Chapter 7

- Movements
- Parties
- Interest Groups

The Political System

INPUTS

Mass public

Movements
Interest groups
Parties

Media

GOVERNMENT

- Executive
- Legislature
- Judiciary

OUTPUTS

Executive regulations

Legislative statutes

Court decisions

FEEDBACK LOOP

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Members of which group did James Madison view as most flawed by human nature?

A. Political movements, interest groups, parties

B. Mass public

C. Mass media

D. Government

E. All of the above are equally flawed

Madison's Assumptions

- **Inputs:** (the public, media, movements, interest groups, and parties)
  - are often flawed by self-interest, haste, passion, and short-sightedness
- **Government**:
  - Even the best and the brightest are flawed
  - Rarely does one side have a monopoly on wisdom and virtue

- **Outputs:** the best public policies result from:
  - Bargaining and compromise between competing interests

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Definitions:

- Political *movement*
  - Unorganized group of individuals sharing a common political interest or grievance
  - *Tea Party* on right
  - *Occupy Wall Street* on left
- Political *interest group*
  - Organized group pressuring government from without
- Political *party*
  - Organized group working within government

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Defining Features: Type of Government and Elections

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Defining Features: Type of Government and Elections

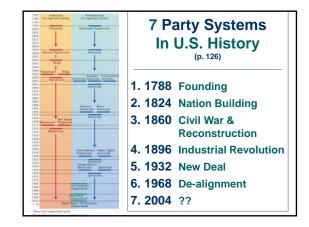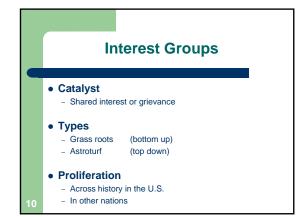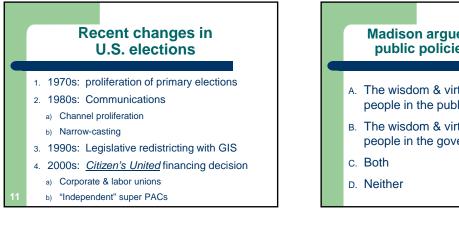| TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	TYPE OF ELECTION	
	SINGLE-MEMBER LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS (WINNER-TAKE-ALL)	MULTI-MEMBER LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS (PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION)
PRESIDENTIAL	U.S.	France
PARLIAMENTARY	U.K.	Most others
PARTY SYSTEM	TWO-PARTY	MULTI-PARTY

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Components of Political Parties

● **Party base**
  – Individual identifiers
  – Interest groups & movements

● **Party leaders**
  – Within the party organization
  – Within government

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7 Party Systems In U.S. History
(p. 126)

1. 1788 Founding
2. 1824 Nation Building
3. 1860 Civil War & Reconstruction
4. 1896 Industrial Revolution
5. 1932 New Deal
6. 1968 De-alignment
7. 2004 ??

Interest Groups

● **Catalyst**
  – Shared interest or grievance

● **Types**
  – Grass roots   (bottom up)
  – Astroturf   (top down)

● **Proliferation**
  – Across history in the U.S.
  – In other nations

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Recent changes in U.S. elections

1. 1970s: proliferation of primary elections
2. 1980s: Communications
   a) Channel proliferation
   b) Narrow-casting
3. 1990s: Legislative redistricting with GIS
4. 2000s: *Citizen's United* financing decision
   a) Corporate & labor unions
   b) "Independent" super PACs

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Madison argued that the best public policies result from:

A. The wisdom & virtue of the best people in the public.

B. The wisdom & virtue of the best people in the government.

C. Both

D. Neither