

Government Structures, Powers, Functions, and Interactions

Instructional Slides



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Framing Question: How has the role of the government changed from 1789 to the present?







The original building of the U.S. Capitol was constructed between 1793 and 1826, then expanded in 1868 and again in the 1960s to meet the needs of the growing government. This building is much larger than the original seat of Congress at Federal Hall in New York City.



With the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, U.S. citizens could no longer be denied the right to vote on the basis of sex.





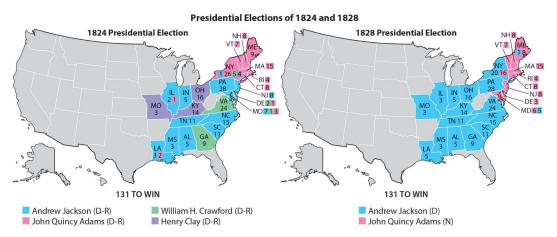
It is important to note that what the Supreme Court recognizes as interstate commerce for purposes of applying the commerce clause is wide-ranging but not unlimited.





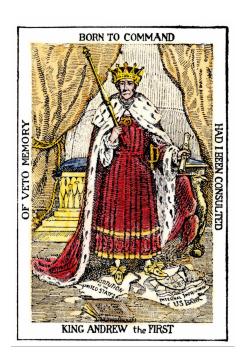
George Washington's first cabinet included only four department heads. Modern cabinets include fifteen.





The Democratic Party established itself as a major force in national politics between 1824 and 1828. Leaders of the Democratic Party worked to rally voters and appealed directly to the people through grassroots campaigns — a practice still used by political parties today. Adams's National Republican Party, however, continued to rely on political elites for support.





Opponents of Andrew Jackson criticized him for abusing his power as president. This political cartoon published during the Bank War of the 1830s shows Jackson dressed as a king, standing on the U.S. Constitution and the Second Bank's charter.





Abraham Lincoln recognized that many of his actions subverted the Constitution. He justified this on the grounds that the American people had charged him with navigating the country through a national emergency.





President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivering one of his thirty fireside chats in Washington, D.C., September 6, 1936





Protestors gathered at the U.S. Capitol to protest the Vietnam War in 1971.





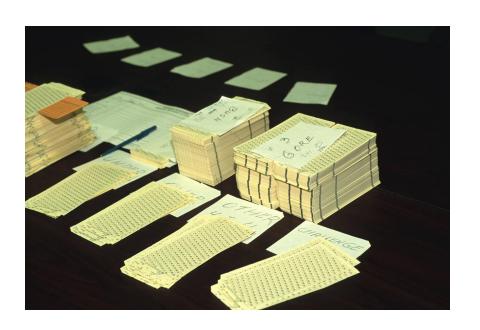
Thurgood Marshall, the lead attorney in Brown v. Board of Education, later became the first African American justice on the Supreme Court in 1967.





In 1971, Daniel Ellsberg was indicted under the Espionage Act. The charges against him were ultimately dropped as information about the federal government's actions related to Vietnam came to light.





The recount in Florida in the 2000 presidential election led to many questions, including how voters intended to vote versus what their ballot reflected.



Case	Effect on a Branch of Government
Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)	Confirmed Congress's power to regulate interstate and intrastate commerce and reinforced the supremacy clause
United States v. Lopez (1995)	Limited how Congress can interpret commerce in its regulation of interstate commerce
New York Times Co. v. United States (1971)	Checked the power of the executive branch's use of prior restraint
United States v. Nixon (1974)	Checked the power of the president's use of executive privilege

Throughout U.S. history, many Supreme Court cases, including those in this table, have highlighted how the judicial branch has the authority to check the powers of the legislative and executive branches.



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FDR Fireside Chat, Washington, DC, USA, 1936 (b/w photo)/Underwood Archives/UIG / Bridgeman Images: 11

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USA: Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), Anthony Berger, 1864 / Pictures from History/Anthony Berger / Bridgeman Images: 10

Women standing holding banners outside the White House Gate, Washington D.C. (b/w photo)/American Photographer, (20th century) / American/Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University/
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