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2021

US Politics Briefly Explained

Краткое знакомство с политической системой США

Учебное пособие по лингвострановедению



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Учебное пособие служит дополнительным материалом к курсу лингвострановедения США и представляет основную информацию о политическом устройстве страны – конституции, разделении властей, полномочиях президента, основных партиях, праве вето, импичменте и президентских выборах. Отличительной особенностью пособия являются специально подобранные к каждой теме видеосюжеты на английском языке, просмотр которых не только знакомит учащихся с политической системой США, но и значительно развивает навыки восприятия аутентичной звучащей речи. Все видеофрагменты сопровождаются текстовой версией с иллюстрациями и культурно-исторической справкой, дающей более подробные сведения о ряде американских государственных деятелях, а также о некоторых распространенных понятиях и терминах из области политики изучаемой страны. Вопросы к тексту нацелены на понимание и обсуждение темы раздела, а послетекстовые задания – на отработку и усвоение активной лексики.

Пособие предназначено для студентов ВУЗов, углубленно изучающих английский язык, а также всех, интересующихся политической жизнью США.

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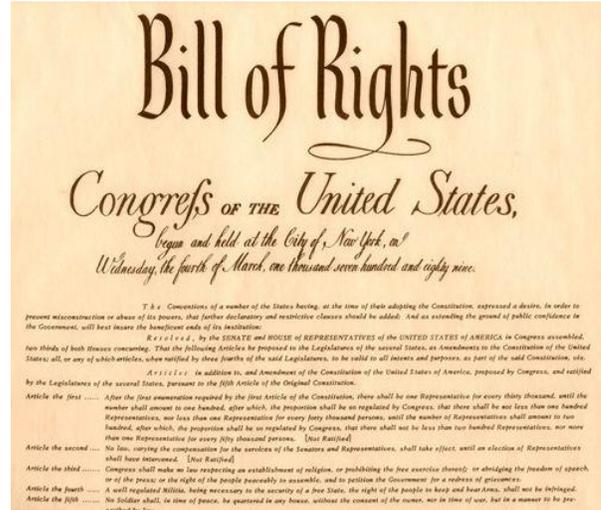
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Unit 1. The US Constitution and the Bill of Rights



The original copy of the US Constitution



The original copy of the Bill of Rights

I. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/oMoymqXB4Cs>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- draft noun /dra:ft/
- ratify /'rætɪfaɪ/
- constitution /,kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃən/
- law /lɔ:/
- ultimate /'ʌltəmət/
- colony /'kɒləni/
- issue verb /'ɪʃu:, 'ɪʃju:/
- Philadelphia /,fɪlə'delfiə/
- Pennsylvania /,pensəl'veɪniə, -sɪl-/
- flaw /flɔ:/
- approval /ə'pru:vəl/
- delegate noun /'deləgət/
- legislative /'ledʒɪslətɪv/
- executive /ɪg'zekjətɪv/
- judicial /dʒu'dɪʃl/
- judge noun /dʒʌdʒ/

- representative noun /,reprɪ'zɛntətɪv/
- veto verb /'vi:təʊ/
- power /'paʊə/
- amendment /ə'mendmənt/
- court /kɔ:t/
- on behalf of /ən br'hɑ:f əv/
- Bill of Rights /,bɪl əv 'raɪts/
- Continental Congress /,kɒntɪnɪntl 'kɒŋɡres/
- Constitutional Convention /,kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃənl kən'venʃn/
- Declaration of Independence /,deklə'reɪʃn əv ɪndɪ'pendəns/
- Articles of Confederation /,ɑ:tɪklz əv kən'fedə'reɪʃn/
- Revolutionary War /,revə'lju:ʃənəri 'wɔ:/
- Founding Fathers /,faʊndɪŋ 'fɑ:ðəz/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. Why is the US Constitution considered to be the ultimate law of the land?
2. Which events happened in 1775?
3. What was the idea of the Articles of Confederation and why did this document have a major flaw?
4. Why did chaos erupt in newborn America?
5. Where and why did the Founding Fathers decide to call the Constitutional Convention?
6. Which new structure of the central government was established in 1787?
7. What does the Bill of Rights consist of?

All right, here's a question for you: when was the last time you and a few friends sat down and tried writing one single document that would determine the way millions of people over hundreds of years lived, a document that would structure the government of an entire nation? Yeah, didn't think so. Lucky for you, fewer than 100 men took a crack edit back in 1787 on behalf of the United States of America hoping to write one document that would contain in it all the laws and instructions for how our government should function. Once they had their final draft, they did put it to a vote. There were thirteen United States at that time and at least nine of them would have to ratify the Constitution meaning they formally agreed to it before it became official. And now that single document still known

today as our US Constitution remains the ultimate law of the land, the most sacred code we have for how the government should look. Pretty impressive, right? I mean no one's perfect but that we're still running things 230 years later means they must have done something right.

Now let's rewind a few years back to 1775 when the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. Besides issuing the world famous Declaration of Independence, that gathering of delegates planted the first seed of order for the new nation which they hoped to defend from King George. That seed was a document called the Articles of Confederation, a plan for how the new US government should operate that powered the newborn nation through the Revolutionary War. Unfortunately, it had a major flaw: living under a powerful King had caused the colonists a tonne of trouble so the Congress decided to give the central government, ours is in Washington DC today, very limited power over the individual states. Nine of those thirteen states had to give their approval before the central government could even pass a single law.

See, where this is going? The weight of the states overwhelmed the central trunk of government and chaos erupted in newborn America. Having gone from a central government that was way too strong, as in the case of the king, to one that was not strong enough, Americans would need to find a balance, especially as new states joined the country in coming years. They needed a central government that could hold everyone together. And so, because gatherings of delegates from all the colonies or states for very long meetings had been successful in the past, our Founding Fathers decided to call yet another very long meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, once again called the Constitutional Convention and 55 delegates from all over the states attended. And their original goal was to revise, not destroy but revise the Articles of Confederation. But when they took the pulse of the document and thought it through together, they realized they'd be better off starting from scratch. So they torched it and in 1787 they put their heads together to come up with something new. And here's what they decided.

The central government would have more power over the states but it would also be split into three different sections called branches. Each branch would have its own unique set of powers and with the power divided three ways the central government would never get too strong. The legislative branch made up of two Houses full of elected representatives from the different states would come up with proposals for law known as bills. The executive branch made up of the President and his or her closest advisors, a group called

the Cabinet, would receive those suggestions for law and either veto or reject them or sign off on them turning bills into law. Judges from the judicial branch would settle any arguments over how individual laws should be applied. They also reserved the right to overrule any laws that violated the Constitution. The way that each branch puts a limit on what the others can do is called the system of checks and balances. And as one further limit on the power of the central government individual citizens are able to vote on their choice of representatives for the legislative branch and for the president in the executive branch.

Now the delegates at the Constitutional Convention knew that they weren't the only ones with good ideas so they made it possible for future Americans to make changes or amendments to the Constitution. It would take a tonne of votes to approve an amendment to the Constitution but even so the first changes were made rather quickly.

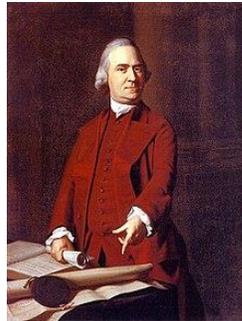
In the year 1788 the Constitution had just been approved and our central government met for the first time. The legislative branch that we call Congress started receiving suggestions immediately from the different states on changes they thought should be made of the Constitution. A lot of people were still afraid that the central government would be too strong. Of all the changes suggested by the states Congress voted to approve 10 of them as amendments to the Constitution. Today we refer to these first 10 amendments as the Bill of Rights. They are a shield protecting you from mistreatment by the government. Among other things they guarantee you, the individual, the freedom to believe what you want, to say what you want, to own a weapon if you want, and to be defended in court if someone accuses you of a crime. Without this Bill of Rights or the opportunity to create other amendments in the future who knows if the Constitution would have survived until today.

NOTES

The Founding Fathers



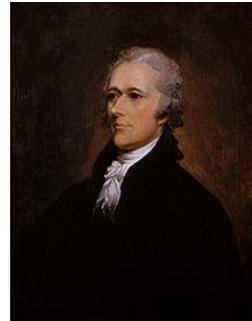
John Adams



Samuel Adams



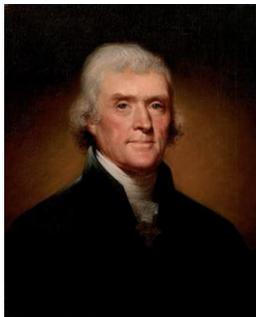
Benjamin Franklin



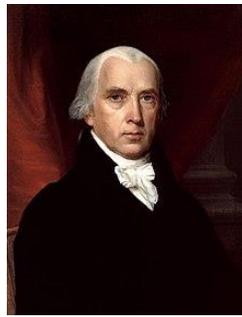
Alexander Hamilton



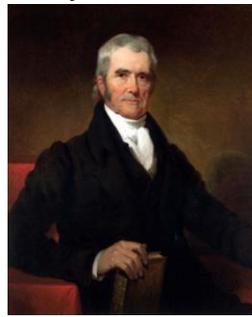
Patrick Henry



Thomas Jefferson



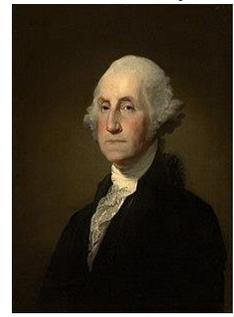
James Madison



John Marshall



George Mason



George Washington

The Founding Fathers were the most prominent statesmen of America's Revolutionary generation, responsible for the successful war for colonial independence from Great Britain, the liberal ideas celebrated in the Declaration of Independence, and the republican form of government defined in the United States Constitution. Although the list of members can expand and contract in response to political pressures and ideological prejudices of the moment, the following 10, presented alphabetically, represent the "gallery of greats" that has stood the test of time: John Adams, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall, George Mason, and George Washington. There is a nearly unanimous consensus that George Washington was the Foundingest Father of them all.

The Revolutionary War

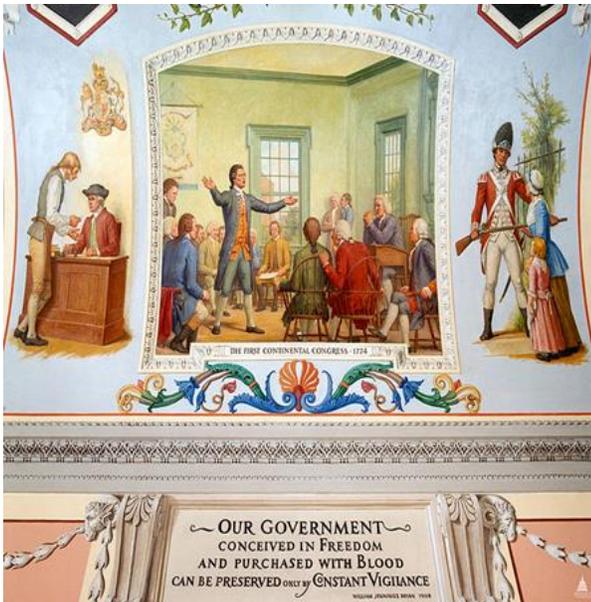
The American Revolution, also called the United States War of Independence or the American Revolutionary War, (1775-83), was the insurrection by which 13 of Great Britain's North American colonies won political independence and went on to form the United States of America. The war followed more than a decade of growing estrangement

between the British crown and a large and influential segment of its North American colonies that was caused by British attempts to assert greater control over colonial affairs.

The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation, first US constitution (1781-89), served as a bridge between the initial government by the Continental Congress of the Revolutionary period and the federal government provided under the US Constitution of 1787. Because the experience of overbearing British central authority was vivid in colonial minds, the drafters of the Articles deliberately established a confederation of sovereign states. The Articles were written in 1776-77 and adopted by the Congress on November 15, 1777. However, the document was not fully ratified by the states until March 1, 1781.

The First Continental Congress



The First Continental Congress 1774
Mural in oil on Canvas 1973-1974 by Allyn Cox

To provide unity, delegates gave one vote to each state regardless of its size. The First Continental Congress included Patrick Henry, George Washington, John and Samuel Adams, John Jay, and John Dickinson. Meeting in secret session, the body rejected a plan for reconciling British authority with colonial freedom. Instead, it adopted a declaration of personal rights, including life, liberty, property, assembly, and trial by jury. The declaration also denounced taxation without representation and the maintenance of the British army in the colonies without their consent. Parliamentary regulation of American commerce, however, was willingly

accepted.

In October 1774 the Congress petitioned the crown for a redress of grievances accumulated since 1763. In an effort to force compliance, it called for a general boycott of British goods and eventual nonexportation of American products, except rice, to Britain or the British West Indies. Its last act was to set a date for another Congress to meet on May 10, 1775, to consider further steps.

The Second Continental Congress

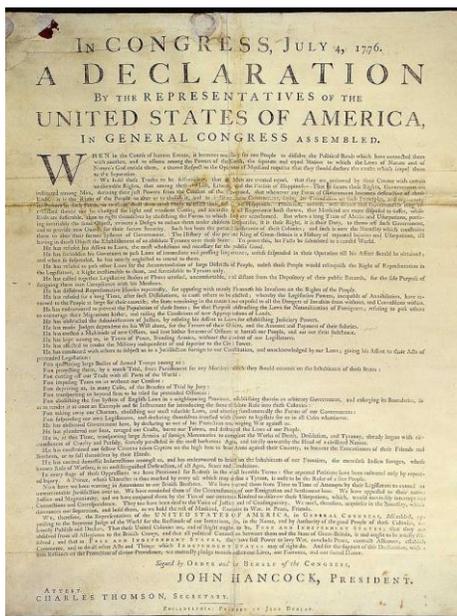


The Congress Voting Independence, circa 1785
By Robert Edge Pine completed by Edward Savage in 1790

The Second Continental Congress was a convention of delegates from the 13 colonies that formed in Philadelphia in May 1775, soon after the launch of the American Revolutionary War. New members of the Second Congress included Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. John Hancock and John Jay were among those who served as president. The Congress “adopted” the New England military forces that had converged upon Boston and appointed Washington commander-in-chief of

the American army on June 15, 1775. It also acted as the provisional government of the 13 colony-states, issuing and borrowing money, establishing a postal service, and creating a navy. Although the Congress for some months maintained that the Americans were struggling for their rights within the British Empire, it gradually cut tie after tie with Britain until separation was complete. On July 2, 1776, with New York abstaining, the Congress “unanimously” resolved that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.” Two days later it solemnly approved this Declaration of Independence. The Congress also prepared the Articles of Confederation, which, after being sanctioned by all the states, became the first US constitution in March 1781.

The Declaration of Independence



Several copies of the Declaration of Independence were printed on July 4, 1776
By John Dunlap, printer to the Continental Congress

The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 and announced the separation of 13 North American British colonies from Great Britain. The Declaration's most important diplomatic effect was to allow for recognition of the United States by friendly foreign governments. The Sultan of Morocco mentioned American ships in a consular document in 1777, but Congress had to wait until the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France for a formal recognition of US independence. The Netherlands acknowledged US independence in 1782. Although Spain joined the war against Great Britain in 1779, it did not recognize US independence until the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation.

