

10 Big Decisions

Of the Executive Branch

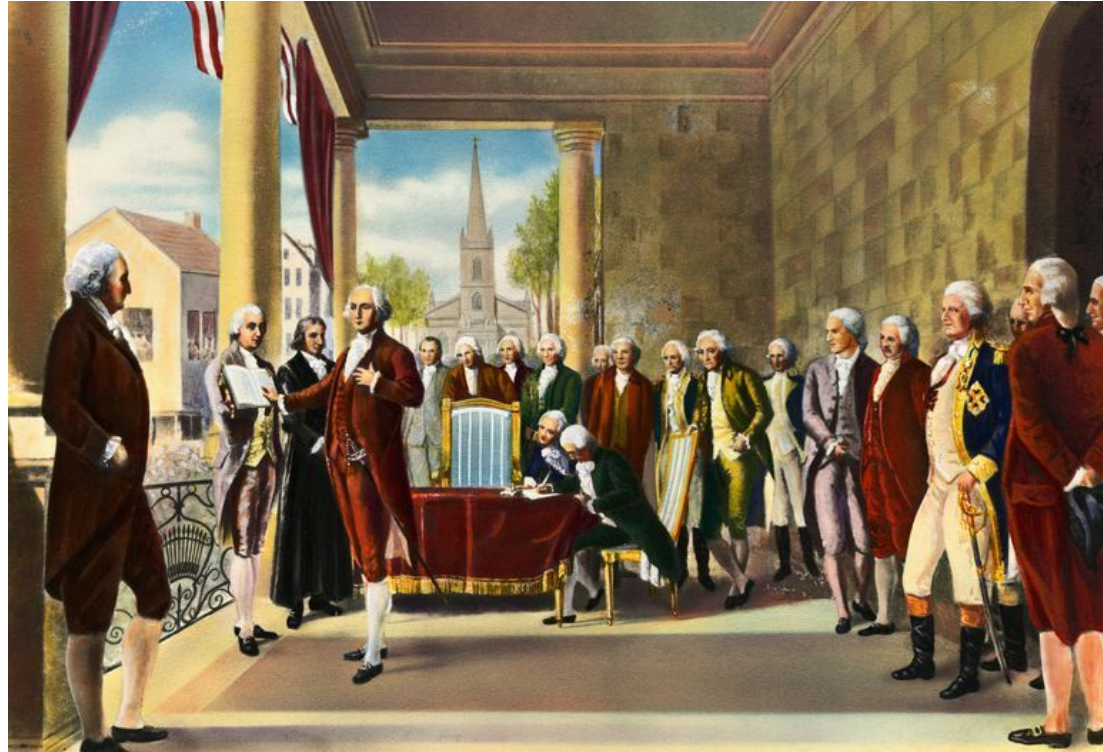
A dark blue, diagonal graphic element that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, creating a sense of movement and depth.

What if you were
the FIRST one to
ever do something?

- What would you do?
- How would your decisions impact future people?

George Washington... President 1

“I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent.”



Your Job!

- We will complete 5 different station activities. Each station will focus on ONE precedent that George Washington set.
- You will work with your group to identify the answers to the questions.
- YOU WILL BE TIMED. WORK QUICKLY!
- Move desks into groups when I ask.
- You will be working in PRE-ASSIGNED groups :).
 - No, I do not care.
- Move when I ask you to move!

Based on the documents... how does Washington affect us today?

Identify 4 ways that Washington's decisions have made a lasting impact.

