

The 4 Types Of Constitutional Crises | FiveThirtyEight

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March 22, 2018

People have been talking about the possibility of a “[constitutional crisis](#)” since before President Trump’s election. And in the wake of Trump’s [executive order](#) restricting the ability of people from seven predominantly Muslim nations to travel to the U.S., we’re once again hearing that term a lot. [Rep. Don Beyer](#), a Virginia Democrat, used the phrase to describe [reports](#) of Customs and Border Protection officials [snubbing](#) members of Congress and refusing to abide by a judge’s ruling delaying the enforcement of the order. And the Washington Post’s Aaron Blake [investigated](#) whether Trump’s [disparaging remarks](#) about a federal judge who ruled against the administration could be considered a constitutional crisis.

So what exactly is a constitutional crisis? We should be clear about what does — and, more importantly, does not — merit this description. It’s possible to have a major political crisis even if the Constitution is crystal clear on the remedy, or to have a constitutional crisis that doesn’t ruffle many feathers.

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