

American National Government

- Introductions

- Find partner and share...
- Name, Hometown, Major
- Something interesting about you
- Your dream (s)
- Partners introduce each other

Why Study Government?

- Your dreams depend on it...

“We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...”

American Government is just
not about studying....

Dead White Guys!

It's about striving for the type of society we want to live in...

- Balancing rights and responsibilities
- Having peaceful elections
- Finding what binds us together

Meeting the Ultimate Challenge for Americans...

E pluribus unum!!!

Class Expectations

- Review of syllabus
- Active vs. passive reading!
- Forming and discussing viewpoints
- Respect!!!

The Political Landscape

- Intro: Seahawk Respect Compact
 - Elements of good citizenship!
- Definitions of government, politics & citizen
- Definitions of monarchy, totalitarianism, oligarchy, democracy
- Democracies are inefficient by design!

Roots of American Government

- John Locke's Social Contract Theory
- Thomas Hobbes: "state of nature" view
- Direct democracy vs. indirect (republic)
 - pros and cons
- Political equality: do we have it?
- Majority rule vs. minority rights
- Role of religious faith

Changes in U.S. Population

- Whites decreasing, Hispanics increasing
- America is getting older
- Families are changing

Political Ideology

- Definition of ideology
- Mainstream: Conservative vs. Liberal
- Extreme: Libertarian vs. Communitarian
- Culture Wars/Polarization
- Voter Apathy
- Mistrust/Lack of Faith in Government

Class Discussion

Is America Number One?

The Constitution

- Intro: Congrats, you've been annexed!
- Motivation for colonies to revolt:
 - taxation without representation
 - involuntary quartering of soldiers
- 1st shot at government: Articles of Confederation
 - weak central government
 - no executive
 - no judiciary
- Significance of Shay's Rebellion

Debate and “Great Compromise”

- Large States vs. Small States
- National Power vs. State Power
- Federalism
- Separation of Powers
- Checks & Balances
- Supremacy Clause

A “Living” Document

- Federalists (Hamilton) vs. Anti-Federalists (George Mason)
- Ability to Amend Constitution to Protect Civil Liberties (Bill of Rights) Key to Ratification
- Amending Constitution Extremely Difficult but Possible (27 of 10,000 ratified)

Evolution of Rights by Amendment

- Free speech, religion, assembly
- Right to bear arms
- Unreasonable search and seizure
- Due process and right to trial by jury
- Abolishment of slavery (1865)
- Equal protection of the laws (1868)
- Right to vote (1870)

Bill of Rights

- Federal income tax (1913)
- Prohibition (1919)
- Right for women to vote (1920)
- Repeal of prohibition (1933)
- Term limits on President (1951)
- Abolishment of poll taxes (1964)
- Lowered voting age to 18 (1971)
- Pay raises for Congress (1992)

A Dynamic Document

- Enumerated Powers
 - taxation, coinage of money, regulation of commerce, provide for national defense
- Necessary and Proper (Elastic) Clause
 - regulate environment, welfare, education
- Implied Powers
 - minimum wage and maximum-hour laws

Federalism

- Intro: disaster response and beach erosion
- Division of power between federal, state and local governments an ongoing constitutional question throughout history.
- 87, 909 government entities in U.S.!
- Federal power derived from necessary and proper clause, implied powers, and supremacy clause

State Powers

- Tenth Amendment:
 - “The powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”
- Often called the states’ reserve or police powers
 - legislate or public health, safety and morals
 - e.g., restrictions on abortion, death penalty

Relations Among the States

- Full Faith and Credit Clause
 - contracts in one state binding and enforceable in another
- Extradition Clause
 - requires states to return criminals to the states where they were convicted or are to stand trial
- Interstate Compacts
 - recognition of drivers' licenses
 - emergency management assistance

Milestones in Federalism

- Dual Federalism
 - separate and equally powerful govt's
- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
- Dred Scott/Civil War
- 16th Amendment (national income tax) & 17th (popular election of Senators)

Milestones in Federalism

- Cooperative Federalism
 - intertwined relationship among governments
- The New Deal
- Categorical Federal Grants
- Great Society Programs/War on Poverty
- Increasingly activist & powerful federal government

The Swinging Pendulum

- Reagan Revolution

- place more decisions at state/local level
(discretionary block grants)

