



42 “National Emergencies” Currently in Effect

The National Emergencies Act (NEA) was enacted in September 1976 in order to formalize the emergency powers of the president of the United States, and as of March 2024, 82 national emergencies have been declared. Forty-two are currently in effect, dating back as far as the 1979 Iran hostage crisis during the Carter administration. The emergencies, in effect, are categorized under a variety of areas such as arms, legal, maritime, military, sanctions, seizure, and trade.



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Of the 42 national emergencies currently in effect, nine have been declared by President Joe Biden’s administration. The remaining 33 were declared by previous presidential administrations, with eight declared by Donald Trump, nine declared by Barack Obama, 10 declared by George W. Bush, five declared by Bill Clinton, and one declared by Jimmy Carter.

Prior to the NEA, declarations by former presidents have included former President Woodrow Wilson’s “Proclamation 1354 — Emergency in Water Transportation of the United States,” [which allowed the United States Shipping Board](#) to control the sale and use of freight ships.

Former President Franklin Roosevelt’s “Proclamation 2039 — Bank Holiday, March 6-9, 1933, Inclusive” [declared a bank holiday to impose restrictions](#) on withdrawals in response to bank failures. After the Emergency Banking Act of 1933 was passed on March 9, 1933, banks received permission to reopen.

One of Roosevelt’s most-criticized acts as president was [Executive Order 9066](#), signed on February 19, 1942, which authorized the imprisonment of Americans of Japanese ancestry at “relocation center” internment camps.



EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE ARMED SERVICES

WHEREAS it is essential that there be maintained in the armed services of the United States the highest standards of democracy, with equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country's defense:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.
2. There shall be created in the National Military Establishment an advisory committee to be known as the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, which shall be composed of seven members to be designated by the President.
3. The Committee is authorized on behalf of the President to examine into the rules, procedures and practices of the armed services in order to determine in what respect such rules, procedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view to carrying out the policy of this order. The Committee shall confer and advise with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary

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of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, and shall make such recommendations to the President and to said Secretaries as in the judgment of the Committee will effectuate the policy hereof.

4. All executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee in its work, and to furnish the Committee such information or the services of such persons as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.
5. When requested by the Committee to do so, persons in the armed services or in any of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall testify before the Committee and shall make available for the use of the Committee such documents and other information as the Committee may require.
6. The Committee shall continue to exist until such time as the President shall terminate its existence by Executive order.

Harry Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 26, 1948.

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One of the most controversial examples of a presidential emergency declaration is Abraham [Lincoln's Executive Order No. 1](#) of February 14, 1862, which authorized the [arrest of political prisoners](#) and led to the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act signed by Lincoln on March 3, 1863, which then allowed Lincoln to suspended the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War.

As far as current emergency declarations, notable examples include Biden's sanctions to freeze property of the Russian government, prohibiting Russian-affiliated vessels from entering U.S. ports, and sanctions directing the Treasury Department to monitor or prohibit transactions that might help China develop technology that threatens U.S. national security.

Notable emergencies still in effect enacted during the Trump administration [include the restrictions on the sale](#) of Huawei electronic devices in the United States via Executive Order 13873, which prohibits U.S. companies from using telecommunications equipment considered to pose a national security threat.



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