President Nixon tonight for his cooperation, leadership and in the future, my best of President Nixon tonight for his cooperation, leadership "one of the greatest personal sacrifices for the country and for America and good for the one of the finest personal decisions on behalf of all of us as Americans."

Mr. Ford, who will take office as the 38th President at noon tomorrow, vowed to continue Mr. Nixon's foreign policy and announced that Secretary of State Kissinger had agreed to stay on in the new Administration.

"I pledge to you tonight, as



The New York Times/William G. Searns United Press International

Vice President Ford meeting with newsmen last night President Nixon on TV as he announced his resignation

The 37th President Is First to Quit Post

By JOHN HERBERS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, announced tonight that he had given up his long and arduous fight to remain in office and would resign, effective at noon tomorrow.

At that hour, Gerald Rudolph Ford, whom Mr. Nixon nominated for Vice President last Oct. 12, will be sworn in as the 38th President, to serve out the 895 days remaining in Mr. Nixon's second term.

Less than two years after his landslide re-election victory, Mr. Nixon, in a conciliatory address on national television, said that he was leaving not with a sense of bitterness but with a hope that his departure would start a "process of healing that is so desperately needed in America."

He spoke of regret for any "injuries" done "in the course of the events that led to this decision." He acknowledged that some of his judgments had been wrong.

The 61-year-old Mr. Nixon, appearing calm and resigned to his fate as a victim of the Watergate scandal, became the first President in the history of the Republic to resign from office. Only 10 months earlier Spiro Agnew resigned the Vice Presidency.

Text of the address will be found on Page 2.

SPECULATION RIFE ON VICE PRESIDENT

Some Ford Associates Say
Selecting a Successor
Could Take Weeks

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Probably the most revealing and most important decision of Gerald R. Ford's Presidential debut — his choice of a successor in the Vice Presidency—

POLITICAL SCENE SHARPLY ALTERED

G.O.P. Prospects Improved,
Ford in Good Spot for '76
and Watergate Fades

By R. W. APPLE JR.
Special to The New York Times

After watching Mr. Nixon on television tonight with his family, the Vice President stepped outside into a slight drizzle at his suburban split-level home in nearby Alexandria, Va., to face television cameras and

Rise and Fall Appraisal of Nixon Career

JAWORSKI ASSERTS
NO DEAL WAS MADE

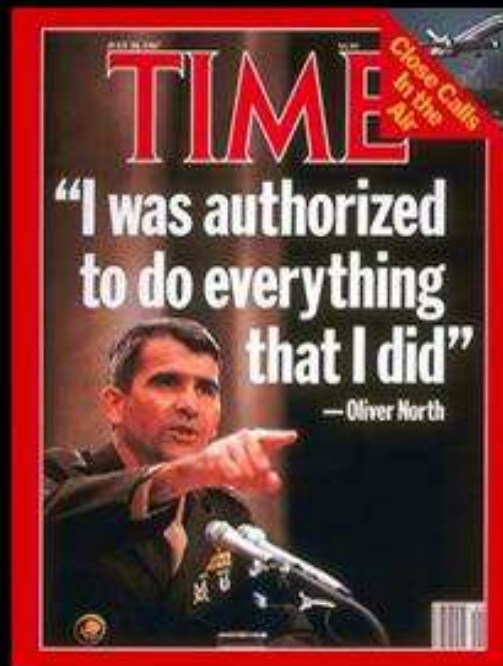
By ROBERT B. SEMPLE JR.
Special to The New York Times

The central question is how long who, on reaching his death a man who won so much coordination, was not always clear have lost so much. How could it be plain what to do when he got public figure who so well per-ther—except, perhaps, to keep covered the bastards of the man-aging [arity of his countrymen here] That image has only been re-instituted the powers and dutel-informed had approved by the

Recent Abuses of Presidential Power

The Iran-Contra Affair (Reagan, Bush I)