- Devolution

- no unfunded mandates
 - welfare reform

- About Face: 9/11, Katrina, No Child Left Behind

State and Local Government Highlights

- U.S. government not built from the bottom up...states are basic unit .
- State and local governments have grown and become more professional/full-time as complexity has increased and society become more urban.
- Urban vs. rural concerns/interests a constant issue (Baker v. Carr leveled playing field)

Basic Structures

- State: Governor, State Assembly, Courts
- 43 states give Governor Line-Item Veto
- Direct Initiative/Popular Referendum/Recall
- Dillon's Rule (local governments “creatures of the state”)...must be granted a charter
- Mayor-Council vs. Council-Manager Gov't

Great Debates

- Term limits
- At-large vs. district-based elections
- Fairness in taxation: regressive vs. progressive taxes

Civil Liberties

- Intro: school prayer, dress codes, mascots
- Definition: personal guarantees and freedoms that the government cannot abridge.
- Challenge is to balance protection of these liberties when they clash with other liberties or threaten public interest.

Freedom of Religion

- Establishment Clause: gov't cannot endorse or promote a particular religion
- Lemon Test: a practice or policy allowable if it:
 - 1) has a secular purpose
 - 2) neither advances nor inhibits religion
 - 3) does not foster an excessive government entanglement with religion
- Equal Access Act, School Vouchers, Ten Commandments

Freedom of Religion

- Free Exercise Clause: no gov't interference with the practice of religion
- BUT governmental interests can outweigh free exercise rights
 - animal sacrifice (Santeria Church case)
 - peyote (Religious Freedom Restoration Act)
 - polygamy, Islamic prison services (compelling state interest)
 - draft deferments (definition of religious faith)

Freedom of Speech & Press

- Schenck case: clear and present danger test
- Brandenburg case: direct incitement test
- Johnson case: symbolic speech (flag burning)
- City of St. Paul case: intent of speech matters (cross burning/hate speech)
- Free speech zones: time, place, manner
- Chaplinsky & Cohen Cases: fighting words

Freedom of Speech & Press

- Libel (written), Slander (spoken)
 - must show statements are untrue
- N.Y. Times v. Sullivan
 - if a public official, must show “actual malice” or knowing disregard for the truth
 - makes public officials fair game for critics

Freedom of Speech & Press

- Obscenity: “you know pornography when you see it”
- Miller Test: to regulate, must ask whether:
 - depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by state law
 - the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value
 - conflicts with local community standards
- Challenge of applying to Internet

Tensions in Civil Liberties

- Freedom of Assembly vs. Street Gangs
- Right to Bear Arms vs. Arming Criminals
- Rights of Criminal Defendants vs. Victims
- Justice vs. Mercy with Capital Punishment
- Right to Privacy vs. Rights of Fetus
- Right to Die vs. Protection of Incapacitated

Civil Rights

- Definition: positive acts governments take to protect individuals against arbitrary or discriminatory treatment by government or individuals.
- Civil War Amendments: 13th, 14th, 15th
 - banned slavery, guaranteed equal protection of the laws, gave blacks the right to vote
- Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896)
 - endorsed concept of separate but equal

Civil Rights

- 19th Amendment: guaranteed women the right to vote (product of suffrage movement)
- Brown vs. Board of Education (1954)
 - reversed Plessy: school segregation is inherently unequal; violation of the 14th amendment
- Civil Rights Movement: power of peaceful protest and civil disobedience

Civil Rights

- Civil Rights Act of 1964: outlawed segregation in public facilities and racial discrimination in employment, education and voting.
- De jure vs. de facto discrimination and Duke Power Company Case
 - intentional vs. unintentional discrimination
- Business Necessity: justification for practices that result in disparate impact on classes of people

Civil Rights

- Sexual Harassment: quid pro quo vs. hostile work environment
- Title IX: bars educational institutions from discriminating against female students...huge impact on athletics
- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990):
 - employers must make reasonable accommodations

Civil Rights

- Equal Opportunity in Theory vs. Equal Opportunity in Fact (leveling the playing field)
- Affirmative Action: extra efforts to address current effects of past discrimination against certain groups (minorities, women)
- Bakke Case (1978): schools cannot use strict racial quotas, but race can be one of several “plus” factors used in building a diverse institution
- Suspect Classification and Strict Scrutiny

