ROLES OF THE PRESIDENT

CONSTITUTIONAL ROLES

	Power(s)	*Check(s)*
Chief Legislator	• Proposes legislation • Vetoes legislation (lacks line item veto -- struck down by Supreme Court) • Calls special sessions of Congress	• Congress need not pass suggested legislation • Congress can override veto with 2/3 majority in both houses
Chief Executive	• Enforces laws, treaties, and court decisions • Appoints officials to office • Issues executive orders (which have the force of laws) to carry out laws	• Congress passes laws and has "power of the purse" • Senate can reject appointments
Commander in Chief	• Head of the armed forces	• Congress appropriates funds for the military • Congress declares war • War Powers Act of 1973
Chief Diplomat	• Sets overall foreign policy • Appoints ambassadors • Negotiates both treaties and executive agreements • Gives diplomatic recognition to foreign governments	• Congress appropriates funds for foreign affairs • Senate can reject ambassadors and treaties
Chief of State	• The ceremonial head of our nation (e.g., tosses out the first ball of the baseball season, visits the areas struck by natural disaster)	
Chief Jurist	• Appoints federal judges • Issues pardons (e.g., Ford pardoned Nixon for Watergate) and amnesty	• Senate can reject judicial appointments • Senators can place "holds" on appointments • Senators can filibuster nominations

NON-CONSTITUTIONAL ROLES

Chief of Party	• Selects the party's chairman of the national committee • Political patronage	
Chief Economist	• Proposes budget • Responsible for overall health of economy	• Congress must approve budget