The Constitutional Convention



Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States
By Howard Chandler Christy, 1940

The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia met between May and September of 1787 to address the problems of the weak central government that existed under the Articles of Confederation. The United States Constitution that emerged from the convention established a federal government with more specific powers, including those related to conducting relations with foreign governments. Under the reformed federal system, many of the

responsibilities for foreign affairs fell under the authority of an executive branch, although important powers, such as treaty ratification, remained the responsibility of the legislative branch. After the necessary number of state ratifications, the Constitution came into effect in 1789 and has served as the basis of the United States Government ever since.

IV. Find words and collocations in the text for the following definitions.

1. instead of someone, or as their representative
2. a piece of writing or a plan that is not yet in its finished form
3. to decide something by voting
4. to make a written agreement official by signing it
5. all of the laws in force within a country or region
6. one of the 13 areas of land on the east coast of North America that later became the United States
7. a group of people, political parties, or organizations that have united for political purposes or trade
8. a mistake or problem in an argument, plan, set of ideas etc.
9. someone who has been elected or chosen to speak, vote, or take decisions for a group
10. to officially accept a law or proposal, especially by voting
11. concerned with making laws
12. the part of a government responsible for taking decisions on policy, running the government etc., rather than for making laws
13. relating to the law, judges, or their decisions
14. to refuse to accept a particular plan or suggestion
15. to change an order or decision that you think is wrong, using your official power
16. to disobey or do something against an official agreement, law, principle etc.
17. a small change, improvement, or addition that is made to a law or document
18. a cruel, unkind or unfair way of treating a person or an animal
19. the place where a trial is held, or the people there, especially the judge and the jury who examine the evidence and decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty

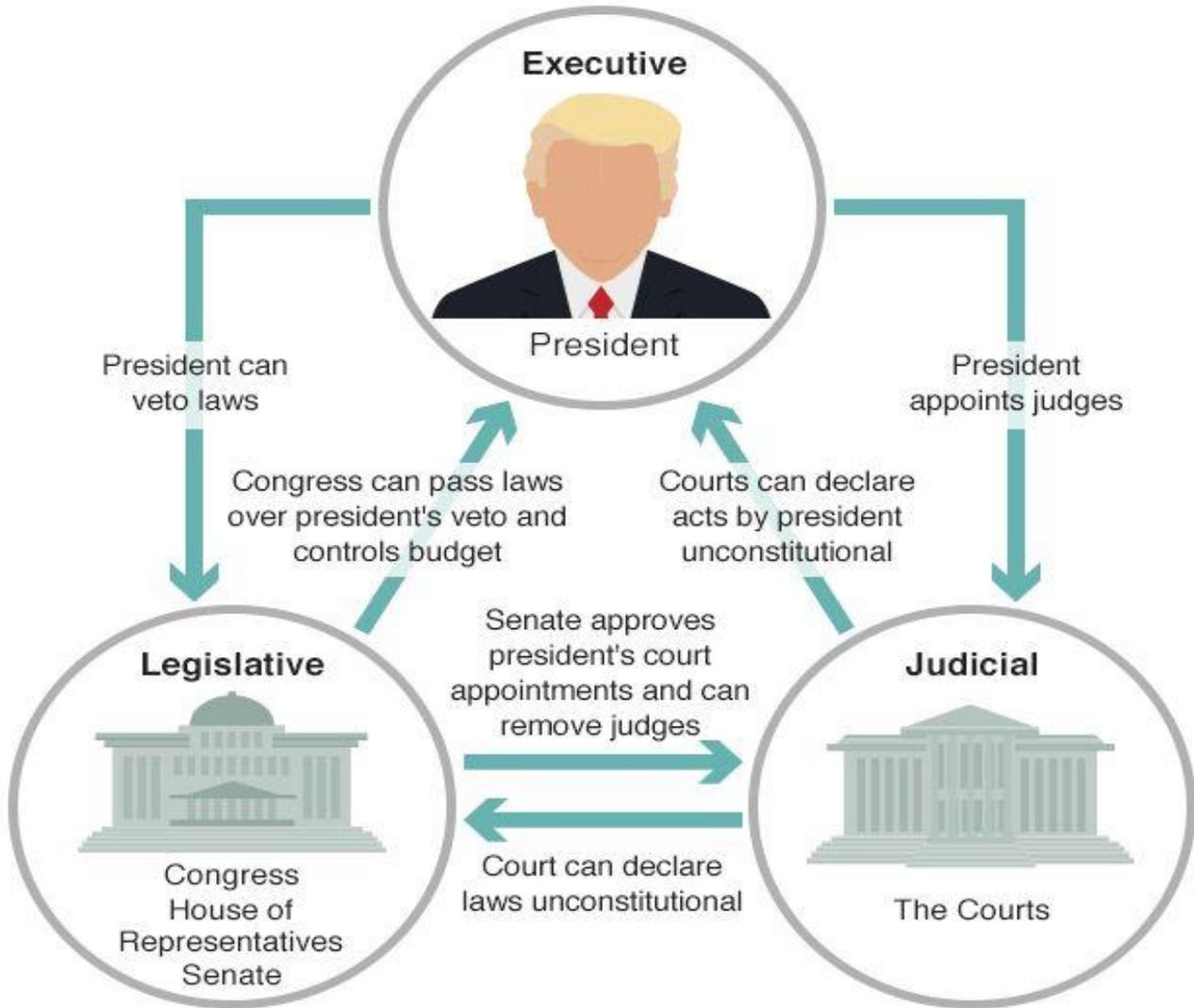
V. Find English equivalents in the text for the Russian phrases.

1. от лица Соединенных Штатов Америки
2. окончательный вариант / проект

3. вынести на голосование
4. ратифицировать конституцию
5. основной закон страны
6. Континентальный конгресс
7. издать Декларацию независимости
8. война за независимость США
9. иметь существенный недостаток
10. выразить одобрение
11. принять закон
12. собрание делегатов
13. «отцы-основатели»
14. созвать собрание
15. пересмотреть Статьи Конференции
16. законодательная ветвь власти
17. исполнительная ветвь власти
18. судебная ветвь власти
19. состоять из двух палат
20. избранные представители
21. выступать с предложениями законопроектов
22. самые близкие советники
23. налагать вето на предложение
24. отклонять предложение
25. одобрять предложение
26. урегулировать разногласия
27. сохранять за собой право отменить закон
28. нарушать положения конституция
29. система сдержек и противовесов
30. вносить поправки в конституцию
31. Филадельфийский конвент
32. Билль о правах
33. защищать в суде
34. обвиняться в преступлении

Unit 2. Checks and Balances

Checks and balances on the US government



BBC

I. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/HSconP2Hpp0>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- treaty /'tri:ti/
- declare /dɪ'kleə/
- tax_{verb} /tæks/
- agency /'eidʒənsi/

- nominate /'nɒmɪneɪt/
- justice /'dʒʌstɪs/
- interpret /ɪn'tɜːprət/
- (un)constitutional /,(ʌn)kənstɪ'tjuːʃənl/
- impeach /ɪm'pi:tʃ/
- imprison /ɪm'prɪzn/
- citizen /'sɪtɪzn/
- pardon_{verb} /'pɑːdn/
- commander-in-chief /kə,mɑːndər ɪn 'tʃi:f/
- executive order /ɪg,zekjətɪv 'ɔːdə/
- majority vote /mə'dʒɔːrəti vəʊt/
- district court /,dɪstrɪkt 'kɔ:t/
- Supreme Court /su,pri:m'kɔ:t/
- Court of Appeals /,kɔ:t əv ə'pi:lz /

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. Why did the Framers of the US Constitution establish three separate branches of government?
2. What are the powers of the legislative branch?
3. What are the powers of the executive branch?
4. What are the powers of the judicial branch?
5. How does the system of checks and balances work during the process of passing a law?
6. Which branch confirms judicial appointments made by the president?
7. Which branch decides whether executive orders issued by the president are unconstitutional?
8. Which branch can impeach Supreme Court justices?
9. Who can pardon imprisoned citizens?

After breaking from a British government that lorded over the colonists the Framers of the Constitution wanted to make sure that their government did not get too powerful. In order to do this they established three separate branches of government that would each have its own specific powers.

Three branches of government are: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.

The legislative branch, or Congress, is comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate. This branch has the power to make laws, the power to tax and spend, the power to approve treaties, and the power to declare war.

The executive branch consists of the president, the executive and Cabinet departments, and the independent governing agencies like the IRS. The president is the head of the executive branch. He has the power to carry out the laws passed by Congress, recommend new legislation, set foreign policies, and nominate Supreme Court justices.

The judicial branch is comprised of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the district court. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the judicial branch. This branch has the power to interpret all laws and decide cases involving state rights.

In order to ensure that no one branch becomes more powerful than the other a system of checks and balances was incorporated into the Constitution. In other words, each branch of government would be able to check the powers of the other.

Take, for example, the process of passing a law. A bill must be passed through both Houses of Congress before it goes to the president for approval. The president can either sign the bill or veto the bill. Even if the bill is vetoed, Congress may overturn the veto with a two-thirds majority vote. The Supreme Court has the final say because it can decide if a law is constitutional or unconstitutional.

In the framework of the Constitution there are many powers issued to each branch of government. In order to keep these powers from growing too strong and allowing one branch to overpower the others there are many other ways that one branch can check the power of another. Consider the following examples.

The president has the power to order troops to fight but only Congress can formally declare war. So without Congress's support the president cannot maintain a war even though the president is the commander-in-chief of the military.

The president makes judicial appointments but these must be confirmed by the Senate before they can be made judges. The president can issue an executive order but the judicial

branch can find it unconstitutional and overturn the order. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life but they can be impeached by Congress or removed from office.

The court system can imprison a citizen. However, the president can pardon the individual and set the individual free.

This system of checks and balances gives each branch of government a voice in the country's affairs. If one branch ever tries to overstep its boundaries, there is always a check in place for one of the other two branches to pull one branch back into a balance of power.

NOTES

The Internal Revenue Service



The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the revenue service of the United States federal government. The government agency is a bureau of the Department of the Treasury, and is under the immediate direction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, who is appointed to a five-year term by the President of the United States.

The IRS is responsible for collecting taxes and administering the Internal Revenue Code, the main body of federal statutory tax law of the United States. The duties of the IRS include providing tax assistance to taxpayers and pursuing and resolving instances of erroneous or fraudulent tax filings. Internal Revenue Service Building on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C.

The IRS originated with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, a federal office created by President Abraham Lincoln and Congress passing the Revenue Act of 1862. The office was meant to assess the nation's first income tax, which was to raise funds for the American Civil War. In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified authorizing Congress to impose a tax on income, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue was established. In 1953, the agency was renamed the Internal Revenue Service.

The logo of the United States Internal Revenue Service features an elongated 6-sided shape with a tree branch on the left, an eagle and wing with a cross sectional profile that resembles people holding a balance scale.

IV. Find words and collocations in the text for the following definitions.

1. to leave a group or political party and form another group, usually because of a disagreement
2. delegates to the Constitutional Convention that helped draft the Constitution of the United States
3. to charge an amount of money that you must pay to the government according to your income, property, goods etc and that is used to pay for public services
4. to state officially that you are at war with another country
5. an organization or department, especially within a government, that does a specific job and has the power and authority to control sb.
6. a law or set of laws
7. government policy concerned with the country's relations with other countries, especially in trade and defence
8. to officially suggest someone or something for an important position, duty, or prize
9. the most important court of law in some countries or some states of the US
10. one of 12 law courts in the US that deals with cases when people are not satisfied with the judgment given by a lower court
11. a US court of law which deals with cases involving national rather than state law
12. to change a decision or result so that it becomes the opposite of what it was before
13. a vote or decision in which more people vote for something than vote against it
14. to have the right to make the final decision about something
15. someone of high rank who is in control of all the military organizations in a country or of a specific military activity
16. an order from the president or a department or official of the US government that has the same authority as a law
17. one of the nine judges of the US Supreme Court
18. to formally accuse a public official of a serious crime relating to their job, especially in the US
19. to force someone out of an important position or dismiss them from a job
20. to put someone in prison

21. to officially allow someone who has been found guilty of a crime to go free without being punished

V. Find English equivalents in the text for the Russian phrases.

1. отделиться от британского правительства
2. создатели конституции США
3. установить три раздельные ветви правительства
4. иметь особые полномочия
5. взимать налоги и расходовать деньги
6. утверждать договоры
7. объявлять войну
8. независимые правительственные учреждения/органы
9. Налоговое управление США
10. приводить в исполнение законы
11. принимать закон
12. выступать с новым законодательным предложением
13. намечать курс внешней политики
14. предлагать кандидатуру судей Верховного Суда
15. апелляционный суд
16. окружной суд
17. толковать законы
18. решать судебные дела
19. подписывать законопроект
20. налагать вето на законопроект
21. отменить вето двумя третями голосов
22. большинство голосов
23. иметь решающее слово
24. (не)противоречащий конституции закон
25. в рамках конституции
26. поддерживать ведение войны
27. главнокомандующий вооруженными силами
28. утвержденные Сенатом назначения на должность судьи
29. издать исполнительный указ / распоряжение
30. назначаться пожизненно
31. подвергнуть импичменту

32.отстранить от должности

33.посадить гражданина в тюрьму

34.амнистировать / помиловать и выпустить на свободу

Unit 3. The Legislative Branch

Structure: Legislative Branch - Congress

	House of Representatives	Senate
Membership	435 members - apportioned by population	100 members - 2 per state
Term of Office	2 years - entire house elected every two years	6 years - staggered 1/3 of the senate elected every 2 years
Qualifications	At least 25 years old, US citizen for 7 years, must live in state where district is located	At least 30 years old, US citizen for 9 years, must live in state
Constituencies	Smaller - by district	Larger - entire state
Prestige	Less	More
Nickname	Lower House	Upper House

I. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/hltv8-nzcUc>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- bicameral /baɪ'kæməərəl/
- legislature /'ledʒəsleɪtʃə, -lətʃə/
- congressman /'kɒŋgrəsəmən/
- constituent noun /kən'stɪtʃuənt/
- oversee /,əʊvə'si:/
- term /tɜ:m/
- exclusive /ɪk'sklu:sɪv/
- initiate /ɪ'nɪʃieɪt/

- allot /ə'lot/
- senator /'senətə/
- tie /taɪ/
- regulate /'regjələɪt/
- commerce /'kɒmɜ:s/
- committee /kə'mɪti/
- override noun /,əʊvə'raɪd/
- vice president /,vaɪs 'prezɪdənt/
- Electoral College /ɪ,lektərəl 'kɒlɪdʒ/
- equal representation /'i:kwəl ,reprɪzən'teɪʃən/
- proportional representation /prə'pɔ:ʃənəl ,reprɪzən'teɪʃən/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. How did the bicameral legislature appear in the US?
2. What are a congressman's primary responsibilities?
3. What is the structure of the House of Representatives and and which powers does it have?
4. What is the structure of the Senate and which powers does it have?
5. How can one become a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate?
6. In which case can the US vice president vote?
7. How are bills passed in both Houses?

There are three branches of government in the US: legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative branch is comprised of the United States Congress — the bicameral legislature responsible for writing and passing all federal laws, among various other functions.

Back when the Founding Fathers drafted the constitution, debates stirred over the type of legislature they have: one with equal representation, i.e. the same number of representatives for each state, or of proportional representation in which the number of representatives reflected the size of each state's population. Unable to choose, they settled on both: a legislative branch with two Houses — the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form Congress. This was all outlined in Article 1 of the Constitution, which also notes the functions, powers, and parameters of Congress and its individual representatives.

