

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 5.1: Presidential Power and the War on Terror

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Explain how presidents have used their power in the fight against terrorism.

AP® Key Concepts

executive branch

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Presidents	Actions taken against terrorism	Methods of implementing actions

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Section 5.1: Presidential Power and the War on Terror

 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. The president of the United States acts as the head of the:
 - A. executive branch.
 - B. legislative branch.
 - C. judicial branch.
 - D. American citizens.

2. What is the significance of September 11, 2001?
 - A. President George W. Bush declared war on al-Qaeda.
 - B. President George W. Bush expanded the authority of the executive branch via executive orders.
 - C. Terrorists from al-Qaeda hijacked four U.S. passenger planes and crashed them into buildings and fields.
 - D. President George W. Bush blocked financial transactions with groups he believed were aiding terrorists.

3. Peggy is a political scientist who has studied homegrown terrorism in America and why some American citizens choose to join terrorist groups. Who might Peggy have come across in her studies?
 - A. Osama bin Laden
 - B. Anwar al-Awlaki
 - C. Abdulrahman al-Awlaki
 - D. Esam Hamdi

4. Why was Anwar al-Awlaki seen as a threat to the security of the United States?
 - A. He was working to recruit followers and supporters of al-Qaeda through the Internet.
 - B. He was working as a propagandist for the Taliban in Yemen.
 - C. He was an American citizen who had been captured by al-Qaeda for recruitment purposes.
 - D. It was only a matter of time before he began calling for attacks on the West.

5. Andrew is working on a school project regarding the types of weapons used in the War on Terror, specifically those used to kill dangerous terrorists. Andrew will likely include which type of weapon in his project?
 - A. tanks
 - B. nerve gas
 - C. nuclear weapons
 - D. drones

6. Which statement BEST describes concerns regarding the Authorization for Use of Military Force Act?
 - A. It would give presidents the power to wage war without the consent of Congress.
 - B. It would allow presidents to launch attacks on American citizens.
 - C. It would open the door to presidents continuing to expand their power.
 - D. It would increase the use of drones, which is a controversial method of war.