Defining the Presidency

George Washington &
the Expansion of Executive Authority

Lindsay M. Chervinsky, Ph.D.
@lmchervinsky

Institute for Thomas Paine Studies
International Center for Jefferson Studies
ELEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENCY

-Social Interactions

-Relationship with Other Branches of Government

-Executive Branch Work Environment
George Washington’s Inauguration as the first President of the United States
Ramon de Elorriaga, Encyclopedia Britannica
SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

Open Houses
Levees
Drawing Rooms
State Dinners
A Man of the People
The President’s House

“Residence of Washington in High Street, Philada.”
3D Virtual Creations of the President’s House
Created in conjunction with

SMU Center for Presidential History
The Past | The Promise | The Presidency
“Lady Washington’s Reception Day”
Daniel Huntington, Brooklyn Museum
A Man of the People

George Washington's Coach Carriage
Mount Vernon
A Man of the People

Washington’s Inauguration Suit
Donald W. Reynolds Museum, Mt. Vernon

Washington’s Shoe Buckles
Donald W. Reynolds Museum, Mt. Vernon
RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Visit to the Senate
Neutrality Crisis
Whiskey Rebellion
Executive Privilege
Visit to the Senate

Federal Hall, New York 1789
Archibald Robertson, New York Historical Society
“Proclamation of Neutrality”
Columbian Centinel, May 4, 1793

“Edmond Charles Genet”
Adolf Ulrich Wertmuller
The Whiskey Rebellion

“WASHINGTON REVIEWING THE WESTERN ARMY, AT FORT CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND” attributed to Frederick Kemmelmeier, c. 1795
Jay's Treaty & Executive Privilege

"John Jay Burned in Effigy"
New York Public Library
EXECUTIVE BRANCH WORK ENVIRONMENT

Article II, Section 2
Individual Conferences
First Cabinet Meeting
B Team
ARTICLE II, SECTION 2

“...HE MAY REQUIRE THE OPINION, IN WRITING, OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER IN EACH OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, UPON ANY SUBJECT RELATING TO THE DUTIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES...”
Individual Conferences
WASHINGTON’S PRIVATE STUDY
2. “Oliver Wolcott, Jr.,” John Trumbull
“First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen”