

Pol Science Part II

Question #1

Discuss the nature and extent of powers of US President and prime Minister of the UK.
What makes the US president more powerful? Discuss

Answer:-

The role of the president of the United States and the prime minister of the United Kingdom are central to the political systems of their respective countries. However, the nature and extent of their powers differ significantly due to the structural differences of the US presidential system and the UK parliamentary system. This question explores these differences and why the U.S. President is considered more powerful in certain respects.

Power of the US president:

The president of the United States is the head of the state, head of government and commander in chief

of the armed forces. As outlined in the US Constitution, the president holds extensive powers, but they are also checked by other branches of government.

Key powers:

Executive powers:

The president is the chief executive and responsible for enforcing federal laws, managing the executive branch and issuing executive orders.

Commander in chief:

The president commands the military and has the authority to deploy troops though declaring war requires congressional approval.

Diplomatic powers:

The president can negotiate treaties (with senate approval) and appoint ambassadors, representing the US in foreign affairs.

Legislative powers:

While not a member of the legislative, the president can influence

laws by issuing vetoes on bills passed by congress, though these vetoes can be overridden by a two-thirds majority in both the house and senate.

Judicial powers:

The president appoints judges to the federal judiciary, including the supreme court, subject to senate confirmation. The president also has power to grant pardons.

Emergency powers:

In times of national crises, the president can assume additional powers, such as declaring a state of emergency, although these are subject to limits set by law.

Checks on Power

The president's powers are checked by other two branches of government. Congress and the Judiciary. For example, Congress controls the budget, can

override vetoes and must approve appointments and treaties. The Judiciary has the power to rule constitutionally of the president's actions.

Powers of the UK prime minister:

The UK prime minister is the head of the government but not the head of the state at the monarchy (currently King Charles III) fulfills that role. The prime minister leads the executive branch and is the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons.

Key powers:

The prime minister oversees the operation of the government and the implementation of policies. They chair meetings of the Cabinet and have significant influence over government decisions.

Legislative powers:

The prime minister is a member of parliament and controls the legislative agenda through the majority party in the house of commons. They can propose laws and have the power to call a general elections (though this power is now limited by the Fixed-term Parliament Act of 2011)

Appointments powers:

The prime minister appoints government, including members of the cabinet. They also appoint senior civil servants and judges through many appointments require approval by parliament.

Foreign policy:

While the prime minister has significant influence over foreign affairs, treaties require ratification by parliament and the monarch formally represents the UK in

in diplomatic matters.

Commander-in-chief:

The UK minister is technically the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, though this role is largely symbolic (~~as~~ ^{for} military decisions made by the cabinet and parliament).

Check on power:

The prime minister power is limited by parliament, particularly the house of commons. A prime minister must retain the confidence of the house to remain in office. If they lose a vote of no confidence, they must resign. Furthermore, the opposition and the media play significant roles in holding

the prime minister accountability.

Why the US president is more powerful.

while both the US ^{president} and the UK Prime minister wield significant authority, several factors make the US president more powerful in certain ways:

Separation of powers in the US:

The US system is based on a strict separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The president is not dependent on the legislative branch for their position and does not need to maintain the support of congress to remain in office. This gives the president a certain independence unlike the UK Prime minister who is directly

on the house of commons.

Direct election of the president:-

The US president is elected directly by the people through the electoral college system, which gives them a direct mandate from electorate.

on contrast the UK prime minister is appointed by the monarch but must maintain the support of parliament to govern, limiting their power if they lose parliamentary confidence.

Foreign policy and military Powers!

The president holds control over US foreign policy and play a central role in these areas, the US President authority is more centralized and less constrained.

by parliament.

Ability to act Unilaterally.

The president has the power to issue executive orders and take immediate action on many matters, such as national security and emergency responses. While the UK prime minister can act quickly within government, their action often requires parliamentary approval, particularly for significant changes in policy.

Longevity and stability

The US president serves a fixed four-year term (with two-term limit) providing stability and consistency. In contrast, the prime minister can be replaced at any time if they lose the confidence of parliament, leading to potential instability.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the US president holds a more centralized and independent form of powers, largely due to the separation of powers and the direct election process. The President's authority extends over military decisions, foreign policy, and legislative (powers) matters, with significant autonomy. In contrast, the UK prime minister's powers are more dependent on the support of Parliament and the cabinet. Although the Prime Minister of the UK is a highly influential figure, the US president's powers, particularly in foreign policy and the ability to act independently, make them more powerful in comparison.