

Name _____



Powerful Policies

The executive branch of the U.S. government has played a major role in shaping domestic policies—rules and laws that affect people inside the country. The President, as the head of the executive branch, has the power to sign laws, issue executive orders, and guide national decisions. Throughout history, presidents have influenced education, civil rights, healthcare, and economic policies to help American citizens.

The New Deal (1930s) – Franklin D. Roosevelt

During the Great Depression, many Americans lost their jobs and homes. To help, President

Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) created The New Deal, a series of programs that gave people jobs, food, and financial support. This policy helped the country recover and created programs like Social Security, which still helps older Americans today.

Civil Rights Act (1964) – Lyndon B. Johnson

During the 1960s, the U.S. faced segregation—where people of color were treated unfairly and kept separate from white people in schools, restaurants, and jobs. President Lyndon B. Johnson worked with Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act, which made discrimination illegal in schools, workplaces, and public places. This law helped make America more equal.

Medicare and Medicaid (1965) – Lyndon B. Johnson

Before 1965, many elderly and low-income Americans could not afford healthcare. President Johnson created Medicare (for older adults) and Medicaid (for low-income families) to help people get the medical care they needed. These programs still help millions of Americans today.

The Clean Air Act (1970) – Richard Nixon

By the 1960s, pollution was a big problem. The air in some cities was dangerous to breathe. President Richard Nixon signed the Clean Air Act, a law that set rules for factories and cars to reduce air pollution. This helped make the environment cleaner and healthier.

The No Child Left Behind Act (2002) – George W. Bush

President George W. Bush signed this law to improve education. It required schools to test students in reading and math to make sure they were learning what they needed. It helped schools focus on improving education for all children.

The Executive Branch and Change

The executive branch has helped shape America's policies by focusing on jobs, healthcare, education, and the environment. Presidents often work with Congress, but sometimes they use their executive powers to create immediate change. While not every policy is perfect, many have improved the lives of millions of Americans.