A congressman's primary responsibilities include representing the interests of the constituents; working together to write laws; overseeing other government agencies; and passing bills. But of course that's all way easier said than done. To understand how it all works we have to take a closer look at the make-up of the two distinct Houses.

The first and lower House is the House of Representatives made up of 435 elected officials. Each state is allotted a number of congressmen determined by their total population. To become a member of the House one must be at least 25, have lived in the US for 7 years, live in the state they will represent, and be elected by the people. Congressmen serve two-year terms and are up for re-election every even year. The House is led by the Speaker of the House who is elected by the House of Representatives.

The House has a few exclusive powers not shared by the Senate. Only the House can initiate tax laws and spending bills. Only the House can initiate impeachment of the President or other government officials. And in the event that there is no majority in the Electoral College for one of the presidential candidates, it's the House who casts the deciding vote.

The Senate, or the upper House, is made up of only 100 elected members, with two senators from each state. Here a state like Wyoming has as strong a voice as California even though California has a much larger population. To run for the Senate one must be at least 30 years old, have lived in the US for 9 years, and live in the state that they will represent. Senators serve six-year terms. Every even year a third of the Senate is up for re-election. Before the 17th Amendment was ratified in 1912, senators were elected by the state legislatures. But now they are elected by us, the people.

The vice president of the United States serves as the head of the Senate but he or she can only cast a vote in the event of a tie. The Senate exclusively has the power to approve presidential appointments and treaties. And when the House moves to impeach a government official, it's the Senate that tries them.

Together both Houses have the power to tax, coin money, declare war, and regulate foreign and interstate commerce. But Congress's bread and butter is writing and passing bills.

Getting a bill passed is no easy task. A bill can originate in either the House or the Senate. But before it gets voted upon, it goes through a series of committees, and amendments, and floor debates. After a vote it moves to another chamber and the process continues. If the one chamber makes any edits to a bill passed by the other, it has to go back for another vote. The House and the Senate must vote to approve the exact same bill before it can move on. If it fails to get a majority vote it has to be reintroduced. If it passes, it goes to the president's desk for approval. If the president chooses to veto a bill, which essentially voids it, Congress can push back the veto override. But to do this they need two thirds majority vote in both Houses. Failing to pass legislation is an inevitable part of congressional routine.

Congress is the only branch of government whose members are elected directly by the people and the only part of government that tries to balance the relationship between the power of the nation and the individual states.

The Speaker of the House



*Frederick Augustus Conrad
Muhlenberg
By Samuel B. Waugh (after Joseph
Wright), 1881*

The Speaker of the US House of Representatives is a member of the US House of Representatives, who is elected by the majority party to lead the House. The Speaker presides over debates, appoints members of select and conference committees, establishes the legislative agenda, maintains order within the House, and administers the oath of office to House members. The individual in this office is second in the line of presidential succession, following the Vice President. Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first Speaker of the House on April 1, 1789.

The US Vice President



John Adams, the first US Vice President
By John Trumbull, c.1792-93

The Vice President of the United States of America is an officer next in rank to the president of the United States, who ascends to the presidency on the event of the president's death, disability, resignation, or removal. The Vice President also serves as the presiding officer of the US Senate, a role that is mostly ceremonial but that gives the Vice President the tie-breaking vote when the Senate is deadlocked.

Constitutionally, the main responsibility of the Vice President is the role of President of the Senate. Under Article 1, Section 3 of the US constitution: "The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided."

Potential US Vice Presidents must fulfill the following criteria by being:

- a natural born US citizen
- at least 35 years old
- a US resident for at least the previous 14 years

Other than this, vice presidential candidates don't require any special qualifications. In practice, however, most candidates have served in Congress, and some have been high ranking military officers or state Governors.

Vice presidential candidates run together with presidential candidates in an election on a "joint ticket" as a "running mate". This means that once the vice presidential candidate for each party has been confirmed, voters are then essentially selecting the President and Vice President as a single package. In theory, vice presidential candidates are selected at National Conventions by the party as a whole once the presidential candidate has been announced. In reality, however, standard practice has been that presidential candidates effectively choose their own running mates. The first US Vice President was John Adams, serving from 1789 to 1797.

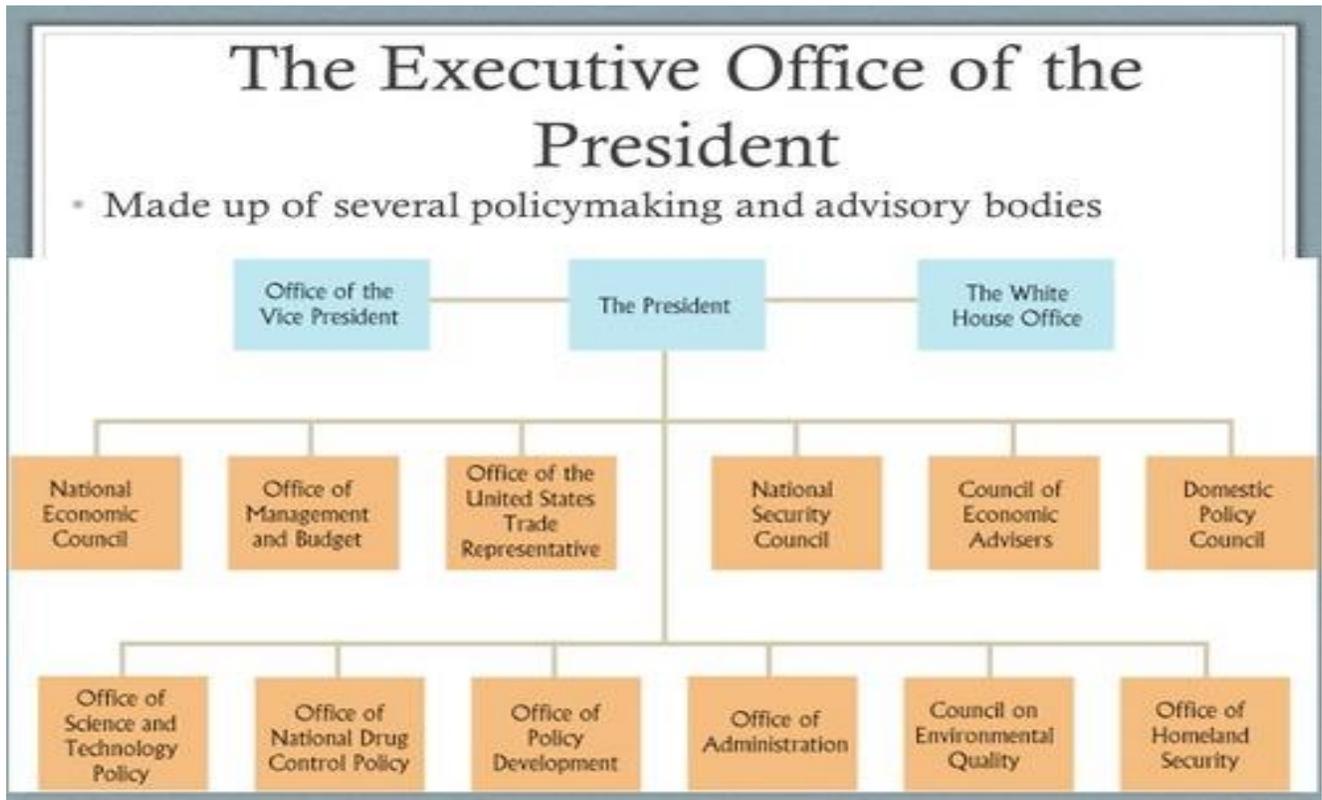
IV. Find words and collocations in the text for the following definitions.

1. part of the government that makes laws, consisting of two parts, such as the Senate and the House of Representatives in the US Congress
2. to write a plan, letter, report etc that will need to be changed before it is in its finished form
3. the way that representatives are assigned to voting groups, where all groups are fairly represented
4. a system of voting in elections by which all political parties are represented in the government according to the number of votes they receive in the whole country
5. someone who votes in a particular area
6. to be in charge of a group of workers and check that a piece of work is done satisfactorily
7. someone who is in a position of authority in an organization
8. to use a particular amount of time for something, or give a particular share of money, space etc to someone or something; to allocate
9. a fixed period of time during which someone does something or something happens
10. legal rules and procedures that govern how federal, state and local governments calculate the tax you owe
11. the process of formally accusing a public official of a serious crime relating to their job, especially in the US
12. a group of people chosen by the votes of the people in each US state, who come together to elect the president
13. a vote that someone may exercise to resolve a deadlock
14. to try to be elected in an election
15. a situation when two competitors finish with an equal number of points
16. to examine and judge a legal case, or someone who is thought to be guilty of a crime in a court
17. to make pieces of money from metal
18. to control trade
19. the discussion of a proposal in either the US House of Representatives or Senate
20. the process of using your power or authority to cancel the veto

V. Find English equivalents in the text for the Russian phrases.

1. двухпалатный законодательный орган
2. составить проект конституции
3. равное / пропорциональное представительство
4. первостепенные обязанности члена Конгресса
5. представлять интересы избирателей
6. контролировать органы государственной власти
7. избранные должностные лица
8. находиться в должности в течение двухлетнего срока
9. переизбираться на новый срок
10. иметь исключительное право
11. выдвигать налоговое законодательство
12. начинать процедуру импичмента президента
13. Коллегия выборщиков
14. иметь право решающего голоса
15. баллотироваться в Сенат
16. ратифицировать поправку
17. законодательное собрание штата
18. в случае равного количества голосов
19. судить должностное лицо
20. печатать деньги
21. регулировать внешнюю торговлю и торговлю между штатами
22. обсуждение в палате
23. получить большинство голосов
24. отмена вето

Unit 4. The Executive Branch



I. Watch the videos at 1) <https://youtu.be/BWR2p9j9hWo> and 2) <https://youtu.be/PS6BLJuHvY8>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- agency /'eɪdʒənsi/
- military /'mɪlɪtəri/
- appointee /ə,pɔɪn'ti:/
- succession /sək'seʃən/
- incapacitated /,ɪnkə'pæsə,tetɪd/
- ambassador /æm'bæsədə/
- nominee /,nɒmɪ'ni:/
- clemency /'klemənsi/
- negotiate /nɪ'gəʊʃɪət/
- eligibility /,elɪdʒə'bɪləti/

- requirement /rɪ'kwaɪəmənt/
- stipulate /'stɪpjʊleɪt/
- elector /ɪ'lektə/
- personnel /ˌpɜːsə'nel/
- launch /lɔːntʃ/
- nuclear /'njuːkliə/
- surveillance /sə'veɪləns/
- pro tempore /ˌprəʊ 'tempərəɪ/
- advisory board /ədˌvaɪzəri 'bɔːd/
- foreign aid /'fɔːrɪn eɪd/

III. Study the texts of the videos and answer the questions.

1. Which unique powers does the US president have?
2. What can the president do as commander-in-chief?
3. What is the function and structure of the Cabinet?
4. How do checks and balances work for the president?
5. What are the eligibility requirements for the president's office?

1) The president heads the executive branch and has unique powers, including executive orders, vetoes, appointing federal judges and appointing heads of federal agencies, also known as the president's Cabinet. He also acts as the commander-in-chief of the military. The Cabinet, itself part of the executive branch, also acts as an advisory board to the president, with the chief executive of each agency mostly known as the Secretary of their department.

But the president doesn't have absolute power to make these appointments. The Senate wants a vote to confirm the president's appointees — one example of the checks and balances at work.

Cabinet members also make up part of the presidential line of succession in the event that the current president becomes incapacitated, resigns, dies, or is removed from office. First in line is the Vice President, then the Speaker of the House, then the Senate president pro tempore. After that we start down the line of Cabinet members.

The president also appoints the heads of more than 50 independent federal commissions as well as ambassadors and federal judges. Of course, those nominees need to be confirmed by the Senate as well — check and balance. But the president also checks Congress. When Congress enacts bills, the president either signs the legislation into law or rejects it through a veto. The president also has the power to pardon and grant clemencies for federal crimes, except in cases of impeachment on both the state and federal level. In the global sphere the president serves as the nation's representative. He can negotiate and sign treaties with another nation but it only becomes ratified with the support of two thirds of the Senate. The president also has the power to issue executive orders which allows him to direct the actions of members of the executive branch without it having to be approved by Congress. But while Congress has no say when it comes to executive orders, the judicial branch in the form of the Supreme Court does have the power to overturn an executive order.

But considering how much power the president is given the eligibility requirements for the office of the presidency aren't very strict. The Constitution lists only three requirements. The president must be 35 years of age, a natural born citizen, and must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.

Presidents are limited to two four-year terms as stipulated by the 22nd Amendment ratified in 1951. Before that two terms was traditionally the limit until president Franklin Delano Roosevelt served four.

In the US we elect a new president every four years through a system called the Electoral College. This means when we go to the polls to vote for president, we actually vote for electors who will cast their vote on our behalf. While all of these rules or stipulations may sometimes befuddle us, they reflect how important maintaining a balance of power was to our Founding Fathers. So while the president's power has expanded as the United States has grown as a force on the world stage, the judicial and the executive branches still keep the leader of the free world in check.

2) The president of the United States is often described as the most powerful person in the world, the person who occupies the Oval Office, represents a population of more than 320 million people, and oversees the world's largest economy.

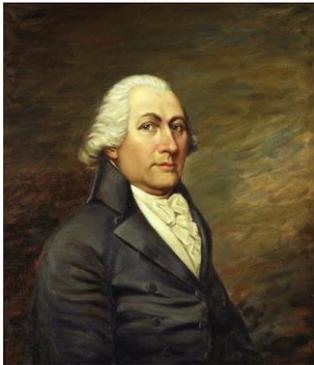
As commander-in-chief the president commands all five branches of the US armed forces and a military budget that tops 580 billion dollars annually. The president decides where troops are stationed, where troops are sent and how weapons will be used. 886 generals and admirals take their orders from the president along with some 1.4 million active frontline military personnel and 1.1 million active reserves. The president is the only person who can access the secret codes necessary to launch a nuclear attack and is effectively responsible for more than 4500 active and inactive nuclear warheads in the US arsenal.

The US gives nearly 50 billion dollars in foreign aid to more than 180 countries around the world. That's the president's job as well. The US has collective defence agreements with 54 nations and legally conducts surveillance in 193 countries. The president has the power to veto laws passed by Congress and can pardon anyone of any federal crime except impeachment. The president can designate land for national monuments and parks, and appoints Cabinet members, diplomats, and federal judges all the way up to the Supreme Court.

You might think the president's job is the most important job in the world but it's not. The most important job is deciding who holds all that power. The most important job is yours. Make history. Vote.

NOTES

The Senate President Pro Tempore



*John Langdon, the first president pro tempore elected in 1789
By Hattie Elizabeth Burdette,
1916*

The Senate president pro tempore (“for the time being”), or pro tem, is the second-highest-ranking leadership position in the US Senate and most state Senate chambers. The president pro tem presides over the Senate body in the absence of the Senate president. In most cases, the president pro tem is a senior-ranking member of the majority party. Unlike the vice president, the president pro tempore is an elected member of the Senate, able to speak or vote on any issue. The office of president pro tempore was established by the Constitution of the United States in 1789. The first president pro tempore, John Langdon, was elected on April 6, 1789, serving four separate terms between 1789 and 1793.

