

# Chapter 12: The Presidency



# Heads of State and Government

---

- ❑ Head of State:  
Ceremonial  
Duties
- ❑ Head of  
Government:  
Policy Making  
Authority



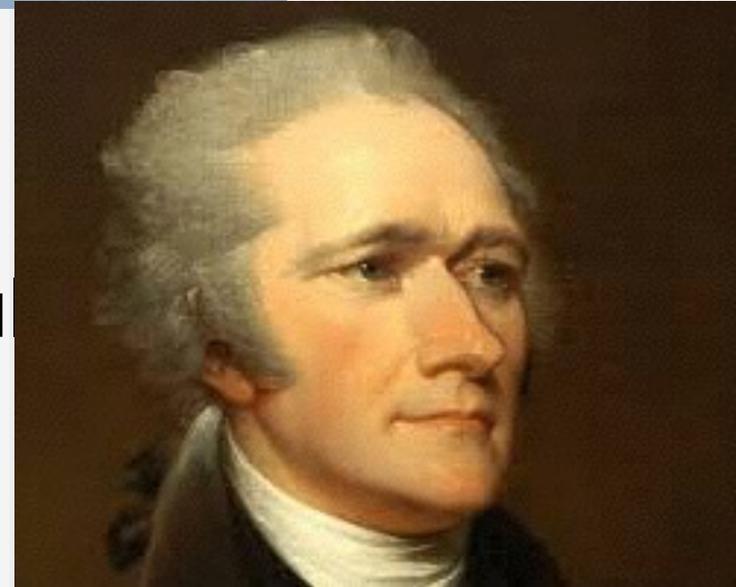
Theresa May



Queen Elizabeth

# Federalist Paper #70

- Rationale for a single executive
- An energetic and forceful president is essential to good government.
- The president is accountable to the people.



# Constitutional Requirements



- Must be 35 years old
- Must have resided in U.S. for 14 years
- Natural born citizen

# Elections



- Presidents serve 4 year terms.
- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment limits presidents to 2 terms.

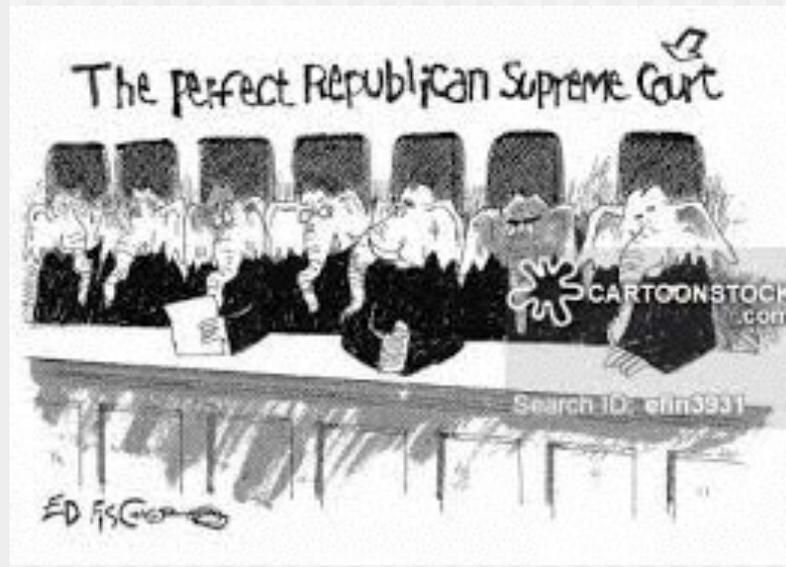
# Constitutional Powers

- ◆ National Security-
  - ◆ Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces
  - ◆ Negotiates treaties with other nations
  - ◆ Appoints ambassadors, subject to Senate confirmation
- ◆ Legislative-
  - ◆ Veto bills
  - ◆ Pocket Veto
  - ◆ State of the Union Address



# Constitutional Powers

- ◆ Administrative Nominations
  - ◆ Cabinet secretaries are nominated by the president
  - ◆ The Senate must confirm all cabinet head appointments
- ◆ Judicial Nominations
  - ◆ All federal judges are nominated by the president
  - ◆ The Senate must confirm all judicial appointments.