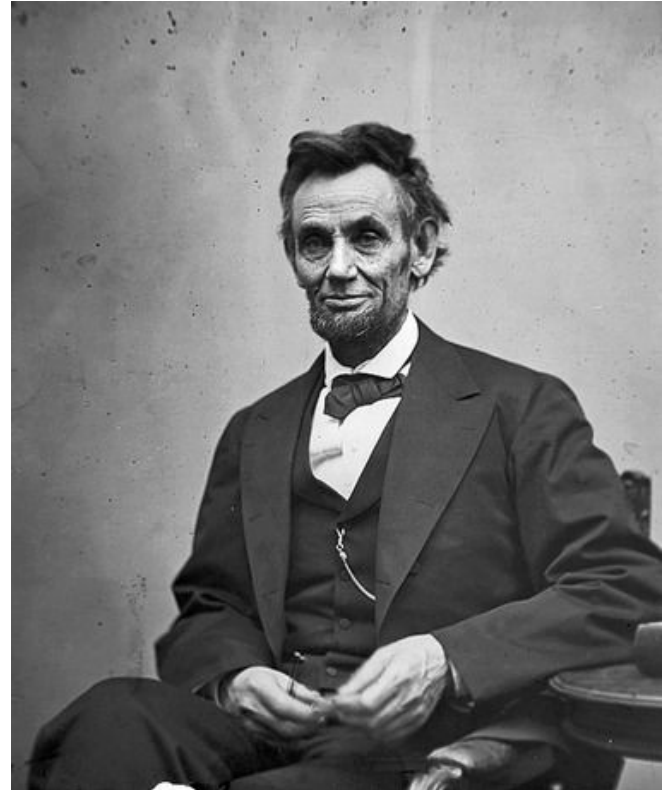
Impacts

- 1. Mr. President**
- 2. Neutrality**
- 3. Two Terms**
- 4. Cabinet**
- 5. Executive Privilege**
- 6. Uphold the laws of the United States**

Abraham Lincoln & Emancipation– Decision 2

“Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties. And not to Democrats alone do I make this appeal, but to all who love these great and true principles.”

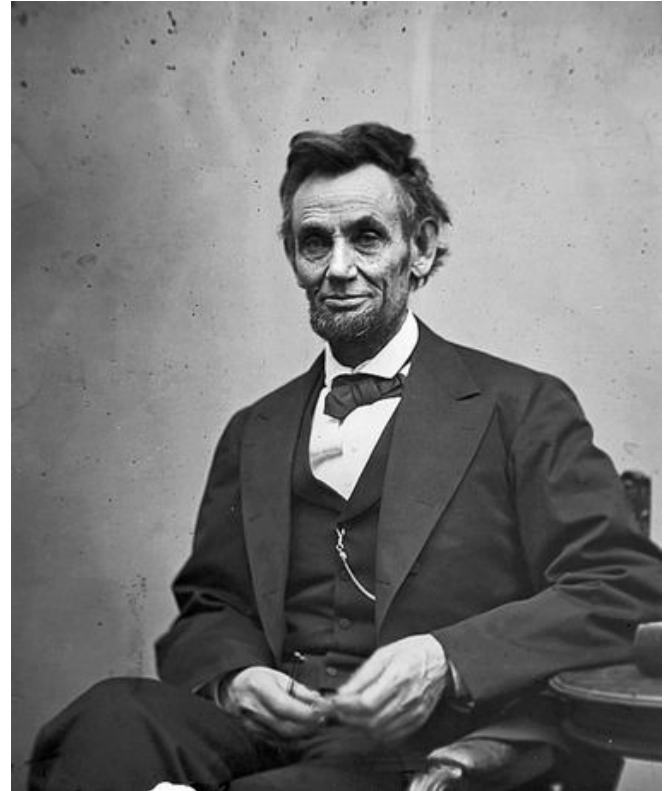
-Abraham Lincoln, 1856



Abraham Lincoln & Emancipation– Decision 2

"I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so."

-Abraham Lincoln, 1861 inauguration



What was the Civil War
fought over?

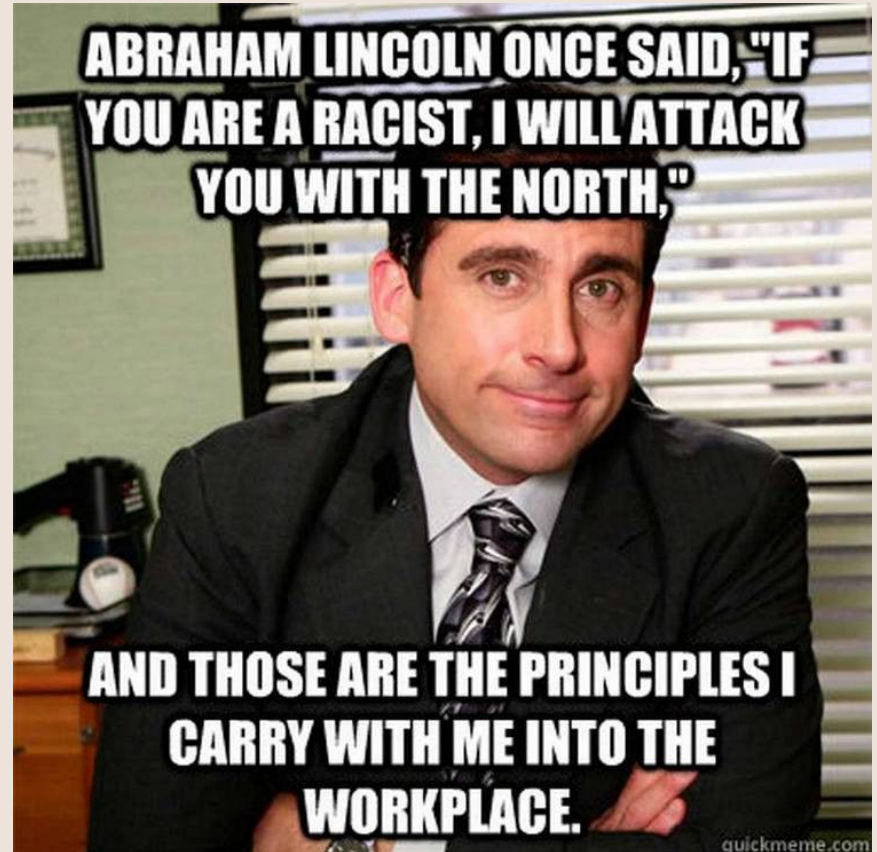
What would have
happened Lincoln never
issued the Emancipation
Proclamation?