Congress

- Constitutional power to make laws* (05)
 - checked & balanced by Executive Branch (President can veto, implements laws) and Judicial Branch (rules on whether laws are constitutional).
- Senate: 50 members, six year terms
- House of Representatives: 435 members, two year terms
- Laws require consent of both houses

Leadership

- Speaker of the House (Nancy Pelosi)
 - presides over House, oversees House business, official spokesperson for House, second in the line of presidential succession.
- VP presides over Senate...votes only in the case of a tie
- Senate Majority Leader (Harry Reid)
 - true leader of Senate
- Both Speaker and Majority leader elected by members of majority party in each chamber

Committee System

- **Standing Committees*** (02)
 - permanent, all proposed bills are referred here
- **Joint Committees**
 - expedite business between chambers & focus public attention on major matters
- **Conference Committees**
 - joint, reconcile differences in bills
- **Select (or special) Committees**
 - temporary, appointed for special purposes/investigations

Key Issues/Concepts

- Demographic representativeness* (01, 15)
- Advantages of incumbency* (14)
- Trustee vs. delegate model of representation
 - vote based on your best judgment (trustee)
 - vote based on wishes of constituents (delegate)
- Divided government/gridlock/shifting balance of power (Iraq War, flag burning)
- Influence of interest groups and PACs
- Pork & Partisanship* (9)

The Presidency

- The President is the unquestioned symbolic leader of the U.S.; formal powers deliberately limited but “power of persuasion” is immense, particularly in times of national crisis.
- Qualifications: 35 years old, 14 years a U.S. resident, natural born citizen.
- Term limit: 2 four year terms
- Impeachment and removal are the ultimate check

Constitutional Powers

- “The executive power shall be vested in a President...” (basis for broad implied powers similar to elastic clause for Congress)
- Appointment Power: cabinet heads, ambassadors, Supreme Court judges...over 3,000 for an administration...must have consent of Senate...basis for broad influence
- Power to Convene Congress: e.g, State of the Union address...provides bully pulpit

Constitutional Powers

- Power to Make Treaties: requires 2/3 vote from Senate to ratify
- Veto Power: can reject any congressional legislation...Congress can override only with a 2/3 vote of both houses...provides significant effect on congressional action (only 100 of 2,500 vetoes overridden)

Constitutional Powers

- Power to preside over the military as Commander-in-Chief: source of struggle since only Congress has the power to declare war
- Pardoning Power: check on the judiciary...releasing an individual from the legal consequences before or after conviction...most famous are Ford /Nixon and Carter/draft dodgers

Growth in Presidential Power

- FDR started trend with New Deal programs to end Depression and symbolic leadership during WWII...other factors include:
- Sheer size of federal bureaucracy (over 1 million workers) plus regulatory state (both economic and social welfare programs).
- Advances in communication technology allows president to get “close to the people”.

The Presidential Establishment

- Vice President: little formal power, usually chosen to attract votes (Cheney an exception).
- Cabinet: not mentioned in Constitution, but includes heads of major bureaucratic departments responsible for implementing laws and policies.
- The First Lady: informal advisors but can be high profile such as Hillary Clinton and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The Presidential Establishment

- Executive Office of the President (EOP)
 - inner circle of formal advisors (National Security Council, Council of Economic Advisors, Office of Management and Budget).
- White House Staff
 - personal assistants, senior aides, administrative personnel...power comes from personal relationship to the president (400-500 people).

President as Policy Maker

- Proposing and facilitating legislation
- Setting priorities through the budget process
- Issuing regulations through Executive Orders (e.g. affirmative action)
- Winning support for programs
 - patronage
 - party discipline and campaign visits
 - style and force of personality
 - leadership
 - persuasion (FDR, Kennedy, Reagan...Obama?)

Executive Branch & Federal Bureaucracy

- Congress makes laws, but it relies on bureaucrats in executive branch to enforce and implement them.
- Constitution only states the heads of departments are to serve as advisors to the president...no direct mention of the Cabinet.
- Issue: is the bureaucracy a 4th branch of government that is beyond democratic control?

