

## Chapter 1 Review Questions

What Should We  
Know About  
American  
Government?

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## Basic terms (from Intro to Course)

- Society
  - A collection of individuals that interact
- Politics
  - The process of conflict resolution
- Law
  - The rules & principles used to resolve conflict
- Government
  - Law makers, enforcers, & adjudicators

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## The ends or goals of democratic government

- Balance individual freedom or liberty with two collective goods:
  - Order
  - Equality

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## The means that democracies use to achieve their ends

- Constitutional limits on government power
- Authoritarian or totalitarian powers

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## Types of democracies

- Direct democracy:
  - policy made by all or most citizens
- Authoritarian or totalitarian democracy:
  - policy made by elites not subject to popular control
- Representative democracy:
  - Policy made by officials subject to popular control through free, fair, frequent, & competitive elections

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## Examples of direct democracy

- Initiative:
  - A petition procedure that allows some voters to propose a new law that is then submitted to a popular referendum
- Referendum:
  - An election in which a proposed law or constitutional amendment is submitted to the voters for ratification or rejection
- Recall:
  - A petition procedure that allows some voters to force a special election in which voters can remove an elected official prior to completion of their term

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## Examples of left-wing authoritarian or totalitarian democracies:

- Europe:
  - Until 1989, the USSR & satellite nations
- Asia:
  - China, Vietnam, North Korea
- Latin America
  - Cuba
- Middle East:
  - Libya, Syria
- Africa:
  - Angola

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## Examples of right-wing authoritarian or totalitarian democracies:

- Europe:
  - Until 1945, Nazi Germany & Fascist Italy
- Asia:
  - Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan
- Latin America:
  - In recent past, Chile & Peru
- Middle East:
  - Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia
- Africa
  - Kenya

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## Examples of periods of authoritarian democracy in U.S. history:

- Undeclared wars
  - Am. Civil War:
    - Abraham Lincoln's suspension of *habeas corpus*
  - Post-9/11 war on terror
    - George W. Bush's request for Patriot Act
- Declared wars
  - WWI
    - Woodrow Wilson's suspension of *habeas corpus*
  - WWII
    - Franklin D. Roosevelt's suspension of *habeas corpus*

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### Prerequisites of representative government:

- Freedoms of expression
  - Religion
  - Speech
  - Press
  - Assembly/petition
- Widespread respect for the rights of others
- Widespread belief that the political system is legitimate

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### Types of representative democracy

- Parliamentary
  - Union or merger of executive & legislative branches
- Presidential
  - Separation of executive & legislative branches

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### Critique parliamentary democracy

- Advantages
  - More efficient – less bargaining & compromise
  - More responsive – clear electoral mandate
  - Easier for electorate to evaluate
- Disadvantages
  - Potentially more dangerous
  - Less influence given to those in minority
  - Fewer checks & balances

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### Critique of presidential democracy

- Advantages
  - Less dangerous
  - More checks & balances
  - More influence to those not in majority
- Disadvantages
  - Less efficient
  - Less responsive to will of majority
  - Harder for electorate to evaluate

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### Examples of parliamentary democracy

- Europe
  - Most except France, Russia, & Switzerland
- Asia
  - Most except S. Korea, Philippines, & Taiwan
- Middle East
  - Israel
- Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Most except Liberia, Namibia, & Zambia
- Western hemisphere
  - Few: Canada & some Caribbean are some

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### Examples of presidential democracy:

- Europe
  - Few: France, Russia, & Switzerland are some
- Asia
  - Few: S. Korea, Philippines, & Taiwan are some
- Middle East
  - None
- Sub-saharan Africa
  - Few: Liberia, Namibia, & Zambia are some
- Western hemisphere
  - Most: exceptions = Canada & some Caribbean

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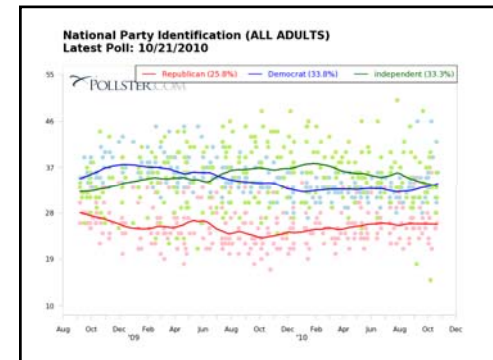
**Instant polling:**

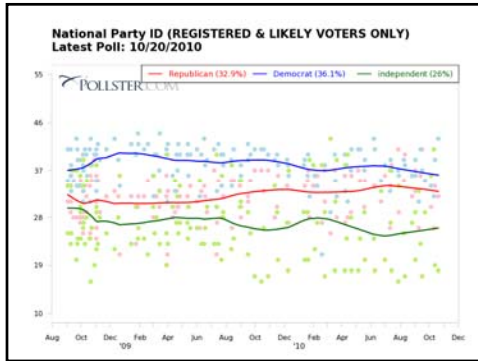
using clickers in the classroom



**Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a:**

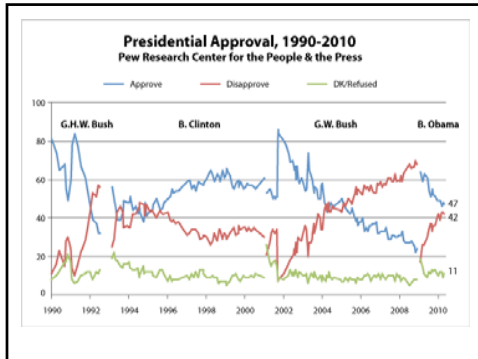
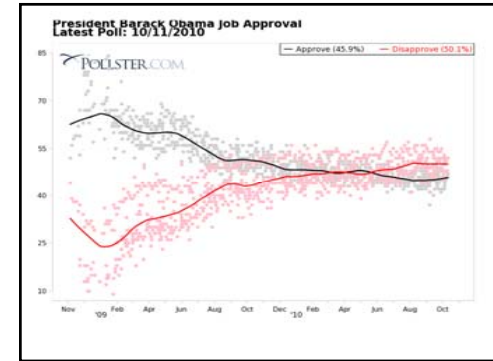
- A. Republican,
- B. Democrat,
- C. Independent?





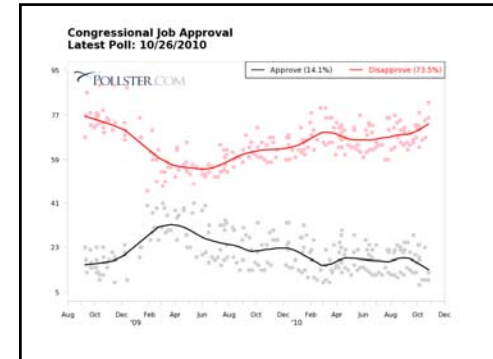
**Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?**

A. Approve  
 B. Disapprove



**Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?**

A. Approve  
 B. Disapprove



**Do you favor or oppose the U.S. war in Afghanistan?**

A. Favor  
 B. Oppose  
 C. Not sure