What was the
Emancipation
Proclamation?

Emancipation Proclamation

- Read & annotate the executive order issued by President Lincoln.
 - highlight , underline, star, paraphrase
 - Yes, this is a grade
- In the midst of your annotating, come up with 2 statements/questions to share with the class.

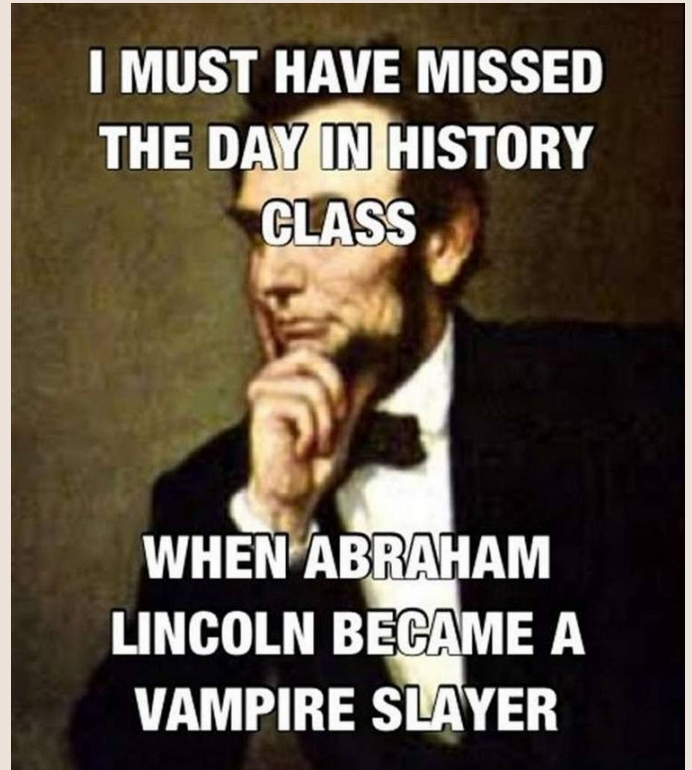
Facts of the war



Consider...

- How did this impact the Civil War?
- How did *people* feel about this?
 - North
 - South
 - Slaves

Luck or master
politician?



Why is the Emancipation
Proclamation considered
Lincoln's most important
legacy if it didn't actually
free anyone?

Should the President have
power to make such a
proclamation?

1. Compare/Contrast the LAW in the two
 - a. How did they justify their actions?
2. Compare/Contrast the situations in the two.
 - a. Why was something needed?

Woodrow Wilson & 14 Points– Decision 3

Read your speech with a partner. Come up with 3 statements to prove your side!

Should we have signed the ToV? Should we join the League of Nations?

Cabot Lodge = con

- Wilson = pro

Be prepared for pro/con debate!



How would George
Washington have felt
about the United States
getting in WW1?

Should the United States
have signed the Treaty of
Versailles?

Why would Wilson have
gone on a speaking tour?

What would have
happened if Wilson
remained healthy... would
we have signed the ToV?

How does Wilson's 14 points illustrate checks and balances? Be specific.

Did Congress act
appropriately?

Was this a wise decision
for Wilson to make?
Explain!