The Cabinet

The President's Cabinet



The tradition of the Cabinet dates back to the beginnings of the Presidency itself. Established in Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, the Cabinet's role is to advise the President on any subject he may require relating to the duties of each member's respective office. The president is not formally a member of the Cabinet.

The first US president, George Washington, began the custom of consulting regularly with the department heads as a group. The term cabinet was first used for the heads of the State, Treasury, and War departments by James Madison in 1793. Gradually, as administrative duties increased and different problems arose, new executive departments were created by Congress.

The Cabinet includes the Vice President and the heads of 15 executive departments — the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Attorney General.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Franklin Delano Roosevelt, byname FDR, (1882-1945) was the 32nd president of the United States (1933-45). The only president elected to the office four times, Roosevelt led the United States through two of the greatest crises of the 20th century: the Great Depression and World War II. In so doing, he greatly expanded the powers of the federal government through a series of programmes and reforms known as the New Deal, and he served as the principal architect of the successful effort to rid the world of German National Socialism and Japanese militarism.

The Oval Office



The office in which the president works is not located in the White House proper. It is in the adjacent West Wing, which was built during the term of Theodore Roosevelt. In 1909, when William Howard Taft was president, the Oval Office was built in the center of the West Wing. In 1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt had the West Wing enlarged and had the

Oval Office relocated to the southeast corner of the wing. When the president speaks to the country on television, it is usually from this room. The room is oval-shaped and faces the south lawn of the White House. On the ceiling is a bas-relief of the presidential seal.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. an organization or department, especially within a government, that does a specific job
2. someone of high rank who is in control of all the military organizations in a country or of a specific military activity
3. a body that provides non-binding strategic advice to the management of a corporation, organization, or foundation
4. someone appointed to a position or job
5. the act of taking over an official job or position
6. too ill or weak to live and work normally
7. to force someone out of an important position
8. an important official who represents his or her government in a foreign country
9. to make a proposal into a law
10. to officially allow someone who has been found guilty of a crime to go free without being punished
11. to discuss a formal written agreement between two or more countries or governments
12. to say what is allowed or what is necessary
13. an election to choose a government or a political representative

14. soldiers in an organized group
15. members of the state's armed forces
16. assistance, usually in the form of money, given by one country to another
17. to carry out monitoring of the military activities of another country to see what they are planning to do

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. возглавлять исполнительную власть
2. издавать исполнительный указ / распоряжение
3. назначать судью / посла
4. федеральная служба
5. главнокомандующий вооруженными силами
6. консультативный совет
7. назначаемое лицо / назначенец
8. порядок преемственности
9. становится недееспособным
10. отстранить от должности
11. временный президент Сената США
12. федеральный комитет
13. утвердить кандидата на должность
14. утвердить законопроект
15. помиловать осужденного за федеральные преступления
16. заключать и подписывать договор
17. требования к кандидату для участия в выборах
18. уроженец США
19. быть обусловленным поправкой
20. идти на выборы
21. проголосовать от лица кого-либо
22. баланс сил
23. Овальный кабинет
24. отправлять и размещать войска
25. принимать приказы от президента
26. действующий личный состав вооруженных сил на передовой
27. личный состав вооруженных сил в резерве
28. иметь доступ к секретному году

29.нанести ядерный удар

30.ядерная боеголовка

31.иностранный помощь

32.договор / соглашение о коллективной безопасности

33.проводить разведку

Unit 5. The Judicial Branch



The US Supreme Court

- I. Watch the videos at <https://youtu.be/9giPmCWnepU>.
- II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.
 - confirm /kən'fɜ:m/
 - reject /rɪ'dʒekt/
 - conviction /kən'vɪkʃən/
 - attorney /ə'tɜ:ni/
 - lawyer /'lɔ:jə/
 - empower /ɪm'paʊə/
 - jurisdiction /,dʒɪsʊərɪs'dɪkʃən/
 - regulation /,regjʊ'leɪʃən/
 - treason /'tri:z(ə)n/
 - interpret /ɪn'tɜ:prɪt/
 - constitutionality /,kɒnstɪ,tʃu:ʃə'næləti/

- mandate /'mændeɪt/
- precedent /'presɪdənt/
- profound /prə'faʊnd/
- effect /ɪ'fekt/
- judicial review /dʒuːˌdɪʃəl rɪ'vjuː/
- racial segregation /'reɪʃəl ,segrɪ'geɪʃən/

III. Study the texts of the video and answer the questions.

1. What is the judicial branch made up of?
2. When did the Supreme Court appear and how many justices did it have?
3. How is it possible to become a member of the Supreme Court?
4. What distinguishes Supreme Court justices from other government officials?
5. What are the powers of the Supreme Court according to the US Constitution?
6. How did the Supreme Court get the power of interpreting the constitutionality of the laws?
7. What is the example of the decision that the Supreme Court found unconstitutional?
8. What is the difference between the judicial branch and the other branches of power?

The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and other federal courts whose function is to rule on all matters related to the law and the Constitution. The Supreme Court has enormous power that has continued to grow since its inception in 1789.

The first version of the court had only six justices. In 1869, that number grew to nine and has remained that way ever since. Unlike the other branches of government, justices aren't elected. The president nominates Supreme Court members, as well as federal courts of appeals and district court judges. The Senate then has the responsibility to vote and confirm or reject the appointment.

Justices don't have term limits. They're able to serve until they die, retire, or are removed by Congress through impeachment and conviction. The Constitution itself doesn't give any specific requirements for who can and cannot be a justice. In fact, federal law doesn't even require a federal judge to be an attorney. But traditionally most of them have worked as lawyers.

And when it comes to the power the Supreme Court wields, the Constitution is again pretty vague. Section 1 identifies the Supreme Court as a third branch of government and it empowers the court to decide cases. That's pretty much it. Section 2 touches on jurisdiction. And Section 3 spells out regulations around treason cases. There is no mention of interpreting the constitutionality of the laws, the very thing the Supreme Court is famous for today.

So how did the Supreme Court get that power? The answer is an 1803 Supreme Court case, known as *Marbury v. Madison*. The case is a little complicated, but basically Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the law Marbury was using to make his case was unconstitutional. Marshall's ruling established that it was the United States Supreme Court's responsibility to interpret the constitutionality of laws. And so the court's mandate of judicial review was born.

And as the highest court in the country, decisions made by the Supreme Court are final. That is, unless a future Supreme Court finds that decision unconstitutional. One well-known example of this was the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, which ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. This overruled the Supreme Court's 1896 decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had legally protected segregation as separate but equal.

When the Supreme Court makes a ruling, all other courts must follow this precedent. Unlike the president or Congress, courts only act if someone brings forward a valid case. And unlike the legislative and executive branches, the judicial branch operates outside of elections and voter input. But it nonetheless has a profound effect on our daily lives, by evaluating the constitutionality of laws to keep our government in check.

NOTES

Marbury v. Madison (1803)

The presidential election of 1800 was fiercely contested along partisan lines. In what historians have called the "Revolution of 1800," Thomas Jefferson narrowly defeated incumbent John Adams, and Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans displaced Adams' Federalists as the majority party in both houses of Congress. William Marbury, appointed a justice of the peace for the District of Columbia by Adams shortly before the government transition, did not receive his commission before Adams left office. James Madison, the

Secretary of State in the new administration, refused to deliver the commission, and Marbury sued for a writ of mandamus to force Madison to show cause why the commission should not be delivered. In an opinion written by Chief Justice John Marshall (who had been Secretary of State under Adams), the Supreme Court held that it could not issue the writ, because the law authorizing it to do so was in conflict with the Constitution and therefore void. The decision in *Marbury v. Madison* established the principle of judicial review, or the Supreme Court's authority to review acts of Congress and declare them void if inconsistent with the Constitution. The concept of judicial review, which gave the judiciary the ability to prevent Congress from exceeding its constitutional authority, helped to establish the judiciary as a co-equal branch of government on a par with the executive and legislative branches. Judicial review also served to make the Supreme Court the ultimate arbiter of constitutional questions.

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

The case stemmed from an 1892 incident in which African American train passenger Homer Plessy refused to sit in a car for Black people. On June 7, 1892, Plessy bought a ticket on a train from New Orleans bound for Covington, Louisiana, and took a vacant seat in a whites-only car. After refusing to leave the car at the conductor's insistence, he was arrested and jailed. Convicted by a New Orleans court of violating the 1890 law, Plessy filed a petition against the presiding judge, Hon. John H. Ferguson, claiming that the law violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

Then, on May 18, 1896, the Supreme Court delivered its verdict in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. In declaring separate-but-equal facilities constitutional on intrastate railroads, the Court ruled that the protections of 14th Amendment applied only to political and civil rights (like voting and jury service), not "social rights" (sitting in the railroad car of your choice). The *Plessy* decision was overturned in 1954 by *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)

Brown v. Board of Education (1954), now acknowledged as one of the greatest Supreme Court decisions of the 20th century, unanimously held that the racial segregation of children in public schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Although the decision did not succeed in fully desegregating public education in the United States, it put the Constitution on the side of racial equality and galvanized the nascent civil rights movement into a full revolution.

In 1954, large portions of the United States had racially segregated schools, made legal by *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), which held that segregated public facilities were constitutional so long as the black and white facilities were equal to each other. However, by the mid-twentieth century, civil rights groups set up legal and political challenges to racial segregation.

One of these class actions, *Brown v. Board of Education* was filed against the Topeka, Kansas school board by representative-plaintiff Oliver Brown, parent of one of the children denied access to Topeka's white schools. Brown claimed that Topeka's racial segregation violated the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause because the city's black and white schools were not equal to each other and never could be. The federal district court dismissed his claim, ruling that the segregated public schools were "substantially" equal enough to be constitutional under the Plessy doctrine. Brown appealed to the Supreme Court, which consolidated and then reviewed all the school segregation actions together. Thurgood Marshall, who would in 1967 be appointed the first black justice of the Court, was chief counsel for the plaintiffs. On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren read the unanimous opinion: school segregation by law was unconstitutional. Considered one of the most important rulings in the court's history, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* helped to inspire the American civil rights movement of the late 1950s and 1960s.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. the most important court of law in some countries or some states of the US
2. one of the nine judges of the US Supreme Court
3. one of 12 law courts in the US that deals with cases when people are not satisfied with the judgment given by a lower court
4. a US court of law which deals with cases involving national rather than state law
5. to make an official decision about something, especially a legal problem
6. a fixed period of time during which someone does something or something happens
7. a decision in a court of law that someone is guilty of a crime, or the process of proving that someone is guilty
8. to officially suggest someone or something for an important position, duty, or prize
9. someone whose job is to advise people about laws, write formal agreements, or represent people in court
10. to give a person or organization the legal right to do something
11. the right to use an official power to make legal decisions, or the area where this right exists

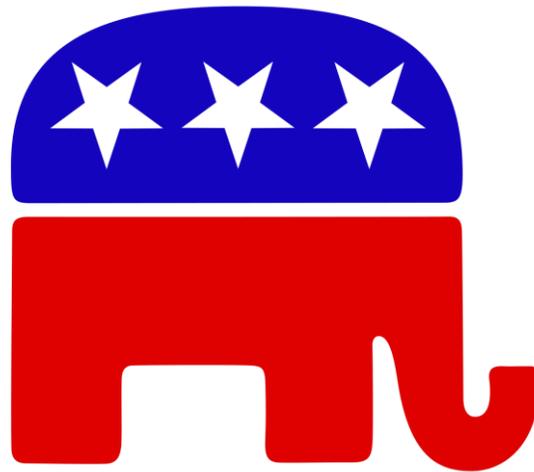
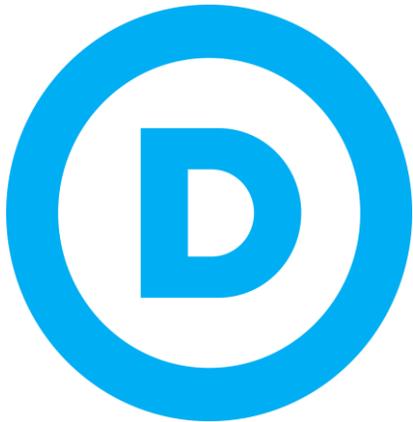
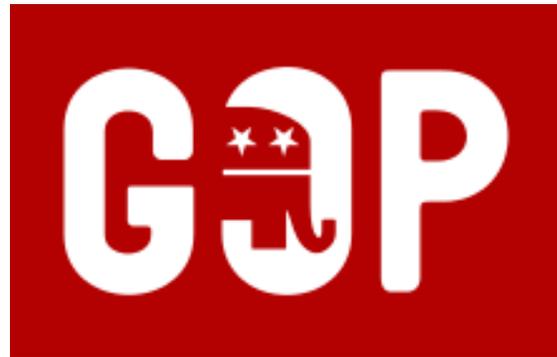
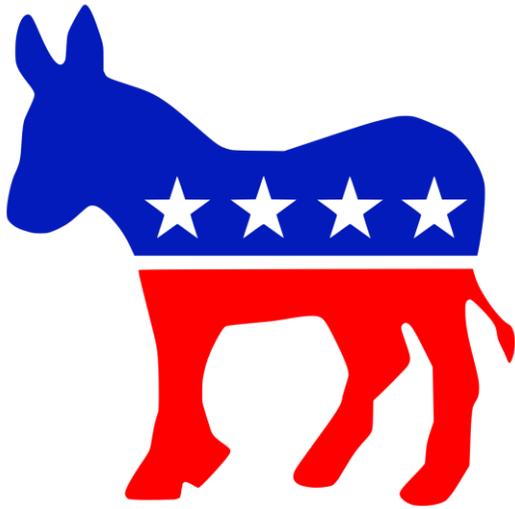
- 12.to explain something clearly an official rule or order
- 13.the crime of being disloyal to your country or its government, especially by helping its enemies or trying to remove the government using violence
- 14.the quality of being acceptable according to a constitution
- 15.the authority to make the decisions
- 16.a type of court proceeding in which a judge reviews the lawfulness of a decision or action made by a public body; the power of a court to decide that a law or official government act is not legal according to the US Constitution
- 17.an official decision, especially one made by a court
- 18.the policy of keeping people from different groups, especially different races, separate
- 19.an action or official decision that can be used to give support to later actions or decisions
- 20.to officially introduce a legally acceptable case
- 21.to have a strong influence on sth.
- 22.to keep the government under control

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. принимать судебные решения по вопросам, связанным с законом и конституцией
2. назначать судей Верховного Суда
3. судьи апелляционного и окружного суда
4. подтверждать или отклонять назначение
5. срок службы
6. отстранить от должности в связи с импичментом или судимостью
7. работать в качестве юриста / адвоката
8. наделять полномочиями суд
9. отправление правосудия / юрисдикция
- 10.разъяснять правила / устав / предписание / постановление
- 11.государственная измена
- 12.толковать конституционность законов
- 13.постановить, что
- 14.постановление Верховного Суда
- 15.судебный надзор
- 16.расовая сегрегация

- 17.отменить решение Верховного Суда
- 18.следовать прецеденту
- 19.представить на рассмотрение юридически обоснованное дело
- 20.оказывать глубокое влияние на повседневную жизнь
- 21.контролировать правительство

Unit 6. Democrats vs Republicans



Democrats

Republicans

I. Watch the videos at <https://youtu.be/9PrvciTGpRI>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- Democrat /'deməkræt/
- Republican /rɪ'pʌblɪkən/
- approach /ə'prəʊtʃ/
- liberal /'lɪbərəl/
- conservative /kən'sɜ:vətɪv/
- taxation /tæk'seɪʃən/
- income /'ɪŋkʌm, 'ɪn-/
- debt /det/
- entrepreneurship /,ɒntɹəprə'nɜ:ʃɪp/
- healthcare /'helθkeə/

- affordable /ə'fɔ:dəbəl/
- safeguard /'seɪfgɑ:d/
- defence /dɪ'fens/
- maintain /meɪn'teɪn, mən-/
- comprehensive /ˌkɒmprɪ'hensɪv/
- guarantee /ˌgærən'ti:/
- emphasis /'emfəsɪs/
- alternative /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/
- abortion /ə'bɔ:ʃən/
- adoption /ə'dɒpʃən/
- immigration /ˌɪmɪ'greɪʃən/
- presidential campaign /ˌprezɪ'denʃəl kæm'peɪn/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. How did the parties get their logos?
2. What is the principal difference between the parties in their ideals?
3. Which approach do the parties take to economy, healthcare, military, gun control, marriage, abortion, and immigration?

