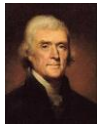


## "The Executive Branch"

### Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

In Thomas Jefferson's Inaugural Address, delivered in 1801, he outlined what he judged "the essential principles of our Government." An excerpt follows:



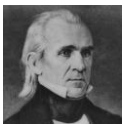
*Thomas Jefferson*

...Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none; the support of the State governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwarks against antirepublican tendencies; the preservation of the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; a jealous care of the right of election by the people—a mild and safe corrective of abuses which are lopped by the sword of revolution where peaceable remedies are unprovided; absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of republics....



1. What does Jefferson see as the strongest defense against "antirepublican tendencies"?
  - a. no "entangling alliances" with other nations
  - b. a fair criminal justice system
  - c. support for the governments of the states
  - d. election by the people

Negotiations between the Americans and the Mexicans broke down over the disputed area between Texas and Mexico, and a military skirmish took place at Matamoros in an area claimed by Mexico in late April. When Polk heard of the action, he sent a war message to Congress. Part of the message appears below.



*James K. Polk*

In my message at the commencement of the present session I informed you that upon the earnest appeal both of the Congress and convention of Texas I had ordered an efficient military force to take a position "between the Nueces and the Del Norte." This had become necessary to meet a threatened invasion of Texas by the Mexican forces, for which extensive military preparations had been made. The invasion was threatened solely because Texas had determined, in accordance with a solemn resolution of the Congress of the United States, to annex herself to our Union, and under these circumstances it was plainly our duty to extend our protection over her citizens and soil.



2. In his war message, President Polk claimed that he sent troops to the border between Texas and Mexico because
  - a. Texan officials had asked him to do so.
  - b. Mexico had attacked the United States.
  - c. Texas did not want to become part of the United States.
  - d. the U.S. Congress had rejected calls for the annexation of Texas.

Abraham Lincoln was shot on the night of April 14, 1865, and died the next morning. His assassination stunned the whole country and brought particular sadness to the African American population. Frances Ellen Watkins, a well-known black poet, expressed their sentiments in a letter she wrote a few days later



*Abraham Lincoln*

...To-day a nation sits down beneath the shadow of its mournful grief. Oh, what a terrible lesson does this event read to us! . . . Well, it may be in the providence of God this blow was needed to intensify the nation's hatred of slavery, to show the utter fallacy of basing national reconstruction upon the votes of returned rebels, and rejecting loyal black men. . . . Moses, the meekest man on earth, led the children of Israel over the Red Sea, but was not permitted to see them settled in Canaan. Mr. Lincoln has led [us] up through another Red Sea to the table land of triumphant victory, and God has seen fit to summon for the new era another man. . . . Let the whole nation resolve that the whole virus shall be eliminated from its body; that in the future slavery shall only be remembered as a thing of the past that shall never have the faintest hope of resurrection.



3. What good did Frances Ellen Watkins hope would come out of Lincoln's assassination?
- She hoped it would bring an end to the Civil War.
  - She hoped it would bring an end to Reconstruction
  - She hoped it would cause people to make sure slavery never returned.
  - She hoped it would lead to a new revival of religious feeling.

President Wilson addressed Congress early in 1918, stating his war aims and setting forth a basis for peace. He began as follows:



*Woodrow Wilson*

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secured once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us.



4. According to President Wilson, why did the U.S. enter World War I?
- to make life safe for Americans
  - to make life safe for all the peoples of the world
  - to respond to violations of acceptable behavior by other nations
  - all of the above

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, the nation was undergoing economic disaster. People were unemployed, hungry, and afraid of the future. The nation looked to Washington for emergency relief, and Roosevelt came to its rescue. The following is a part of his First Inaugural Address.



*Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work...It is to be hoped that the normal balance of Executive and legislative authority may be wholly adequate to meet the unprecedented task before us. But it may be that an unprecedented demand and need for undelayed action may call for temporary departure from that normal balance of public procedure.

... I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad Executive power to wage a war against the emergency, as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe.



5. Roosevelt pledges that, if the normal interplay between the Executive and Legislative branches does not create jobs quickly enough, he will \_\_\_\_
- declare war.
  - temporarily suspend the Constitution
  - blame Congress.
  - ask Congress for broad Executive powers.

War had begun in Europe in 1940. Nazi Germany had conquered France, and Great Britain was on the verge of military collapse. Franklin Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union speech on January 6, 1941. In a famous passage, named what he considered the four essential human freedoms.



*Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough manner that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.



6. Which of Roosevelt's Four Freedoms indirectly refers both to the gathering storm of World War II and the issue of arms control?
- freedom of speech
  - freedom or religion
  - freedom from want
  - freedom from fear

In his farewell address to the nation, President Eisenhower spoke about the potential dangers of the military establishment combining with the arms industry.



*Dwight Eisenhower*

This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every state house, every office of the federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

...We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together...



7. According to President Eisenhower, the military-industrial complex poses a potential threat to \_\_\_\_
- research and development.
  - military preparedness.
  - liberty and democratic processes.
  - all of the above.