

Notes — Week 17

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Period 3

- Reagan was the only president to be president of a union (screen actor's guild)
- Defense Condition (DEFCON) Levels:

1	Nuclear War Imminent	Maximum readiness, immediate response
2	Close to Nuclear War	Armed forces ready in < 6 hours
3	Increased Military Readiness	Air force ready in 15 minutes
4	Increased Intelligence Measures	Heightened readiness
5	Regular State of Readiness	Normal readiness

- Presidential Qualifications:
 - At least 35 years old
 - Natural-born citizen
 - Live in the U.S. for at least 14 years
 - All presidents swear to “Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States”
 - Get two terms (actually ten years) under the 22nd amendment
 - If the president dies, resigns, or gets sick, the 25th amendment has the VP become president and appoint a new VP with super majority Congress approval
 - Presidential Succession Act of 1947:
 1. Vice President
 2. Speaker of the House
 3. President Pro Tempore of the Senate
 4. Secretary of State
 5. Secretary of the Treasury
 6. Secretary of Defense
 7. Attorney General

8. Secretary of the Interior
9. Secretary of Agriculture
10. Other Cabinet Level Leaders (nine remaining — 15 total)
11. Martial Law?

- Presidential Facts:

- Until president Obama, all have been white males
- All have been Protestant Christians except JFK and Biden
- Most had won elections before
- Most have college degrees since the 20th century
- Many have been attorneys
- Many have come from states with large populations
- Almost all since the 20th century were in the top 10% economically, but many also had humble beginnings

- Presidential Salary and Benefits:

- Salary: \$400,000 annually
- Expense and travel account (budgeted at over one million dollars per year)
- Free housing (White House) and food along with an entertainment budget

- Purpose of Executive Branch

- To enforce the laws through executive departments, independent agencies, and regulatory commissions
- The President in a modern administration must appoint many persons to jobs. President Obama had to appoint approximately 3,000 persons

- White House staff consists of roughly 2,000 people

- Cabinet Departments

- The 15 Cabinet departments are the major administrative units that have responsibility for conducting broad areas of government operations
- These positions account for 60% of the federal workforce

- Independent Executive Agencies

- Independent executive agencies have narrower mandates than a Cabinet department
- They generally perform a service function, not a regulatory one

- Some examples include: NSC, CIA, NASA, NSA, and the EPA
- Executive Office Agencies
 - The Executive Office of the President (EOP) was created in 1939
 - The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is the largest agency in the EOP and prepares the national budget that the President submits to Congress each year
 - The Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) consists of 3 economists selected for a term to advise the President on economic issues
- Vice President Qualifications:
 - Must be eligible to be president
 - Technical term limits
 - Originally determined by person coming in 2nd place in the Presidential Election. 12th Amendment changed that.
 - President of the Senate
 - Votes only in a tie
- Constitutional Powers of the President
 1. Veto bills passed by Congress
 2. Call special sessions of Congress
 3. Commander-in-Chief
 4. Receive leaders of foreign nations
 5. Make treaties
 6. Appoint heads of high-ranking government offices
 7. Fill all vacancies with temporary appointments called “recess appointments”
 8. Pardon and reprieves — “commute” or sentences against people convicted of federal crimes
 9. State of the Union Address
 10. Make sure laws are “faithfully executed”
- Almost all presidents have made recess appointments
- Gerald Ford is the only man to become president without being elected