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between the political parties — Democrats and Republicans? This video will explain some of the essential differences between the two.

Logos

The Democrats represent themselves with the donkey logo which originated back in 1828 during the presidential campaign of Democrat Andrew Jackson. Jackson decided to use this image of a strong-willed animal on his campaign posters.

The Republicans are represented by the elephant logo which originated during the Civil War when the first Republican Abraham Lincoln was elected to the White House. The phrase “Seeing the Elephant” was an expression used by soldiers.

Ideals

The Democratic Party believes in a strong government in which the government has a more progressive approach to helping citizens of the United States. They are typically more liberal in their views on the rights of citizens.

The Republican Party, however, pushes for a more limited and less controlling government. They take a more conservative approach to most rights of citizens. They promote citizens' individual rights to choose.

Economy

Democrats push for a progressive taxation on citizens. This means that the higher a person's income, the higher their taxes should be, and the person that receives a lower income should be taxed less. They believe that everyone should have a job that pays enough to raise a family.

Republicans support cutting taxes whenever possible without hurting the overall budget and the nation's debt. Republicans also support free market competition, entrepreneurship such as starting your own business, and capitalism. They believe that every American deserves the right to own, invest, build, and prosper.

Healthcare

Democrats support more federally funded healthcare programmes. During his presidency Barack Obama began the federally funded healthcare programme called Obamacare, which ensured all citizens with access to affordable healthcare. Democrats also want to ensure that all citizens can pay for their healthcare expenses.

Republicans support to keep healthcare private. This means that citizens are given choices on the healthcare provider that they would like to use. Healthcare providers compete with each other to provide affordable healthcare.

Military

Democrats strongly believe that the production of nuclear material must stop. They would like to see that nuclear weapons worldwide be safeguarded, stating "We need to find it, catalog it, and lock it away." They would like to reduce the nation's budget on military defence spending and they believe that peace is achieved through worldwide relationship building with other nations.

The Republican Party believes that the key to protecting America is maintaining a strong traditional military. They believe that the country should have a strong and comprehensive defence system. Republican views on military are centred around the belief that strengthening the military will build a safer world and a better guarantee for peace.

Gun control

Democrats support policies that restrict and monitor gun control. Generally, Democrats oppose the right to carry concealed weapons in public places.

Republicans want to limit the amount of gun control restrictions. They strongly support the 2nd Amendment, the right to bear arms as well as the right to carry concealed weapons in public places.

Marriage

Democrats generally support same-sex marriage although Democrats remain largely divided on the issue as some only support civil unions between a man and a woman.

Republicans support the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. They strongly support civil unions between a man and a woman.

Abortion

Democrats generally support a pro-choice policy which allows women to make their own choice when it comes to abortion.

Republicans generally support a pro-life policy with an emphasis on promoting alternatives to abortion such as adoption.

Immigration

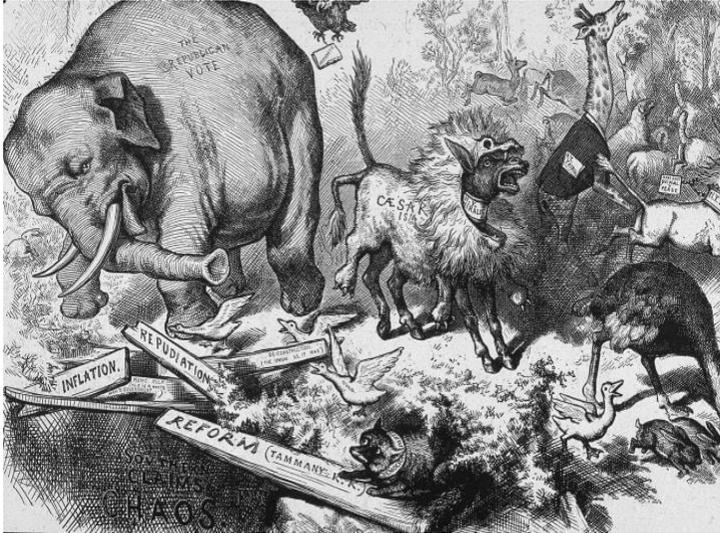
Democrats do not promote strict immigration restrictions. This means that there are less restrictions allowing it for immigrants from other countries to move to the United States.

Republicans promote strict immigration restrictions. This means that they support closed or tight borders and thorough tracking systems for foreign travelers. They support monitoring and regulating the amount of immigrants moving to the United States.

Although Democrats and Republicans differ on their views and policies, they compromise and work together in the Senate and in Congress to pass laws that help to protect and serve the American people.

NOTES

Party Logos



The Republican elephant made its first appearance in this 1874 cartoon by Thomas Nast. A fox in the bottom right corner represents the Democratic party.



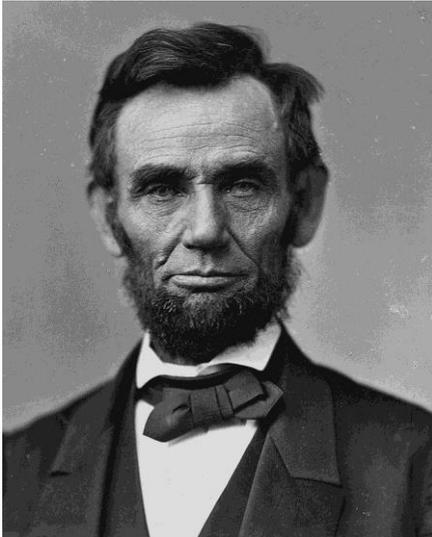
Political cartoon by Thomas Nast, taken from a 1879 edition of Harper's Weekly

The Democratic Party's donkey and the Republican Party's elephant have been on the political scene since the 19th century. The origins of the Democratic donkey can be traced to the 1828 presidential campaign of Andrew Jackson. During that race, opponents of Jackson called him a jackass. However, rather than rejecting the label, Jackson, a hero of the War of 1812 who later served in the US House of Representatives and US Senate, was amused by it and included an image of the animal in his campaign posters. Jackson went on to defeat incumbent John Quincy Adams and serve as America's first Democratic president. In the 1870s, influential political cartoonist Thomas Nast helped popularize the donkey as a symbol for the entire Democratic Party.

The Republican Party was formed in 1854 and six years later Abraham Lincoln became its first member elected to the White House. An image of an elephant was featured as a Republican symbol in at least one political cartoon and a newspaper illustration during the Civil War (when "seeing the elephant" was an expression used by soldiers to mean experiencing combat), but the pachyderm didn't start to take hold as a GOP ("Grand Old

Party”) symbol until Thomas Nast, who’s considered the father of the modern political cartoon, used it in an 1874 *Harper’s Weekly* cartoon. Nast employed the elephant to represent Republicans in additional cartoons during the 1870s, and by 1880 other cartoonists were using the creature to symbolize the party.

Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln, byname Honest Abe, the Rail-Splitter, or the Great Emancipator, (1809-1865) was the 16th president of the United States (1861-65). As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy. On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. Among

American heroes, Lincoln continues to have a unique appeal for his fellow countrymen and also for people of other lands.

The American Civil War

The American Civil War, or Civil War or War Between the States, (1861-65) was the conflict between the US federal government and 11 Southern states that fought to secede from the Union. It arose out of disputes over the issues of slavery, trade and tariffs, and the doctrine of states’ rights. In the 1840s and ‘50s, Northern opposition to slavery in the Western territories caused the Southern states to fear that existing slaveholdings, which formed the economic base of the South, were also in danger. By the 1850s abolitionism was growing in the North, and when the antislavery Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, the Southern states seceded to protect what they saw as their right to keep slaves. They were organized as the Confederate States of America under Jefferson Davis. The Northern states of the federal Union, under Lincoln, commanded more than twice the population of the Confederacy and held greater advantages in manufacturing and transportation capacity. The war began in Charleston, S.C., when Confederate artillery fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Both sides quickly raised armies. The conflict was the costliest and deadliest war ever fought on

American soil, with some 620,000 of 2.4 million soldiers killed and millions more injured. The South was devastated. But the Union was preserved, and slavery was abolished.

Obamacare

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), formally known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and colloquially known as Obamacare, is a United States federal statute enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. Together with the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 Amendment, it represents the US healthcare system's most significant regulatory overhaul and expansion of coverage since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. to use a method of doing something or dealing with a problem
2. allowing people or organizations a lot of political or economic freedom
3. not liking changes or new ideas
4. the system of charging taxes
5. the money that you earn from your work or that you receive from investments, the government etc.
6. to look after your children and help them grow
7. a sum of money that a country owes
8. an economic system in which prices are not controlled by the government
9. the process of starting a new business or arranging business deals in order to make money, often in a way that involves financial risks
10. to provide money for an activity, organization, event etc.
11. the activity of looking after people's health, considered as an industry
12. cheap enough for most people to afford
13. laws that limit the ways in which guns can be sold, owned, and used
14. to disagree about the problem
15. a legal relationship between two people that provides legal protections to the couple only at the state level
16. the act of taking someone else's child into your home and legally become its parent
17. the process of entering another country in order to live there permanently
18. a system used for observing persons or objects on the move and supplying a timely ordered sequence of location data for further processing

V. *Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.*

1. президентская кампания
2. использовать прогрессивный / консервативный подход к чему-либо
3. прогрессивное налогообложение
4. облагать налогом
5. доход человека
6. содержать семью
7. сократить налоги
8. общий бюджет
9. государственный долг
10. конкуренция на свободном рынке
11. поддерживать предпринимательство
12. открывать свое дело
13. заслуживать право вкладывать деньги
14. финансируемые государством программы здравоохранения
15. обеспечить всех граждан доступом к доступному здравоохранению
16. оплачивать расходы на здравоохранение
17. конкурировать друг с другом
18. производство ядерного материала
19. обеспечить защиту от ядерного оружия
20. расходы на военную оборону
21. поддерживать сильную армию
22. комплексная система обороны
23. ограничить и осуществлять контроль над оружием
24. скрытое ношение оружия
25. носить оружие
26. однополый брак
27. расходиться во мнении по вопросу
28. гражданское партнерство
29. движение за репродуктивный выбор / прочойс
30. движение «в защиту жизни» / антиабортное движение / пролайф
31. делая акцент / упор на чем-либо
32. предоставлять альтернативу абарту, такую как усыновление
33. строгие ограничения иммиграции
34. системы слежения

Unit 7. Veto Power

Presidents with the most total vetoes

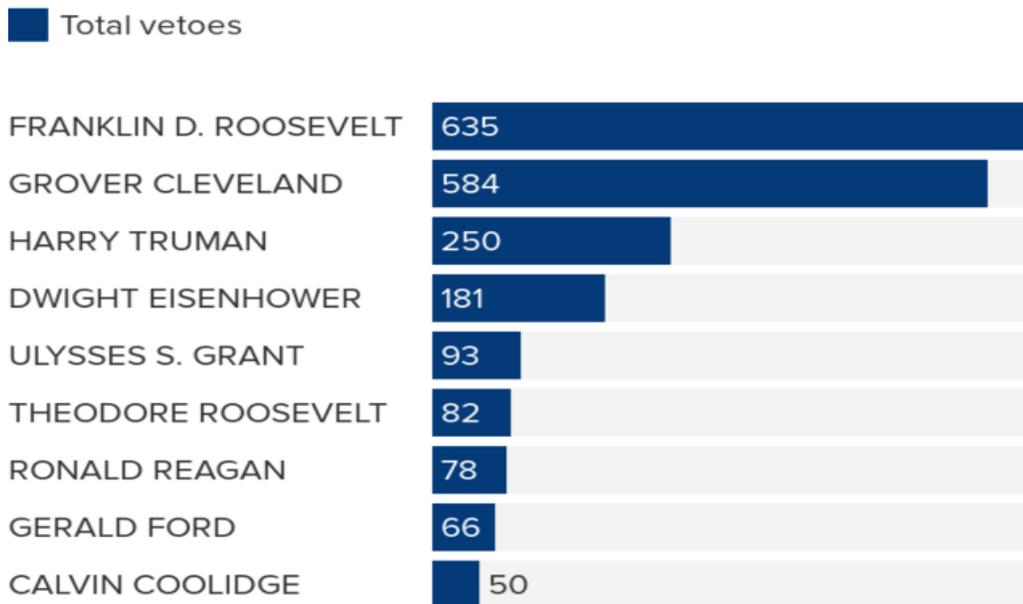


Chart: Jason Silverstein/CBS News • Source: House.gov

- I. Watch the videos at https://youtu.be/n_3cBWrC5n8.
- II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- sign off /'sain ɒf/
- override _{verb} /,əʊvə'reɪd/
- signature /'sɪgnətʃə/
- adjourn /ə'dʒɜ:n/
- ambiguity /,æmbɪ'gju:əti/
- schedule /'ʃedju:l, 'ske-/
- aftermath /'ɑ:ftəmæθ/
- scandal /'skændl/
- strengthen /'streŋθən, 'strenθən/

- determined /dɪ'tɜ:mɪnd/
- transparency /træn'spærənsi, -'speər-/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. What is a veto and how is it connected with the system of checks and balances?
2. What can the president do after Congress passes a law?
3. What is the difference between a regular and pocket veto?
4. How did some US presidents use their veto power?
5. What is the most famous example of a veto override by Congress?

In constructing a legislative, executive, and judicial branch of the United States government, the Founding Fathers built in checks and balances to ensure no branch of government has too much control. One of these checks and balances is the veto — a way for the president to limit the power of Congress.

Article 1, Section 7 of the Constitution says that the president must sign off on every piece of legislation or bill passed by the Senate and House of Representatives. So after Congress passes a law, the president can't change the law. But he can say yes or no. However, the president only has 10 days to look it over and make a decision. If the president says yes, he signs it, and it becomes a law. If he says no, well, this is called a veto.

In a regular veto, the president returns the bill unsigned to both Houses. But he includes a veto message explaining why he disapproves. If Congress still wants to pass the law, they get another chance to vote on it. But for it to override the president, it must be approved by 2/3 of the House and Senate.

But what happens if the president receives a bill and does nothing after those 10 days — no signature, no veto message? Well, the answer then depends on Congress. If Congress is in session, that bill automatically becomes law, unless Congress is about to go on a break. Then the president can sometimes use a tactic called the pocket veto. When the president refuses to sign a bill, and Congress has adjourned, the bill dies, and Congress has to start the entire process all over again when they return.

