

# AP US Government Study Guide

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## Unit 1

### The Enlightenment Period

- The Enlightenment period yielded many ideas that influenced the making of the American government.
- Some of the famous philosophers of the Enlightenment periods:
  - John Locke, John-Jacques Rousseau, and Thomas Hobbes.
- Some of the most important ideas yielded from this period:
  - **Social Contract** - A contract between the government and the governed. With this contract, the governed understands that they must give up some of their natural rights in exchange for protection from the government, alongside other benefits.
  - **Natural Rights** - The rights given to every person. These rights can not be taken away by the government. If these rights are violated, then the people have the right to revolt.
  - **Popular Sovereignty** - The idea that the people should have the main voice in the government, and the government should be held accountable to the people. The power is in the people.
  - **Republicanism** - A representative form of government that is limited.

### Models of Democracy

As you know, America is a **democracy**. However, there are different models of representative democracy that exist, and an aspect of each form of democracy is evident in our government.

These different models of democracy include:

- **Participatory Democracy** - Citizens have the power to decide on a policy, but the politicians that are elected by the people implement the people's decisions.
- **Pluralist Democracy** - Nobody dominates policymaking, but instead, different groups of people compete for influence in the government.
- **Elite Democracy** - A small group of people makes decisions for everybody; these people are usually wealthy and well-educated.

## Articles of Confederation

When the United States was first formed, we used the **Articles of Confederation**.

- Under the Articles of Confederation, the states were not very united and the national government was very weak. The Framers made it like this because they were coming from a very abusive and powerful monarchy under King George III's rule in Britain, causing the American people to want safeguards to make sure the government wouldn't abuse their powers.
- Weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation were highlighted in **Shay's Rebellion** - a violent revolt of farmers led by Daniel Shay. Due to the government's weakness and lack of control, they didn't have enough power to successfully control this revolt. Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation include:
  - Each state was very independent, even having its own currency, so there were often conflicts between states.
  - Congress could not levy taxes, which left the national government underfunded.
  - Congress could not regulate commerce.
  - One vote was given to each state in Congress.
  - There was no executive branch to enforce the decisions made.
  - Amendments to the Articles required 13/13 votes, and laws required 9/13 votes to pass.
  - States could tax other states' goods.
  - Almost every state had its own militia.
- However, the transition from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution did not go unopposed. The **Federalists** supported the ratification of the Constitution, whereas the **Anti-Federalists** opposed it, as they believed it gave the national government too much power.
  - Through this debate, many ideas about what the American government should look like came about. We can see these ideas in the Federalist and Anti-Federalist papers.
- We now operate on a **Madisonian representative democracy**, which includes the following principles:

- **Federalism** - Having shared powers between the national, state, and local governments.
- **Checks and balances** - Having systems incorporated into the government that prevent it from abusing its power and becoming too powerful.
  - Ex: The presidential veto checks the power of the legislative branch by requiring approval from the President before a law is passed.
- **Separation of Powers** - Having authority and jurisdiction divided up in the government.
- **Popular Sovereignty** - The power is in the people.
- **Limited government** - The government cannot do anything it wants because it is restricted by a written document (in America's case, it's the Constitution!)

### Compromises made in the ratification of the Constitution

- **The Great (Connecticut) Compromise** - This merged Virginia and New Jersey plan, creating a *bicameral legislature*. In one house, the number of representatives each state gets is based on their population. In the other house, the number of representatives for each state is the same.
- **The Electoral College** - Body that determines how the President and Vice President gets elected. Electors from each state vote for the President and Vice President and the number of electors each state gets is determined by the number of representatives they have in Congress.
- **Three-Fifths Compromise** - Each slave was counted as 3/5ths of a person when it came to determining representation in Congress.
- **Compromise on the importation of slaves** - No new slaves can be imported into America after 1808.

### Constitutional Basis of Federalism

- **Enumerated powers** - The powers explicitly given to Congress in the Constitution.
- **Implied Powers** - Powers not expressed in the Constitution but are understood as powers given to the federal government.
- **Inherent powers** - Powers of the President

- **Reserved powers** - Powers reserved for the states. (10th amendment)
- **Privileges and Immunities Clause** - States can't discriminate against people based on what state they are from. (Ex: tax rate can't be different for non-citizens of states)
- **Full Faith and Credit Clause** - States must trust documents that come from other states. (Ex: Drivers license, Marriage)
- **Extradition** - If you commit a crime and flee to a different state, the state you fled to must bring you back to the state you committed the crime in.
- Any powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the state governments, as is stated in the 10th amendment. The 14th amendment also gives powers to the federal government because it says that states may not make a law that abridges the citizens' rights. This gives the federal government the power to decide which state laws abridge the rights of the citizens.

### Federalism in Action

- **Fiscal Federalism**
  - **Grants-in-aid** - Money given to the states by the federal government that doesn't have to be paid back.
  - **Categorical grants** - Grants that are given to the states for a specific reason.
  - **Block Grants** - Grants given to the states for a broad use
  - **Mandates** - When the federal government requires governments to do something.
- **Dual Federalism** - The federal and state government are independent of each other and have separate duties (1789-1932)
- **Cooperative Federalism** - The levels of government work together to get different goals done (1933- 1962)
- **New Federalism** (includes fiscal federalism) - Instead of having centralized federalism where the power is mostly in the federal government, devolution is occurring, and there has been a movement to return some of the power back to the states (1963- Present)

### Key Federalism Clauses

- **Commerce clause** - The government can regulate interstate commerce.

- **Necessary and Proper Clause** - The government can stretch its enumerated powers in order to perform its job.

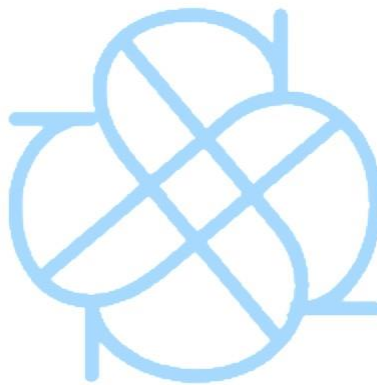
### Key Federalism Cases

- **McCulloch v. Maryland** - Maryland tried to tax the Second Bank of the United States in an attempt to close it. The owner of the bank refused to pay the tax and Maryland sued. Maryland argued that they could tax any business in the state and that the federal government was expanding their powers too far, since they shouldn't be able to open a national bank. McCulloch, the cashier of the Baltimore branch of the bank, argued that under the necessary and proper clause, the government could create a bank. Plus, according to the supremacy clause, taxing is state interference with a federal law, which is illegal. The Supreme Court voted unanimously in favor of McCulloch.
- **United States v. Lopez** - Congress passed the Gun-Free School Zones Act, which prohibited people from carrying a gun in a school zone. Lopez was found with a gun in a school zone, and the case reached the Supreme Court. Lopez argued that Congress never had the authority to pass the law in the first place, and the US argued that through the elastic (necessary and proper) and commerce clauses, Congress had the power to pass that law. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Lopez, stating that guns were not related to commerce, and therefore Congress didn't have the power to pass that law.