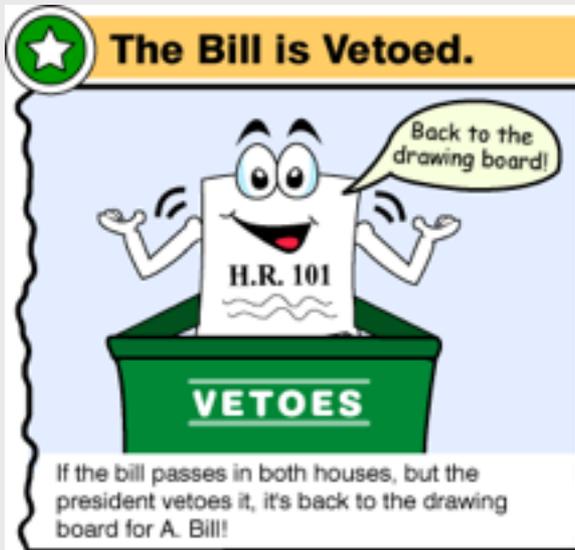


# Informal Powers

---

- Executive order: a presidential order that has the force of law and does not require congressional approval
- Executive agreement: a presidential agreement with another country that does not require Senate approval
- Signing statement: issuing a statement that part of a law will not be enforced.

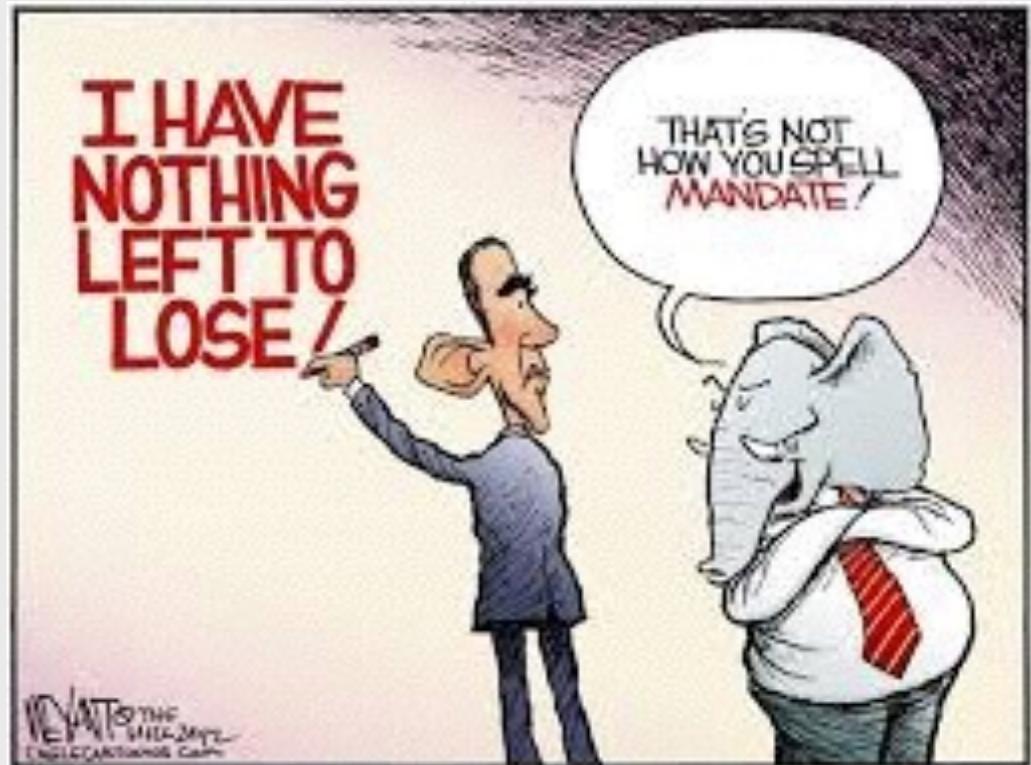
# Presidential Leadership of Congress: The Politics of Shared Powers



