

President George W. Bush (2001)

- Sets out executive branch responsibilities related to faith-based initiatives
- Establishes White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- Extends the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee
- Makes changes to federal contracting rules providing that employees of federal contractors must be informed that they cannot be forced to join a union or pay union dues (four separate executive orders on this topic)

President Barack H. Obama (2009)

- Revokes 2001 executive order about executive privilege
- Establishes ethical guidelines and requires ethics pledge for executive branch appointees
- Requires interrogations to comply with U.S. and international law
- Calls for review of detention practices for people held in war on terror
- Calls for closing of Guantanamo Bay detention facility
- Makes changes to federal contracting rules providing that employees of federal contractors must be informed of their right to collective bargaining

FIRST-YEAR EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Presidents often issue executive orders that implement their campaign promises and repeat their priorities.

◀ CRITICAL THINKING

1. Making Inferences What does the information in the chart suggest about the campaign promises or priorities of these two presidents?

2. Considering Advantages and Disadvantages What does this information suggest about the advantages and disadvantages of executive orders?

1948 to racially integrate the armed forces; and President Franklin D. Roosevelt used one to place Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II. Some recent presidents have used executive orders to bypass the U.S. Congress and legislate in areas such as environmental protection where the Congress has been unable or unwilling to pass a law.

At the same time, presidents cannot issue all executive orders they would like. Such orders must be related in some way to either powers given to the president in the Constitution or delegated to him or her by Congress. Presidents usually spell out the constitutional or statutory basis for their executive orders. Given the president's constitutional role as a commander in chief, the courts usually give presidents especially broad limits when it comes to orders relating to foreign policy and the military.

Presidents can readily issue executive orders, but their successors may just as easily reverse them. In 1984 President Ronald Reagan issued an executive order restricting federal funding for family-planning groups who performed or actively promoted abortions in other countries. President Bill Clinton reversed this order when he took office. President George W. Bush then reinstated the limits on funding first ordered by President Reagan. With the stroke of a pen, President Barack Obama again renewed funding.

Impoundment of Funds When the president has deep disagreements with Congress about what programs should exist or how they should be run, he or she may **impound** the funds Congress had approved to carry out those programs. For example, in 1803 President Thomas Jefferson did not spend money Congress set aside for new gunboats because he believed they were no longer needed.

Supporters of impoundment argue that it is an inherent power of the executive branch. Opponents may argue that impoundments undermine the will of the people who have chosen the legislators who created and funded the programs.

impound to refuse to spend

This word cloud displays the words occurring most frequently in President George W. Bush's 2005 inaugural address.



SKILLS PRACTICE

Make a list of academic vocabulary words in this lesson that sound similar and mean the same thing in another language you know. Use the list to help other students learn academic vocabulary words.

reprieve a presidential order that postpones legal punishment

pardon a presidential order that releases a person from legal punishment

amnesty a presidential order that pardons a group of people who have committed an offense against the government

A president's power to impound funds is limited, though. After President Richard Nixon impounded huge sums—billions in a single year—for programs he opposed, groups that would have benefited from the programs took Nixon to court. The court then ordered the president to spend the appropriated money. Congress later passed legislation to prevent such large-scale impounding without congressional approval and strengthen the budget authority of Congress.

Reprieves, Pardons, and Amnesty As chief executive, the president also can grant reprieves and pardons for federal crimes. A **reprieve** postpones legal punishment. A **pardon** releases a person from legal punishment. People who receive them have usually been convicted of a federal crime. An exception was in 1974 when President Gerald Ford granted Richard Nixon a full pardon before he could be indicted for any crimes he might have committed during the Watergate scandal. The pardon was very controversial, but it was fully within President Ford's power to grant it.

The president may also grant **amnesty**. Amnesty is a pardon for a group of people who have committed an offense against the government. President Jimmy Carter granted amnesty to young men who evaded the draft during the Vietnam War.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Explaining What are the different ways that executive orders are used by presidents?

LESSON 2 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Defining** What are the similarities and differences between reprieves and pardons? 21A

Using Your Graphic Organizer

2. **Contrasting** Use your completed graphic organizer to contrast the president's roles as head of state and chief executive. 8B, 20A

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. **Explaining** How does the president fulfill the role of head of state? 8B

4. **Explaining** How does the president fulfill the role of chief executive? 8B

Writing About Government

5. **Informative/Explanatory** Explain how the president's role as chief executive is limited by the legislative and judicial branches. 7D, 8B, 21D