

Chapter 7: The Presidency

The Historical Presidency (1 of 3)

- Ideological propositions:
 - Single office, no internal checks
 - Limited power over constitution
 - Decreased policy focus

The Historical Presidency (2 of 3)

The Era of Cabinet Government

- Historical role of cabinet
- Strong cabinets don't mean strong presidents
 - Self-interest and reciprocity
- Cabinet now an unattractive office

The Historical Presidency (3 of 3)

Parties and Elections

- Patronage and party loyalty
- Presidents low-profile in past
- Different criteria for presidents
- Presidential office grabs public attention

The Modern Presidency (1 of 4)

Modern Presidents as Problem Solvers

- United States as global power
- Grants-in-aid grow federal roles
- Even opposing congresses cede discretion
 - “Take care” clause

The Modern Presidency (2 of 4)

Divided Party Control of Government

- Divided government
- Pits president against Congress
- Once exceedingly rare
- Now a normal occurrence

The Modern Presidency (3 of 4)

Divided Party Control of Government: Executive Privilege

- No protection from discredit/impeachment
- All presidents cite executive privilege
- Presidents resist legal scrutiny

The Modern Presidency (4 of 4)

Divided Party Control of Government: Immunity from Prosecution

- Divided congressional investigations common
- History of impeachments
- Supreme Court view of charges
- Unilateral presidential responses

The President as Commander in Chief and Head of State (1 of 2)

The Commander in Chief

- Commander in chief
 - Checks and balances
- President may still bring war
- War Powers Act

The President as Commander in Chief and Head of State (2 of 2)

Head of State

- Two-thirds majority for treaties
- Executive agreement
- Negotiators leery about prisoner's dilemma

The President as Chief Executive (1 of 5)

Authority via Delegation

- Congress oversaw executive agency
 - Granted rights to White House
- Balance of delegation
- Passing the buck

The President as Chief Executive (2 of 5)

Authority via Delegation

- Risks of executive power
- Role of partisanship
- Unitary executive
- Unitary theory

The President as Chief Executive (3 of 5)

Unilateral Authority

- Formal or informal instruction
- Executive orders
- Presidential memorandum
 - More limited than law

The President as Chief Executive (4 of 5)

Emergency Powers

- Granting extraordinary powers
 - 123 active laws
 - Done in times of crisis
- Fields include military, agriculture, and trade

The President as Chief Executive (5 of 5)

Budgeting

- Annual federal government
- Technical and political background
- "Opening bid" for negotiations
 - Receive serious consideration

The President as Legislator (1 of 4)

- Importance of veto (transaction cost)
- “Courting” congressional allies
- Same- vs. opposite-party president
- Threat of unilateral policy

The President as Legislator (2 of 4)

The Veto

- Most clearly defined
- Increasingly common
- Line-item veto
- Signing statement

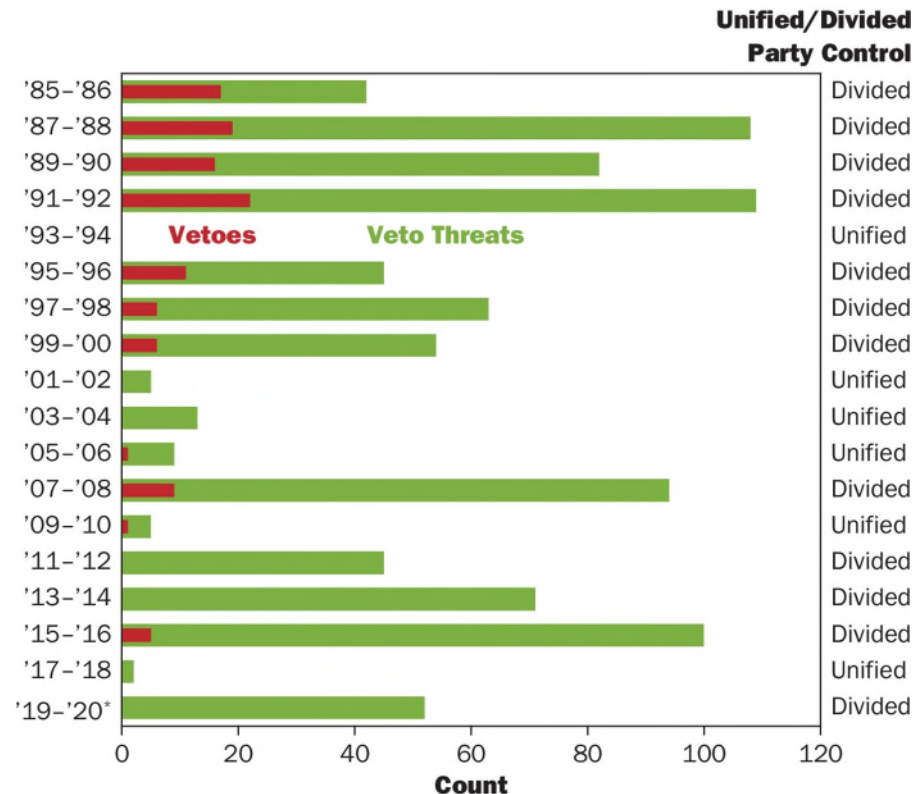
The President as Legislator (3 of 4)