Evolution of Bureaucracy

- Started small, but grew with increasing complexity of society and demands of governing a massive country.
- Initially jobs filled patronage (spoils system) but eventually a merit system established (Pendleton Act) to provide needed professional expertise.

Chief Role of Bureaucracy

- Establishment and enforcement of regulations to address failure of the free market.
- Economic regulations to ensure free competition, control pollution, protect labor.
- Social regulations to provide safety net (Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, safety and health standards)

Who Are Bureaucrats?

- More than 2,000 bureaus, divisions, branches, offices, etc. and over 2.7 million workers (1/3 in U.S. Postal Service).
- Presidential Appointees: 3,000 who are at top layers and try to “steer the elephant”.
- Independent Regulatory Commissioners: appointed by President but not under his direct influence
- 15,000 different job skills: every profession imaginable!

Formal Organization

- Cabinet Departments: 15
 - status signifies a strong permanent national interest to promote a particular function
- Government Corporations
 - businesses established by Congress that are commercial in nature (Postal Service)
- Independent Executive Agencies
 - narrow, symbolic missions (NASA, EPA)
- Independent Regulatory Commissions
 - regulate specific economic activity in nonpartisan manner (NLRB, Federal Reserve Board, FCC, SEC)

Key Concepts

- Iron Triangle
- Issue Networks
- Interagency Councils
- Administrative Discretion
- Rule Making & Administrative Adjudication
- Oversight (GAO, CRS, CBO)

Judicial Branch

- Third Pillar of Separation of Powers
 - through power of judicial review (established in Marbury v. Madison (1803), Supreme Court interprets acts of other branches and states to determine constitutionality.
- Fine line between judicial review and policy-making!
- Life tenure + judicial review = power!

Composition of Supreme Court

- Nine justices (know names...few people do!)
- Nomination criteria a combination of competence, ideology and race/gender
- President nominates, Senate confirms
 - process highly political (surprise!)

Hearing Process

- 9,600 cases filed in 2006-06; 90 heard
- About ½ of cases related to Bill of Rights
- Rule of Four: at least 4 judges must vote to hear a case
- Majority, Concurring & Dissenting Opinions

Key Concepts

- Judicial Restraint

- defer to other branches unless original intent or literal reading of Constitution is violated (strict constructionist)...Plessy v. Ferguson

- Judicial Activism

- judges should use power broadly to further social justice, esp. in areas of equality and personal liberty...Brown v. Board of Education, Roe v. Wade

Key Concepts

- Role of Public Opinion

- In theory, Court should be beyond such influence
- Korematsu v. U.S.

- Judicial Implementation

- Supreme Court needs support of federal & state courts as well as other government agencies to carry out judgments (desegregation, school prayer)

Political Socialization

- Definition: process through which an individual acquires his particular political orientation.
- Key shaping factors:
 - family (lots of time & receptivity)
 - school and peers (enough civic education?)
 - mass media (T.V. & Internet)
 - religious beliefs (2nd top predictor after party id)

Political Socialization

- Key shaping factors:
 - race & ethnicity (caucasians/non-caucasians differ)
 - gender (women more liberal/Democrats)
 - age (era influences...wars, depression, scandal)
 - region (south, small towns, rural areas more republican, northeast & west coast democrat)
 - impact of events (JFK, King assassinations, Watergate, 9/11)

Public Opinion & Polling

- Candidates & elected officials want to know what the public thinks about the issues (too much so?)
- Key to accurate polling is a representative sample
 - straw polls very limited (e.g, people calling in provides biased sample)
 - random sampling the goal: each person in a group has the same chance of being selected
 - stratified sampling the best: random sampling within distinct groups (region, race, sex)

Other Factors Shaping Political Opinions

- Personal Benefits

 - people vote with their pocketbooks

- Political Knowledge

 - most Americans' level of knowledge about history & politics low, therefore....

- Cues from Leaders

 - people can be heavily influenced by charismatic politicians with bully pulpit (e.g., Kennedy, Reagan, Obama)

- Political Ideology

 - 1/3 conservatives (Republican); 1/3 liberals (Democrats); 1/3 moderates

Political Parties

- Definition: organized effort by office holders, candidates, activists, and voters to pursue their common interests by gaining and exercising power through the electoral process.
- Since 1860, the same two parties (Democrats & Republicans) have dominated elections. Pros and Cons?