- Chief Legislator
  - Veto: Sending a bill back to Congress with the reasons for rejecting it. Can be overridden.
  - Pocket Veto: Letting a bill die by not signing it in 10 days when Congress is adjourned.
  - Line Item Veto: The ability to veto parts of a bill. Some state governors have it, but not the president. The president must sign or veto all of a bill.

# Presidential Mandates

- Perception that the voters strongly support the president's leadership and policies.
- Makes it easier presidents to get their policies passed.



# Public Support

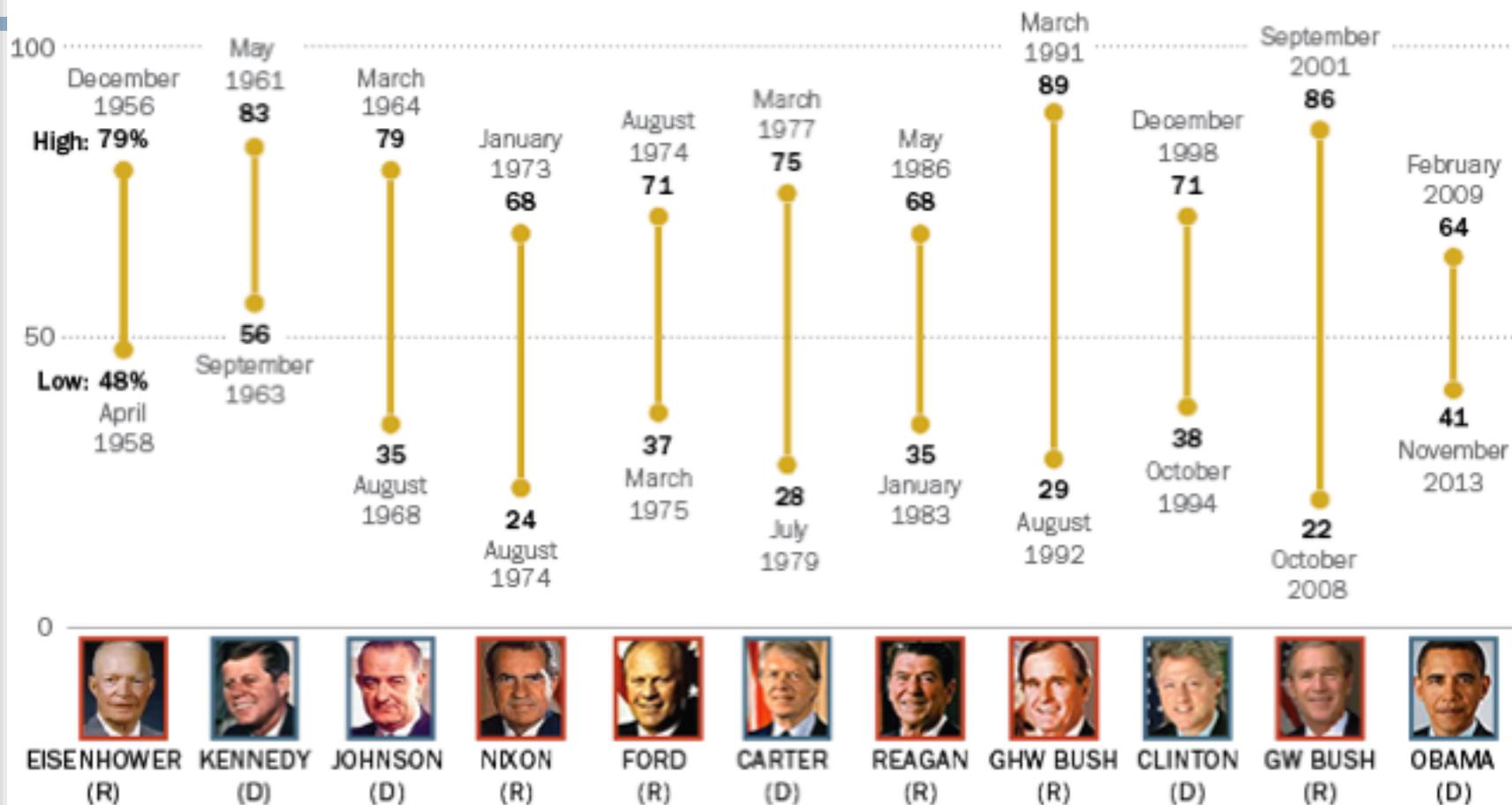


- *Public support is perhaps the greatest source of influence a president has.*
- Presidential appearances are staged to get the public's attention.
