

# (6.1) Executive Branch at Work

*U.S. Government and Politics*

Essential question for this unit

- *What should governments do?*

# What is a bureaucracy?

- **Bureaucracy** = a large, complex administrative structure that handles the everyday business of an organization
- Basically it can be an efficient and effective way to organize people (bureaucrats) to do work
- *Examples: McDonald's, MTV, Boy Scouts of America, Google, Office Space Video Clip*

# THREE FEATURES OF A BUREAUCRACY

## HIERARCHICAL AUTHORITY

ORGANIZATION IS STRUCTURED LIKE A  
**PYRAMID**  
WITH A CHAIN OF COMMAND RUNNING  
FROM THE **FEW AT THE TOP**  
TO THE **MANY AT THE BOTTOM**



## JOB SPECIALIZATION

EACH BUREAUCRAT HAS CERTAIN

**DUTIES**  
AND  
**RESPONSIBILITIES**



## FORMALIZED RULES

THE BUREAUCRACY DOES ITS WORK  
ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF  
**ESTABLISHED**  
**PROCEDURES**



*Analogy: think of an umbrella*

# Federal Bureaucracy

- The **federal bureaucracy** = all of the agencies, people, and procedures through which the Federal Government operates.
  - *Ex. delivering the mail, administering social security, managing the national forests.*
- It is the means by which the government **makes and administers public policy**—the sum of all of its decisions and actions.
  - ***Everyday we are somehow impacted by the federal bureaucracy!***

# Federal Bureaucracy

- Nearly all of that huge bureaucracy is located in the executive branch.
- Not all of it, however, because both Congress and the federal court system are bureaucracies, as well.

# Executive Branch Bureaucracy

- Organization of the Executive branch = 3 broad groups of agencies (“the umbrella”)
  - All exist to help the President exercise its executive powers!

1. Executive office of the President

2. Executive Departments

3. Independent Agencies (Regulatory and Executive)

# Executive Branch Bureaucracy

1. Complete assignment: [Federal Bureaucracy](#)



## The Executive Branch

| EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  | EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS   | SELECTED INDEPENDENT AGENCIES   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White House Office</li><li>• Office of the Vice President</li><li>• Council of Economic Advisors</li><li>• Council on Environmental Quality</li><li>• National Security Council</li><li>• Office of Administration</li><li>• Office of Management and Budget</li><li>• Office of National Drug Control Policy</li><li>• Office of Science and Technology Policy</li><li>• Office of the United States Trade Representative</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State</li><li>• Treasury</li><li>• Defense</li><li>• Justice</li><li>• The Interior</li><li>• Agriculture</li><li>• Commerce</li><li>• Labor</li><li>• Health and Human Services</li><li>• Housing and Urban Development</li><li>• Transportation</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Veterans Affairs</li><li>• Homeland Security</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amtrak</li><li>• Central Intelligence Agency</li><li>• Environmental Protection Agency</li><li>• Federal Reserve System</li><li>• National Aeronautics and Space Administration</li><li>• National Endowment for the Arts</li><li>• National Science Foundation</li><li>• Peace Corps</li><li>• Social Security Administration</li><li>• United States Postal Service</li></ul> |

Each executive branch agency is created by act of Congress to execute the nation's laws. Why do you think the executive branch is the largest part of the federal bureaucracy?

