

Executive Dominance

Why the Presidency Is Poised to Consolidate Power

America was founded under the ideals of a republican government and its founders most adamantly believed in the federalist system that we have to this day. This new form of government was revolutionary for the time and has created the strongest and longest democracy in the planet's history. This although doesn't mean that it is perfect, rather far from it in fact. This is evidenced in the reality that the executive branch of our federal government is the most prone to institutional erosion and collapse. You might ask how come? This stems from the way that the executive branch has transformed in its operational history and how it gradually continues to consolidate power whether through the expansion of executive orders, through its ability to directly control the military or centralized decision making design.

The executive branch of government continues to unsustainably expand its power through the direct expansion of executive orders. This history of executive orders goes back even to the constitution being established in Article 2 Section 3 as the president has the responsibility to have the “the Laws be faithfully executed”. This definition has drastically expanded in the last 249 years allowing the president to consolidate power in many facets using executive orders to circumvent congressional approval and as of 2024 account for over [1.2 trillion dollars of the 10-year debt](#) (for this administration). This expansion of executive power simply is a way for the president to ram his/her policies through the checks and balances our founding fathers created and simply avoids the purpose of entirely.

The presidency has also expanded its control over the military using executive orders to continually expand itself without Congress's approval. This has manifested itself in the United States military taking part in conflict such as the war on terror without Congress's approval (Libia) and even to this day unknown numbers of drone strikes and other military actions take place without the direct consent of the republican form of government we all voted for. Presidents (Donald Trump) have also recently suggested US military involve itself on its own soil suggesting the military be used against American citizens deemed to be part of the “radical left”. This has historical precedent as previous presidents such as FDR have stained their legacy with executive orders such as Executive Order 9066 which was responsible for illegally interning over 120,000 American Japanese. In America for being the land of the free the executive sure has a history of suppressing opposition. Something even found in the generation of our founding fathers with the passing of the Alien and sedition acts. The military has over time become an uncontrolled beast of the executive and is another example of power consolidation.

The final aspect of executive dominance is that its design forces centralized decision-making using the appointments of singular heads/chairs to make the vast majority of decisions. This although is still seen as a limitation to some as even nowadays presidents such as Donald Trump have tried to pass executive orders that widen the principal of political appointments to almost all bureaucrats with schedule-F. This would go further than any previous president and is another example of the bloodlust for power that is innate in 1 person at the top. This also has a historical president as the lust for this 1 position has caused some of the

worst political failings in our history resulting in things like the corrupt bargain and the capital insurrection on January 6 2020.

Overall the executive branch is poised to make power-hungry decisions that in the short term entrench their political power but in the long term erode our institution of democracy and erode the very ideals and values that make our republic function and us Americans. Therefore I say that not unlike our founders we deserve to evaluate the structure of our government and to remedy the generations of consolidation that is innate with the office of the president and the executive branch.

P.S hope this isn't too long have a good break
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