**Understanding Role of President of the United States Politics Essay**

**Published: 23, March 2015**

The President of the United States is, arguably, the most powerful elected official in the world. He or she is the head of state and leader of the United States government, and one of just two elected officials in the American government. From the day the President is sworn in, he or she has the power to shape public opinion, pass laws, and affect the wellbeing of the United States at home and abroad. Countless motion pictures have portrayed the President of the United States, representing a wide spectrum of genre; both fictional and non-fictional. While some films accurately portray the roles of the President, others offer a skewed, exaggerated or completely untrue representation. Still others merge the two, exaggerating the truth while offering insight into the real roles, responsibilities and life of the President.

The roles of the President of the United States are plentiful and widespread. They can be broken down into the following key areas; constitutionally binding, ceremonial, and lawful. These include 1.) Chief Executive, 2.) Commander in Chief 3.) Foreign Policy Director 4.) Legislative leader 5.) Party head 6.) Popular leader, and 7.) Chief of State.

Firstly, the President is the Chief Executive of the United States, and as stated in the Constitution of the United States: "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." During the swearing of the official Oath, the President affirms: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States and will do the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

As Chief Executive, the President is entrusted with the responsibility of running the government. This is accomplished by ensuring that federal laws, treaties and court rulings are adhered to, organizing the national federal budget, and hand picking federal officials (including the Supreme Court Justice and Cabinet members).

The President also has widespread influence as Commander in Chief. According to Article 2 of the Executive Branch of the Constitution, the President shall be a Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States. He shall have Power to Grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment. The President is entrusted with the responsibility of developing, training, watching over, and deploying all military forces. Herein, only the President can make the decision to use or not use nuclear weapons. The President is also entrusted with the responsibility of keeping the United States healthy, and ensuring its safety during times of war.

As Foreign Policy Director, the President has the power to hand pick ambassadors, create treaties and work with foreign diplomats. He or she can put forth legislation dealing with foreign aid and other international activities and make executive agreements with leaders of foreign nations. As Legislative Leader, the President has the power to shape the laws that are passed by Congress. For instance, at the beginning of each Congressional Session, the President outlines the key issues and problems facing the country, and suggests a legislative plan to resolve them. The President is also the leader of the political party (Party Leader), with which he or she is affiliated and may attempt to sway the opinions of Senators and state representatives. Among his many other responsibilities, the President is the Popular Leader of the United States and Chief of State. He or she is responsible for performing numerous ceremonial duties throughout the Presidential term.

Should the President abuse any of these powers and responsibilities, Section 4 in Article 2 of the Executive Branch of the Constitution describes the consequences: "The President shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."