The Veto

- “Take it or leave it”
- Influence in legislature
- Blame game
- Risk of hypocrisy

The President as Legislator (4 of 4)

Figure 7.1: Presidential Use of the Veto and Veto Threats



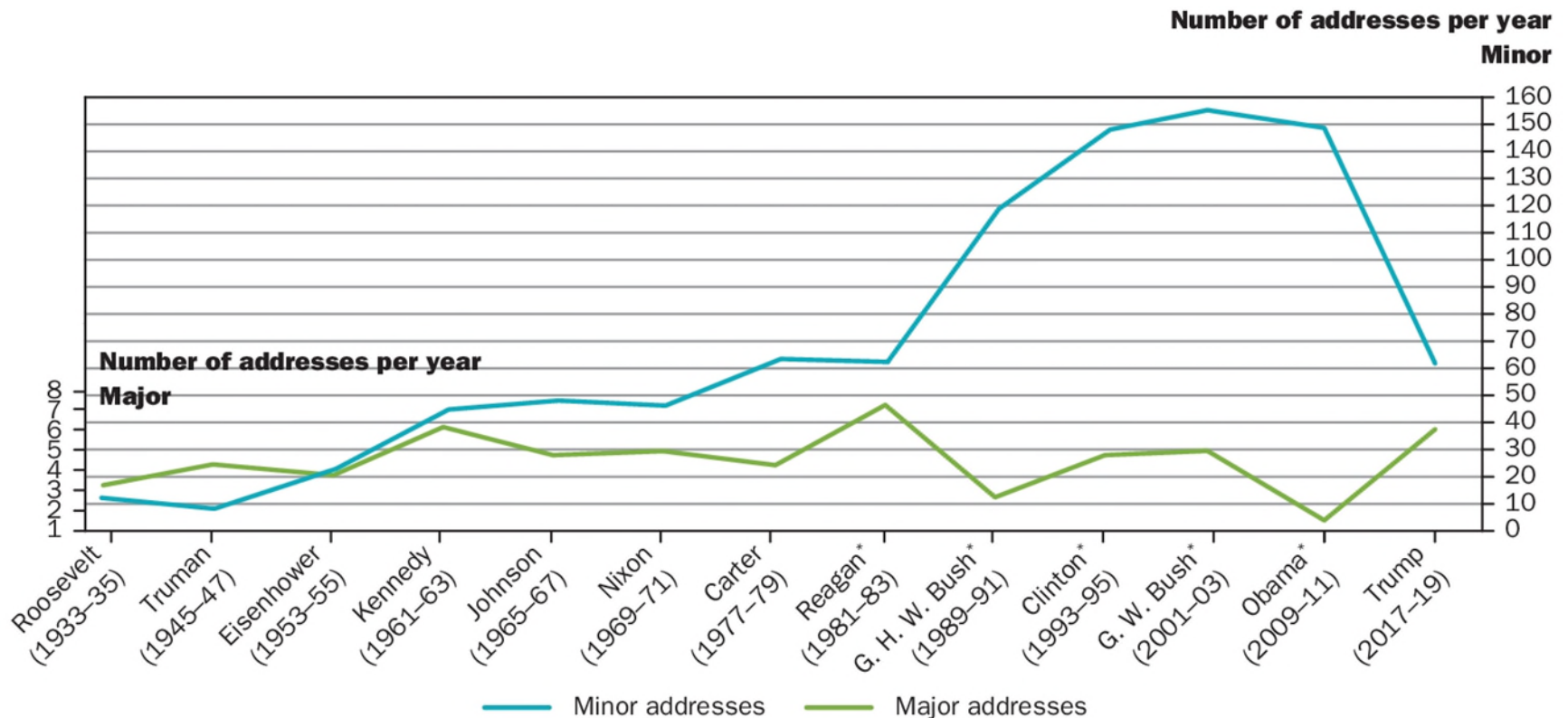
*Through September 2020.