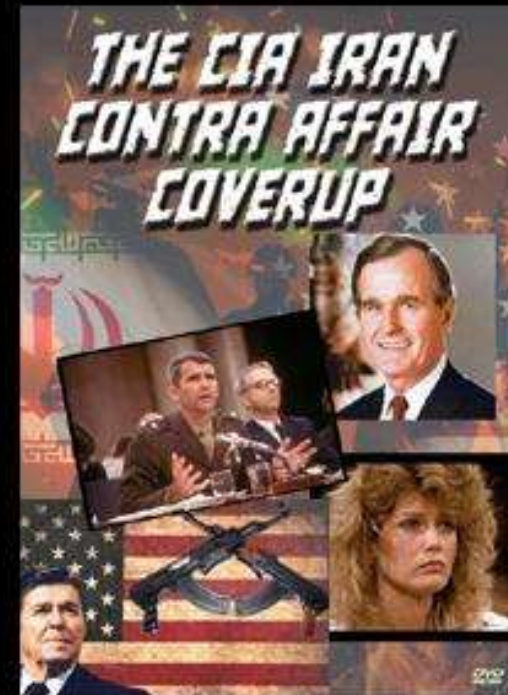
Coverup Behind the Iran Contra Affair



COVERUP Behind The Iran Contra Affair



NARRATED BY
ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY
MUSIC BY
Richard Elliot, Pink Floyd



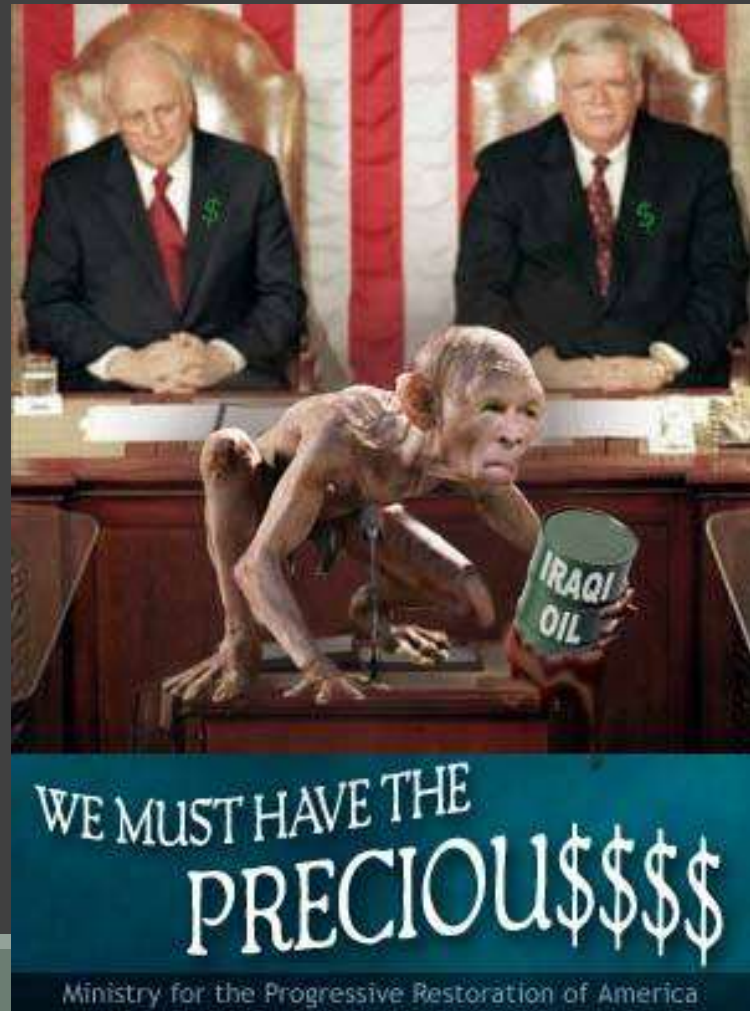
Recent Abuses of Presidential Power

The Lewinsky Scandal (Clinton)