But there is ambiguity around what it means to be adjourned. In fact, there have been many Supreme Court cases that have tried to define adjournment. The modern definition only allows pocket vetoes when Congress goes on a break and has not scheduled the next meeting date.

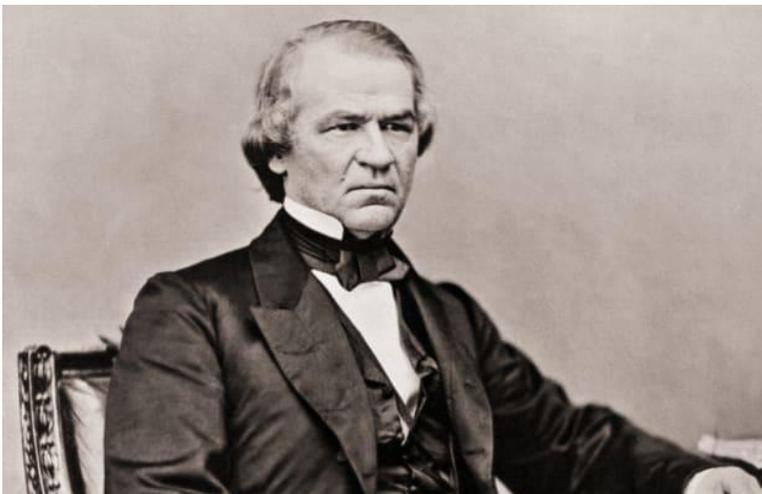
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had the most vetoes, with a record 635. Granted, FDR had the most time in office of any president — 12 years. Andrew Johnson only had 29 vetoes during his presidency. But Congress overrode more than half of them - a record 15 overrides, which didn't help with his tense relationship with Congress that ultimately ended in his impeachment.

One of the most famous examples of an override by Congress took place in 1974. In the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, President Gerald Ford vetoed a bill that would strengthen the Freedom of Information Act. But Congress was determined to promote government transparency. Freedom of Information prevailed, with over 2/3 of both chambers voting to override.

Vetoes are an essential part of the president's power. But no governmental power is without limits. While we might disagree with some of the outcomes, vetoes are a clear example of checks and balances at work.

NOTES

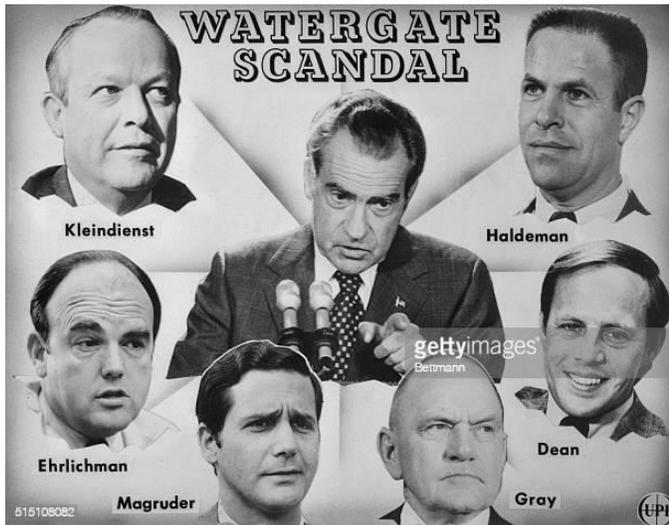
Andrew Johnson



Andrew Johnson (1808-1875) was the 17th president of the United States (1865-69), who took office upon the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln during the closing months of the American Civil War (1861-65). His lenient Reconstruction policies toward the South embittered the Radical Republicans in Congress and led to

his political downfall and to his impeachment, though he was acquitted. The first president to be impeached — but not convicted or removed from office — Johnson often contends with James Buchanan for the title of worst president.

The Watergate Scandal



The Watergate scandal (1972–74) was a political scandal involving illegal activities by President Richard Nixon's administration.

In June 1972 five burglars were arrested after breaking into the Democratic Party's national headquarters at the Watergate Hotel complex in Washington, D.C. Within a few days of their arrest at the Watergate, charges of burglary and wiretapping were brought against the five and two others, including a former White House aide and G. Gordon Liddy, general counsel for the Committee to Reelect the President. Nixon and his aides steadfastly denied that anyone in the administration had been involved, despite persistent press reports to the contrary, and in November 1972 Nixon was easily reelected. In January 1973 the trial of the burglars was held before Judge John Sirica; five pleaded guilty and two were convicted by a jury. Sirica's direct questioning of witnesses revealed details of a cover-up by H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, and John W. Dean. They and Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst resigned in April.

The new attorney general, Elliot L. Richardson, appointed Archibald Cox as special prosecutor. A Senate committee under Samuel Ervin held televised hearings in which the existence of tapes of conversations in the president's office was disclosed. Cox and Ervin subpoenaed the tapes, but Nixon refused to relinquish them and ordered Cox fired. Richardson resigned in protest, and the public outcry eventually forced Nixon to surrender the tapes, which revealed clear signs of his involvement in the cover-up. In July 1974 the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives passed three articles of impeachment against Nixon. On August 5 Nixon supplied three tapes that clearly implicated him in the cover-up. Though Nixon continued to insist that he had not committed any offenses, he resigned on Aug. 8, 1974. He was pardoned a month later by his successor, Gerald Ford.

Gerald Ford



Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr. (1913-2006) was an American politician who served as the 38th president of the United States from 1974 to 1977. When Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, he declared, “I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances.... This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.” It was indeed an unprecedented time. He had been the first Vice President chosen under the terms of the 25th Amendment and, in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, was succeeding the first President ever to resign. As President, Ford tried to calm earlier controversies by granting former President Nixon a full pardon.

Ford’s first goal was to curb inflation. Then, when recession became the nation’s most serious domestic problem, he shifted to measures aimed at stimulating the economy. But, still fearing inflation, Ford vetoed a number of non-military appropriations bills that would have further increased the already heavy budgetary deficit. During his first 14 months as President he vetoed 39 measures. His vetoes were usually sustained.

In foreign affairs Ford acted vigorously to maintain US power and prestige after the collapse of Cambodia and South VietNam. Preventing a new war in the Middle East remained a major objective; by providing aid to both Israel and Egypt, the Ford Administration helped persuade the two countries to accept an interim truce agreement. Detente with the Soviet Union continued. President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev set new limitations upon nuclear weapons.

The Freedom of Information Act



The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), enacted in 1966, generally provides any person with the statutory right, enforceable in court, to obtain access to government information in executive branch agency records. This right to access is limited when such information is protected from disclosure by one of FOIA's nine statutory exemptions. The main purpose of the law is to ensure an informed citizenry and provide a check against corruption by holding the government accountable. The Supreme Court has emphasized that

FOIA applies to official information shedding light on an agency's performance of statutory duties.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

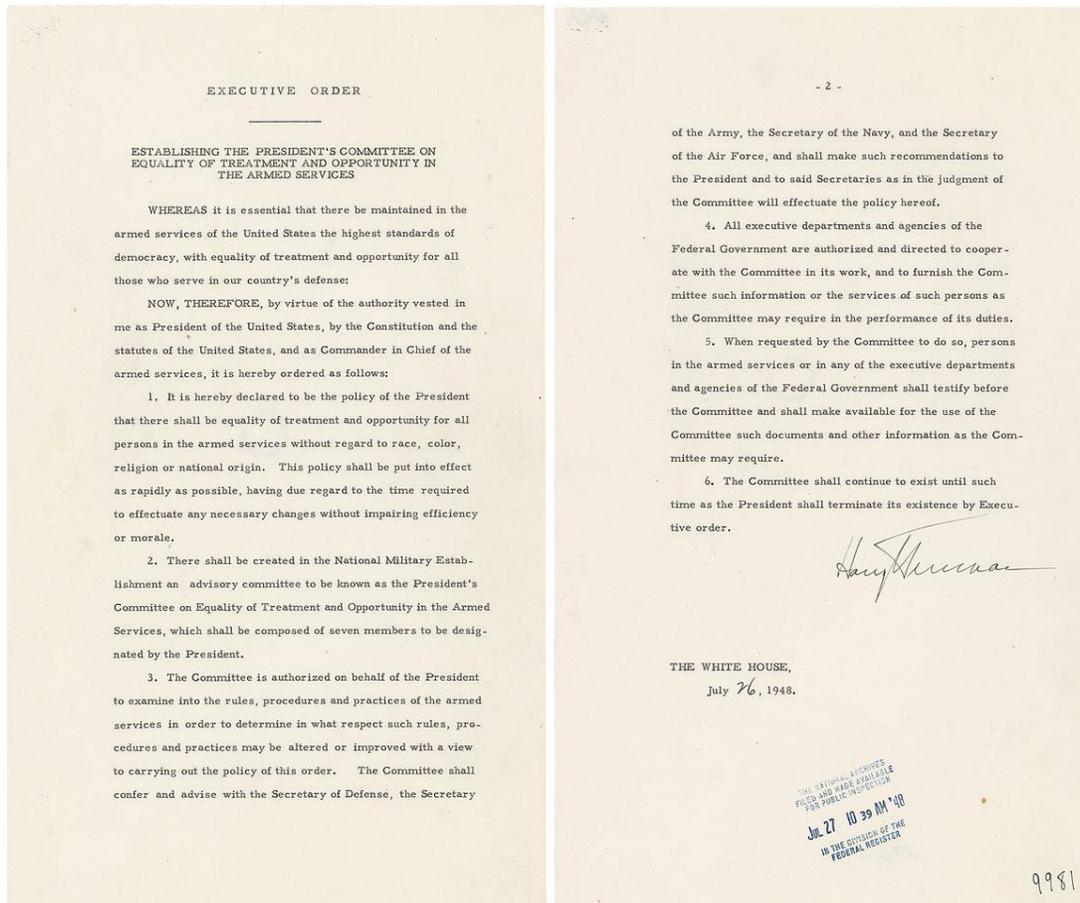
1. to show that you approve of a plan or that something is finished by signing an official document
2. to use your power or authority to change someone else's decision
3. to hold a formal meeting or group of meetings, especially of a law court or parliament
4. to go on a holiday
5. a method that you use to achieve something
6. to stop for a short time
7. the state of being unclear, confusing, or not certain
8. to plan the time of the meeting
9. the period of having an important job or position with power, especially in government
10. unfriendly and not relaxed interaction
11. as a result of something bad or important
12. having a strong desire to do something
13. to help to increase openness, accountability, and honesty in the government

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. ограничить власть Конгресса

2. утвердить / подписать законодательный акт
3. принять закон
4. обычное вето
5. карманное вето
6. послание президента с изложением причин наложения вето на законопроект
7. отменить решение президента
8. проводить заседание
9. уходить на каникулы
10. объявлять перерыв в заседании
11. неопределенность / двусмысленность в отношении чего-либо
12. определять перерыв между заседаниями
13. запланировать дату заседания
14. занимать пост президента
15. напряженные отношения с Конгрессом
16. вследствие Уотергейтского скандала
17. ужесточить закон о свободе информации
18. способствовать прозрачности в работе правительства

Unit 8. Executive Orders



Executive Order 9981 dated July 26, 1948 in which President Harry S. Truman bans the segregation of the Armed Forces., 07/26/1948 - 07/26/1948

I. Watch the videos at <https://youtu.be/oyOf3g-PJ94>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- decree /dɪ'kriː/
- committee /kə'mɪti/
- revision /rɪ'vɪʒən/
- consultation /ˌkɒnsəl'teɪʃən/
- permission /pə'mɪʃən/
- enforce /ɪn'fɔːs/
- subject to /'sʌbdʒɪkt tə/
- invalidate /ɪn'vælədəɪt/
- assert /ə'sɜːt/

- successor /sək'sesə/
- eliminate /ɪ'liməneɪt/
- exert /ɪg'zɜ:t/
- justify /'dʒʌstɪfaɪ/
- response /rɪ'spɒns/
- emergency /ɪ'mɜ:dʒənsi/
- implement /'ɪmpləment/
- desegregate /di:'segrɪgeɪt/
- nondiscriminatory /,nɒndɪ'skrɪmənətəri/
- counteract /,kaʊntər'ækt/
- internment camp /ɪn'tɜ:nmənt kæmp/
- Emancipation Proclamation /ɪ,mænsɪ'peɪʃən ,prɒklə'meɪʃən/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. What was the first historical example of an executive order?
2. How is an executive order different from a law?
3. When can an executive order be used?
4. Which famous executive orders have changed the course of American history?
5. What was the most notable example of an executive order used to exclude and divide?

On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln legally changed the status of over 3 million enslaved blacks across ten states from slave to free. His Emancipation Proclamation wasn't a law, or a presidential decree. It was an executive order. The framers of the American Constitution made the power of executive order available to the executive branch. But what exactly is this tool? How does it work? And what is the extent of its power?

An executive order isn't a law, but it can carry the weight of one. Passing laws involves a fairly lengthy process. First, a member of Congress proposes a piece of legislation in the form of a bill. After many committees and revisions, if the bill is approved by a majority votes in Congress, that is both the House and Senate, the bill is then sent to the president for signature. If the president signs the bill, it then becomes a law.

An executive order, on the other hand, is something the president issues without consultation or permission from Congress. They are, however, enforced like laws, and are subject to judicial review by the court system to make sure they're within the limits of the Constitution. That means the courts have the power to invalidate any executive decisions that they determine are an overreach of the president in trying to assert power. And once the president leaves office, if his or her successor wants to eliminate the executive order, they can do so.

So when does a president use an executive order? Sometimes a president feels the need to exert power without working with Congress, and in times of crisis, quick decisions can be justified. But most executive orders are not responses to emergencies. They're often directed towards agencies in the federal government in order to expand or contract their power. Others determine the extent to which legislation should be enforced. And sometimes, a president may use an executive order to clarify and help implement a policy that needs to be easily defined.

Some of the most famous executive orders have changed the course of American history. FDR issued an executive order to establish the Works Progress Administration, which helped build thousands of roads, bridges, and parks throughout the country. The WPA also employed thousands of writers, painters, sculptors, and artists to create works of art in public spaces. Additionally, Harry Truman used an executive order to desegregate the armed forces in 1948. And in 1965, Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order to establish requirements for nondiscriminatory practices in hiring and employment.

Executive orders have often been used in positive and inclusive ways, but they've also been used to exclude and divide, one of the most notable examples being FDR's 1942 executive order. He gave the military authority to target predominantly Japanese-Americans, as well as German-Americans and Italian-Americans, in certain regions across the country. This executive order also removed any or all of those people into military zones, most commonly known as internment camps. Beginning in the early 1960s, each president has issued roughly 300 executive orders, but FDR issued over 3,500. At the other end of the spectrum, William Henry Harrison never issued an executive order, probably because his presidency only lasted 31 days.

The US Constitution is somewhat ambiguous on the extent of the president's power. That's resulted in executive orders expanding over time. For instance, since Lyndon

Johnson, presidents have begun issuing orders to create faith-based initiatives, establish federal agencies, and remove barriers for scientific research.

