

Founding Documents: Additional Materials

1. Congressional Research Service (CRS) National Security Reports Collection

Link: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/index.html>

This comprehensive collection provides authoritative, non-partisan analysis of national security issues prepared specifically for Congress. The site includes current defense primers covering topics like strategic nuclear forces, precision-guided munitions, and military planning processes, with reports updated as recently as July 2024. Particularly valuable for policy professionals are the "Defense Primers" series that provide concise introductions to complex topics like congressional war powers, military infrastructure funding, and emerging technologies. These reports are written by subject matter experts and represent the gold standard for factual, balanced analysis of national security law and policy.

2. "The War Powers Resolution: Concepts and Practice" - Congressional Research Service

Link: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R42699>

This comprehensive CRS report provides the definitive analysis of the 1973 War Powers Resolution, examining both its legal framework and practical implementation across multiple administrations. The report traces how presidents from Nixon through Biden have interpreted and applied (or rejected) the Resolution's requirements, offering detailed case studies of military interventions and their relationship to congressional authorization. Essential for understanding the ongoing tension between executive initiative and legislative oversight in military affairs, this resource provides the historical context and legal precedent necessary to evaluate current debates about presidential war powers.

3. "Defense Primer: Congress's Constitutional Authority with Regard to the Armed Forces" - CRS

Link: <https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1442980/>

This focused primer provides an overview of Congress's war powers under the U.S. Constitution, offering clear explanations of the constitutional text, historical interpretation, and modern application. The report examines the tension between Articles I and II, congressional funding powers, and the evolution of legislative oversight mechanisms. Particularly useful for understanding how constitutional principles translate into practical governance, this primer serves as an excellent companion to the Federalist Papers analysis in helping readers grasp the foundational legal framework that continues to shape contemporary national security decision-making.

4. "The Federalist Papers" - Online Library of Liberty

Link: <https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/hamilton-the-federalist-1787-1788>

The complete text of the Federalist Papers remains essential reading for understanding the theoretical foundations of American national security authority. Papers 23, 41, and 70 (discussed in your course) provide the intellectual framework for modern debates about executive power, congressional authority, and the balance between energy and accountability in government. This digital edition includes searchable text and historical annotations, making it accessible for contemporary readers. Understanding Hamilton and Madison's arguments about defense powers, standing armies, and separation of powers provides crucial context for interpreting how these principles apply to modern challenges like counterterrorism, cyber warfare, and great power competition.

7. "National Security Law" (6th Edition) - Stephen Dycus, et al.

Link: <https://www.aspenlawschool.com/books/national-security-law/>

While this is a commercial textbook, it represents the most comprehensive academic treatment of national security law available. The text systematically examines constitutional foundations, statutory authorities, and case law that govern U.S. national security decision-making. Particularly valuable are its detailed treatments of the National Security Act of 1947, FISA authorities, and war powers evolution. The book includes extensive case studies, primary source documents, and analysis of contemporary issues. For policy professionals seeking deep understanding of the legal framework governing national security, this resource provides both historical context and practical guidance for navigating complex legal and institutional questions.