Evolution of Parties

- Golden Age (1874-1912)

- very strong with roots in big-city organizations called “machines” who recruited voter loyalty with tangible incentives such as jobs (Boss Tweed in NYC).

- parties controlled elections and services, offered upward mobility for immigrants; thus voter turnout very high (75% vs. modern 50%-60% for presidential elections)

Evolution of Political Parties

- Modern Era (1920 – present)

- less direct power and control of elections
- direct primary system placed nomination of candidates more in hands of voters than party conventions (McCain is not choice of party leaders)
- civil service laws placed government jobs on basis of merit rather than political loyalty (patronage)
- rise of interest groups and lobbyists gave rise to candidate and issue-centered politics where people ticket-split instead of voting straight party

Functions of the Party System

- Mobilizing Support & Gathering Power
 - generates coalitions of people with like interests
- Force for Stability & Moderation
 - prevents extremism and extreme swings in policies
- Unity, Linkage and Accountability
 - glue that holds together fractionated political system
 - successful candidates are pressured to keep promises and “toe party line”

Functions of the Party System

- Electioneering Function

 - funnel interested people into politics and creates competitive, manageable elections

- Voting & Issue Cue

 - invaluable filter for information, particularly for people who do not have time or expertise

- Policy Formulation & Promotion

 - development of party platforms that are responsive to electorate and divisions within party

Voting & Elections

- Conventional (voting) vs. unconventional political participation (protests, boycotts, and picketing)
- Turnout is the proportion of voting-age public that votes (40% vote regularly, 25% occasionally and 35% rarely or never vote)
- Turnout increases with education, income, age; whites more than minorities; gender equal
- Efforts to improve voter turnout: easier registration and absentee voting, make election day a national holiday, strengthen parties

Types of Elections

- Primary elections: decide who will represent the party in the General election
 - delegates vs. superdelegates
- Initiative and Referendum
 - ballot measures that provide citizens a direct voice in the political process (e.g. Proposition 13)
- Recall
 - voters can remove an incumbent from office prior to the next scheduled election (e.g. Gov. Grey Davis to the Governator)

Presidential Elections

- Winner-take-all vs. Proportional Representation Primary
 - major issue in current election
- Primaries vs. Caucuses
 - primaries most common....direct voting at polls
 - caucuses more rare (Iowa) where citizens spend several hours together discussing the candidates, hearing speeches, etc. and then vote

Issues in Elections

- Spacing and Timing of Primaries
 - front-loading, representativeness of states like Iowa and New Hampshire
- Electoral College vs. Popular Election
 - electoral college is representatives of each state (equal to 2 for each senator plus # of members of House of Representatives)
 - candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win the presidency regardless of outcome of popular vote; states with clear preferences are ignored
 - however it does make small states matter!
- The Incumbency Advantage
 - 94% of House and 79% of Senate incumbents won

The Campaign Process

- Nomination Campaign

- starts several years in advance; goal is to win the party nomination

- party leaders want electability, while party activists are often ideologically and issue oriented

- candidates must appeal to both, and also must avoid appearing too extreme to the general electorate (e.g. Goldwater in 1964 and McGovern in 1972)

- advantage McCain?

The Campaign Process

- General Election Campaign

- must turn focus to general electorate (moderates) while preserving base of support (Democrat: labor and minority groups; Republican: social conservatives and business organizations)

- also may focus on “wedge issues” like abortion and gay marriage that can outweigh party loyalty

- Brief theme or slogan serves as rallying cry

- “The New Deal” or “The New Frontier”

The Campaign Process

- Most important aspect of any campaign is the quality of the candidate and the attributes of the campaign team.
- Candidate: must have personal ambition, desire to promote ideological objectives or specific public policies, or belief that they are more qualified than opponents.
 - must be prepared for intense public scrutiny of themselves and family

The Campaign Process

- The Campaign Staff

- volunteers
- campaign manager
- finance chair
- pollster
- direct mailer
- communications director
- press secretary
- Internet team
- special campaign and media consultants (“hired guns”)

The Media

- Positive Ads

- stress the candidate's qualifications & issue positions

- Negative Ads

- attack the opponent's character and platform

- Contrast Ads

- compare the records and proposals of the candidates

- Inoculation Ads

- counteract an anticipated attack

Campaign Finance

- \$1.7 billion raised by the Democratic & Republican parties in 2004 election cycle, an increase of 37% over the 2000 cycle.
- Presidential candidates raised \$880M
 - Bush \$367 M; Kerry \$320M (\$75M each from federal funds)
- Senate incumbents averaged about \$8M; challengers \$889,000
- Per person cost is \$5.50 (Canada is \$9)
- How much is appropriate?