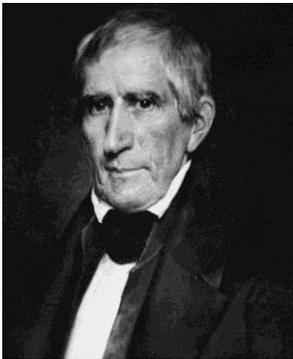
There are checks and balances in the US political system. Congress can pass laws to counteract executive orders, and judges can halt them by deeming them unconstitutional. But in the time it takes for those things to happen, an executive order can go into effect and possibly change the course of history, for better or for worse.

NOTES

The Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation was an announcement made in the US by President Abraham Lincoln which ordered the end of slavery in the Confederate States (the southern states of the US) from January 1st 1863. The Proclamation was made during the Civil War, with the aim of weakening the Confederate States. Soon after the war, slavery was completely ended by the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution.

William Henry Harrison



William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) was the 9th president of the United States (1841), whose Indian campaigns, while he was a territorial governor and army officer, thrust him into the national limelight and led to his election in 1840. He was the oldest man, at age 67, ever elected president up to that time, the last president born under British rule, and the first to die in office — after only one month's service.

Harry S. Truman



Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) was the 33rd president of the United States (1945-53), who led his country through the final stages of World War II and through the early years of the Cold War, vigorously opposing Soviet expansionism in Europe and sending US forces to turn back a communist invasion of South Korea. He implemented the Marshall Plan to rebuild the economy of Western Europe and established the Truman Doctrine and NATO to contain communist expansion.

Lyndon Johnson

Lyndon B. Johnson, in full Lyndon Baines Johnson, also called LBJ, (1908-1973) was the 36th president of the United States (1963-69). A moderate Democrat and vigorous leader in the United States Senate, Johnson was elected vice president in 1960 and acceded to the presidency in 1963 upon the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. President Johnson's domestic policy was aimed to create programmes that would expand civil rights, public broadcasting, Medicare, Medicaid, aid to education and the arts, urban and rural development, and public services. Johnson coined the term the "Great Society" in 1964 to describe these efforts.

In addition, Johnson sought to create better living conditions for low income Americans. He spearheaded a campaign unofficially called the "War on Poverty". Assisted by a strong economy, the War on Poverty helped millions of Americans rise above the poverty line during his administration. Johnson's civil rights legacy was shaped by signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (that prohibits unequal application of voter registration requirements, racial segregation in schools and public accommodations, and employment discrimination) and Voting Rights Act of 1965 (that prohibits racial discrimination in voting). On the other hand, Johnson is widely condemned for his role for escalating the Vietnam War and the consequences that came along with it.

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, formerly the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) is an office within the White House Office that is part of the Executive Office of the President of the United States. OFBCI was established by President George W. Bush through an executive order on January 29, 2001, representing one of the key domestic policies of Bush's campaign promise of "compassionate conservatism" (an American political philosophy that stresses using conservative techniques and concepts in order to improve the general welfare of society). Bush proposed that faith-based organizations should assume a greater role in providing social-service programmes without breaching the separation of church and state. He suggested that government should not discriminate against faith-based programmes, but it should encourage them to flourish. Under his plan, religious groups could receive federal funding to implement programmes usually carried out by secular non-profit organizations.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. an official order or decision, especially one made by the ruler of a country
2. the process of changing something in order to improve it by correcting it or including new information or ideas
3. to make people obey a rule or law
4. to depend on the power of a court to decide that a law or official government act is not legal according to the US Constitution
5. to make the president's decision no longer legally acceptable
6. to state very strongly your authority
7. to give up your an important job or position, especially in a government
8. someone who takes a job or position previously held by someone else
9. to completely get rid of something that is unnecessary or unwanted
10. to use your power in order to make something happen
11. to give an acceptable explanation for your decision
12. a reaction to an unexpected and dangerous situation
13. to make a policy start to be used
14. to end a system in which people of different races are kept separate
15. a way of treating people without discrimination
16. a camp where persons are confined, usually without hearings and typically under harsh conditions, often as a result of their membership in a group which the government has identified as dangerous or undesirable
17. rules that govern the partnerships between the government and religiously-affiliated organizations that receive federal grants to provide social services
18. to reduce or prevent the bad effect of something
19. to consider a law or order contrary to the Constitution
20. to start to be used

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. Прокламация об освобождении рабов
2. президентский указ
3. предлагать законодательный акт
4. пересмотр законопроекта
5. утверждаться большинством голосов
6. издавать исполнительный указ/распоряжение без консультации и разрешения

7. приводить в действие исполнительный указ/распоряжение
8. подлежать судебному надзору
9. признавать недействительными решение президента
10. утвердить свою власть
11. уйти с поста
12. преемник президента
13. объявить президентский указ недействительным
14. использовать свою власть
15. оправдать поспешное решение
16. реакция на чрезвычайное положение
17. расширить или сократить полномочия
18. реализовать политику
19. Управление промышленно-строительными работами общественного назначения
20. положить конец сегрегации в вооруженных силах
21. отсутствие дискриминации при приеме на работу и на рабочих местах
22. наделять военных полномочиями отслеживать кого-либо
23. лагерь интернированных / концентрационный лагерь
24. насильственно перемещать людей
25. препятствовать реализации исполнительного указа/распоряжения
26. посчитать указ/распоряжение неконституционным
27. вступить в силу

Unit 9. Impeachment



Andrew Johnson

Bill Clinton

Donald Trump

I. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/hSszixvo7d8>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- indictment /ɪnˈdɪktmənt/
- accusation /ˌækjuːˈzeɪʃən/
- conviction /kənˈvɪkʃən/
- acquittal /əˈkwɪtl/
- trial /ˈtraɪəl/
- refer /rɪˈfɜː/
- committee /kəˈmɪti/
- examine /ɪgˈzæmɪn/
- evidence /ˈeɪvɪdəns/
- sufficient /səˈfɪʃənt/
- proceed /prəˈsiːd/

- prosecution /ˌprɒsɪˈkjuːʃən/
- jury /ˈdʒʊəri/
- deliberate _{verb} /dɪˈlɪbəreɪt/
- preside /prɪˈzaɪd/
- bribery /ˈbraɪbəri/
- misdemeanour /ˌmɪsdɪˈmiːnə/
- conspire /kənˈspaɪə/
- oath /əʊθ/
- civil officer /ˌsɪvəl ˈɒfəsə/
- chief justice /ˌtʃiːf ˈdʒʌstɪs/
- sexual harassment /ˌseksʃuəl ˈhærəsmənt/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. How is impeachment defined?
2. Where did impeachment originate?
3. How does an impeachment process start?
4. Where and how is the actual trial that follows impeachment conducted?
5. What can an official be impeached for?
6. Who was the first official to be impeached and why?
7. What are the most well-known examples of impeaching US presidents?

For most jobs, it's understood that you can be fired, whether for crime, incompetence, or just poor performance. But what if your job happens to be the most powerful position in the country, or the world? That's where impeachment comes in.

Impeachment isn't the same as actually removing someone from office. Like an indictment in criminal court, it's only the formal accusation that launches a trial, which could end in conviction or acquittal. Originating in the United Kingdom, impeachment allowed Parliament to vote for removing a government official from office even without the king's consent. Although this was an important check on royal power, the king couldn't be impeached because the monarch was considered the source of all government power. But for the founders of the American Republic, there was no higher authority beyond the people themselves. And so impeachment was adopted in the United States as a power of Congress applying to any civil officers, up to and including the president.

Although demands for impeachment can come from any members of the public, only the House of Representatives has the power to actually initiate the process. It begins by referring the matter to a committee, usually the House Committee on Rules and the House Committee on the Judiciary. These committees review the accusations, examine the evidence, and issue a recommendation. If they find sufficient grounds to proceed, the House holds a separate vote on each of the specific charges, known as Articles of Impeachment. If one or more passes by a simple majority, the official is impeached and the stage is set for trial.

The actual trial that follows impeachment is held in the Senate. Selected members of the House, known as managers, act as the prosecution, while the impeached official and their lawyers present their defense. The Senate acts as both judge and jury, conducting the trial and deliberating after hearing all the arguments. If it's the president or vice president being impeached, the chief justice of the Supreme Court presides. A conviction requires a supermajority of two-thirds and results in automatic removal from power. Depending on the original charges, it can also disqualify them from holding office in the future and open them to standard criminal prosecution.

So what exactly can get someone impeached? That's a bit more complicated. Unlike in the United Kingdom, impeachment in the US pits an elected legislature against other democratically elected members of government. Therefore, to prevent the process from being used as a political weapon, the Constitution specifies that an official can only be impeached for treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors. That still leaves a lot of room for interpretation, not to mention politics, and many impeachment trials have split along partisan lines. But the process is generally understood to be reserved for serious abuses of power.

The first official to be impeached was Tennessee Senator William Blount in 1797 for conspiring with Britain to cease the Spanish colony of Louisiana. Since then, the House has launched impeachment investigations about 60 times, but only 19 have led to actual impeachment proceedings. The eight cases that ended in a conviction and removal from office were all federal judges.

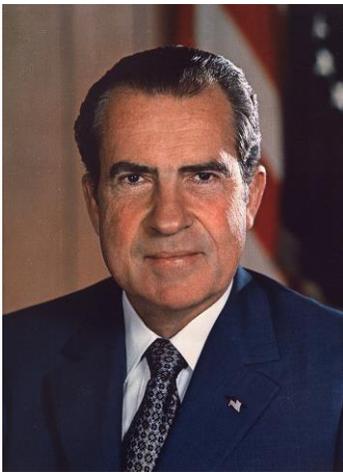
And impeachment of a sitting president is even more rare. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868 for attempting to replace Secretary of War Edwin Stanton without

consulting the Senate. Over a century later, Bill Clinton was impeached for making false statements under oath during a sexual harassment trial. Both were ultimately acquitted when the Senate's votes to convict fell short of the required two-thirds majority. And contrary to popular belief, Richard Nixon was never actually impeached for the Watergate scandal. He resigned before it could happen knowing he would almost certainly be convicted.

Theoretically, the US government is already designed to prevent abuses of power, limiting different branches through a system of checks and balances, term limits, and free elections. But impeachment can be seen as an emergency brake for when these safeguards fail.

NOTES

Richard Nixon



Richard Nixon (1913-94), the 37th US president (1969-1974), is best remembered as the only president ever to resign from office. Nixon stepped down in 1974, halfway through his second term, rather than face impeachment over his efforts to cover up illegal activities by members of his administration in the Watergate scandal. As president, Nixon's achievements included forging diplomatic ties with China and the Soviet Union, and withdrawing US troops from an unpopular war in Vietnam. However, Nixon's involvement in Watergate tarnished his legacy and deepened American cynicism about government.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. low results of work
2. an official written statement charging someone with a criminal offence
3. a statement saying that someone is guilty of a crime or of doing something wrong
4. a decision in a court of law that someone is guilty of a crime
5. to start a legal process in a court of law
6. an official statement in a court of law that someone is not guilty
7. a person who exercises authority over civilian affairs
8. to send a problem to a special group of people so that a decision can be made

9. to study carefully information that is given in a court of law in order to prove that someone is guilty or not guilty
10. when a charge is made against someone for a crime, or when someone is judged for a crime in a court of law
11. a group of often 12 ordinary people who listen to the details of a case in court and decide whether someone is guilty or not
12. to think about something very carefully
13. the most important judge in a court of law, especially the US Supreme Court
14. to be in charge of a formal event, organization, ceremony etc.
15. an official statement by the police that someone may be guilty of a crime
16. the crime of giving money or presents to someone so that they will help you by doing something dishonest or illegal
17. a crime that is not very serious
18. to secretly plan with someone else to do something illegal
19. a formal promise to tell the truth in a court of law
20. annoying behaviour towards someone because of their sex

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. уволить за некомпетентность и низкие результаты работы
2. обвинительный акт в уголовном суде
3. формальное обвинение
4. служить началом судебного процесса
5. завершиться осуждением или оправданием
6. государственный служащий
7. начать процесс
8. передавать дело на рассмотрение комиссии
9. Комитет по регламенту Палаты представителей Конгресса США
10. Комитет Палаты представителей по вопросам судопроизводства
11. изучать доказательства / улики
12. найти значительные основания для продолжения процесса
13. проводить раздельное голосование по конкретным обвинительным пунктам
14. представление к импичменту
15. выступать в качестве обвинительной стороны и защиты
16. выступать в качестве судьи и присяжных
17. вести судебный процесс

- 18.совещаться после выслушивания всех аргументов
- 19.верховный судья
- 20.уголовное преследование
- 21.подвергнуть импичменту за государственную измену, взяточничество или другие тяжкие преступления и правонарушения
- 22.разделиться по партийной принадлежности
- 23.превышение полномочий
- 24.вступить в сговор с кем-то
- 25.действующий президент
- 26.делать ложные заявления под присягой
- 27.сексуальное домогательство

Unit 10. Presidential Election



Part 1. Election Procedure

I. Watch the videos at 1) <https://youtu.be/2eXCG-hlaqI> and 2) <https://youtu.be/Jdadb7qMBcE>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- resident noun /'rezɪdənt/
- permanently /'pɜ:mənəntli/
- campaign verb /kæm'peɪn/
- elector /ɪ'lektə/
- nomination /,nɒmə'neɪʃən/
- caucus /'kɔ:kəs/
- primaries /'praɪməriz/
- inaugurate /ɪ'nɔ:ɡjəreɪt/

- inauguration /ɪˌnɔːɡjəˈreɪʃən/
- eligible /ˈelɪdʒəbəl/
- ballot /ˈbælət/
- award_{verb} /əˈwɔːd/
- renegotiate /ˌrɪnɪˈɡəʊʃieɪt/
- entry /ˈentri/
- tally /ˈtæli/
- pre-election /ˌpriːɪˈleɪʃən/
- secure_{verb} /sɪˈkjʊə/
- general election /ˌdʒenərəl ɪˈleɪʃən/
- presidential race /ˌprezɪˈdenʃəl reɪs/
- National Convention /ˌnæʃənəl kənˈvenʃən/
- Electoral College /ɪˌlektərəl ˈkɒlɪdʒ/

III. Study the text of the videos and answer the questions.

1. Which requirements does a person have to meet to become the US president?
2. What happens during caucuses and primaries?
3. Who is eligible to vote in the primaries?
4. What is Super Tuesday?
5. What happens at the National Convention?
6. When is the general election held and who do the people vote for?
7. How many electors does each state have?
8. What are swing states and what is their role in the election?
9. Who does the Electoral College consist of and what is its function?

1) Lots of people dream of becoming President of the United States. But to officially run for office, a person needs to meet three basic requirements established by the US Constitution (Article 2, Section 1).

A Presidential candidate must be:

6. A natural born citizen (US citizen from birth)
7. At least 35 years old and
8. A US resident (permanently lives in the US) for at least 14 years.

People with similar ideas usually belong to the same political party. The two main parties in the US are Republican and Democrat.

Many people want to be president. They campaign around the country and compete to try to win their party's nomination.

In caucuses, party members meet, discuss, and vote for who they think would be the best party candidate. In primaries, party members vote in a state election for the candidate they want to represent them in the general election.

After the primaries and caucuses, each major party, Democrat and Republican, holds a national convention to select a presidential nominee. The party's presidential nominee announces his or her choice for vice president. The presidential candidates campaign throughout the country to win the support of the general population.

On election day, people in every state cast their vote. When people cast their vote, they are actually voting for a group of people called electors. The number of electors each state gets is equal to its total number of Senators and Representatives in Congress. A total of 538 electors form the Electoral College.