FDR & Executive Order 9066– Decision 4

1. **Brief overview of Pearl Harbor**
2. **“How do you think Americans reacted to this surprise attack?”**

Pearl Harbor

[Executive Order 9066](#)

Executive Orders

- 1. Presidential Executive Orders Precedents**
 - a. Constitution**
 - b. Washington**
 - i. 8 Executive Orders Total**
 - ii. However, Whiskey Rebellion...**
 - c. Lincoln**
 - i. Emancipation Proc**

Executive Orders

But Article II of the U.S. Constitution vests executive powers in the President, makes him the commander in chief, and requires that the President “shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.” Laws can also give additional powers to the President.

While an executive order can have the same effect as a federal law under certain circumstances, Congress can pass a new law to override an executive order, subject to a presidential veto.

assignment

Distribute the reading selection Executive Order #9066 and have students answer these discussion questions:

- 1. What rights were affected by the President's internment order?**
- 2. Is the government justified in using this type of authority in a crisis situation? Why or why not? You and your partner CREATE an argument tying it to a right or a precedent.**

assignment

1. You and a PARTNER will create an ARGUMENT that answers the following question:

Is the government justified in using this type of authority in a crisis situation? Why or why not?

Does the government have the right to issue Executive Order 9066? Explain.

- Use the Bill of Rights, Executive Order 9066, existing knowledge, & precedents covered in class to back up your argument.
- You must include at least 3 reasons to justify your answer.
- As always, be prepared to share.

What does executive order
9066 actually say?

Who does the executive
order give power to?

What does it allow to
happen?

Does this expand or
weaken the power of the
executive branch?

3 Court Cases: POTENTIAL CHECKS ON POWER

Hirabayashi v. the United States & Minoru Yasui v. the United States

- Roosevelt had authorized military commanders to secure areas from which "any or all persons may be excluded", and Japanese Americans living in the West Coast were subject to a *curfew and other restrictions before being removed to internment camps*.
- These were two sister cases that fought the legality of the curfews.
- Both cases were decided on June 21, 1943 that curfews against members of a minority group were constitutional when the nation was at war with the country from which that group originated.

Korematsu v. the United States

- Challenges the order by stating it violates his 5th Amendment
- 6–3 decision, the Court sided with the government, ruling that the exclusion order was constitutional.
 - Six of the eight justices appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt sided with Roosevelt. The two others and the lone Herbert Hoover appointee, Owen Roberts, dissented.
- Ordered the need to protect against espionage outweighed the rights of Americans of Japanese descent. They did make clear that this ruling pertained ONLY to this order.

In 1988, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act, which led to a formal government apology for internment and payment of \$20,000 to internment survivors.

In 2011, the Department of Justice filed an official notice conceding that the Solicitor General's defense of the internment policy at the time had been in error.

The Supreme Court explicitly repudiated (*refused to accept*) the Korematsu decision in 2018 via their review of Trump v. Hawaii (travel ban)

Truman and The Bombs– Decision 5

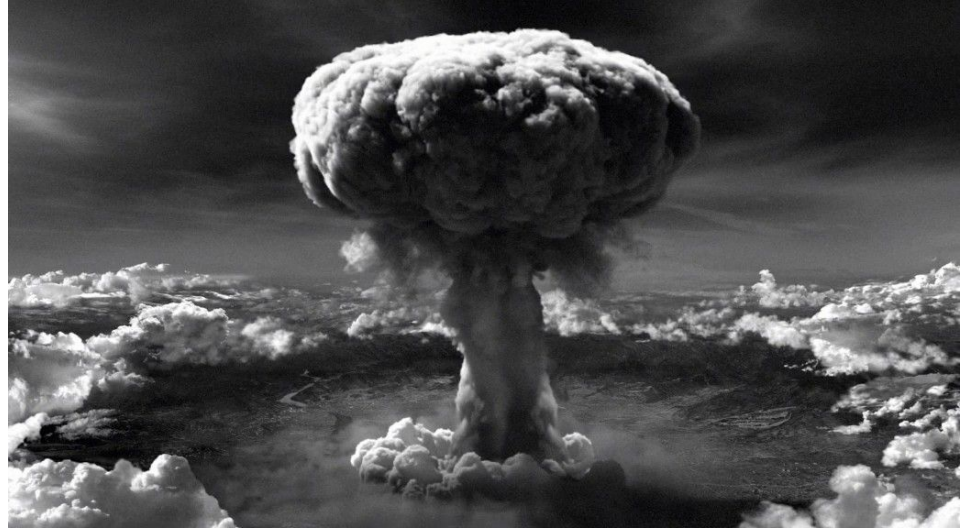
Should we have
dropped the bomb??