### Key Federalism Legislation

- **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act** - Legislation that aimed to minimize the effect of unfunded mandates (mandatory things that states have to do without receiving money from the federal government) on state and local governments.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** - provides money for low-income families for food (food stamps).
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** - A temporary social welfare program that provides money for basic needs for income families but requires beneficiaries to be in a program that prepares them for work.
- **National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter Act)** - Allowed people to register to vote when they got their driver's license. Also required states to develop a mail voter registration option. Its goal was to make it easier for people to vote.

- **Clean Air Act** - Established the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agency which would develop standards for releasing hazardous emissions into the air. It also required that states had to meet the standards pushed by the EPA while giving citizens the right to sue against anybody that violates the standards set by the EPA.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act** - An act passed to stop discrimination against people with disabilities. Also mandated that educational institutions and employers make accommodations for people with disabilities.
- **Brady Bill** - A bill to reduce gun violence by requiring federal background checks when buying firearms.
- **No Child Left Behind Act** - Provided money to low-income students so that they were able to attain extra assistance.



## Unit 2

### Article One of the Constitution - The Legislative Branch

- Congress (or the Legislative Branch) is a bicameral legislature (composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives), a system created by the Great Compromise - a compromise between the small and large states.
- Many powers that weren't given to the federal government under the Articles of Confederation were given to Congress in the Constitution.
- Each chamber of Congress has different powers and abilities that the other chamber may not have. Enumerated powers are powers of Congress. They are listed in Article 1 of the Constitution.

### Structure of Congress

Senate	House of Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● With the 17th amendment, Senators are now elected to the Senate, holding their offices for 6 years, which means that 1/3 of the Senate is up for reelection at a time.</li><li>● Each state has 2 senators.</li><li>● The Senate is the upper house and is meant to be more elite. They have the following powers that the lower house doesn't:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Confirming Presidential appointments</li><li>○ Ratifying treaties made by the President.</li><li>○ Holding impeachment trials</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The House of Representatives is the lower chamber of Congress and is known to be closer to the people.</li><li>● State representation in the House is determined by the census that's conducted every 10 years.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It is determined by the number of people in each district.</li></ul></li><li>● The Representatives are up for reelection every 2 years. They have the following powers that the Senate doesn't have:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Impeaching a public officer</li><li>○ Introducing tax and revenue bills.</li></ul></li></ul>

## Introducing bills and creating laws

- A **bill** can be introduced into either chamber of Congress.
  - \*Note that **Appropriation bills** are only able to be introduced in the House.
- Once a bill is introduced, it goes to a committee, and that committee votes on whether it will get to be voted on by the whole chamber or not.
  - If the bill dies in the committee, a motion to discharge the committee can be filed to pull that bill out of the committee. If a bill makes it out of the committee, there are different procedures, depending on the chamber of Congress.

Senate	House of Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● After a Bill comes out of a committee, it goes straight to the Senate floor, where debates are held. To end the debate, all Senators have to vote on the bill (unanimous consent).</li><li>● If a Senator doesn't want a bill to go to vote, they may <b>filibuster</b>. To end a filibuster, <b>cloture</b> must be done.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The debate in the House is more formal because there are more people.</li><li>● Once a bill is out of the committee, it goes to the <b>Rules Committee</b></li><li>● The Rules Committee decides if a bill will be voted on as a committee of the whole or as the House of Representatives.</li></ul>

## Important vocab in the process of law-making

- **Filibuster** - Where a member holds the Senate floor to prevent a bill from going to vote.
- **Cloture** - Used to end a filibuster. You need 3/5ths of the Senate's votes to have successful cloture (60 votes).
- **Rules Committee** - decides how a proposed bill will be voted on and debated (i.e. Will amendments be added? Is the bill even going to be debated? etc.)
- **Committee of the Whole** - simplifies the rules of debate and opens the conversation
- **Discharge Petition** - Filed to get a bill out of the committee and take it straight to the floor



## Types of Committees

- **Standing** - Committees that are always in operation (ex: Ways and Means Committee)
- **Conference** - A committee formed with members from both the Senate and the House to iron out differences in similar legislation.
- **Select** - Created for a specific purpose and will eventually end.
- **Joint** - A committee with people from both the Senate and the House, that is created for a specific reason.

## Congressional Spending

- **Discretionary spending** - Programs in which Congress and the President have to renew spending for it every year.
- **Mandatory spending** - programs in which the government has already made a commitment to pay.

## Congressional Actions

- **Pork barrel legislation** - When Congressmen negotiate for legislation that helps their specific district but not the whole country.
- **Logrolling** - When Congressmen agree to support each other's bills.
- **Ideological Divisions within Congress** - People often vote along party lines, making it harder for legislation to be passed due to partisan differences (deadlock).
  - Congress has become increasingly more partisan, which has caused less legislation to be passed successfully in Congress.
- **Gerrymandering** - Redistricting strategically to ensure one party gets more representation in that district, a process that can lead to a majority to have representation in Congress.
- **Redistricting** - The redrawing of district lines for representation.
- **Reapportionment** - The delegation of representatives to different districts based on population. This determines which states get more representation.
- **Elections that have tend to lead to a “divided government”** - When the Congress is controlled by a different party than the White House. This can lead to a **gridlock**, which is when no legislation is passed because the two parties can not come to an agreement.

- **Congressional refusal to confirm appointments of “lame duck” presidents of the opposite party** - When the next President has been chosen and the current president’s term is almost up, they usually try to appoint people to governmental positions so their political ideologies continue, even though they are technically out of office.
  - If Congress has a majority of the opposite party, then they may not want to confirm anyone, which will cause vacant spots in the government.
- **Congressional Models for voting**
  - **Trustee model** - When representative votes based on what they think is right, even if it is different from what their constituents want.
  - **Delegate model** - When representative votes based on what his constituents want, even when other representatives don't agree with what the constituents want.

### Important Court Decisions

- ***Baker v. Carr***: Tennessee residents were upset that the government had not redistricted in quite some time so the districts didn’t reflect the current population, causing residents in rural areas’ votes to count more than people in urban areas. The Supreme Court ruled that they could make decisions on the fairness of districts under the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to make sure everyone’s vote had the same weight.
- ***Shaw v. Reno***: North Carolina residents were mad about a majority-minority district and the case reached the Supreme Court where the government ruled that race can’t be the predominant factor in redistricting because that violates the 14th amendment.