Going Public (1 of 5)

- State of the union address
- Going public
- Bully pulpit
- Television and public relations

Going Public (2 of 5)

Figure 7.2 Presidential Addresses: Going Public More Often

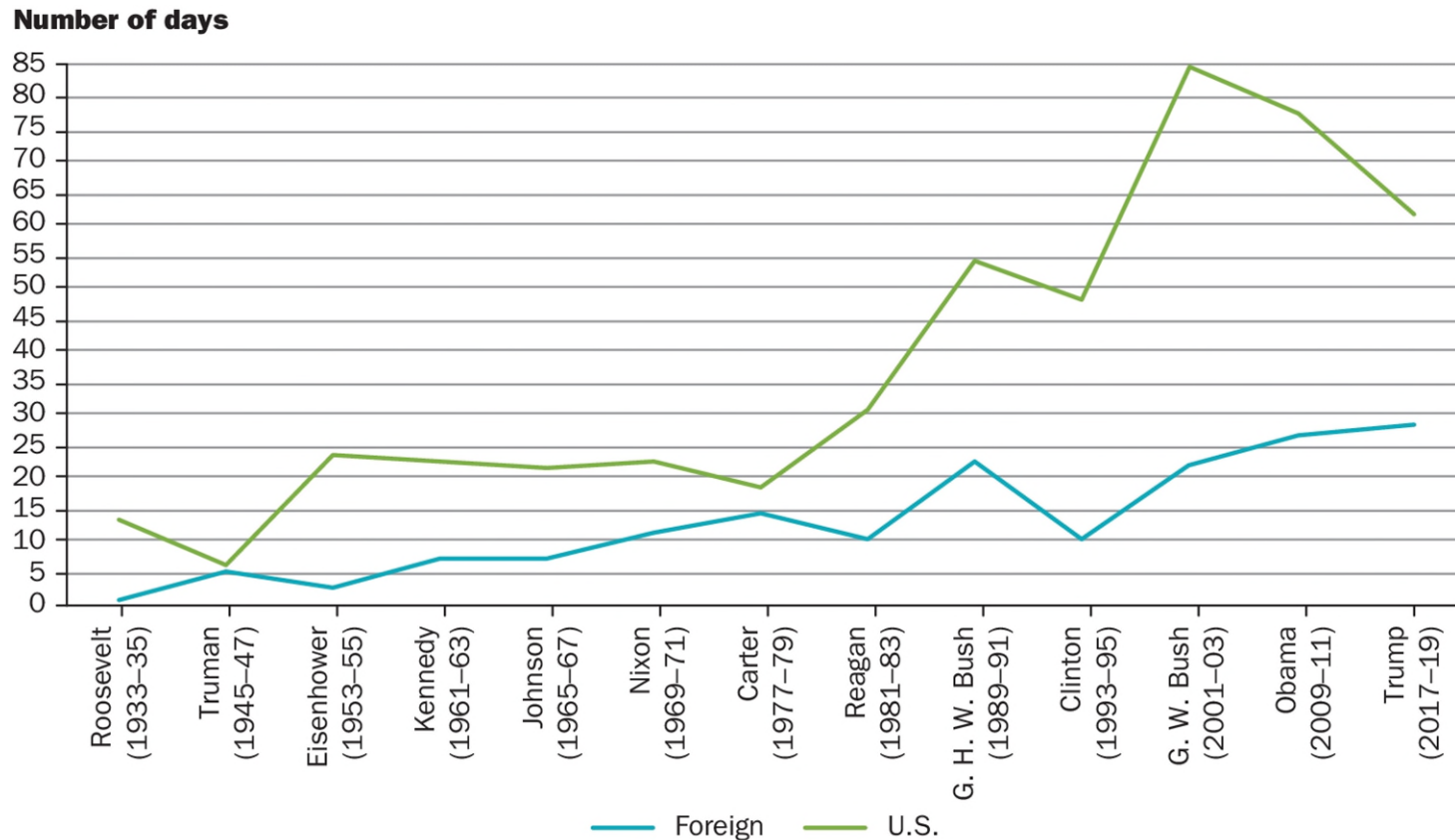