Truman and The Bombs– Decision 5

Research!

- **Write down 10 useful pieces of evidence to help your (character's) point of view!**



Bureaucracy: refers to the non-elected government officials and an administrative policy-making group.

~everyone working together to help advise the president on policy

Directions

- You will be given a role card!
- This will be your role throughout debate
- **1st Half you will:** research your role & create an argument with 3 pieces of evidence to help support **YOUR** side!
- You will write this on your own paper as I will need the role cards back!

Expectations:

- **Independently research!**
- **You may use your phone!**
- **This is DUE at the end of class!**
- **Debate begins MONDAY!**
- **Stay in your seat!**

Directions

- Get with YOUR group
- President Truman will facilitate discussions
- Decide as a group, acting in YOUR particular role, whether or not we should have dropped the bomb.
- Write a news brief explaining to the American people what you have decided. Be persuasive & be sure to include at least 4 FACTS.

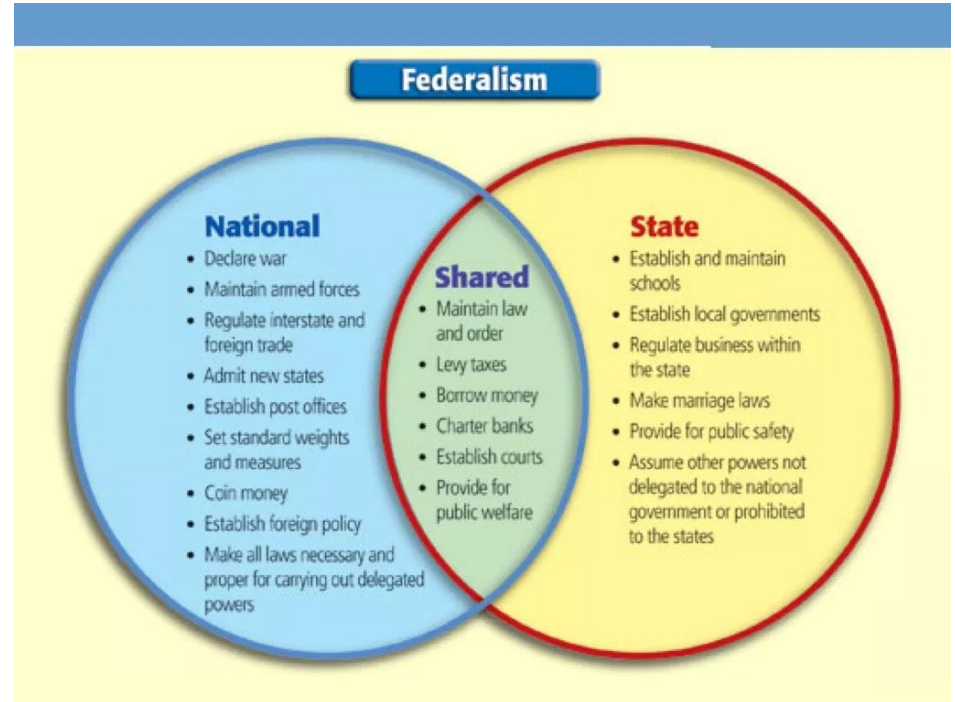
Expectations:

- **Stay in YOUR seat with YOUR group.**
- **1 Paper PER group.**
- **This is DUE at the end of class!**
- **President Truman will share with class**

Eisenhower & LR9– Decision 6

Federalism- division of power between states and federal government

Concurrent Powers- powers shared by both state & federal government



JFK & the Cuban Missile Crisis– Decision 7

Could this have been prevented?



LBJ & Vietnam– Decision 8

- Johnson inherits the war... Kennedy had already been sending ships to Vietnam.
- In 1964 Johnson is running for election as president.



LBJ & Vietnam– Decision 8

- Read the following excerpt for BACKGROUND knowledge of Vietnam.
- Answer the background questions, yes you will turn this in.

[Video](#)



What did Johnson see as the lessons of the World War II era that led to his decision to escalate the Vietnam War?

What were the options that Johnson considered? What were their advantages and disadvantages?

