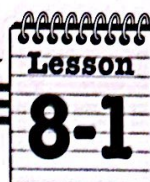


Daily Lecture Notes



Did you know?

Getting elected is expensive. For example, after the presidential election of 1996, it was revealed that both parties had raised many millions of dollars in campaign funds from sources in other countries. Many members of Congress argued that the laws governing campaign financing needed to be reformed. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2000 was an effort to reform campaign fundraising.

Outline

I. Duties of the President (pages 213–214)

- A. Presidents have enormous power and responsibility in government.
- B. Presidents make sure the national laws are fully executed; serve as commander in chief of the armed forces; appoint top officials, federal judges, and ambassadors; and meet with heads of foreign governments.

Discussion Question

Compare the president's duties in foreign policy with his duties in domestic policy.
(For a list of foreign and domestic policy responsibilities, see text pages 213–214.)

II. President's Term and Salary (pages 214–215)

- A. The Twenty-second Amendment limited presidents to two terms.
- B. Congress determines the president's salary (\$400,000 beginning in 2001); in addition, many benefits are provided for presidents while in office and in retirement.

Discussion Question

Why are so many benefits available to presidents while they are in office? (Because of a president's travel and security costs plus many other official expenses.)

III. Presidential Qualifications (pages 215–217)

- A. The Constitution sets several requirements for the president:



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III. Presidential Qualifications (pages 215–217, continued)

1. a candidate must be a natural-born citizen;
 2. at least 35 years old;
 3. a resident of the United States for 14 years.
- B.** Experience in government is an unwritten but important qualification.
- C.** Candidates for office must have access to sources for raising large amounts of money in the presidential election campaign.
- D.** Successful presidential candidates usually hold moderate political beliefs.
- E.** Most presidents have shared similar backgrounds—ethnic, economic, racial, and gender.
- F.** Being president underscores personal strengths and weaknesses.

Discussion Question

What do you consider the most important qualification for the office of president?

Explain. (Answers will vary. Students should be aware of the responsibilities of the office.)

IV. Presidential Succession (pages 217–218)

- A.** The Twenty-fifth Amendment established the order of succession to the presidency (vice president, Speaker of the House, president *pro tempore* of the Senate, secretary of state, other cabinet members) and spelled out what happens when the vice presidency is vacant.
- B.** The Twenty-fifth Amendment also set forth rules to be followed if a president becomes disabled.

Discussion Question

In 1967 why was the Twenty-fifth Amendment added to the Constitution? (President Kennedy's assassination helped show that the rules for succession were inadequate.)

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V. The Vice President's Role (pages 218–219)

- A. The vice president's work depends on what jobs, if any, the president assigns.
- B. Although presidents before Eisenhower generally ignored their vice presidents, presidents since then have tried to give their vice presidents more responsibility.

Discussion Question

Why have recent presidents tried to give their vice presidents more responsibility?
(Answers may include: to promote them as future presidential candidates, to use their expertise, to prepare them for the highest office.)

end

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Did you know?

In the presidential election of 1992, third-party candidate Ross Perot received 19.7 million popular votes. President George Bush received 39.1 million popular votes, and the winning candidate, Democrat Bill Clinton, received 44.9 million popular votes. The results in the electoral college vote, however, were very different. Ross Perot did not win a single electoral vote, while Clinton received 370 electoral votes and Bush, 168 electoral votes.

Outline

I. The Original System (pages 220–221)

- A. Article II, Section 1, of the Constitution provided that the candidate receiving the majority of the electoral votes became the president.
- B. The candidate with the second-highest number of votes became vice president.

Discussion Question

What political problem could result from the vice president being the person with the second-highest electoral vote? (The vice president may be a political foe of the president.)

II. The Impact of Political Parties (page 221)

- A. The election of 1800 was decided by the House of Representatives.
- B. To prevent a tie vote for president in the Electoral College, the Twelfth Amendment, added to the Constitution in 1804, provided that electors must cast separate ballots for president and vice president.

Discussion Question

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention did not anticipate political parties. Should they have? (Answers will vary. Division of opinion was apparent during the struggle for ratification.)

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III. The Electoral College System Today (pages 221–223)

- A. The Electoral College is still used to choose the president and vice president.
- B. The College uses a winner-take-all system; all of a state's (except Maine and Nebraska) electoral votes go to the candidate receiving the largest popular vote.
- C. The Electoral College vote is cast in December.

Discussion Question

Should an elector be required to vote for the candidate who won that state's popular vote? Explain. (Answers will vary. "Faithless electors" have never changed election results.)

IV. Electoral College Issues (pages 223–226)

- A. Critics say that the Electoral College's winner-take-all system is unfair.
- B. The Electoral College system also makes it possible for a candidate who loses the total popular vote to win the electoral vote.
- C. A third-party candidate could win enough electoral votes to prevent either major party candidate from receiving a majority in the Electoral College.
- D. When the House of Representatives must decide a presidential election, it may face several serious problems.
- E. Critics of the electoral system have offered suggestions to improve it.
- F. Other critics believe the Electoral College should be replaced with direct election of the president and vice president.

