

Why does the President need advisors?

President isn't an expert on everything, can't possibly handle everything on his own. The size and scope of the government is expanding in response to the changing nature of the world.

THE CABINET

Members of the first Cabinet: Secretary of War, Sec. of Treasury, Sec. of State, Attorney General

of members in the first Cabinet: 4

Origin of Cabinet: informal institution with no Constitutional basis, membership based on tradition and presidential discretion

Members of the current Cabinet: Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, Veterans Affairs, Attorney General

of members in the current Cabinet: 15

How they become Cabinet member: President appoints them and then they need to be confirmed by the Senate by a 2/3 majority

Job of Cabinet members: advise the President in their areas of expertise, help President execute laws and assist in decision making

WHITE HOUSE STAFF

Members of the White House Staff: personal assistants, aids, secretaries directly responsible to the President

Big Ones: White House Chief of Staff (gatekeeper to the President- who gets to talk to him and when, very influential), Communications Director (helps write speeches for President to promote his agenda), Press Secretary (runs press conferences, public face of administration), National Security Advisor (advises President on foreign policy, national security issues on a daily basis), White House Counsel (provide legal advice to President)

Role of the White House Staff:

Directly responsible and loyal to the President, provide advice, help carry out his duties. They are located in the West Wing of the White House.

How they get their jobs:

Their power is derived from their personal relationship with the President. Often times they have worked on his campaign, long time friend, work associate, etc. The President appoints them, but they DO NOT need a Senate confirmation.

Why do Presidents rely more on White House Staff than the Cabinet?

1. Loyalty: WH Staff hired and fired at the will of the President
2. Cabinet secretaries have divided loyalties to the President AND their departments
3. Most WH Staff appointments don't have to be approved by the Senate
4. Cabinet is subject to Congressional oversight (Congress can expand or abolish departments)

Adv. Govt – Strong

ANSWER KEY

5. WH Staff generally is not subject to oversight

6. Interest group influence on cabinet departments (“Iron Triangle”- congressional subcommittees, cabinet departments and interest groups)