



Present

The Revolutionary World of American Government (Part 2)

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American Government 2

Part 1: The Congress

The roots of the Legislative Branch and the
Constitution

The members of Congress

How Congress is organized

The lawmaking function of Congress

Part 2: The Executive Branch

The making of the President

The Constitutional powers of the President

The development of Presidential powers

Part 3: The Bureaucracy

The roots and development of American bureau-
cracy

The modern bureaucracy

Part 4: The Judicial System

The creation of the Judicial Branch

Supreme Court selection

The gears of the Supreme Court

U.S. Congress Fast Facts

- Congress has two houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate
- There are 435 representatives and 100 senators
- A person must be at least 27 years old to be a representative, 30 years old to be a senator
- Term of office for representatives is two years; term of office for senators is six years

- Congress is called the Legislative Branch because it has the power to legislate; that is, make laws
- Congress also has the power to declare war, raise an army and navy, coin money, regulate commerce, establish federal courts and their jurisdiction, and establish rules of immigration and naturalization
- The House of Representatives has the right to impeach, the Senate has the right to hold an impeachment trial
- Important members of Congress are the speaker of the House, the Senate majority leader, the majority and minority whips, and heads of the various committees

Presidency Fast Facts

- The Presidency is known as the Executive Branch because it executes laws
- Article II of the Constitution (as well as several amendments) describes the specifics of the Executive Branch
- The Executive consists of, among other things, the president, the vice-president, the Executive Office of the President, and the president's cabinet
- The president must be a natural-born United States citizen, having lived in the country for at least fourteen years, and must be at least 35 years old
- The president is elected by the Electoral College; to win election, the candidate must receive a majority of the electoral votes—at least 270 out of 538
- The president's term is four years; a candidate can only be elected twice

- The president is the commander in chief of the armed forces, has the power to make treaties and to pardon
- The president can leave office early through resignation, impeachment and conviction, and death

Supreme Court Fast Facts

- Article Three of the Constitution defines the authority of the Supreme Court
- The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court; it is at the top of the federal judicial system
- The federal judicial system consists of U.S. district courts and courts of appeals, lower state courts and supreme courts, special federal courts, and the Supreme Court
- The Court establishes legal precedents for lower courts
- The Court issues decisions, which include opinions; these opinions may be both concurring and dissenting
- The Court consists of nine justices, one of whom is known as the chief justice of the United States
- Potential justices are nominated by the president and are confirmed or rejected by the the Senate; once confirmed, a justice serves until retirement, impeachment and conviction, or death