Each elector casts one vote following the general election. The candidate who gets 270 votes or more wins. The newly elected president and vice president are then inaugurated on January 20th.

2) It's that time again. The United States presidential election is around the corner. Every four years the American people decide whether a Democrat or a Republican gets to live in the White House for the next four years. But how exactly does the United States presidential election work?

To understand this we have to take a closer look at the entire election year. It all starts with the primaries in which Democrats and Republicans each decide who is going to be their presidential candidate. How the primaries work and who is eligible to vote in them varies from state to state. In some states every registered voter is allowed to vote. In others only voters registered with a particular party can cast a ballot in that party's primary. Even the dates the primaries are held are different in each state, although there are some cluster primary dates, for example, Super Tuesday. On Super Tuesday multiple states hold their

primary and it gets even more complicated than that because the people don't actually elect the presidential candidate directly with their vote. They are technically electing delegates who in turn will support a certain candidate in a primary. Each candidate is awarded a certain amount of delegates or representatives based on the amount of votes they receive. Those delegates will later vote for their assigned candidate. Once the delegates from the various primaries have been awarded, you can already get a good sense of who will become the presidential candidate.

However, the delegates don't officially vote for their candidates until the National Convention. In the end a candidate must receive over half of the delegate votes to win the party's nomination. If no candidate receives over half of the delegate votes at the Convention, the party renegotiates its entries into the presidential race. Additionally, sometimes candidates will end their presidential bids and then the delegates will have to vote again. In that case the delegates don't necessarily have to vote for their candidates again but are now free to choose whomever they like. This procedure continues until a presidential candidate has been found.

Once the two parties have officially chosen who is going head-to-head in the presidential race, the actual general election is held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Registered voters over 18 get to vote for their president on that day. However, similar to the primaries the president is not elected directly here either. The vote tally for each candidate determines how many electors are awarded to that candidate. These electors will then elect the candidate.

Each state has a different number of electors depending on how many people live in that state but the electors cannot simply vote for the candidate they wish. In 48 of the 50 states the elector tally is awarded "winner-take-all". This means the winner of that state gets all the votes from that state. Let's say a state has 10 electors. If at the end of the voting day the tally awards six electors to the Democratic candidate and four to the Republican, the Democrat has won the election in this state and gets all 10 votes while the Republican gets nothing. The winner takes all. This is why in so-called swing states states, in which both parties have an equally high chance of taking the win, candidates are campaigning harder than in other states. It is hard to predict the electoral outcome pre-election in these states. There is a total of 538 electors. The candidate who can secure more than half of the electoral vote has won the election. This is why electors from the swing states are especially important.

Once the electors have been awarded, it is basically clear who will be the next president of the United States while officially the decision is only made by the Electoral College which is the body made up of the awarded electors. This is usually 41 days after Election Day. On that day the electors vote in their states. These votes are then counted in Congress around the beginning of January and it is in Congress too where the next occupant of the White House is later officially announced. Finally, the inauguration of the next president takes place on January 20th to formally end the election year.

NOTES

Caucus

A caucus is “a meeting of party leaders or party members to select candidates, elect convention delegates, and establish the party’s policy position on specific issues.” The origin of the word caucus is unknown. Some claim there is a root in a Latin word for a kind of drinking vessel (the implication apparently being that these party leaders really liked to drink). Another often cited — though much less probable — origin is that caucus comes from a Virginian Algonquian word for “adviser.”

Whatever the origin, caucuses have long been a part of the American political system. In fact, caucuses are older than primaries — and even the US as a country. Caucuses date back to at least the mid-1700s.

Since the 1970s, most state parties have adopted primaries, but a minority still use a caucus system, with 10 states switching to primaries since 2016. Six states still use caucuses (or a form of them): Maine, Kansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Wyoming, and, most prominently, Iowa.

Super Tuesday



Super Tuesday is a Tuesday early in a US presidential election year on which primary elections or caucuses are held in numerous states. It was first established in 1988, when 16 mostly Southern states moved their primaries to March from later in the year in an attempt to give the region a larger influence in selecting presidential candidates. Subsequently other states scheduled

their primaries and caucuses earlier as well, so that by 2008 some 40 states held theirs in January or February. In 2008 Super Tuesday fell on February 5, when 24 states held primaries or caucuses.

National Conventions

The primary goal of the National Convention is to officially nominate a candidate for president and vice president, adopt a comprehensive party platform and unify the party. The Democratic National Convention (DNC) is a series of presidential nominating conventions held every four years since 1832 by the United States Democratic Party. They have been administered by the Democratic National Committee since the 1852 national convention. The Republican National Convention (RNC) is a series of presidential nominating conventions held every four years since 1856 by the United States Republican Party. They are administered by the Republican National Committee.

Delegates vs Superdelegates

A delegate is “a person designated to act for or represent another or others,” especially a representative at a political convention — such as at the Democratic or Republican National Convention. Members of a political party can apply to be delegates, and often include local politicians, early supporters of candidates, and other activists. Most delegates represent a congressional district. They pledge their support and campaign for a candidate and then work to get chosen to be a part of their state’s delegation.

A superdelegate is “a party leader or elected public official chosen as an uncommitted delegate to a national political convention.” Superdelegates are “uncommitted” because they can vote for whichever candidate they want regardless of the outcome of the primaries — a status designated by that prefix super-, meaning “above” or “beyond.” They include members of Congress and governors as well as former party leaders.

The White House



White House, formerly Executive Mansion (1810-1901), is the official office and residence of the president of the United States at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. in Washington, D.C. It is perhaps the most famous and easily recognizable house in the world, serving as both the home and workplace of the president and the headquarters of the president's principal staff members.

The White House and its landscaped grounds occupy 18 acres (7.2 hectares). Since the administration of George Washington (1789-97), who occupied presidential residences in New York and Philadelphia, every American president has resided at the White House. Originally called the "President's Palace" on early maps, the building was officially named the Executive Mansion in 1810 in order to avoid connotations of royalty. Although the name "White House" was commonly used from about the same time (because the mansion's white-gray sandstone contrasted strikingly with the red brick of nearby buildings), it did not become the official name of the building until 1901, when it was adopted by President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09). The White House is the oldest federal building in the nation's capital.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. to try to be elected in an election
2. to lead or take part in a series of actions intended to achieve a particular social or political result
3. a meeting of the members of a political party to choose people to represent them in a larger meeting, election etc.
4. an election in the US at which people vote to decide who will be a party's candidate for a political position in the main election
5. an election in which all the people in a country who can vote elect a government
6. to vote in an election

7. to hold an official ceremony when someone starts doing an important job in government
8. able or allowed to vote
9. in the US, the second Tuesday in March during a year when there is an election for the position of president
10. a representative party assembly to nominate candidates and adopt platforms and party rules
11. the act of officially suggesting someone or something for a position, duty, or prize
12. to discuss again
13. when someone starts competing for the post of the president
14. a record of how many votes you have won
15. a state where support for Democrat and Republican candidates is roughly equal, so that the way they vote can determine the outcome of the election
16. an election before the main election
17. to get votes of the Electoral College members

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. баллотироваться на пост президента
2. отвечать основным требованиям
3. житель США
4. постоянно проживать на территории США
5. выдвижение кандидата от партии
6. проводить президентскую кампанию
7. собрание членов политической партии / кокус
8. внутрипартийные выборы / праймериз
9. представлять членов партии на всеобщих выборах
10. голосовать на всеобщих выборах
11. вводить в должность президента / инаугурация президента
12. иметь право голосовать
13. «супервторник»
14. избирать делегатов
15. получать определенное число делегатов или представителей
16. национальный партийный съезд
17. пересматривать условия участия в президентской гонке

18. попытка участия в президентских выборах
19. конкурировать друг с другом в президентской гонке
20. проводить всеобщие выборы
21. итоги голосования
22. «победитель получает все»
23. колеблющиеся штаты
24. результат предварительных выборов
25. получить более половины голосов выборщиков

Part 2. The Electoral College



I. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/W9H3gvnN468>.

II. Practise pronouncing the words and be ready to define them in English.

- clause /klaʊz/
- entitle /ɪn'taɪtl/
- surpass /sə'pɑ:s/
- presidency /'prezədənsi/

- census /'sensəs/
- margin /'mɑ:dʒɪn/
- California /,kælə'fɔ:niə/
- Texas /'teksəs/
- Florida /'flɒrədə/
- Dakota /də'kəʊtə/
- Montana /mɒn'tɑ:nə/
- Wyoming /waɪ'əʊmɪŋ/
- Vermont /və'mɒnt/
- Connecticut /kə'netɪkət/
- Virginia /və'dʒɪniə/
- Pennsylvania /,pensɪl'veɪniə/
- Illinois /,ɪlɪ'nɔɪ/
- Ohio /əʊ'hɑɪəʊ/
- Michigan /'mɪʃɪgən/
- Carolina /,kærə'lɑɪnə/
- Georgia /'dʒɔ:dʒə/
- Alaska /ə'læskə/
- Oregon /'ɒrəgən/
- Maryland /'meərɪlənd/
- Massachusetts /,mæsə'tʃu:səts/
- Mississippi /,mɪsə'sɪpi/
- Alabama /,ælə'bæmə/
- Kansas /'kænzəs/
- Idaho /'aɪdəhəʊ/
- New Jersey /,nju: 'dʒɜ:zi/
- New York /,nju: 'jɔ:k/
- District of Columbia /,dɪstrɪkt əv kə'lʌmbiə/
- New Hampshire /,nju: 'hæmpʃə/
- Rhode Island /'rəʊd ,aɪlənd/

III. Study the text of the video and answer the questions.

1. What is the Electoral College?

2. Why are there 538 electors in each presidential election?
3. How do states get electoral votes?
4. How is it possible to win the popular vote but fail to gain the required 270 electoral votes?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Electoral College?
6. What is the difference between safe and swing states?

Most people have heard of the Electoral College during presidential election years. But what exactly is the Electoral College? Simply said, it is a group of people appointed by each state who formally elect the President and Vice President of the United States. To understand how this process began and how it continues today, we can look at the Constitution of the United States: Article 2, Section 1, Clause 2 of the Constitution. It specifies how many electors each state is entitled to have.

Since 1964, there have been 538 electors in each presidential election. How do they decide on the number 538? Well, the number of electors is equal to the total voting membership of the United States Congress. 435 representatives, plus 100 senators, and 3 electors from the District of Columbia. Essentially, the Democratic candidate and Republican candidate are each trying to add up the electors in every state so that they surpass 270 electoral votes, or just over half the 538 votes, and win the presidency.

So how do states even get electoral votes? Each state receives a particular number of electors based on population size. The census is conducted every 10 years, so every time the census happens, states might gain or lose a few electoral votes. Let's say you're a voter in California, a state with 55 electoral votes. If your candidate wins in California, they get all 55 of the state's electoral votes. If your candidate loses, they get none. This is why many presidential candidates want to win states like Texas, Florida, and New York.

If you currently add up the electoral votes of those three states, you would have 96 electoral votes. Even if a candidate won North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and West Virginia, they would only gain 31 electoral votes total from those eight states.

Here is where it can get a little tricky. On a rare occasion, like in the year 2000, someone can win the popular vote but fail to gain 270 electoral votes. This means that the winner may have won and collected their electoral votes by small margins, winning just enough

states with just enough electoral votes, but the losing candidate may have captured large voter margins in the remaining states. If this is the case, the very large margins secured by the losing candidate in the other states would add up to over 50% of the ballots cast nationally. Therefore, the losing candidate may have gained more than 50% of the ballots cast by voters, but failed to gain 270 of the electoral votes.

Some critics of the Electoral College argue the system gives an unfair advantage to states with large numbers of electoral votes. Think of it this way. It is possible for a candidate to not get a single person's vote — not one vote — in 39 states, or the District of Columbia, yet be elected president by winning the popular vote in just 11 of these 12 states: California, New York, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Georgia or Virginia. This is why both parties pay attention to these states.

However, others argue that the Electoral College protects small states such as Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire, and even geographically large states with small populations like Alaska, Wyoming and the Dakotas. That's because a candidate can't completely ignore small states, because in a close election, every electoral vote counts.

There are certain states that have a long history of voting for a particular party. These are known as "safe states." For the past four election cycles — in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 — Democrats could count on states like Oregon, Maryland, Michigan and Massachusetts, whereas the Republicans could count on states like Mississippi, Alabama, Kansas and Idaho.

States that are teetering between between parties are called "swing states." In the past four election cycles, Ohio and Florida have been swing states, twice providing electoral votes for a Democratic candidate, and twice providing electoral votes for a Republican candidate.

Think about it. Do you live in a safe state? If so, is it a Democratic or Republican safe state? Do you live in a swing state? Are your neighboring states swing or safe? Is the population in your state increasing or decreasing? And do not forget, when you are watching the electoral returns on election night every four years and the big map of the United States is on the screen, know that the magic number is 270 and start adding.

NOTES

Washington, D.C.



Washington, D.C., the capital of the U.S, is coextensive with the District of Columbia. Although New York City and Philadelphia each served briefly as the capital of the United States, in 1790, Congress chose the District of Columbia as the permanent seat of government. George Washington helped select the site for the city as a political compromise that satisfied both Northern and Southern states. Situated on the Potomac River, Washington, D.C., was originally carved out of land transferred from Maryland and Virginia (Virginia's portion south of the river was returned to that state in 1846).

French-born American engineer, architect, and urban designer Pierre-Charles L'Enfant designed the city's basic plan, which features wide avenues radiating from the Capitol building through a grid of streets with numerous circles and parks. Congress first met in Washington in 1800, although construction of the first phase of the Capitol was not completed until 1826.

IV. Find words and collocations in the texts for the following definitions.

1. a part of a written law or legal document covering a particular subject of the whole law or document
2. to give someone the official right to do or have something
3. all the members of a club, group, or organization
4. the special area of the eastern US, next to Maryland and Virginia, which includes Washington, the capital of the US
5. to be even better or greater than someone or something else
6. to carry out an official process of counting a country's population and finding out about the people

7. the total number or percentage of votes cast for a candidate by voters in the 50 states and Washington, D.C.
8. the difference in the number of votes, points etc that exists between the winners and the losers of a competition or election
9. an election won by only a few votes
10. to depend on someone or something
11. a vote in an election

V. Find English equivalents in the texts for the Russian phrases.

1. пункт конституции
2. наделяться правом иметь выборщиков
3. численность членов Конгресса
4. округ Колумбия
5. превосходить по количеству число голосов выборщиков
6. выиграть президентские выборы
7. основываться на численности населения
8. проводить перепись населения
9. общенародное голосование
10. получить голоса выборщиков с большим/небольшим преимуществом
11. отдавать несправедливое преимущество штатам с большим количеством выборщиков
12. выборы с небольшим отрывом голосов у кандидатов
13. «надежные» штаты
14. рассчитывать на такие штаты, как
15. количество голосов выборщиков

Recommended Online Resources and Dictionaries

1. Cambridge Free English Dictionary and Thesaurus. <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british>
2. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com>
3. History. <https://www.history.com>
4. Khan Academy. <https://www.khanacademy.org>
5. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. <http://www.ldoceonline.com>
6. Macmillan Dictionary. <http://www.macmillandictionary.com>
7. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>
8. The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov>
9. USA.gov. <https://www.usa.gov>
10. USHistory.org. <https://www.ushistory.org>

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