

Roles of the President

Use the Executive Branch Notes (p. 23) to figure out the scenarios below.

1. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower sends federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas. The governor of Arkansas, Orval Farbus, would not allow black students to attend Little Rock Central High as ordered by the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. While he disagreed with the Court's decision, Eisenhower felt it was his duty to enforce the court decision.

Role: chief executive

2. In 1932, with the country in the depths of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a series of bills known as the New Deal. Each of these laws attempted to offer relief from the Depression and help the nation recover from the economic crisis. Congress passed many of the bills over the course of the next few years.

Role: chief legislator

3. In 1945, with World War II winding down, President Harry S. Truman was faced with a tough decision on how to end the war in the Pacific. The US was preparing to invade Japan in the fall of 1945 and military advisors speculated that the invasion would result in up to one million American deaths and up to three million Japanese deaths. President Truman decided that he would use America's new military weapon, the atomic bomb, instead. He hoped to force Japan to surrender. After dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered in August.

Role: commander in chief

4. In 1974, as the nation was fixated on the Watergate crisis, President Richard M. Nixon resigned as President for alleged wrongdoings as President. His successor, President Gerald Ford, decided to pardon Nixon for "any real or imagined crimes" as one of his first acts in office. While many criticized Ford, he believed it was the best way to put what he called the long national nightmare behind us.

Role: judicial powers

5. In 1919 as World War I came to an end, President Woodrow Wilson went to work out a treaty to end the war. After a few weeks of working with the British, French and Italians, he came home with the Treaty of Versailles that included the League of Nations. Ultimately, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles and never joined the League of Nations.

Role: chief diplomat

6. Shortly after September 11th, President George W. Bush addressed the nation to help it deal with its problems and explain how the government was going to respond. A few days later, he went to New York City and declared to the recovery workers that the US would get its revenge on the terrorists. A couple of weeks later, the President threw out the first pitch of the world Series at Yankee Stadium.

Role: chief of state

7. Last week, President Obama went to Nevada to give a speech at a campaign fundraiser for the Democratic Party. At the end of the day, he had helped raise one million dollars for the Democratic Party.

Role: Head of Party