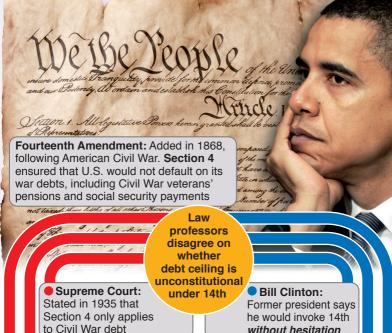
Obama's constitutional escape hatch

One way out of America's debt-ceiling stalemate is for President Obama to raise the deficit limit by himself by invoking an obscure provision in the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution



Lenders: Unilateral action by Obama could prompt nation's creditors to stop lending

Impeachment: If Obama moves alone, Congress could move to impeach him. Republican-controlled House could impeach but Democratcontrolled Senate would not convict

without hesitation

Presidential prerogative: President may do what he wants

in an emergency

Popular constitutionalism:

Interpretation of Constitution is what public believes it to be. Obama can move unilaterally - American people will judge him at 2012 election