## Article Two of the Constitution - The Executive Branch

- Informal Powers of the President
  - Chief Political / Party Leader - Presidents can endorse people in their party, acting as a spokesperson for their party.
  - Head of State - The President represents the nation by receiving ambassadors and performing many ceremonial roles.
  - Chief Legislator - The President proposes legislation that he wants to see passed. He can also veto bills.
  - Chief Economic Planner - The President proposes the budget and has to approve it.
  - Bully Pulpit -
    - The internet allows the President to utilize the bully pulpit more efficiently to communicate with the American people quicker and more directly. It is also easier to mobilize and grassroots campaigns. However, it is harder for the President to control the news.
    - The President can use the bully pulpit to get support for their agenda which will make it easier for the President to get legislation passed that they support through.
  - The government gives tasks to different departments. They use civil servants in more than 200 independent agencies to carry out laws, do administrative work, and issue regulations on the public.
- Formal Powers of the President - Powers are explicitly given to the President in the Constitution
  - Chief Executive - The President makes sure that the laws that are passed are obeyed. He can issue executive orders and employ many people to carry out laws.
  - Chief Diplomat - The President must negotiate with foreign nations. He also has the power to make and enforce treaties.
  - Commander in Chief - The President can make war. He can also use nuclear weapons.

## Structures of the Executive Branch

- **Cabinet** - A group of advisors that aid the President on numerous topics that he may not be as knowledgeable in.
  - The cabinet includes the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland, Housing and Urban Development, and the Vice President.
- **Ambassadors** - Diplomats that travel to other countries as the United States' representatives and negotiate for the President.
- **White House Staff** - Assistants to the President that counsel him on many things; led by the Chief of Staff.

## Federalist No. 70

- Hamilton advocates for a unitary executive so that one energetic person has the power to make quick decisions, as well as be held accountable to the people. This can not happen with multiple people in the executive branch because there will always be differences in opinion and blame will be passed around.
- Hamilton also supported the idea of paying the President as a way of keeping him motivated, and the President needs just enough power to not prevent tyranny.

	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment-</b> Limited the ability of Congress to increase their pay.
<p>The internet allows the President to utilize the bully pulpit more efficiently while also communicating with the American people quicker and more directly. It is also easier to mobilize and grassroots campaigns. However, it is harder for the President to control the news.</p> <p>The President can use the bully pulpit to get support for their agenda which will make it easier for the President to get legislation passed that they support through.</p> <p>The government gives tasks to different departments. They use</p>	

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### **Bureaucracy Interactions with the President and Congress**

- Writing and enforcing regulation - They issue regulations to enforce the law and executive orders that were issued by the President and Congress.
- Issuing fines - They issue fines to punish the public for not obeying the law that the bureaucracy enforces.
- Testifying before Congress - They may testify before Congress to give insight on a specific topic that they are experts on because they work directly in that subject
- Iron triangles- The relationship between Congress, the federal bureaucracy, and interest groups during policy creation. Congress gives funding to the bureaucracy, the bureaucracy implements the policy that Congress passes, and interest groups lobby Congress for policies that they want to see passed.

Civil Service- Hiring government workers based on competition, tests, and merit  
Merit- People getting jobs based on their achievements and ability rather than partisan loyalty.  
Pendleton Act- Attempted to stop patronage. It made it illegal to hire or fire someone for political reasons.

	Congress gives the federal bureaucracy administrative discretion in implementing its laws. This means they		
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	<p>have the power to determine how they are going to implement the law. With this, they are able to come up with regulations and punishments for not obeying the law without approval.</p>		
<p>Discretionary and rule-making authority to implement policy are given to bureaucratic agencies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Homeland Security</li> <li>- Department of Transportation</li> <li>- Department of Veterans Affairs</li> <li>- Department of Education</li> <li>- Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>- Federal Elections Commission (FEC)</li> <li>- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Independent Executive Agency</b> An agency established by Congress with separate status outside of the executive branch. They are usually established to serve a specific purpose.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Social Security Administration, CIA, NASA, EPA</p>	<p><b>Independent Regulatory Commission</b> Established to regulate a specific economic activity. They work independently of the executive branch and Congress</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Federal Reserve Board, Federal Communications, Commission</p>	<p><b>Government Corporation</b> Government owned businesses to provide a service that can't be trusted to the private sector.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> US postal Service, Amtrak</p>

## **Congressional Oversight**

Oversight and methods used by Congress to ensure that legislation is implemented as intended are represented by:

Committee hearings- They use committee hearings to make sure everything is running well in a specific department and there is nothing fishy going on.

Power of the purse- Allocating money to ensure that its laws have the funding it needs to survive. Also they might cut funding for something if they feel their laws aren't being implemented ,right.

If the President is of the opposite party as Senate, the Senate might not confirm any presidential appointment , by using their Congressional oversight.

The President utilizes a number of tools to ensure that the bureaucracy is doing its job. For example, he can appoint heads of departments, can control their budget, or issue an executive order to push an agency to enforce the rules a certain way.

## **What is the difference between:**

Majority Opinion- what majority of the judges believe; this is the ruling that is enforced.

Dissenting Opinion- the opinion of the judges that completely disagrees with the majority opinion.

Concurring Opinion- the opinion of the judges that agree with the majority's ruling but for a different reason.

Writ of Certiorari- a writ that demands a lower court to send the files over to review a case.

Rule of Four- at least 4 Supreme Court judges have to want to hear a case for it to be heard by the Supreme Court.

COURT	NUMBER OF COURTS	NUMBER OF JUDGES	JURISDICTION	POLICY IMPLICATIONS
District Court	94	700	Original Jurisdiction	Minor implications or none.
Courts of Appeal	13	160	Appellate Jurisdiction	Their decisions set the precedent for all the courts within that district
Supreme Court	1 (court of last resolve)	9	Original and Appellate Jurisdiction but most cases heard by the Supreme Court are based on appellate jurisdiction.	Their decisions set the precedent for the entire nation, and unifies all decisions.



# Unit 3

## Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments of the constitution that protect individual liberties and rights of the people of the United States that the government cannot take away from its citizens. The government's job and purpose is to protect these rights since they are “god-given”. They are also meant to protect rights, not give them.

Civil Liberties - the limitations that are put on the government; actions the government can't take as they may interfere with your personal freedom. Ex. 1st amendment

Civil Rights - guarantees of equal citizenship and protects citizens from discrimination by majorities. Ex. the right to vote

## First Amendment - Freedom of Religion

The First Amendment prevents the federal government from supporting an established religion and protects citizens' free exercise of religion. This amendment is split into two parts: the establishment clause and the free exercise clause. The establishment clause prevents the US from using religion as a guiding point for laws to be made and makes sure that they don't endorse any specific religion.. The free exercise clause does not allow anyone to be prevented from being part of a certain religion. It does not mean that any religious practice is okay. There are limits to what certain parts of a religion that could be practiced. An example could be a sacrifice. The police can arrest you for holding sacrifices.

