

DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY POWERS

TEXT SUMMARY

The President is in charge of foreign affairs for the United States. He can make a **treaty**, or formal agreement with another nation, which must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. However, the President may avoid needing senatorial approval by making an **executive agreement**, or pact with another nation's leader.

The President also has the power of **recognition**, which is to acknowledge—and by implication support—the legal existence of another country and its government. Nations generally recognize each other by exchanging diplomatic representatives. One nation may show its strong disapproval of another by calling back its ambassador and sending the

other's ambassador home. The official recalled is said to be **persona non grata**, or an unwelcome person.

The power to declare war belongs to Congress. However, as commander in chief, the President can still make war. More than 200 times, a President has sent U.S. forces into combat without a congressional declaration of war. After the undeclared Vietnam War, Congress passed the War Powers Resolution of 1973, designed to limit the President's war-making powers. It says that combat must stop after 60 days without the authorization of Congress.

THE BIG IDEA

While the President shares various diplomatic and military powers with Congress, in some areas his power is almost unlimited.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: *The Major Diplomatic and Military Powers of the President*



The President's diplomatic and military powers give him much power to interact with other nations.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean when the President recognizes another country?
2. **Diagram Skills** How long may American troops stay in combat without Congress's authorization?