Going Public (3 of 5)

- Presidential travel
- Popularity and public appeal
- Ways to communicate
- Modern presidency: high-responsibility and high-stress

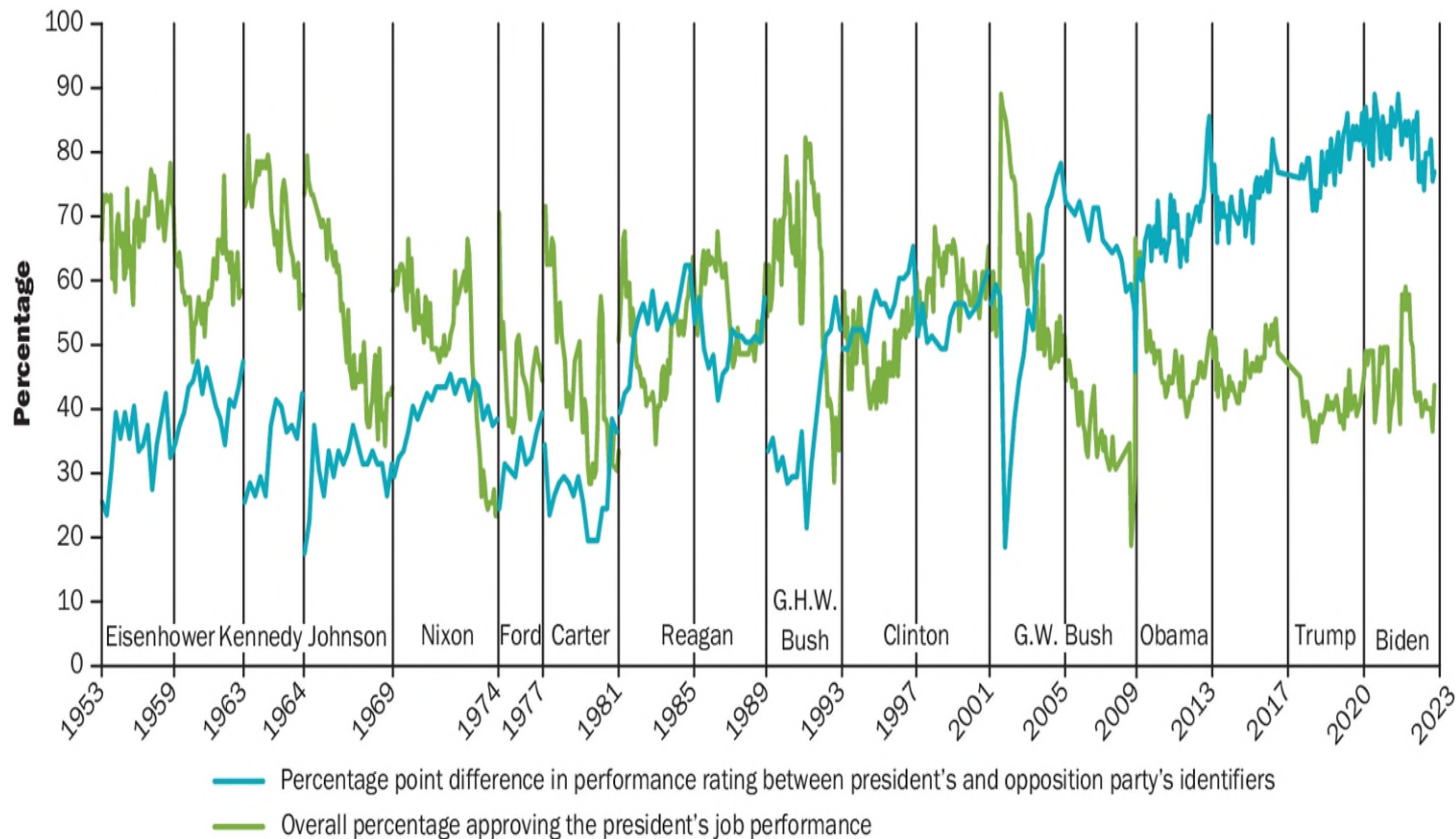
Going Public (4 of 5)