An example of a SCOTUS case would be *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972). In this case, the state of Wisconsin fined Amish families that refused to send their children to school after the eighth grade. Yoder argued that it went against the free exercise clause of the First Amendment because higher education went against their religious beliefs. The court ruled in favor of the Amish families, saying their First Amendment right outweighed the state's want to push their attendance.

## First Amendment - Freedom of Speech

Part of the First Amendment allows for people to speak as they please. However, this right does have restrictions. It was made initially to allow constituents to freely express their grievances with the government. However, this does not mean you are allowed to speak freely to anyone else. There are limits such as obscenity, clear and present danger, plus time place and manner restrictions.

A very important SCOTUS case involving this issue was *Schenck v. United States*. Schenck was an anti-war activist who sent out 15,000 fliers telling men to resist the draft for the first world war. He was arrested under the Espionage Act, which prohibited interference with military

operations. Schenck argued that it went against his First Amendment right, eventually leading this case to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ended up voting against Schneck, saying his freedom of speech did not apply because of time, place, and manner restrictions.

Another important Supreme Court case was *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*. In this case, Iowa students were trying to wear black armbands in order to protest the Vietnam war. The court ruled in favour of *Tinker* because it was a form of symbolic speech which does not go against the First Amendment because the school system is part of the government so they were essentially protesting the government, something that is completely allowed.

### **First Amendment - Freedom of the Press**

This part of the First Amendment prevents Congress from making any laws allowing censorship of the press, essentially trying to prevent them from publishing information. Just like freedom of speech, there are limitations to freedom of the press such as libel, which is lying about what someone or something did that leads to a damaged reputation.

An important case that deals with this idea is *New York Times v. United States*. The United States wanted to restrain the New York Times from publishing the history of the Pentagon Papers, documents that included classified information on Vietnam. The case made its way all the way up to the Supreme Court, where they ruled in favor of the New York Times, saying that publication did not pose an immediate threat to the country.

### **Second Amendment - Right to Bear Arms**

The Second Amendment allows the people the individual right to have firearms. This is one of the most argued rights because of the limitations that are trying to be placed on this subject.

### **Selective Incorporation**

The 14 amendment of the constitution talks about how the national government cannot take away your rights but it doesn't mention anything about this same thing applying to the state governments, meaning that the Bill of Rights didn't apply to the state governments. Over time, the

Supreme Court has made rulings on certain court cases to make sure that the Bill of Rights applies to the state governments as well. However, not every part of the Bill of Rights has been applied to the states through selective incorporation. Major court cases involving selective incorporation include *Tinker v. Des Moines*, where the Supreme Court ruled symbolic speech is valid in schools and cannot be punished as it applies to all levels of government. Another good example would be the case of *Roe v. Wade*. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that a woman's ability to get an abortion in the first trimester could not be prohibited because it falls

under the right to privacy which could not be limited by states. This made it unconstitutional for states to make abortions illegal.

### **Due process in the Right to Privacy**

The Supreme Court has interpreted that the due process clause of the 14th amendment prevents state governments from taking away people's rights to privacy. The right to privacy is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution but over time, the Supreme Court has begun to include it in its rulings such as in *Roe v. Wade*. There are limitations to this idea especially when it comes to public safety.

### **Social Movements and Equal Protection**

During the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing, pushing for social justice for black and other minorities. The social movement led to a change in policies that our government makes. For example, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prevented discrimination based off of sex, gender, race and other factors.

### **Government Responses to Social Movements**

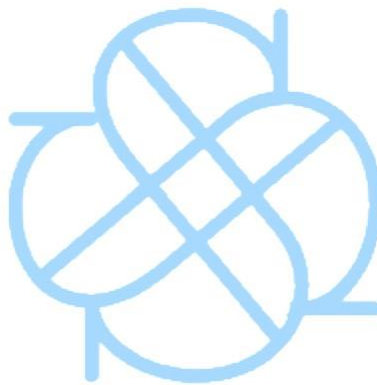
The pressure from social movements causes the government to make changes legislatively. An example being the Civil Rights Act of 1964, an act preventing the discrimination of a person based off of sex, gender, race, and other factors. The Supreme Court in cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education* invalidated previous actions the government had used in order to discriminate against certain groups of people. This case made it so that segregation could be looked at as unconstitutional because it goes against the equal protection clause of the constitution.

### **Balancing Minority and Majority Rights**

Depending on the ideological standpoint of the Supreme Court, the cases that they deal with may have major effects on minorities and majorities. An example would be with the separate but equal doctrine. In the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court ruled that separate facilities for coloured people didn't go against the 14th amendment because it was separate but still equal. That idea was overruled with *Brown v. Board of Education*, as the Supreme Court ruled just because the facilities are separate doesn't mean that they are actually equal, essentially violating the 14th amendment.

## **Affirmative Action**

Starting in the 1960sm the government began using affirmative action to help minorities have equal opportunities in the United States. Since then, the Supreme Court has been making rulings on affirmative action to determine whether or not it is constitutional. The Court has had mixed feelings about idea based on the fact that it is constitutional because the constitution only mentions things about how race classifications influences cannot harm a minority but is unconstitutional because it's helping to promote the benefits of specific groups to get ahead.



## Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs Vocabulary

**Ideology-** Beliefs that shape political opinion and policies

**Political Socialization-** The process where people learn and develop their political values and opinions

**Agents of Socialization** - Things that influence the development of one's political views (ie. family, what you learn in class, etc.)

**Political Culture** - A nation's core beliefs on how their economic, political, and social life should be carried out

**Liberalism** - A political ideology where people believe in less government control over political and social issues, but more government control over economics.

**Conservatism** - A political ideology where people believe the government should have more control over political and social issues, but less control over economics (laissez-faire)

**Libertarianism** - A political ideology where people believe the government should have little to no government control on political/social issues and the economy

**Totalitarianism** - A political ideology where people believe the government should have as much control as possible on political/social issues and the economy.

**Socialism** - A political ideology where people believe that the government should control the means of production within the US and a better equal distribution of wealth

**Laissez-Faire/Capitalism** - The belief that the government should allow free market to dictate pricing, production, and demand

**Political Efficacy-** The belief that your voice in government matters (voting, reaching out to senators, etc.)

**Tracking Polls** - Polls monitoring the changes in public opinion overtime

**Random Sampling-** When anyone has the chance to be selected to participate in a poll

**Quota Sampling** - When pollsters target a specific population of people to participate in a poll

**Public Opinion Poll** - Surveys put out by the government to get an idea of what the people want to see from the government

**Push Polls** - Polls typically asking questions in a negative way that are made to change the public opinion about candidates

## 4.1: American Attitudes About Government and Politics

People have different core values and different views towards how they feel the government should act. This makes up the different ideologies within American politics. America itself has core values and beliefs, which is known as a political culture. There are 5 elements of a country's political culture:

**Equality (egalitarianism)** - equal vote, equal chance to participate

**Liberty** - Freedom (doesn't including the harming of others or breaking of laws)

**Democracy** - Government accountable to the people (popular sovereignty) Individual

**Responsibility** - Responsible for your own actions and well-being Civic Duty- Being a part of the community

As those are the core values of America's political culture, there are two other beliefs that often fall under America's political culture as well: Laissez-Faire/Capitalism and factors of production largely privately-held.