- As head of state, presidents often perform many ceremonial functions- which usually result in favorable press coverage.

# Approval Ratings

## The Highs and Lows of Presidential Approval

*% of public approving of president's job performance*



Note: Obama's rating is as of Jan. 11, 2015. Numbers for George H.W. Bush and earlier are from Gallup.

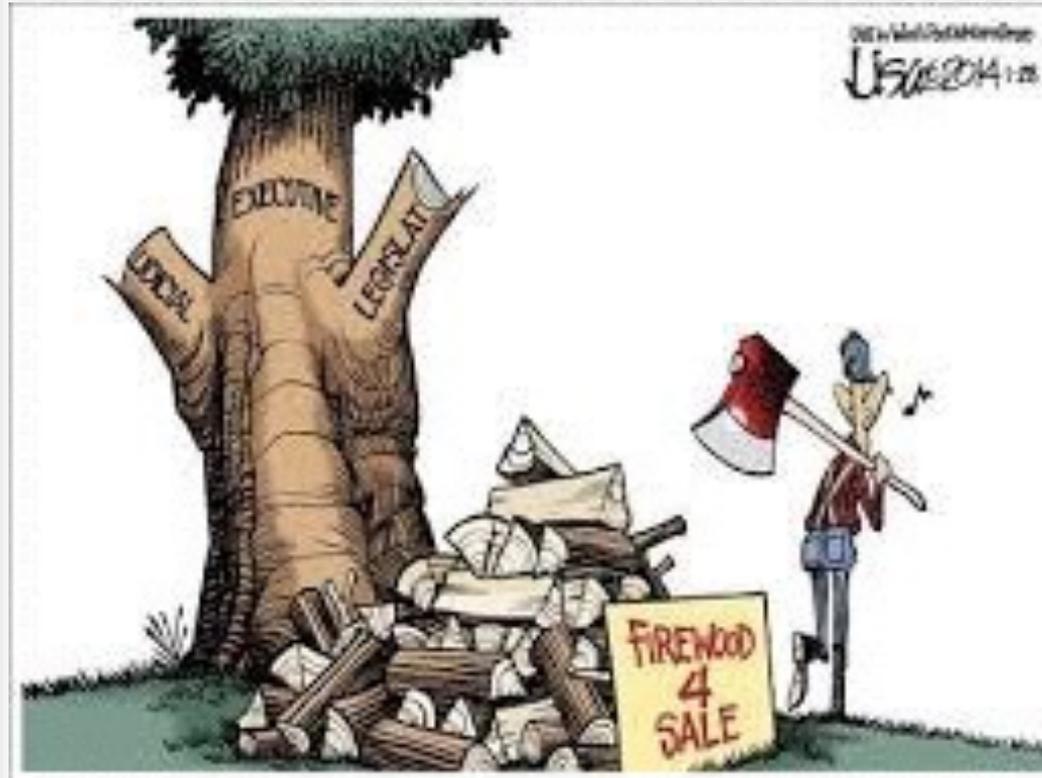
# Signing Statements

---

- A signing statement is a written message issued by the president upon signing a bill into law that states objectives to some of the provisions in the bill.
- They are not provided for in the Constitution.
- George W. Bush increased their use, and Obama has continued this trend.