Campaign Finance

- Challenge of campaign finance reform is to balance free speech with the need to prevent political corruption.
- Buckley v. Valeo (1976) equated contributions to political candidates and parties with freedom of expression, thus making it difficult to restrict.
- However, McCConnell v. Federal Election Commission (2003), held that the government's interest in preventing political-party corruption overrides free speech rights (to a point).

Campaign Finance

- Federal Election Campaign Act (1970s)
 - disclosure requirements
 - Presidential Public Funding Program
 - Federal Elections Commission to enforce
 - limited “hard money” individual contributions
 - \$1,000 per candidate, \$20K per national party committee, and \$50K total contributions
- Huge step, but loopholes remained
 - “soft money” unlimited (contributions to “party building” rather than directly for particular candidate
 - further limits on Political Action Committees

Campaign Finance

- Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (2002)
 - bans unregulated soft money contributions
 - raises individual contributions (hard money) to \$2,000 per candidate, \$26,700K per national party committee, and \$101,400k total contributions per 2-year cycle
 - PACs are limited to \$5,000 per candidate per election, and \$15K per year to national parties

Campaign Finance

- In the end, for every law there is a loophole!
- 527 political committees
 - nonprofit and unregulated interest groups that focus on specific causes or policy positions and attempt to influence voters
 - escape regulation because they focus on issues, but in the process support or harm candidates due to their stance or relationship to the issue
 - Example is “Swift Boat Veterans for Truth” who spent \$22.6M in ads attacking Kerry’s character and service record in Vietnam; also “America Coming Together” (\$78M)
 - George Soros (\$23M), Bob Perry (\$8.1M) took advantage!

Campaign Issues

- Ongoing battle to control influence of money in political campaigns
- Regardless of reforms, candidates must devote a huge amount of time to fundraising, at the expense of time spent on the issues and listening to the average constituent
- Does money discourage the best and the brightest from running, esp. if they're not wealthy, or does the availability of contributions from others in fact make it more possible?

The Media

- 1st Amendment freedom of the press protections recognizes the profound importance of a free press in a free society.
- Power of the press (and need for responsible reporting) evident with advent of “yellow journalism” (late 1890s) and “muckraking” (1920s)
- To remain profitable, ongoing tension between objectivity/important news and alienation of advertisers and readers

The Media

- Radio News

- radio the center of homes in the 1930s & 1940s (FDR's "fireside chats" introduced people to the presidency in a landmark way)

- after decline due to TV, AM talk radio (e.g. Rush Limbaugh) has made a comeback (22% get news from talk radio compared to 12% in 1997)

- talk radio tends to be very ideological (often conservative), raising concerns about objectivity of information

The Media

- Television News

- in 1963, two networks provided 30 minutes of news coverage
- in 2005, 74% of Americans get their news from TV; only 44% read newspapers
- significant growth in popularity of cable news (Fox, CNN) and comedy news programs among younger citizens (Daily Show, Colbert Report)

- The New Media

- Internet gaining ground (24% use as new source)

The Media

- Media Consolidation

- in 1923, over 500 cities had competing daily newspapers; by 2005 only twelve

- chains (Gannett, McClatchy, Tribune Company) own over 80% of daily newspapers

- concerns over market pressures controlling content

- Impact of “Pundits” or Expert Analysts

- who elected them to shape our views of the world?

- Narrowcasting

- targeting programming at specific populations (liberal, conservative, Christian, ethnic). Is public opinion being polarized?

