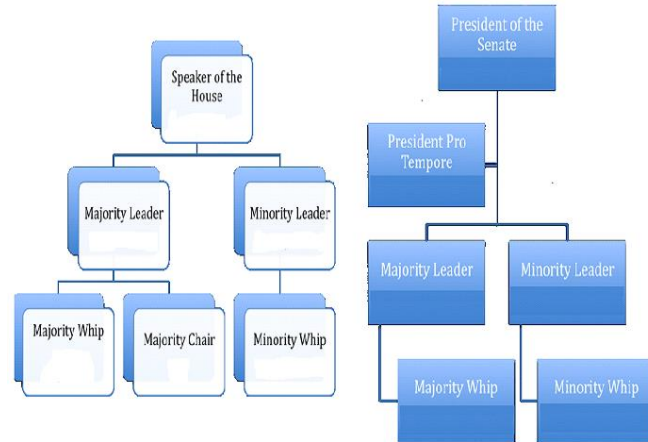


- Congressional Leadership
 - Speaker of the House – Most powerful in the House and in Congress.
 - Senate Majority Leader – Most powerful in the Senate.
 - Whips – Makes sure members of the party vote with the party.



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- Congressional Committees
 - Standing Committees – Permanent, bills sent here first, markups, hearings, and oversight.
 - Conference Committees – Compromise version of House & Senate bills.
 - Committee Chairs – Always member of the majority party.
- House and Senate Differences
 - House
 - House Rules Committee – Rule decided.
 - Formal, rules, on topic, and time limit.
 - House Ways and Means Committee
 - Committee of the Whole.
 - Tax and revenue bills start in the House.
 - Senate
 - Riders – Non germane amendments to a bill (unrelated)
 - Holds – Prevent a bill from being brought to the floor.
 - Filibusters – Long speech to delay action and prevent a vote.
 - Cloture – 3/5ths vote (supermajority) to suspend Filibuster.
- Power of the Purse (Congress)
 - Federal Budget
 - Fiscal Policy – Tax and spending.
 - Mandatory Spending – Required by law: entitlements and interests on the debt.
 - Ex. Social Security Medicare, Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP.
 - Growth of entitlements reduce ability to engage in discretionary spending.

- Discretionary Spending – Can be changed annually as part of budget bills.
 - Ex. Defense, Education
- Pork Barrel Legislation – Provide tangible benefits to a district.

- Congressional Oversight
 - Hearings, investigations to ensure the executive branch is enforcing laws as Congress intended.
 - Senate Confirmation
 - Impeachment – Removal of a government official.
 - House starts impeachment, Senate decides removal.

- Congressional Representation
 - Trustee – Vote how he/she feels is best.
 - Delegate – Vote how his/her constituents want.
 - Politico – Mix between trustee and delegate.

- Congressional Apportionment
 - Reapportionment – Altering the number of seats each state has in the House.
 - Every 10 years, Census.
 - Redistricting – Redrawing congressional districts following reapportionment.
 - Done by State Legislatures
 - Gerrymandering – Drawing districts in bizarre shapes to benefit a party, protect incumbents.
 - Malapportionment – Districts of very unequal size, not allowed.

- Presidential Powers
 - Formal/Expressed Powers of the President

Executive	Take care that the laws be faithfully executed Nominate officials (with Senate confirmation) Request written opinions from administrative officials Fill administrative vacancies during congressional recesses
Foreign policy	Act as Commander in Chief of the armed forces Make treaties (with Senate ratification) Nominate ambassadors (with Senate confirmation) Receive ambassadors Confer diplomatic recognition on other governments
Judicial	Grant reprieves and pardons for federal offenses (except impeachment) Nominate federal judges (with Senate confirmation)
Legislative	Recommend legislation to Congress Present information on the State of the Union to Congress Convene Congress on extraordinary occasions Adjourn Congress if House and Senate cannot agree Veto legislation (Congress may overrule with supermajority)

○ Informal/Implied Powers of the President

Power	Definition
Bargaining and persuasion	Setting priorities for Congress and attempting to get majorities to put through the president's legislative agenda
Issuing executive orders	Regulations to run the government and direct the bureaucracy
Issuing signing statements	Giving the president's intended interpretation of bills passed by Congress
Negotiating executive agreements	Agreements with heads of foreign governments that are not ratified by the Senate

● Conflict with Congress

- Nomination/Senate confirmation.
- President proposes a budget, Congress makes the budget.
- Policy initiatives and executive orders.
- Congressional Oversight.

