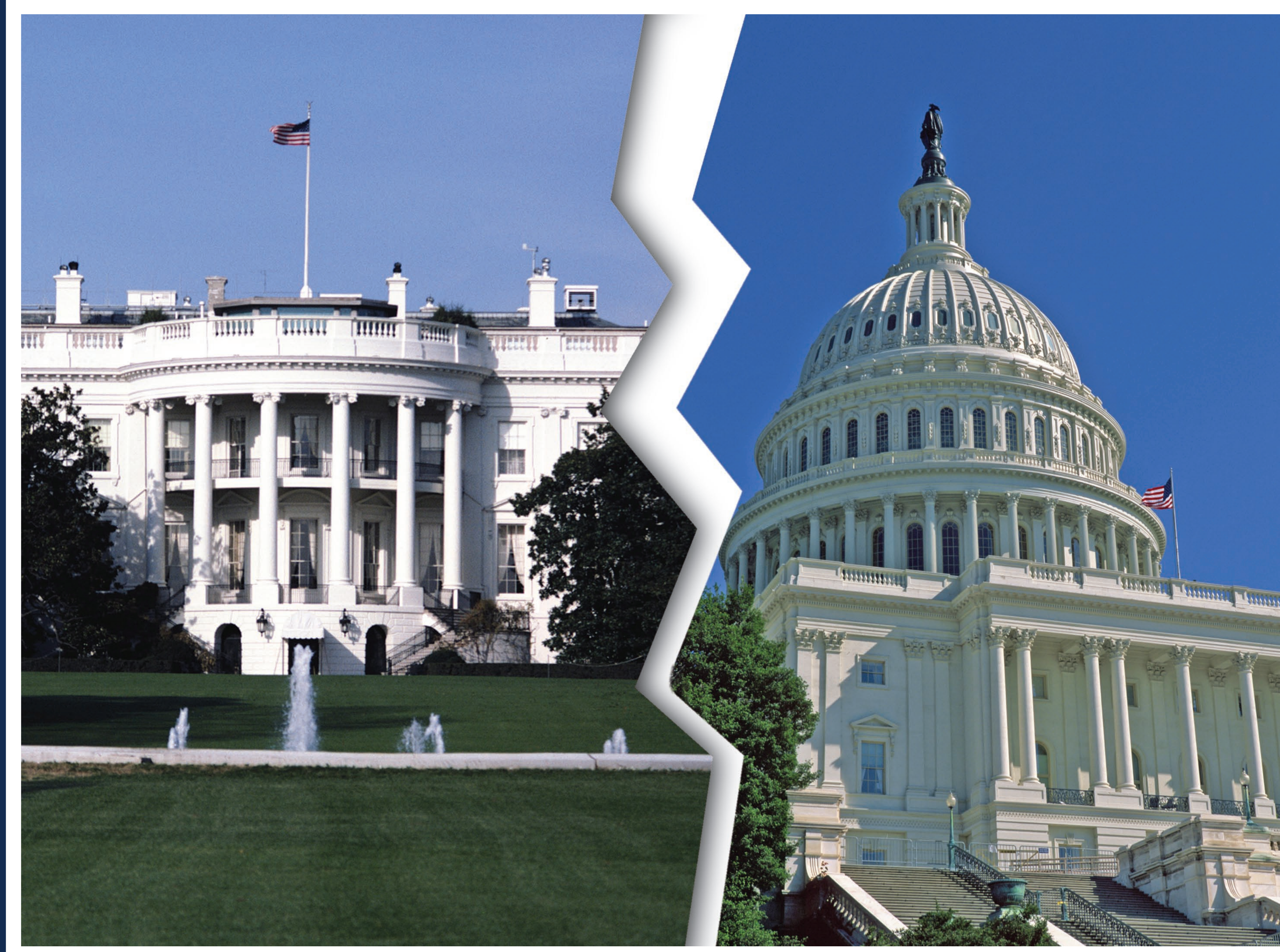# WAR OF WORDS

Should the President or Congress have final say about the war in Iraq?

Calls for an end to the war in Iraq have sparked a national debate over the military powers of the President and Congress.

To prevent abuse, the Framers of the Constitution put the military under civilian control and then divided power between the President and Congress. Article II, Section 2, makes the President Commander in Chief, with the power to direct America's military troops. But Article 1, Section 8, gives Congress the power to challenge presidential authority by refusing to fund the military, or by enacting "Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

Throughout American history, separation of military power has been a source of conflict between the President and Congress. During the Civil War, President Lincoln's congressional critics argued that he was overstepping his authority as Commander in Chief. More recently the Vietnam War prompted Congress to pass the War Powers Act in an attempt to limit the president's military authority. The war in Iraq has again divided Congress and the President and has reignited public controversy over who exercises military power.

Should the President or Congress have final say about the war in Iraq?

THE PRESIDENT

• As Commander-in-Chief, it is the president's job to set war strategy, including any strategy for the withdrawal of troops.

• The Iraq War Resolution passed by Congress in 2002 granted the President final authority "to use the armed forces as he determines to be necessary and appropriate."

• Because the president is elected by the nation as a whole, it is his job to make final decisions about what is in the national interest, including the war in Iraq.

CONGRESS

• Through its power to control the military's budget, Congress ultimately decides to sustain or end a war.

• Congress has the power to revoke the Iraq War Resolution.

• Congress, more than the president, mirrors the country as whole and better represents its will on the Iraqi war.