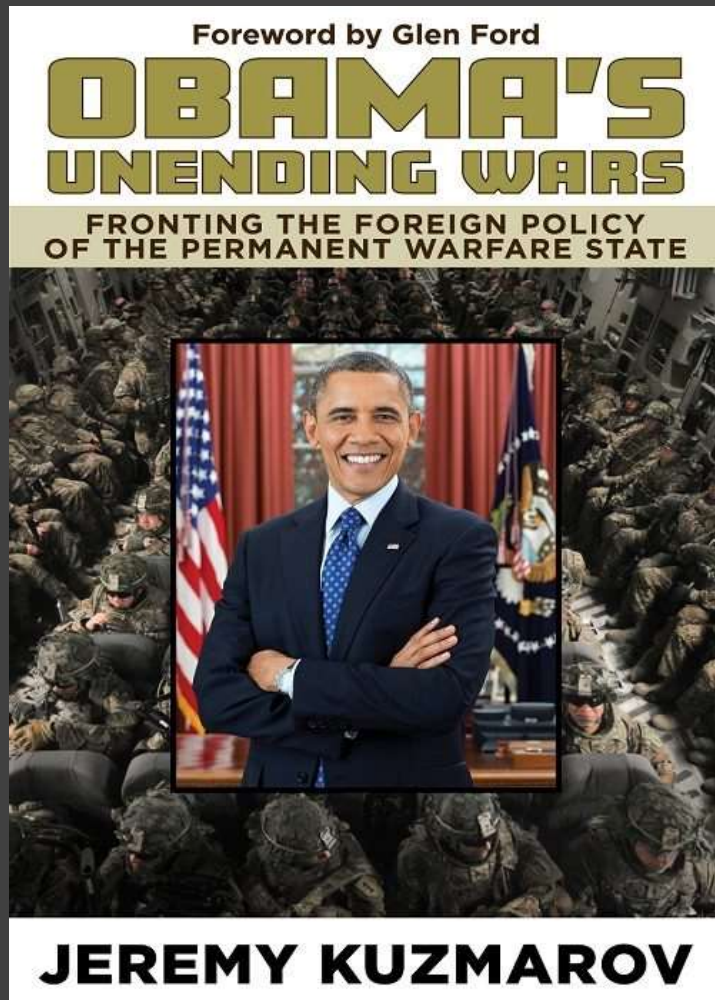


Recent Abuses of Presidential Power

Operation Iraqi Freedom (?) (Bush II)



Recent Abuses of Presidential Power



Drone strikes in the Middle East and the killing of American citizens(?)
(Obama)