Figure 7.3: Going Public Involves More Presidential Travel



Going Public (5 of 5)

Figure 7.4: Partisan Polarization and Presidential Approval



The Institutional Presidency (1 of 5)

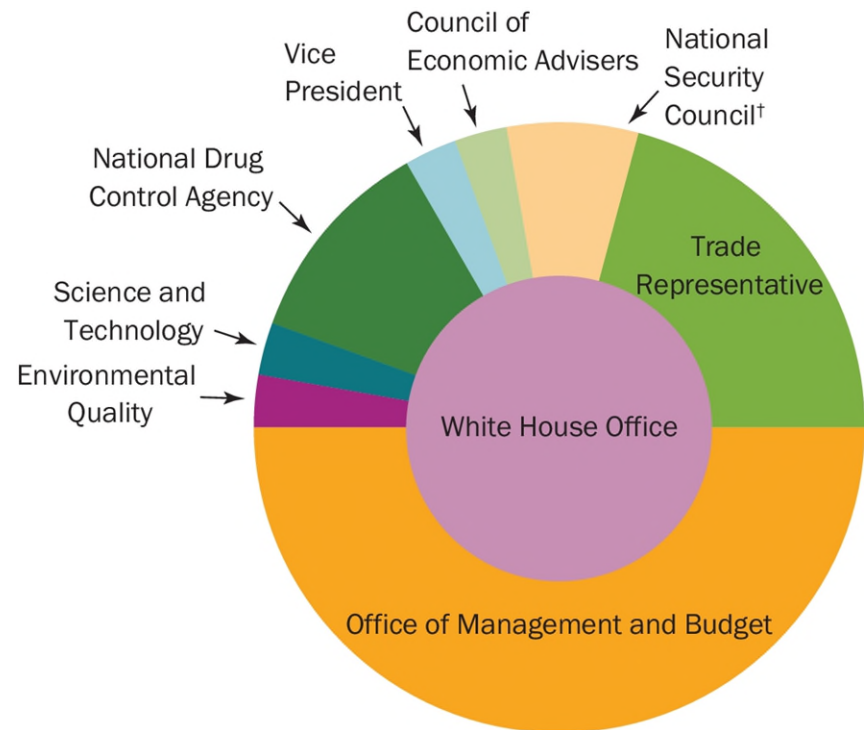
- Few staff into the 1930s
- Detailed staff
- Brownlow report
- Rejection of report

The Institutional Presidency (2 of 5)

- Executive Office of the President (EOP)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
 - Enrolled bills
 - Central clearance

The Institutional Presidency (3 of 5)

Figure 7.5: Organization of the Executive Office of the President



The Institutional Presidency (4 of 5)

- National Security Council (NSC)
- White House Office
- Role of organizations

The Institutional Presidency (5 of 5)

- President originally managed staff
- Different management approaches
- Chief of staff system
 - President Trump's staffing issues.