Discussion Question

Do you agree or disagree with critics who argue that the Electoral College system should be abolished? Explain. (Answers will vary. See discussion of this issue on text pages 223–225.)

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V. The Inauguration (page 226)

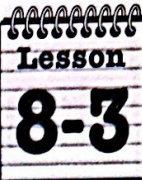
- A. The new president is sworn into office in an inauguration ceremony.
- B. All leading officials from the three branches of government attend the January ceremony.

Discussion Question

Are elaborate inauguration ceremonies desirable? Explain. (They are a celebration of democracy and the achievements of a political party and its candidates.)

end

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Did you know?

A liberal magazine opposed to President Eisenhower's conservative policies also criticized his cabinet. It said the cabinet was made up of "eight millionaires and a plumber." In fact, the "plumber" was president of the plumbers union, and the "millionaires" were successful executives from well-known businesses and major corporations. Since then, of course, presidents have picked many other wealthy cabinet members with business backgrounds.

Outline

I. The Selection of the Cabinet (pages 228–230)

- A. The president must consider many factors in selecting the members of the cabinet.
- B. The president must consider whether potential cabinet members' backgrounds suit their cabinet posts, whether they bring geographical balance to the cabinet, whether they satisfy interest groups, whether they have high-level administrative skills, and whether they include ethnic and racial minorities and women.
- C. Cabinet members today usually are college graduates and leaders in various professional fields.
- D. The Senate must approve cabinet appointees, and it usually does so out of courtesy to the president.

Discussion Question

What are some advantages and disadvantages in selecting cabinet members who provide geographical, racial, and gender balance? (Advantages: serving political and fairness issues. Disadvantages: qualifications for the position and personal preferences of presidents.)

II. The Role of the Cabinet (pages 230–232)

- A. Cabinet members are heads of the executive departments.
- B. The cabinet's role has always been determined by the president.

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II. The Role of the Cabinet (pages 230–232, continued)

- C. Modern presidents usually have not depended on the cabinet for advice in decision making but have turned to White House staff and close friends as their advisors.
- D. Certain cabinet members—the secretaries of state, defense, and treasury, plus the attorney general—form the “inner cabinet” and influence the president’s decisions on matters related to their departments’ areas of interest.

Discussion Question

Do you think the president might benefit from having a smaller cabinet? A larger cabinet? Explain. (Answers will vary. Students should balance need for expertise and manageability.)

III. Factors Limiting the Cabinet’s Role (page 232)

- A. The president does not command the full loyalty of cabinet members, even though he appoints them.
- B. Cabinet members are pressured by career officials in their departments, interest groups, and members of Congress. This pressure may result in disagreements within the cabinet over the president’s policies and plans.
- C. With 14 cabinet members, it is difficult to maintain secrecy in matters the president considers sensitive.
- D. The president may not know and trust all the members of the cabinet because the president must weigh so many factors in appointing them.

Discussion Question

Do you think the president should appoint to cabinet positions people he knows and trusts or relative strangers who have specialized expertise? Explain. (Answers will vary, depending on how the students perceive the president’s use of the cabinet.)

end

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Did you know?

President Clinton's press secretary appeared before reporters with a paper bag over his head in the fall of 1997. Mike McCurry, Clinton's press secretary and a key member of the White House staff, did this as a joke to get reporters in a good mood. Why? The president's press secretary works hard to present the president's views, and he wants representatives from the media to report them as favorably as possible. Establishing a rapport with reporters is part of the press secretary's job.

Outline

- I. Executive Office Agencies (pages 234–238)
 - A. The Executive Office of the President (EOP) was created in 1939 by Congress.
 - B. The EOP has grown rapidly for three reasons:
 1. presidents keep adding new agencies to it as problems arise;
 2. presidents want experts nearby to advise them about complex issues;
 3. federal programs sometimes require special staff to coordinate the efforts of several executive departments and other agencies working together.
 - C. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is the largest agency in the EOP; it prepares the national budget that the president submits to Congress each year.
 - D. The National Security Council advises the president and helps coordinate the nation's military and foreign policy.
 - E. The Council of Economic Advisers helps the president formulate the nation's economic policy.
 - F. Presidents add and sometimes eliminate agencies to the EOP to help carry out policy.

Discussion Question

Compare the duties of the Office of Management and Budget with those of the Council of Economic Advisers. (See text pages 236–237.)

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II. The White House Office (pages 238–239)

- A. The president appoints White House staff without Senate confirmation.
- B. The White House Office has become the most important part of the Executive Office of the President.
- C. The White House staff perform whatever duties the president assigns them:
 - 1. gathering information and providing advice on key issues;
 - 2. ensuring that executive departments and agencies carry out key directives from the president;
 - 3. presenting the president's views to the outside world;
 - 4. deciding who and what information gets through to the president.

Discussion Question

How does the increased size of the White House staff reflect the growing responsibilities of the presidency? (Staffers handle many responsibilities such as overseeing agencies, addressing political issues, etc.)

end