



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 11.8.5**

*Expanded Presidential Power*

**Specific Objective:** Describe the increased powers of the presidency in response to the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War.

**Read the chart to answer questions on the next page.**

<b>Expanded Presidential Power</b>		
<b>Great Depression</b>	<b>World War II</b>	<b>Cold War</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hoover tried to allow the economy and social problems to improve on their own, but they only got worse.</li> <li>• Roosevelt’s New Deal took control of the economy as if it were wartime. The crisis was so severe that the public wanted the government to take strong action.</li> <li>• Programs such as WPA, PWA, and CCC provided jobs for public work paid for by the government.</li> <li>• The Supreme Court opposed some of Roosevelt’s programs. The president proposed adding new justices, but was eventually able to find replacements sympathetic to the New Deal.</li> <li>• The federal government made rules for business, including production amounts, workers’ pay and hours, and prices.</li> <li>• The government controlled farm production.</li> <li>• Social Security established a retirement program, unemployment benefits, and aid for needy families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even before the United States entered the war, Roosevelt used his power to provide aid to the allies. He met with Churchill to discuss strategy.</li> <li>• Requirements of fighting the war caused government to take control of many businesses.</li> <li>• The War Production Board decided which industries would shift to defense production.</li> <li>• The government controlled prices, wages, and rent; most were frozen to prevent increases (inflation).</li> <li>• Many goods were rationed by government; e.g., people could only buy certain amounts of gas, sugar, coffee, meat each week</li> <li>• Certain labor rights were guaranteed while others were limited. The government had the right to take over certain industries if there was a strike.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worldwide competition between the United States and USSR was used by presidents to justify the use of military force around the world without declarations of war. (The U.S. Constitution reserves the right to declare war for Congress.)</li> <li>• To support anticommunist forces around the world, Eisenhower and later presidents used secret military and other actions through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).</li> <li>• Presidents used their power to persuade Congress to follow their agendas rather than the president simply responding to laws passed by Congress.</li> <li>• The president and the executive branch became the focus in establishing most foreign and domestic policy.</li> </ul>



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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 **Presidential power expanded during the Great Depression because**
  - A Congress refused to take action.
  - B the economic and social problems were so severe.
  - C voters passed an amendment to increase the power of the president.
  - D the threats from foreign countries required immediate action.
  
- 2 **President Franklin Roosevelt increased the power of the presidency by**
  - A taking over the power to control the tax rate.
  - B limiting the number of terms a member of Congress could serve.
  - C taking over the function of many government agencies.
  - D involving the government in the economy through new agencies and programs.
  
- 3 **How did the power of the presidency increase during World War II?**
  - A The president expanded the government's role in controlling the economy.
  - B The president declared war against Japan without congressional approval.
  - C The president limited the types of cases the Supreme Court could decide on.
  - D The president prevented Congress from spending too much money.



- 4 **The cartoon refers to Roosevelt's attempt to increase his presidential power by**
  - A appointing himself Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
  - B increasing the number of judges on the Supreme Court.
  - C reducing the number of representatives in Congress.
  - D forcing Congress to establish new agencies.
  
- 5 **The greatest changes in presidential power during the Cold War involved**
  - A regulating labor conditions and prices.
  - B establishing social welfare programs.
  - C the power to move jobs overseas.
  - D use of troops without declaring war.