

9.2a The Roles of the President

The President: Some Facts

- Elected to a four-year term by the people who elect electors
- The Slate of Electors make up the Electoral College
- 22nd Amendment places a two-term limit on the Presidency
- Must be 35 years old, 14-year resident and natural-born citizen

The Two-Term Precedent



- FDR was the only President to win more than two terms.
- He led the United States through the Depression and World War II.
- George Washington set the precedent for the limit of two terms until the 22nd Amendment made law in 1951.

Role: Chief Executive

- Acts as boss of federal government workers in fourteen executive departments.
- These departments help the President carry out, enforce, or execute the law.
- President chooses cabinet members to advise and assist him.
- Example: Holding cabinet meetings and appointing federal officials.

The Chief Executive

- Offices of the Executive Branch are found in the White House and other federal buildings in Washington, D.C.



9.2b The Roles of the President

Role: Chief of State

- Acts as example for and symbol of the United States.
- Represents America at special occasions and ceremonies.
- Role includes awarding medals and speechmaking



Role: Chief Diplomat

- Conducts foreign policy by directing the actions of American ambassadors.
- Signs treaties and trade agreements with leaders of other nations.



Role: Commander-In-Chief

- In charge of US Armed Forces.
- President decides where armed forces are stationed, weapons to be used.
- Secretary of Defense under President.
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is the top military commander under President.

Role: Chief Legislator

- Congress has the power to make laws.
- President can propose bills and must sign bills into law.
- He often calls members of Congress to lobby for his agenda.
- Presents his agenda to Congress in the annual State of the Union address (Above: President Reagan before a joint-session of Congress)



9.2c The Roles of the President

Role: Chief of the Party

- Presidents help members of their party get elected or appointed to office.
- They make campaign speeches needed for re-election.
- Head of fundraising for the party.

Chief Guardian of the Economy



- Monitors
 - › unemployment
 - › inflation, taxation
 - › business
 - › general welfare of the nation
- Does not control the economy, but gets credit if it goes well.

The Presidency

- Why do you think it is the most visible part of the American political system?
- Does the President really serve the needs of the American people?
- How does the office of the Presidency actually help the American people?