Presidency

Institutional View: President's Formal v. Practical Powers

Formal powers under the Constitution

- "shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy"

- "have Power, by and with the Advice and consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur"

- "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls"

- “he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers”

Practical authority of the president

- presidency as bully pulpit
- organizational advantage of staff and control over information
- deference to democratic legitimacy: only nationally elected official
- "Power to Persuade" (Neustadt)
- Prerogative Power (Pious)
Limits on president's effective authority

- Public tolerance
- Fear of Congressional countermeasures
- Bureaucratic politics and organizational interests

Personal View of the Presidency

Belief Systems & Worldviews

- President’s enter office with beliefs about how international relations work
- Intensity of those beliefs vary: e.g, Carter and Reagan seem to have changed their views in office
- 'Operational Code' can be developed to predict their behaviors but only roughly

Political Psychology

- Pop-psychoanalysis is common, but post hoc.
- Stress of presidential responsibility is high due to social isolation and time constraints
- Psychological behaviors that affect decisions
  - cognitive misers: limit info. absorbed to make decisions
- fundamental attribution error: attribute contextual reasons for your decisions; dispositional reasons to others

- avoidance of value trade-offs:

- cognitive consistency & rigidity: incorporate new information into existing schemas; disregard disconfirming evidence

**Leadership Styles (A. George)**

**Competitive (FDR)**

- useful when president is attentive to fp issues
- can create strains among advisors
- may produce uncoordinated policies

**Hierarchical (Eisenhower, Nixon)**

- useful for presidents with clear vision for fp
- may not provide good advice: "yes men"
- coordination of policy easy

**Collegial (JFK, Bush I)**

- can provide good advice
- requires advisors to be on good terms