## 4.2: Political Socialization

As people grow older, they will develop their own political views. This happens through political socialization which is basically when people learn more about politics and start to form their opinions on how they feel the government should be run. Things people are surrounded with can influence how people develop their political views. These are called agents of socialization.

Some examples are:

- If a child grows up in a home where they are only exposed to conservative beliefs, they are more likely to grow up and be conservative
- If a person surrounds themselves with friends who have liberal beliefs, they are more likely to hold liberal beliefs
- If a child grows up in a town that preaches conservatism, they are more likely to become a conservative as they grow older
- When learning about politics in school, if a student finds that they disagree with conservatives views, they are more likely to become a liberal

## 4.3: Changes in Ideology

There are many parts of one's identity that may also depict their ideology. For example, women tend to be more liberal while men tend to be conservative. Racial minorities are more likely to be liberal while caucasians are more likely to be conservative. You can say that these are stereotypes of what a liberal or conservative may look like, however, with data from polls and surveys, you can see who is more likely to be which ideology based on their personal identity.

Remember though, these are not standards you have to fit. Women can be conservative, white people can be liberal, etc. Ideologies can even change overtime with these stereotypes. For example, people ages 18-30 are more likely to be liberals while people older than 65 are more likely to be conservative. In fact, there is something called the mitigating factor where as you get older, you may find yourself becoming more conservative (potentially becoming a moderate).

#### **4.4: Influence of Political Events on Ideology**

Events within a country tend to put mistrust between the government and the people within it. Examples include the Great Depression, the Watergate Scandal, Vietnam War, and Kent-State made the people believe less in the government which then lowers the political efficacy within the country. People will start to vote less and turn away from politics. Certain events can also bring up the political efficacy within a country like Reagan's presidency. People had more trust in Reagan when he was in office so everyone started to get more involved in politics. Even events like 9/11 can raise the amount of political efficacy. It all depends on how the government handles the situation at hand.

#### **4.5: Measuring Public Opinion**

Public opinion polls are put out so that the government can get a general idea of what the people want the government to do and/or what general direction they want the government to go in. Sometimes they use quota sampling to target how a certain population of people feels about politics, such as making sure 60% of the people answering a poll are women. They will also use random sampling to give everyone an equal chance of participating in a poll. These polls play a vital part in the political process of America as they help the government to figure out what their priorities are in terms of what the people want to see from them.

#### **4.6: Evaluating Public Opinion Data**

The government looks over public opinion polls and then makes changes to what they feel they can do. The government can also be seen putting out tracking polls to see how the views are changing. For example, a school may make the students answer a poll about their school every three months to see if the students' opinions of their school are changing over the course of the year. The government will do this to either determine who may be winning an election, how popular a president is, or what people think about the general direction of the country. When seeing the poll results, push polls may be put out to sway the opinions of the people.

#### **4.7: Ideologies of Political Parties**

Different ideologies are associated with different political parties. Views of conservatism are considered the right and views of liberalism are considered the left when it comes to the political spectrum. The right tends to be aligned with the Republican party while the left is associated with the Democratic party. This is because of the different views and values these parties have.



For example, people on the left tend to be “pro-choice,” a view often seen by Democrats. However, Republicans tend to be “pro-life,” like people on the right. People on the left may not want to vote for someone who is a republican because being “pro-choice” is an important value to them. Some people vote based on the candidate’s alignment to their views regardless of political party affiliation, but most people tend to stay within their political party to ensure that the candidate will appoint others that have the same views as them, and push for policy that they completely agree with.

#### **4.8: Ideology and Policy Making**

Liberals are typically more focused on domestic policy when it comes to policy making. They want to focus on and fix the problems within our own country such as education, healthcare, and financial aid. Conservatives are typically more focused on foreign policy. They want to focus on the country’s relationships with other countries. This would include focusing on international trade, keeping the peace between nations, or fixing broken bonds with other countries.

#### **4.9: Ideology and Economic Policy Making**

When it comes to economic policy, conservatives tend to believe in laissez-faire economics and are against the government heavily regulating the economy. When making economics policies they will most likely advocate for deregulation of the economy, less taxes, and be more in favor of private and big businesses. Liberals typically believe in having more regulations on the economy. They don’t want big businesses to have more power within the economy and they would advocate for more taxes placed on the economy, specifically on bigger businesses.

#### **4.10: Ideology and Social Policy**

For social policy, conservatives typically do not agree with social change and want to maintain a “status quo.” For example, they do not typically agree with same-sex marriage so they may advocate against it. They would try to keep the social aspect of the society “traditional.” On the other hand, liberals believe in addressing social issues such as poverty/homelessness and using government intervention to enhance the rights of the people. They do advocate for social change so they wouldn’t advocate against things like same-sex marriage or gender equality.

## **Unit 5**

### **Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior**

In the beginning of American history, only land-owning white males were allowed to vote. Through amendments to the Constitution and legislation, suffrage has been extended to all citizens of the United States of America. Amendments and legislation that has extended suffrage include:



- 15th Amendment: Gave suffrage to African American men.
- 17th Amendment: Gave the people the right to directly elect Senators instead of Senators being elected by the state legislature.
- 19th Amendment: Gave women suffrage.
- 1965 Voting Rights Act: Banned practices like poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses, that were created to purposefully disenfranchise people of color (specifically those in the South). Federal examiners were also used to monitor elections.
- 26th Amendment: Gave 18 year olds suffrage.
- Motor Voter Act: Made it easier for voter registration by giving people the opportunity to register to vote when they get/renew their driver's license.

#### Models of Voting Behavior

- Rational Choice Theory: When somebody votes based on the candidate who will bring you the best benefits.
- Retrospective Voting: When somebody votes based on what a candidate has done in the past and their track record.
- Prospective Voting: When somebody votes based on how they think somebody will perform in the office they are running for.
- Party-line Voting: When a person votes for someone based on their party affiliation.

#### Voter Turnout

Voter turnout is the amount of people eligible to vote that actually end up voting. This turnout depends on people's sense of political efficacy. Voter turnout is dependent upon a lot of stuff, like the type of election, and state laws regarding voting. Demographics can help predict voter turnout. (ex: older people tend to have higher voter turnout than younger people.)