The Executive Branch

**Curbing the
Imperial
Presidency**

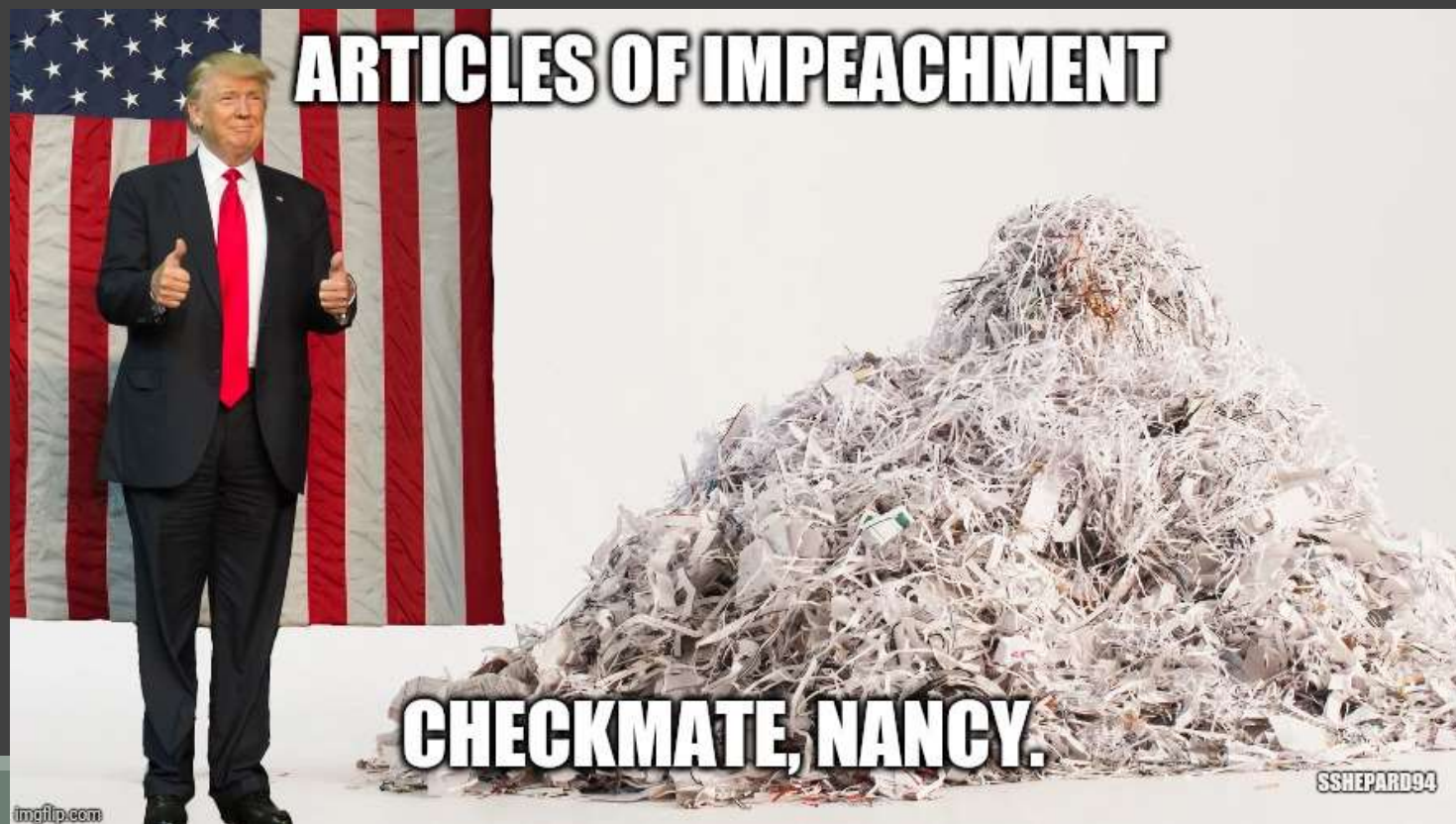
Curbing the Imperial Presidency

1. Impeachment



Curbing the Imperial Presidency

2. Congressional Action



The Executive Branch

**Limits on
Presidential
Power**

Limits on Presidential Power

1. Other Political Actors

a. Congress

b. Our federal system

c. The White House staff

2. Size / Complexity of federal government

3. Presidential inexperience

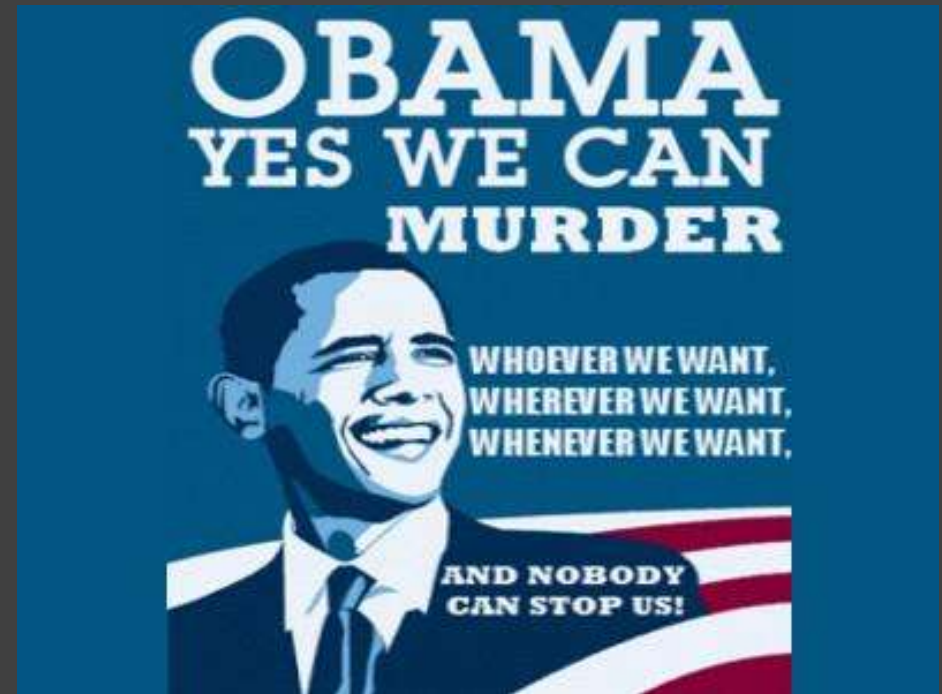
4. Length of term in office

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch and the “Four Theories”

Democracy Theory Perspective

The enduring question: can an executive that is strong enough to provide leadership, also be responsible to the people and not abuse power?



Pluralist Perspective

Presidents are weakened because they must share power with two other branches. Policies which help the nation as a whole may intrude upon the desires of special interests.



Elite-Class Perspective

The president is a powerful part of a small economic, political, and social elite that works for itself. The president is really a cheerleader or salesman for capitalist interests.

Elections and the power of “the people” are largely overstated.

DEMOCRATS SAY “WE HATE TRUMP BECAUSE HE’S A STUPID, OLD, RICH, WHITE, CHRISTIAN, STRAIGHT MAN WHO TOUCHES WOMEN INAPPROPRIATELY!”



SO VOTE FOR JOE BIDEN!