

Sec. 8—Powers of Congress

Cls. 11, 12, 13, and 14—War; Military Establishment

ligan, Chief Justice Chase described the power to declare war as “necessarily” extending “to all legislation essential to the prosecution of war with vigor and success, except such as interferes with the command of the forces and conduct of campaigns.”¹⁴⁸⁵ In another case, adopting the terminology used by Lincoln in his Message to Congress on July 4, 1861,¹⁴⁸⁶ the Court referred to “the war power” as a single unified power.¹⁴⁸⁷

An Inherent Power.—Thereafter, we find the phrase, “the war power,” being used by both Chief Justice White¹⁴⁸⁸ and Chief Justice Hughes,¹⁴⁸⁹ the former declaring the power to be “complete and undivided.”¹⁴⁹⁰ Not until 1936, however, did the Court explain the logical basis for imputing such an inherent power to the Federal Government. In *United States v. Curtiss-Wright Corp.*,¹⁴⁹¹ the reasons for this conclusion were stated by Justice Sutherland as follows: “As a result of the separation from Great Britain by the colonies acting as a unit, the powers of external sovereignty passed from the Crown not to the colonies severally, but to the colonies in their collective and corporate capacity as the United States of America. Even before the Declaration, the colonies were a unit in foreign affairs, acting through a common agency—namely, the Continental Congress, composed of delegates from the thirteen colonies. That agency exercised the powers of war and peace, raised an army, created a navy, and finally adopted the Declaration of Independence. . . . It results that the investment of the Federal Government with the powers of external sovereignty did not depend upon the affirmative grants of the Constitution. The powers to declare and wage war, to conclude peace, to make treaties, to maintain diplomatic relations with other sovereignties, if they had never been mentioned in the Constitution, would have vested in the Federal Government as necessary concomitants of nationality.”¹⁴⁹²

A Complexus of Granted Powers.—In *Lichter v. United States*,¹⁴⁹³ on the other hand, the Court speaks of the “war powers” of Congress. Upholding the Renegotiation Act, it declared that: “In view of this power ‘To raise and support Armies, . . . and the power

¹⁴⁸⁵ *Ex parte Milligan*, 71 U.S. (4 Wall.) 2, 139 (1866) (dissenting opinion); see also *Miller v. United States*, 78 U.S. (11 Wall.) 268, 305 (1871); and *United States v. MacIntosh*, 283 U.S. 605, 622 (1931).

¹⁴⁸⁶ CONG. GLOBE, 37th Congress, 1st Sess., App. 1 (1861).

¹⁴⁸⁷ *Hamilton v. Dillin*, 88 U.S. (21 Wall.) 73, 86 (1875).

¹⁴⁸⁸ *Northern Pac. Ry. v. North Dakota ex rel. Langer*, 250 U.S. 135, 149 (1919).

¹⁴⁸⁹ *Home Bldg. & Loan Ass’n v. Blaisdell*, 290 U.S. 398 (1934).

¹⁴⁹⁰ *Northern Pac. Ry. v. North Dakota ex rel. Langer*, 250 U.S. 135, 149 (1919).

¹⁴⁹¹ 299 U.S. 304 (1936).

¹⁴⁹² 299 U.S. at 316, 318. On the controversy respecting *Curtiss-Wright*, see *The Curtiss-Wright Case*, *infra*.

¹⁴⁹³ 334 U.S. 742 (1948).