#### Political Parties

Linkage Institutions: Institutions that connect the people to the government. They consist of:

- **Media**: The media can inform constituents who the people in office are as well current affairs.
- **Interest Groups**: Interest groups are a group of people fighting for a similar cause. People can contribute to interest groups who lobby Congress and influence government decisions.
- **Elections**: In elections, the people can vote contestants in and out of the government, which gives the people a voice in who is representing them.
- **Political Parties**: The parties establish a platform in which people with similar views can join forces. They also help candidates run for office and try to push people to run for office. Representatives who are a part of certain parties can often vote with their party.

## **How and Why Political Parties Change & Adapt**

Candidate-Centered Politics is the reason that parties have had to change. This phenomenon occurs when people would rather focus on the candidate as a person rather than what party they belong to.

Examples:

- Donald Trump originally did not have a lot of support from the Republican party when he first ran. People liked him not for his party affiliation but for who he was.
- Bernie Sanders had not been a Democrat long before he ran.

The cause of this change is the primary system. In the past, party leaders chose the candidates, but now, the primary system allows for the people to choose the candidates. Campaign finance laws have also made it easier for candidates to raise money on their own.

- Critical Elections: Polarized voters around new issues, this usually comes before a realignment.
- Realignment: A drastic shift in people's party affiliation
- Party Dealignment: When people do not identify with a specific party.

## **Third Party Politics**

In the US, we have a two party system. Currently, our two major parties are the Republican and Democratic party. Third parties have never won a Presidential election and they usually don't get a lot of representation because:

- We have a winner-take-all system, meaning whoever gets the majority of votes takes all of the votes.
- The two major parties incorporate messages that minor parties advocate.

You may be wondering if these parties don't get good representation in our government, why do they exist? Well, here's a brief overview explaining why.

- They talk about new ideas, and push the major parties to talk about issues they've never addressed.
- They give people who don't quite fit in with the two major parties an option.

However, these third parties can also be an issue as:

- They can take away votes from the two major party candidates which can sway an election.

## **Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making**

Interest groups lobby Congress members to pass legislation that is favorable to them. They are a part of the iron triangle which consists of Congressional committees, interest groups, and the bureaucracy.



Lobbyists try to influence legislation that congressmen pass that will be favorable to them.

## Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes

- Social movements can help to put issues people want to see addressed on the agenda (ex. protests)
- While policies are being formulated, interest groups may write legislation for Congress, or influence legislation while it is being formulated.
- While legislation is being voted on, political parties come into play. If the legislation is a part of what a political party believes, congressmen will vote on it based on their party affiliation.
- Bureaucratic agencies decide how to implement the law and have administrative discretion in how laws are practiced.
- While bureaucratic agencies are making the rules on how a policy is implemented, interest groups will try to influence the bureaucratic agency for rules that will favor the interest groups.

## Electing a President

**Incumbency Advantage:** Candidates who have previously held the office are called incumbents. They tend to hold an advantage over a person who has never held that office before because:

- They have already held the office and have very good name recognition
- They already have a bully pulpit that they can rally up.
- They already have experience in the office.

To be the President you must be at least 35 years old, a natural born citizen, and you must be a resident in the USA for at least 14 years.

Steps to the Presidency:

1. **Primaries and Caucuses.** Primaries and caucuses choose the candidates for the major political parties. In a primary, the people cast their ballots for the candidates they want to run for president.
  - a. **Closed Primary-** A primary where people can only vote for the candidates in the political party they are registered with.
  - b. **Open Primary-** People not affiliated with a political party are able to participate in this primary. A caucus is where people group up based on the candidate they want to see in the presidency.
2. **National Convention.** Each major party holds a national convention where the presidential candidate chooses their running mate.
3. **Campaigning.** Throughout this whole process, the candidate is campaigning, fundraising, and much more to push their message and gain more supporters.
4. **General Election.** People across the nation vote for who they want to be their President. But instead of voting for the actual President and Vice President, they are voting for people called electors who represent the person you want to be the President and Vice President.
5. **Electoral College.** Each state receives a select number of representatives based on their representation in Congress. Each elector votes, and the candidate that gets more than 270 votes wins the election.

### **Congressional Elections**

The incumbency advantage also applies to Congressional elections. 95% incumbents get reelected to Congress. Because:

- Members of Congress can mail stuff for free, therefore they can spend less money on sending out mail to their constituents.
- They already have staff to do things for them.
- They have name recognition because they already

Gerrymandering can also be done to help a candidate win an election. This is when redistricting is done to reflect the population so that everyone's vote can be equal.

### **Modern Campaigns**

The cost of elections in coming years has increased a lot. For a campaign you have to pay for:

- Campaign Staff
- Campaign Ads
- Polls
- Social Media has become increasingly popular and candidates can reach voters easier.

### **Campaign Finance**

**FEC-** Federal Elections Committee. They regulate Campaign Finances

**PAC-** Political Action Committee. Can be started by a corporation, but the corporation can not give funds to the PAC directly from its treasury. They can have limitations on how much money they can take and how much money they can give.

**Hard money**- Money going straight to a candidate. The amount of hard money that can be given is regulated by the FEC.

**Soft Money**- Money that is not going straight to a candidate but instead benefits the candidate. It can not be done in coordination with the candidate. There is no limit on soft money.

**BCRA(2002)- Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act.** This legislation increased the use of soft money in elections , by limiting corporations ability to finance electioneering communications.

**Citizens United v. FEC (2010)**- Citizens United wanted to run an ad on Hillary Clinton before the primary which went against BCRA. Citizens United argued the part of BCRA that restricted electioneering communications violated their free speech rights in the First Amendment. The Supreme Court ruled that a part of BCRA did in fact violate the free speech clause in the First Amendment.

**Super PACS** can spend an unlimited amount of money on electioneering campaigns and take an unlimited amount of money, as long as the money is independent from the candidate.

### **The Media**

The media acts as a linkage institution by connecting the people to the government. The media gets money from ads. The media tend to lean to the left but with anything there are exceptions.

- The media is protected by the Constitution by freedom of speech and freedom of the press.
- The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) allows the people through the media to request information from the government.

The Media plays many different roles, such as:

- Gatekeeper: The media decides what becomes a big story or not.
- Scorekeeper: The media keeps track of who's winning in an election. They also decide who in Washington is a "good guy" and who is a "bad guy"
- Watchdog: The media reports on mistakes that politicians make and hold them accountable for their mistakes.
- Agenda Setter: The media decides which issues are big and even sways the opinion of the public.

Different Demographics get their news in different ways. Media viewing trends:

- Older people tend to receive their news through the newspaper.
- Middle Aged people tend to get their news from the TV and radio.
- Younger people tend to get their news from social media and the internet.