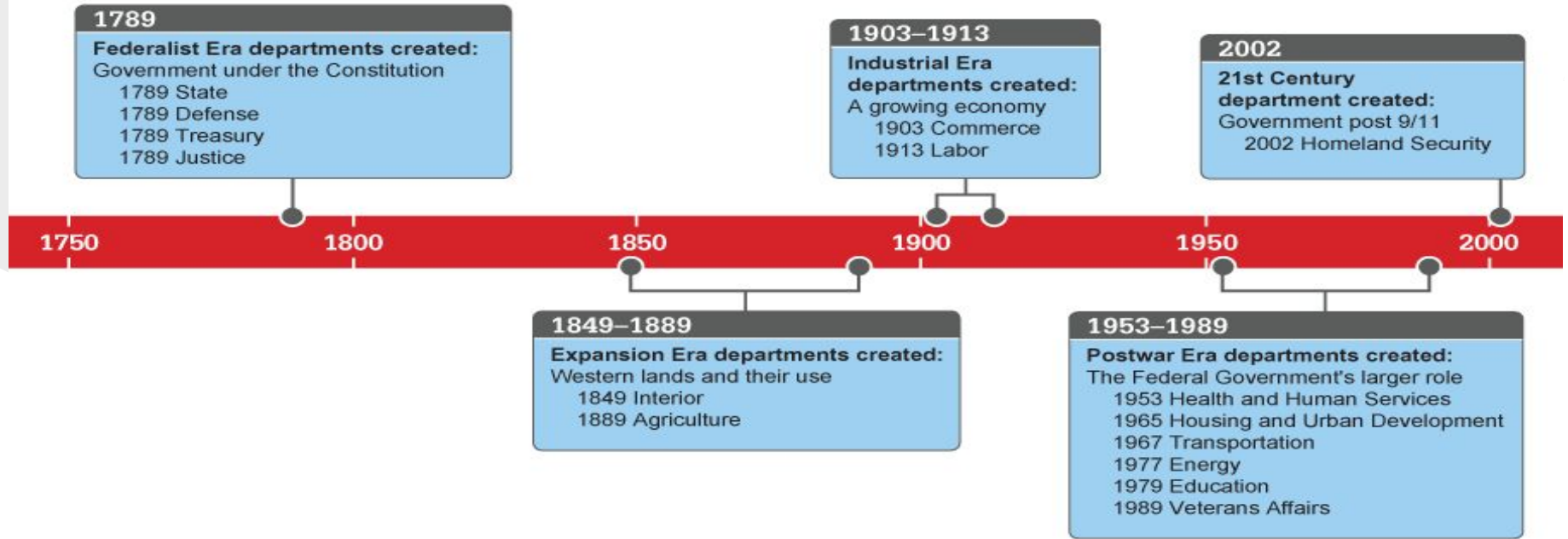
# Executive Office of the President (EOP)

- The President's right arm...
- Example: **White House Office**
  - *the “nerve center” for the entire executive branch.*  
*Includes President’s key personal and aides*
- Example: **Office of Management and Budget**
  - *performs the critical task of implementing the president’s policies throughout the executive branch and into every area of the government*

# Executive Departments

- “Executive cabinet” = president’s advisory body
  - It is composed of 14 secretaries and 1 attorney general who head up 15 different executive departments.
  - They advise the president on the state of the country and on matters of policy.
  - These departments employ  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Federal Government civilian workforce
  - *Ex. Department of State, Defense, Justice, Education and most recently Homeland Security*

## The Executive Departments Over Time



The number of executive departments has more than tripled since 1789. What can you conclude about the reasons for creating executive departments?

# Independent Agencies

- Congress created independent agencies outside the cabinet departments
  - *largely free of presidential control*
- They are governmental bodies that create and enforce rules and regulations for a wide variety of activities supervised by the government - more than 150 today!
- Social Security Administration (SSA) is the largest today

## Types of Independent Agencies

|                    | <b>INDEPENDENT EXECUTIVE AGENCIES</b>  | <b>INDEPENDENT REGULATORY COMMISSIONS</b>  | <b>GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS</b>  |
|--------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>DESCRIPTION</b> | Non-Cabinet agencies with specialized functions  | Agencies that regulate various aspects of the economy; outside presidential control  | Agencies that operate like businesses but are financed with public funds and subject to congressional and presidential oversight  |
| <b>EXAMPLES</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)</li><li>• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</li><li>• Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</li><li>• Peace Corps</li><li>• Office of Personnel Management (OPM)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Communications Commission (FCC)</li><li>• Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)</li><li>• Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)</li><li>• Federal Reserve System</li><li>• Consumer Product Safety Commission</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)</li><li>• Export-Import Bank of the United States</li><li>• U.S. Postal Service (USPS)</li><li>• National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK)</li><li>• Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)</li></ul> |

The three types of independent agencies are distinctly different, but they do share some common features. What features do these three types of agencies share?

# Independent Agencies Examples

**NASA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**National Aeronautic Space Administration**

**Description:** Oversees space research

**IRS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**International Revenue Service**

**Description:** Collects taxes

**FBI:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Description:** facts for crimes against the U.S.

**OSHA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupational Safety and Health**

**Description:** sets safety and health standards for work

**NPS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**National Park Service**

**Description:** manage national parks

**FDA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Food and Drug Administration**

**Description:** maintain/regulate food and drugs safety

**FCC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Communications Commissions**

**Description:** licenses radio and TV commission

**FAA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**Description:** safety in airports and planes

# Executive Branch Bureaucracy

- **Spoils system** = the practice of giving offices and other favors of government to political supporters and friends
  - Approx. 3 million people work in the current administration



# Conclusions / Takeaways

- Quick write and report out:
  - Summarize 4 of the major roles the president will take - make sure to use specifics!
  - More info: Watch [video lesson](#)