The Media

- Government Regulation

- print media exempt for the most part outside of standards for obscenity

- however the airwaves are considered public property which are leased by the government to private broadcasters

- also, airwaves are limited in supply; if unlimited stations would interfere with one another's frequency signals

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) implements policies such as anti-monopoly rules (no corporation can have more than a 39% share of national audience) and equal time rule (must sell air time equally to all political candidates)

The Media – Key Issues

- New York Times v. Sullivan (1971)
 - government could not prevent publication by the Times of the Pentagon Papers, classified government documents about the Vietnam War sent by a government employee, Daniel Ellsberg.
 - Justice Black: “only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose a deception in government”
 - longstanding debates about the impact of media coverage on government policy (“Vietnam syndrome), especially in times of conflict

The Media – Key Issues

- Media Effects

- reporting can sway people who are uncommitted
- have a greater impact on topics far removed from the lives and experience of readers and viewers
- can impact “agenda setting”, or what we think about
- can influence how an issue is “framed”
- can influence the way the public views politicians and the government

The Media – Key Issues

- Media Bias

- 33% of general public are conservative, only 7% of the media

- however, conservative corporate interests play a significant role in what journalists report and counter the liberal leaning of reporters

- lost of clear choices exist (Fox for conservatives, CNN, NPR for liberals)

- in 2004 analysis, Bush had more positive evaluations than Kerry on Fox, ABC, CBS (Kerry took NBC)

- Bottom Line: vary your media sources if you want all perspectives!!!

Interest Groups

- Interest groups, with all of their pros and cons, are an important part of the social capital in this country.
 - social capital is the relationships that individuals enjoy that facilitate the resolution of community problems through social action.

Interest Groups

- Definition: an organized group that tries to influence public policy.
- Interest groups are distinct from political parties because they do not run candidates for office...they try to influence candidates and parties.
- Disturbance theory: interest groups rise to counteract other interest groups (National Right to Life vs. Emily's List)

Interest Groups

- Public Interest Group

- seeks a collective good that will not selectively and materially benefits group members (e.g., Common Cause, Children's Defense Fund)

- Economic Interest Group

- promotes the financial interests of its members (e.g., American Medical Association, AFL-CIO)

- Governmental Units

- lobby for state and local government interests (e.g., National League of Cities, National Governors' Association)

Interest Groups

- Political Action Committees

- political arm of an interest group legally authorized to raise funds on a voluntary basis to contribute to political parties or candidates (e.g., Association of Trial Lawyers of America PAC--\$1.6 M donated in 2005-06 elections).

- Multi-Issue vs. Single-Issue Groups

- involved in wide range of issue areas (NAACP, Christian Coalition) or focused on one area (NRA).

Interest Groups

- Most groups put lobbying at the top of their agendas
 - activities of a group or organization to influence legislation and persuade political leaders to support the group's position.
- Common lobbying techniques
 - testifying at legislative hearings
 - contacting gov't officials to present point of view
 - helping to draft legislation
 - alerting state legislators to the effects of a bill on their districts
 - having influential constituents contact legislator's office

Interest Groups

- Election Activities

- candidate recruitment and endorsements
- getting out the vote
- Rating the candidates or office holders
- Political Action Committees

- Power in Numbers

- AMA (250,000 members) -- AARP (35 million)
- NAACP (500,000) -- Focus on the Family (1.2 M)
- NOW (500,000) -- Sierra Club (700,000)
- Christian Coalition (350,000)

Public Policy

- So far we have talked mostly about understanding what government looks like, how it is structured, and key players in the governance process.
- But what about the public policy issues government must address:
 - social welfare
 - the economy
 - defense/foreign affairs

Public Policy Process

- Problem Recognition

- identification of an issue that disturbs the people and leads them to call for governmental intervention.

- Agenda Setting

- government recognition that a problem is worthy of consideration for government action.

- Policy Formulation

- identification of alternative approaches to addressing the problems placed on government's agenda.

Public Policy Process

- Policy Adoption

 - the formal selection of public policies through legislative, executive, judicial, and bureaucratic means.

- Budgeting

 - the allocation of resources to provide for the proper implementation of public policies.

- Policy Implementation

 - the actual administration or application of public policies to their targets.

Public Policy Process

- Policy Evaluation

- the determination of a policy's accomplishments, consequences or shortcomings.
- based on this feedback, the cycle starts again with adjustments to the current policy.

