

### To what extent has the EXOP replaced the cabinet as the president's Main advisor?

The EXOP and the cabinet have very similar roles to the president, they were both set up to help and advise the president, the cabinet has a role as Heads of departments and has other loyalties, namely congress who essentially decide whether they are head of the department, they have a strong loyalty to these departments, although the initial set up was to aid the president, as time has gone on the more roles the Cabinet has had to take on. The EXOP otherwise known as the Executive Department of The President, is the top staff agencies in the white house that give the president help and advise in carrying out major duties of his office. Its primary functions are coordination, advice giving and personal management. As seen the EXOP has less roles and more president focused.

Cabinet is a body which is chosen by the president to run the 15 heads of department, they then are approved by congress, these 15 executive members are responsible to the president, while one of their jobs is to help to advise for the president, they have other roles as heads of departments, they have a strong responsibility to that department, running a department takes lots of organisation and fundamentally running the country within that department. Each department has strong links with interest groups which help the departments to decide what is best for the country within that department. Heads of departments have a loyalty to congress, this is because they decide their budget for that department, and any problems the departments cause to congress will have an impact on their budget. As you can see the Cabinet has large amounts of responsibility and not just to advise the president, where in theory this is seen as one of the most important roles for cabinet ministers to advise the president, they in practice have bigger loyalties to other areas. Fundamentally where the cabinet have these commitments it is essentially down to the president himself, to whether he uses his cabinet to make decisions and uses them as advisors or 'heads of departments' to look after the 15 departments in the federal bureaucracy, some presidents choose to use the EXOP which has been more popular as time has developed, old school presidents tend to use their cabinet as advisors where as presidents in recent power have chosen to use the EXOP as advisors due to the cabinet not being as trusted and described as 'going native', this is where departments get heavily involved in their departments to an extent where they are willing to put their department before the party and/or government demands, this can distort advice given to the president as they will put there department before the decision made rather than offering advice which doesn't take the departments benefits or flaws into account. This happened under Nixon, his cabinet was described as "marrying the natives". Iron triangles can be another problem that can distract the cabinet from fulfilling the advisory role to the president, they can be affected by the link between the federal bureaucracy committee and departments.

The Executive Office of the President is the part of the executive which are set up to aide the president in his decision making, it comes in three distinctive area's the White house office which is divided up into 19 different offices such as cabinet liaison and office of legislative affairs. This is made up of the cabinets most trusted aides and advisors, its primary role is both of these plus administrative support on a daily basis, this is where the EXOP has preference in terms or advice, they are the most trusted people in the Executive branch for the president to turn to, this is mainly because he chooses them but the theory of his cabinet going native, iron triangles within departments and the heads of departments having a large amount of responsibility within those departments let alone aide the president. The National Security council is another area of the EXOP this part is designed to help the president with foreign defence and security policies, this part of the EXOP is set up to specifically to help the president, they have no other loyalties apart from the president, unlike the United States Department of Defense under the power of Robert gates the secretary of defense who has a department loyalty amongst other loyalties other than the president. The EXOP can be described as "the president men". Within the White house there is a position known as chief of staff, this position is the right hand man to the president, one of the best was Jack Watson under Jimmy Carter his main role was to advise the president, but most was done indirectly he made sure that the relevant people had a full and fair opportunity to present their view to the president, and made sure that there was conflicting views, this way the president wasn't hearing one sided argument, which enabled him to make a judgment for himself. This role is directly liable to the president unlike the cabinet.

In conclusion the EXOP can to some extent be said to have replaced the cabinet as the main advisors to the president, the executive office of the president is picked directly by the president and doesn't need approval by congress, they have no other loyalties except to the president this is what makes them so close and therefore so trusted by the president, with one of the main roles of the white house is the chief of staff said to be the right hand man. In contrast the cabinet does provide a large aide to the president as they head the 15 departments and have specialist knowledge about that department which is essential to the president in making decisions but cabinet officials can be not trusted due to sometimes 'going native' or 'marrying the natives' this is because they become to heavily involved in there departments and lead them to putting departmental policy before the presidential preferences. Another reason for the EXOP being a more trusted advisor is that departments tend to get involved in iron triangles this is a link between the departments, committees within the federal bureaucracy and interest groups this alone can get bills passed into law providing no veto takes place and It passes through congress, this shows lack of party discipline and another loyalty which means less advice is given to the president.

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