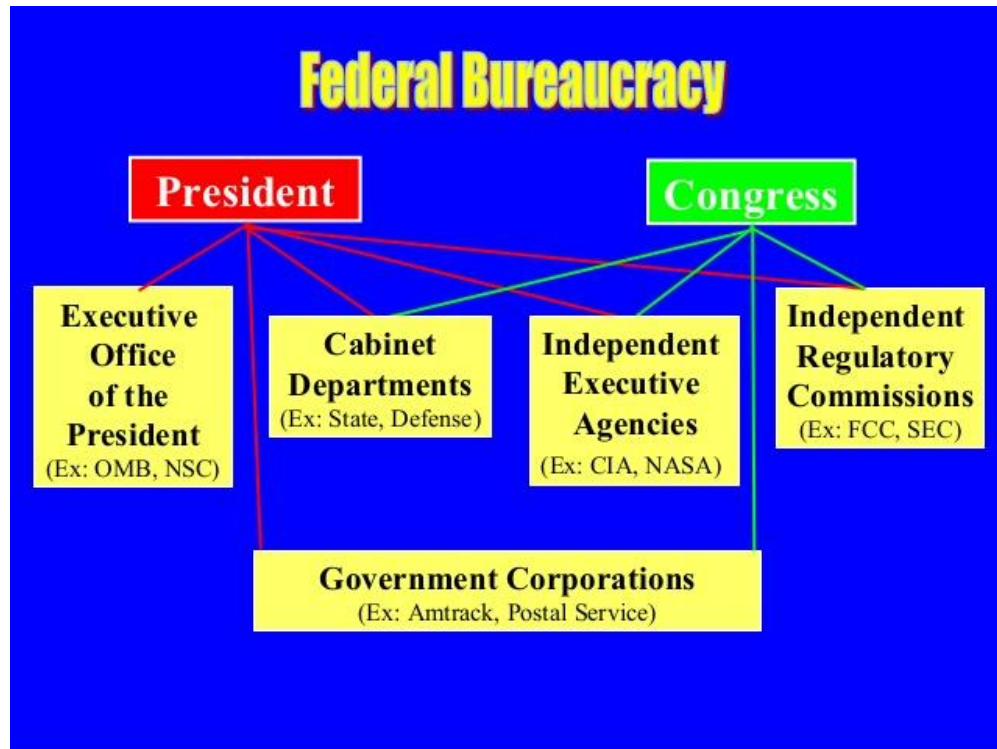
● Communication

- Modern Technology: Social Media
 - Can communicate directly with public to promote policy agenda.

- State of the Union as a Bully Pulpit
 - Nationally televised speech delivered to both houses of Congress.
 - President promotes his policy agenda and pressures congress for support.
- Foreign Policy
 - President is Commander-in-Chief but Congress has the power to declare war.

- Nominates ambassadors
- Makes treaties & executive agreements
- Executive orders affecting military
- Defense, diplomatic, and intelligence services report directly to the president daily
- Power of the purse
- Senate ratifies treaties
- Senate confirms cabinet secretaries
- Congressional oversight
- War Powers Resolution

- Bureaucracy
 - Implement and enforce federal laws and regulations.
 - Merit System – Promotes professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.
 - Administrative Discretion – Congress makes a law with broad policy goals and then experts within agencies make the specific regulations,
 - Rule-Making Authority (Administrative Law)
 - Regulations made by agencies have the power of law.
 - Cabinet Departments – Major area of responsibility over a broad policy area.
 - Independent Regulatory Agencies/Commissions – Make rules regulating specific industries to protect public.
 - Government Corporations – Provide services that could be provided by private companies.