Coverage of the government

- The President tends to be the main focus of the media, because he is perceived to be the face of the government. The President has a Press Secretary, who gives information to the press in the press room in the White House.
- Because Congress is so big and there are so many people it is harder to cover Congress. Coverage on Congress tends to be negative and focus on conflict.
- When the media covers elections they use horse race journalism which focuses on who is winning, scandals, and personalities instead of the policies.

### Regulations of Media

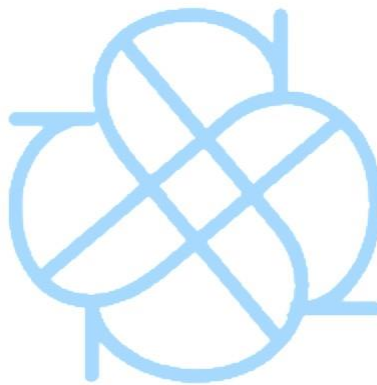
- Print Media is mostly exempt from government regulation, with the exception of obscenity.
- The electronic media is regulated more because airwaves are public and regulated by the FCC\

Libel - Written defamation of a person

Slander- spoken defamation of a person

### Important Rules

Equal Time Rule- Broadcast stations must give equal time on air to each candidate.



# The Declaration of Independence

**Author:** Mostly Thomas Jefferson, but also John Adams, Roger Sherman Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston  
**Date:** Approved July 4, 1776

Big Idea:	Important Quotes and their meaning
America was tired of Britain mistreating them, so the Declaration was written to “break up” with them. In the letter there is a list of grievances Britain has committed. Among those grievances was taxation without representation. They also talk about their natural rights, and justify cutting ties with Britain by saying that when the government violates those natural rights the people have the right to revolt. Also included are big ideals of American government like consent of the governed, popular sovereignty, and natural rights.	“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”- All men should be equal, and have natural rights that the government can not violate. Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are among these rights. When these rights are violated it is the rights the people can revolt and make a new government.

# The Articles of Confederation

**Author:** John Dickinson  
**Date (Approximate):** Ratified in 1781

Big Idea:	Important Quotes and their Meaning
The first Constitution of the United States. It established a confederation of States where the national government had very little power. The states were more like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly</li></ul>



<p>independent countries next to each other than one united nation. The national government had very little power. It was also very hard for the national government to raise money because they didn't have the power to collect taxes. They could only ask the states to give it money, which seldom happened. So, the national government was broke and couldn't pay back its debt. The national government also only had one branch and couldn't make any quick decisions. If the government wanted to make any unified decisions delegates from each state had together to make these decisions. The national government also couldn't raise an army or navy.</p>	<p>delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.- This is the opposite of the Constitution where there is the Supremacy clause and the national government's word holds more weight, and powers that don't go to the national government go to the states.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.- Shows the states were not really a united nation but more states next to each other with a treaty.</li> </ul>
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## Federalist #51

Author: James Madison

Date (Approximate): February 8, 1788

Big Idea:	Supporting Details (quotes and paraphrases):
<p>The government should have a separation of powers and checks and balances. This Federalist paper argues why the Constitution is the best form of government to deal with the evils of people, and how it prevents an abuse of power from the government. Madison argues that because of the Federalism that the Constitution provides, plus the separation of powers into branches the many different governments will offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "...each department should have a will of its own; and consequently should be so constituted that the members of each should have as little agency as possible in the appointment of the members of the others. Were this principle rigorously adhered to, it would require that all the appointments for the supreme executive, legislative, and judiciary magistracies should be drawn from the same fountain</li> </ul>



extra protection against abuse of power because the different governments will all offer checks on each other.

of authority, the people, through channels having no communication whatever with one another.” - Each branch of government should be independent from one another and all appointments should stem from the people. In the passage after that he says except for the judiciary for special reasons.

- If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.- If there was no evil government wouldn't even be needed, and if people ruling over people couldn't be evil there wouldn't be a need for checks on the government. When creating a government with people you have to make sure the government and control the people while also controlling itself.
- But it is not possible to give to each department an equal power of self-defense. In republican government, the legislative authority necessarily predominates. The remedy for this inconveniency is to divide the legislature into different branches;

# Brutus 1

Author: Unknown (Anti Federalists)

Date (Approximate): 1787

Big Idea:	Important Quotes
<p>The Constitution is basically making America just one state and giving the central government too much power , which makes the states irrelevant. America is just too big which makes it impossible to have a representation that will “speak their sentiments”. Also, if there is a body that can represent the people it will become too large making it impossible to get anything done. (Kind of against a pluralist democracy). For a republic to work everyone should have similar sentiments and interests. Also the people in power will become above the control of the people and end up abusing the people for the betterment of themselves and end up oppressing the people.( Against elitist democracy).</p> <p>A LARGE POWERFUL CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT IS TOO REMOVED FROM THE PEOPLE AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “It appears from these articles that there is no need of any intervention of the state governments, between the Congress and the people, to execute any one power vested in the general government, and that the constitution and laws of every state are nullified and declared void,”- The elastic clause in the government and the whole Constitution basically makes the states governments purposeless.</li><li>- “The government then, so far as it extends, is a complete one, and not a confederation. It is as much one complete government as that of New-York or Massachusetts, has as absolute and perfect powers to make and execute all laws...” The government has too much power and can do what it wants under the Constitution.</li></ul>

# Federalist #10.

Author: James Madison

Date (Approximate): November 23, 1787

Big Idea:	Important Quotes
<p>Factions are really bad, but the Constitution is best equipped to deal with the evils produced by factions. This is because it establishes a Large Republic which provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Better candidates because they will have to appeal to more people for their vote</li><li>- A less chance that the majority can oppress the minority because there is more variety in opinions.</li></ul> <p>Factions are inevitable because people are going to have differences in opinions and will divide themselves into groups with people that have similar beliefs. As they divide themselves up into classes based on land and money.</p> <p>Two ways to control factions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remove their causes which is impossible because you would have to destroy liberty. Or give people the same opinions which is impossible</li><li>2. Control the effects(causes can't be controlled so it's best to control effects.</li></ol> <p>The Constitution best deals with the effects of factions because by the republican principles a majority won't be able to suffocate the minority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- "AMONG the numerous advantages promised by a well constructed Union, none deserves to be more accurately developed than its tendency to break and control the violence of faction."</li><li>- There are again two methods of removing the causes of faction: the one, by destroying the liberty which is essential to its existence; the other, by giving to every citizen the same opinions, the same passions, and the same interests.</li><li>- If a faction consists of less than a majority, relief is supplied by the republican principle, which enables the majority to defeat its sinister views by regular vote. It may clog the administration, it may convulse the society; but it will be unable to execute and mask its violence under the forms of the Constitution.</li></ul>