Why was George Ball labeled a "troublemaker"?

In the mean time...

Historian Robert Dallek calls the Civil Rights Act of 1964 a “huge political gamble” for Lyndon Johnson. What does Dallek mean? What might Johnson and the Democrats have lost by passing the bill? What might they have gained?

Writer Rick Perlstein calls Johnson’s powers of persuasion the “Johnson treatment.” How did this contribute to the passage of the Civil Rights Bill? Why did Senator Russell feel that the “solid core” of southern senators could have resisted Kennedy on civil rights but were not as effective with Lyndon Johnson? Would such tactics work in the Senate today?

Imagine that the Civil Rights Act did not pass in 1964. What might have happened to the civil rights movement and the fight for equality?



LBJ & Vietnam– Decision 8

In August 1964, the US government received word that two North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked US destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. President Lyndon Johnson requested authorization from Congress for the use of military force, resulting in the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which laid the groundwork for the full-scale US military commitment to Vietnam. The resolution declared the support of Congress for “all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the armed forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.”



Were the torpedo attacks
enough to escalate the
war? Explain.

Johnson's thoughts

Johnson was motivated by both domestic political and international balance of power considerations. He fully subscribed to the domino theory and to the containment strategy, and also feared appearing weak in the eyes of his domestic political opponents.

In 1965, Johnson dramatically escalated US involvement in the war. He authorized a series of bombing campaigns, most notably Operation Rolling Thunder, and also committed hundreds of thousands of US ground troops to the fight.

Fearful that the war would jeopardize his domestic agenda, Johnson concealed the extent of the military escalation from the American public.

IS IT OKAY TO LIE?

Anti-War Movement

The 1968 **Tet Offensive**, a bold North Vietnamese attack on the south, convinced many US officials that the war could not be won at a reasonable cost. Heightened opposition to the war was one of the major factors in Johnson's decision not to run for re-election in 1968

"Hey, hey LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?"



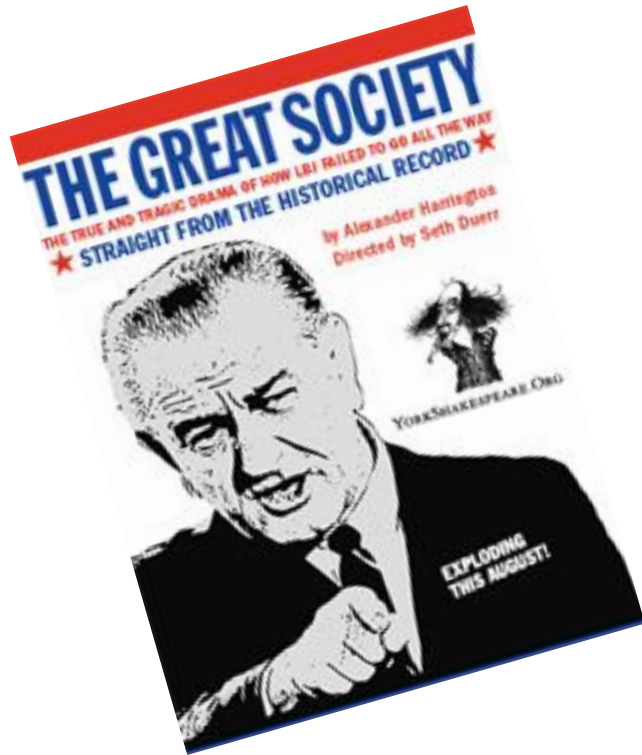
Gives way to war protest movement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NczfHFX5vCc>

How can music help/hurt politics?

Paxton criticizes President Lyndon Johnson for promising peace on the campaign trail and then sending troops to Vietnam. “Well here I sit in this rice paddy/Wondering about Big Daddy/And I know that Lyndon loves me so./Yet how sadly I remember/Way back yonder in November/When he said I’d never have to go.”

LBJ's Domestic Policies



Explain how (if at all) the Vietnam War affected Johnson's domestic agenda.

Explain the effect of Great Society initiatives in the areas of education, housing, and health care.

Let's Discuss

- What are the big takeaways about LBJ?
- What did he do right?
- What did he do wrong?
- Where would you rank him on the list of presidents? Why?