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- Congressional Checks on Bureaucracy
 - Establish/abolish an agency/program.
 - Congressional Oversight – Committee hearings and investigations into an agency’s activities.
 - Power of the Purse
 - Legislation altering agency’s activities.
- President Checks on Bureaucracy
 - Appoint and remove agency heads.
 - Executive Orders
 - Reorganize
- Judicial Check on Bureaucracy
 - Rule on the constitutionality of rules and regulations.
- Basis for Judicial Power
 - Marbury v. Madison (1803)
 - Judicial Review – Courts can rule congressional laws, presidential actions/orders, bureaucratic regulations, and state laws as unconstitutional.
- Selecting Federal Judges
 - President Nominates, Senate Confirms
 - Life Tenure
 - Maintain independence of Court.
 - Criticized by some as undemocratic.

- Supreme Court Case Selection
 - Rule of Four – Unwritten rule that the Court will hear a case if 4 Justices vote to hear.
 - Writ of Certiorari – Request for lower court documents, issued when the Court announces that they have accepted a case.
 - Appellate Jurisdiction – Most cases, courts that hear reviews or appears of decisions from lower courts.
 - Original Jurisdiction – Authority to hear a case for the first time.

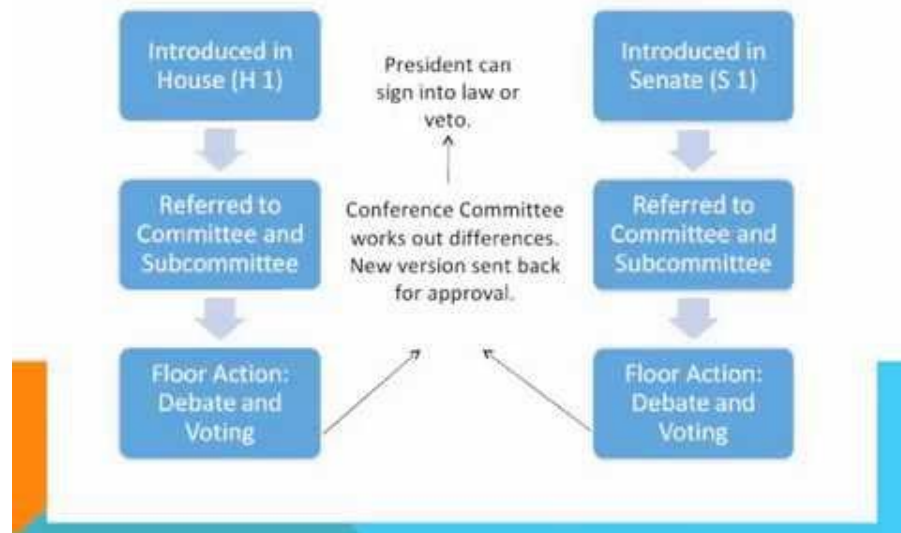
- Supreme Court Decision-Making
 - Precedents & Stare Decisis – Following past decisions is a guiding principle, but the Court can change and establish new precedents.
 - Judicial Activism – Courts can and should overrule other branches when wrong.
 - Judicial Restraint – Courts should defer to democratically elected branches whenever possible.
 - Strict Interpretation – Based on what is directly stated or clearly implied by Constitution.
 - Loose Interpretation – Based on principles and vague language of the Constitution.

- Limits on the Supreme Court

- Congress can pass legislation to modify the impact of SCOTUS decisions
- Constitutional amendments
- Judicial nominations/confirmations
- President/states evading or ignoring SCOTUS decisions
- Congress can alter the Supreme Court's jurisdiction or number of Justices

- How a Bill Becomes A Law

How a bill becomes a law (Basically)



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