KEY TERMS:

Imperial presidency: a powerful exec. position guided by Congress (basically, a big balled presidential term)

Monroe Doctrine: originating from President J Monroe, it states that any interference with the politics in the U.S. is a hostile action and should not be tolerated, although this definition has changed over time.

Stewardship theory: a theory that states that the president must use their executive power as much as possible in the name of the people.

HISTORY OF IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY:

Presidency created by Washington: the President would have powers but not exercise them often. Also establishes term limits and other de facto limits/powers.

Andrew Jackson: used the veto 12 times and created a hole in collaboration as a result of his opposition to a national bank.

Jackson - Lincoln period: presidential powers shrunk, nobody ran twice, two died in office. Franklin PIerce and James Buchanan (before Lincoln), as the book points out, did not have a clear policy agenda and did little to stop the nation from entering a civil war.

Lincoln: expanded and milked heavily the powers of the Presidency during the Civil War, in order to stall the growth of slavery and attempt to save the Union. At one point he even suspended habeas corpus, which is the protection against unwarranted imprisonment. He also stepped over the line and took up some powers that Congress would usually only have.

Theo R. and Woodrow Wilson: the U.S. grew to be an economic and military powerhouse, bold actions taken by TR in the name of environmental protection and foreign policy made him known.

TR: stewardship theory is furthered and WW did the same, making the exec office well known and the figurehead of American politics.

FDR: in combination with the Great Depression and severe crisis, he used his powers often to do things such as stimulate the economy, create the Social Security safety net, and attempt to gain power by packing the court with more justices (which ultimately failed). While these were cool he also did things that violated civil liberties once more, such as create military areas that would eventually lead to Internment. This is basically him using the Commander in Chief power of the Presidency.

From there, the book cuts off, but Presidential power mostly leveled off, with it increasing substantially at some points such as the invention of nuclear weapons and other major conflicts

that required emergency decision making. Also, there are the usual shenanigans Presidents will use to try and gain more power, such as milking their powers and attempting to influence the supreme court.

HOW POWER CAN CHANGE
Since the framers left the original Presidency up to interpretation, it has been up to the President and the other branches to decide what the President can do. The President tends to use more powers in times of emergency or crisis, and over time has used more of their power.

However, they don't have to use these powers. A president can simply interpret their powers differently or use their own judgement (or have the supreme court tell them what they can and cannot do).