- Policy making is complex and dynamic, involving elements of:

- rational analysis (experts)
- politics (bargaining among key stakeholders)
- bureaucracy (interaction between agencies)

Social Welfare Policy

- Movement to urban areas from self-sustaining farms, industrialization and economic depression have fueled the involvement of government in creating a social safety net.
- Income Security
 - Social Security (47.7 M recipients), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (4.7M), Food Stamps (23.9M), Unemployment Benefits (3.3M)
- Health Care
 - Medicaid (46.8 M), Medicare (41.6 M)

Social Welfare Policy

- Public Health

- disease control and prevention (AIDS, obesity)
- research, health promotion, drug regulation (FDA)

- Public Education

- \$400 billion collected by all levels of government to spend on public education (elementary and secondary).

Issues in Social Welfare Policy

- Role of government
 - a public or private responsibility?
- Eligibility
 - for everyone or certain populations?
- Who Pays
 - how is burden shared?
- Efficiency vs. Effectiveness vs. Equity

Economic Policy

- Following the Civil War as the country became more industrialized, the *laissez faire* principle of limited government intervention in the economy began to crumble.
- Adam's Smith notion of a robust capitalist economy founded on individual pursuit of self-interest (“the invisible hand”) came into question.
- Failure of the free market became apparent.

Economic Policy

Examples of Market Failure and Government Response with Economic Regulation

- **Monopolies: lack of competition**
 - response: Interstate Commerce Act (1887) and Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1890)
- **Tragedy of the Commons: destruction of open space**
 - response: national forests and zoning
- **Externalities: spillover effects**
 - response: environmental regulations/pollution controls

Economic Policy

- Advent of Social Regulation
 - deals with quality and safety of products
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 - National Transportation Safety Administration
- Several factors contributed to this surge:
 - social activism in 1960s and 1970s
 - modern technology proliferated and highlighted unsafe products like chemicals, cigarettes, leaded gasoline
 - elected officials (with TV) saw advocating safety and social regulation as good politics

Economic Policy: Tensions

- Costs vs. benefits of government regulation
- Individual rights vs. public good
- Preservation vs. profits
- Progressive vs. regressive taxation
- Self-reliance vs. social responsibility

Foreign Policy

- History of U.S. foreign policy has been shaped by competing ideologies.
- Isolationism
 - policy of avoiding participation in foreign affairs
- Unilateralism/Multilateralism
 - policy of acting without/with consulting others
- Moralism
 - policy of emphasizing morality in foreign affairs
- Pragmatism
 - policy of taking advantage of a situation for national gain

Foreign Policy

- Landmark doctrines/policies:
- Monroe Doctrine (1823)
 - President Monroe's pledge that the U.S. would oppose attempts by European states to extend their political control into the Western Hemisphere (reflected belief in manifest destiny).
- Roosevelt Corollary (1914)
 - President Teddy Roosevelt's concept that it was the U.S. responsibility to assure stability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Foreign Policy

- Collective Security

 - concept that peace would be secured if all countries collectively opposed any country that invaded another (basis for League of Nations and United Nations).

- Bretton Woods Agreement

 - international financial agreement near end of WWII that created International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank

- Truman Doctrine (1947)

 - policy of providing economic and military aid to countries fighting against communist revolutions or political pressure

Foreign Policy

- Marshall Plan

- provision of more than \$6 billion dollars by U.S. to rebuild European countries after the war which prevented communist parties from winning elections throughout Western Europe.

- NATO

- defense alliance signed by U.S. and eleven other countries that considers an attack against one as an attack against all.

Foreign Policy

- Nixon Doctrine

- policy at the end of Vietnam War that the U.S. will provide arms and military equipment to countries but not do the fighting for them.

- Human Rights

- belief that human beings worldwide have inalienable rights such as freedom of speech and religion

- Carter Doctrine

- policy after the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that the Persian Gulf area was a vital U.S. interest and would fight to maintain access to it.

Foreign Policy

- Reagan Doctrine

- policy that the U.S. will provide military assistance to anti-communist groups fighting against pro-Soviet governments.

- Powell Doctrine

- advocates an all-or-nothing approach to military intervention...emphasizes the use of overwhelming force to ensure a quick and decisive victory, and the adoption of a clear exit strategy prior to any intervention.

Foreign Policy

- Bush Doctrine

 - policy of using preemptive military action against a perceived threat to U.S. interests.

- In summary, U.S. foreign policy has evolved as the country has emerged as the world's leading democratic superpower in an age where globalism and terrorist organizations of all forms exist.