# The Expansion of Presidential Power

- Great Depression
- World Wars
- Growing global influence



# The President and Congress



- Bargaining, making personal appeals, consulting with Congress
- Setting priorities in the State of the Union address
- Rallying public support using the “bully pulpit”

# Chief Diplomat

- Negotiates treaties with other countries
- Treaties must be ratified by the Senate
- Signs executive agreements to take care of routine matters with other countries
- May negotiate for peace between other countries

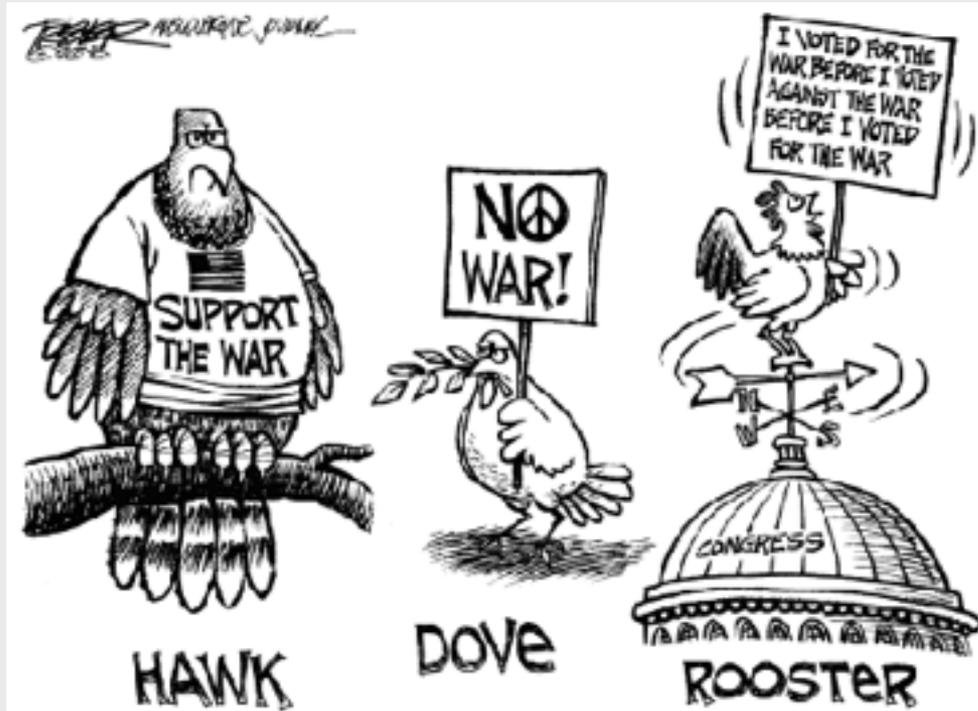


# Commander-in-Chief



- Presidents often make important military decisions
- Presidents command a standing military and nuclear arsenal
- Presidents can deploy troops without congressional consent.

# War Powers Resolution



- Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, but presidents can commit troops and equipment in conflicts
- War Powers Resolution requires the president to consult with Congress before sending troops, when possible
- It requires that Congress approve of any troop commitment beyond 30 days.
- Most presidents have ignored it.
- Supreme Court avoided it using the political questions doctrine.

# The President and National Security Policy



- **Crisis Manager**
  - 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.

# The President and the Press

- Presidents and media are often adversaries.
- Many people in the White House deal with the media, but the press secretary is the main contact person
- Media is often more interested in the person, not the policies
- News coverage has become more negative

