Chapter 14 in Brief

SECTION 1

The Growth of Presidential Power (pp. 390–392)

★ Article II of the Constitution created the presidency and gives the President certain expressed powers.
★ Yet Article II is remarkably brief, leaving Americans to debate whether the Framers intended the presidency to be relatively strong or weak.
★ Since the nation’s founding, the power of the presidency has grown significantly.
★ The power a President exercises depends on his views about the office and how he interprets Article II.

SECTION 2

The President’s Executive Powers (pp. 393–397)

★ The Constitution gives to the President the hugely broad and important “executive Power” of the United States.
★ Much of our political history revolves around the meaning of that constitutional grant.
★ Among the President’s key powers are those to execute the law and to appoint and remove high federal officials.

SECTION 3

Diplomatic and Military Powers (pp. 398–403)

★ The President shares treaty-making and other powers with Congress.
★ Certain diplomatic powers may be carried out without the approval of Congress; increasingly, Presidents have made use of these powers.
★ As commander in chief of the armed forces, the President possesses almost unlimited military power.

SECTION 4

Legislative and Judicial Powers (pp. 405–408)

★ The Constitution gives the President important legislative and judicial powers as part of the system of checks and balances in the Federal Government.
★ The President’s key legislative powers are to submit legislation for Congress to consider and to reject legislation that he opposes.
★ The Constitution gives the President several powers of clemency—powers with which he can show mercy to those convicted of federal crimes.

You Can Make a Difference

At age 20, Dawn Smalls, a Boston University honor student, became part of the busy “nerve center” of the United States government, as assistant to the White House chief of staff. She handled complaints, answered phone calls to the President, and dealt with senators and Cabinet members. Government service was not new to Dawn, who had interned in the West Wing of the White House. She also has worked with community groups in Washington and Boston, trying to show other young African Americans that “The divide that they see between them and their government...is not as great as they think it is.”

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