Nixon & Watergate– Decision 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHnmriyXYeg>

A Background



What happened

- 1969 Nixon approves wiretaps on the phones of government officials and reporters in an attempt to discern the source of news leaks about activities in Vietnam.
- In 1971 a special investigations unit was formed to plug news leaks. Dubbed
- the "plumbers," to find information to be used in the espionage trial against the person accused of leaking the Pentagon Papers.
- 1971 Nixon is running for reelection. Shortly after a plan was approved to break into the DNC headquarters to secure campaign strategy documents and other materials.

What happened

- On June 17, 1972, five men were arrested at the DNC headquarters, including the security coordinator for the committee, James McCord. The burglars were adjusting surveillance equipment they had installed in May when they were caught. Immediately a cover-up began. Magruder destroyed documents and gave false testimony to investigators. The White House blocked an FBI inquiry, declaring that it was a national security operation undertaken by the CIA.

Your Job

- You and a partner will read the TWO primary sources and answer the discussion questions.
- YOU will ANSWER ON YOUR OWN SHEET BUT WILL WORK TOGETHER TO INTERPRET THE DOCUMENTS.
- Due at the END of class!

Should Nixon have given
up the tapes?

How did Nixon leave the
presidency? What does
that suggest about him?

Did this weaken or
strengthen the power of
the president?

Should Ford have
pardoned him?

Obama & Bin Laden– Decision 10

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2016/04/30/obama-on-bin-laden-raid-best-chance.cnn/video/playlists/osama-bin-laden/>

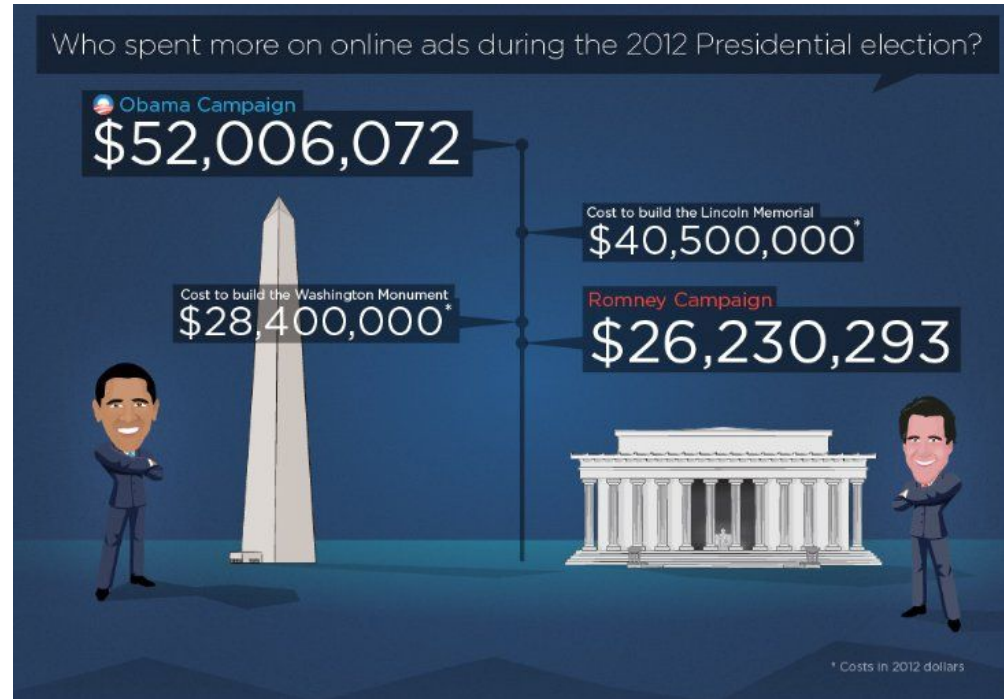
When it came to Osama bin Laden, the man behind the horrific events of 9/11, Barack Obama was single-minded in his goal: *to hunt him down, whatever it took.* To achieve that goal, the president had to make a series of risky decisions, knowing that if the mission in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in the early morning hours of May 2, 2011, failed, his presidency would fail with it.



Do you agree or disagree
with that statement?
Why?

Setting

- Year 2011
- Obama is up for reelection
 - Economic recovery
 - Obamacare
 - Mitt Romney Primary



[https://www.history.com/
the-obama-years/bin-lad
en.html](https://www.history.com/the-obama-years/bin-laden.html)

3 Plans– Option 1 Bombing Raid

“One was kind of a massive bombing raid to level the compound. There was some concern that maybe there was a compound below the compound, that they had dug down deep and there could be a hide site where bin Laden was in a more secure area below the compound. There was concern that if you did a massive bombing raid, you were invariably going to kill women and children. And so I think the president discounted that option over a personal concern about the potential to lose innocent women and children. I don't think it was an intellectual call on his part. I think it was absolutely a moral call and a personal call. He knew we couldn't do that because that's not what great societies and great people do.”