# Federalist #70

Author: Alexander Hamilton

Date (Approximate): March 18, 1788

Big Idea:	Important Quotes
<p>Explains how the president should be and how the executive and presidency should be under the Constitution. They envision an energetic strong leader because that will make a good office and you don't want a feeble administration because it will cause a feeble execution of the law. He wants a unified executive, instead of having a council. He advocates for the accountability of the President. Having one person as President will make that one person held accountable to the people as opposed to having multiple people where the blame can be pushed around. He even uses Rome as an example of this. There should be a powerful unitary executive branch in order to fight tyranny of the majority. He also argues the President needs enough power to prevent tyranny. Also one person can make quick decisions when needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- "Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government. It is essential to the protection of the community against foreign attacks;"- The framers are saying that a good President should be energetic in order to to protect the government and be a good leader.</li></ul>

# Federalist #78

Author: Alexander Hamilton

Date (Approximate): May 28, 1788

Big Idea:	Important Quotes
<p>Discusses how the Judicial branch should operate.</p> <p>Hamilton say the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Judges should be appointed just like officers of the Union</li><li>- Judges should hold their jobs through good behavior in order to keep them impartial in judging the laws. This is</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The judiciary, on the contrary, has no influence over either the sword or the purse; no direction either of the strength or of the wealth of the society; and can take no active resolution whatsoever. It may truly be said to have neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment;- The</li></ul>

<p>so that the judges do not have to worry about pleasing anybody so that they can keep their jobs, but to just focus on the Constitutionality of the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The judiciary is the least dangerous branch because it has no influence over the purse or the sword. It also has no power to execute its decisions, it can only judge.</li> <li>- The independence of the judiciary is very vital to the judiciary</li> </ul>	<p>judiciary is weak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “all judges who may be appointed by the United States are to hold their offices DURING GOOD BEHAVIOR; which is conformable to the most approved of the State constitutions and among the rest, to that of this State...And it is the best expedient which can be devised in any government, to secure a steady, upright, and impartial administration of the laws.”- All judges should hold their offices during good behavior because it is the best tool to have an impartial government.</li> </ul>
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## Letter from Birmingham Jail

Author: Martin Luther King Jr.

Date (Approximate): April 16, 1963

Big Idea:	Important Quotes
<p>Dr. King is responding to criticism on his method of using nonviolent protesting to try and create change. He says that the black people of Birmingham have tried to negotiate with the leaders of Birmingham but these negotiations have led to nothing. Then, they sat down with the economic leaders of Birmingham and they agreed to take down racially humiliating signs off of store fronts. Though they agreed to this the store owners had lied and never took down these humiliating signs. So they sat and they planned and decided how they and when they would take action in a nonviolent . protest . It was not a random protest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He believes tension is needed in order to move forward and get stuff done, not violent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.</li> <li>- In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self purification; and direct action. We have gone through all these steps in Birmingham.</li> <li>- Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to dramatize the issue that it</li> </ul>

<p>tension but constructive tension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He wanted to negotiate and having tension will open the doors to negotiation</li> <li>- Privileged don't normally give up their privilege voluntarily, they also never think it is timely for the oppressed to protest and they don't want them to.</li> <li>- He also explains that segregation is wrong and why</li> <li>- He outlines what he has to go through just being African American</li> </ul>	<p>can no longer be ignored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- My friends, I must say to you that we have not made a single gain in civil rights without determined legal and nonviolent pressure. Lamentably, it is an historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily.</li> <li>- "We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights...</li> </ul>
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## The Constitution of the United States

<b>Big Idea:</b>	<b>Preamble</b>
<p>Establishes the American government, influenced heavily by Enlightenment philosophers. The key principles to the American government include natural rights which the government can not take away, republicanism, and a social contract which is between a government and the people. Also consent of the governed is included. A lot of the things mentioned in the Federalists paper were also included in the Constitution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.-.</li> </ul>

# The US Constitution

Article	Big Idea	Details
<b>Article I (1)</b>	How Congress will work	A bicameral legislature with one house decided based on population and the other each state has the same amount of representation. The house has the power to impeach, the Senate can hold trials for impeachment. Congress can alter time, place and manner of elections. Representatives can't be arrested in the Capitol or on their way to the Capitol. All bills raising revenue have to come from the House. Lists the enumerated powers. <b>Necessary and proper clause: Congress can make any laws relating to any enumerated powers necessary and proper to executing their job</b>
<b>Article II (2)</b>	The President	Establishes a 4 year term and requirements to be President. Commander in chief, Grant Pardons, State of the Union, Adjourn/Convene Congress, Electoral college, Grant Pardons/ Reprieves
<b>Article III (3)</b>	The Courts	The Supreme Court is the highest Court. Judges hold their offices through good behavior. Judicial power extends to all cases under the Constitution. Everybody should have a trial by jury except for impeachment trials.
<b>Article IV (4)</b>	Federalism	Full faith and credit clause: Each state shall treat the judicial proceedings, judicial acts and records of another state with full faith and credit. Privileges and Immunities: Each citizen shall enjoy the full privileges and immunities in every state. Extradition, Process for admitting new states into the union. Every State shall receive a republican form of government and protection from invasions
<b>Article V (5)</b>	Amending the Constitution	To amend the Constitution 2/3rds of both houses of Congress must agree and 2/3rd of the states must agree.
<b>Article VI (6)</b>	National government	All Senators, Representatives, and Judges must be bound to the Constitution by oath.



<b>Article VII (7)</b>	Ratification	If 9 states agree to the ratification of the Constitution it will be the law
<b>Amendments</b>	<p>1- right to religion, speech, press, assembly, petition</p> <p>2- bear arms</p> <p>3- quartering soldiers</p> <p>4- searches and seizures</p> <p>5- due process; double jeopardy; self-incrimination; takings clause (eminent domain)</p> <p>6- rights of the accused (fair/speedy trial; attorney)</p> <p>7- jury trial</p> <p>8- excessive bail, cruel and unusual punishment</p> <p>9- non-enumerated rights (just 'cause it's not in there, doesn't mean we don't have it)</p> <p>10- rights reserved to the states</p> <p>11- suits against a state (can't do it)</p> <p>12- election of president and VP together (changed Electoral College)</p> <p>13- abolition of slavery</p> <p>14- protection of rights (citizenship; due process; equal protection)</p>	

	<p>15- voting rights for African American men</p> <p>16- federal income tax</p> <p>17- direct election of senators</p> <p>18- prohibition</p> <p>19- women's suffrage</p> <p>20- commencement of president terms and succession (moved inauguration to 1/20)</p> <p>21- repeal 18th (repeal prohibition)</p> <p>22- presidential term limits (2 terms/10 years)</p> <p>23- DC gets presidential vote</p> <p>24- no poll tax for federal elections</p> <p>25- presidential vacancy, disability, inability</p> <p>26- voting age to 18</p> <p>27- Congressional compensation (doesn't take effect until after an election)</p>	
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