3 Plans – Option 2 Target w/ single bomb

Can we target this individual (that was referred to as Pacer) when he is out in the open with a single bomb, a very precise ordinance that hopefully wouldn't kill anybody other than the target? That was a little problematic. Our ability to do that in certain circumstances is very high, but in this case...it was going to be a little more difficult.

3 Plans– Option 3 Raid

And the third option was the raid option, the Special Forces raid option. Now recognize at the time, because this was so secret, I had not had an opportunity to bring in the SEALs to really look over the plan. It was myself and a Navy captain who sat down and really kind of developed the plan. And it wasn't difficult. We'll take a couple helicopters. We'll fly the 162 miles in. We'll fast rope onto or near the compound. We'll surround the compound. We will breach the compound walls. We'll go in, make our way to wherever bin Laden is and either capture or kill him, get back on the helicopters and come home. **Not difficult in theory.**

Which plan should the
President chose? Why?

What was impressive was I knew the president knew that if this went wrong, he would be a one-term president. It was never raised in the Situation Room...because we were trying to decide what was right for America.

And nobody would've criticized him for saying no, because the intelligence just wasn't there to give us a definitive answer. But instead he said, "Yes, let's go do the raid," knowing all along that if it went south, he would shoulder the burden.

What was at risk?

3 Plans– Decision is made

As time went on, it became more and more apparent that this [third option] would give the president an opportunity, one, to verify that we had in fact killed bin Laden or captured him. And if we did it right, we were going to protect the women and children. Again, I think that was very important for the president, recognizing we could save lives and at the same time verify the death or the capture of bin Laden.

Raid

Training

Is it okay for us to
celebrate Bin Laden's
death?

“Imagine how the American people would react if Al Qaeda killed one of our troops or military leaders, and put photos of the body on the Internet,”

said Representative Mike Rogers, Republican of Michigan and chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

“Osama bin Laden is not a trophy. He is dead, and let’s now focus on continuing the fight until Al Qaeda has been eliminated.”



Is it okay to risk American
lives in order to find
Osama?

Should Obama Have
Released the Photos of Bin
Laden's Body?

Was this justice or
revenge?

Is it okay to use torture in
order to find out
information on our
enemies?

Does this change Obama's legacy? Explain.

Did this impact American
politics?

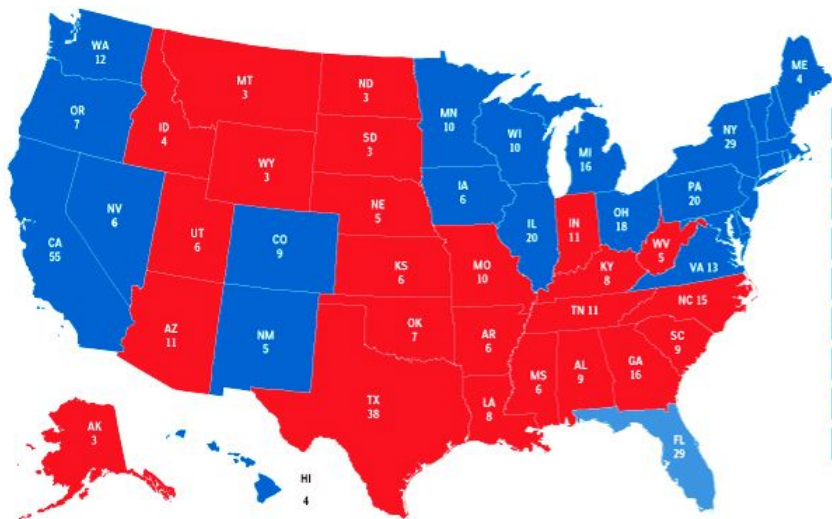


United States 2012 Election Result



Romney 206

Obama 303

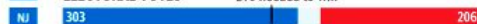


2008 STATE WINNERS



2012 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

ELECTORAL VOTES 270 needed to win



POPULAR VOTE	Majority
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CONGRESSIONAL BALANCE OF POWER

HOUSE	12 not called	435 total
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191 DEM 232 GOP

SENATE	Majority	100 total
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1 Independent