PLS 101-AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Part III: Institutions of Government

Chapter 11: The Bureaucracy

- Chapter outline
- I. Definition: the permanent government, i.e., those appointed officials (civilian or military) whose terms of office continue irrespective of changes in *elected* officials
- II. Distinctiveness of the American bureaucracy
 - A. Separation of powers -> two masters: executive and legislative
 - B. Federalism's division of powers -> most federal agencies share powers with state & local governments
 - C. Bill of Rights' guarantees of individual rights -> more court scrutiny of bureaucratic decisions
 - D. Mixed economy -> less government ownership, but more government regulation of private enterprise
- The growth of the bureaucracy | Figure 11.1, p. 268 III.
 - A. Bureaucracy before the New Deal era
 - B. A change in role (after WWII)
- The federal bureaucracy today | Table 11.1, p. 270, Figure 11.2, p. 271 IV.
 - A. Recruitment and retention
 - 1. The buddy system
 - 2. Senior executive service
 - 3. Agency point of view
 - B. Personal attributes Table 11.2, p. 275, & Table 10.3, p. 276
 - C. Roles and mission
 - D. Outside Forces
 - 1. Desire for autonomy
 - 2. Agency allies
 - 3. Iron triangle
 - E. Conflict of interest
- Congressional oversight
 - A. The appropriations committee and legislative committees
 - B. Congressional investigations
- Bureaucratic "pathologies" | pp. 282-85

- A. Red tape
 - 1. Definition: overly complex rules & procedures
 - Causes
 - a. External demands for accountability & special interest advantage
 - Internal bureaucratic self-interest
 - 3. Examples
 - a. Tax code
 - b. Welfare eligibility rules (for the poor)
- B. Mission conflict
 - 1. Definition: two or more agencies pursue contradictory goals
 - - Dispersion of power between & within executive and legislative branches
 - Internal bureaucratic self-interest
 - 3. Examples
 - a. Tobacco policies
 - Flood-plane/barrier-island development policies

- C. Mission duplication
 - 1. Definition: two or more agencies assigned same mission
 - Causes
 - a. Dispersion of power between & within executive and legislative branches
 - b. Internal bureaucratic self-interest
 - 3. Examples
 - a. Drug suppression agencies
 - b. Separate branches of military
- D. Imperialism
 - 1. Definition: mission-expansion or continuation that can't be justified
 - 2. Causes
 - a. Failure of external legislative oversight
 - b. Internal bureaucratic self-interest
 - 3. Examples
 - a. Agricultural extension agencies
 - b. U.S. military forces in Europe & Asia
- E. Waste
 - 1. Definition: spending more than necessary to buy or produce some product or service
 - Causes
 - a. Weak incentives to spend wisely
 - (1) Spend-it-or-lose-it rule
 - (2) Clientele (beneficiaries) are much more attentive than taxpayers
 - b. Strong incentives to spend unwisely
 - (1) Administrative salaries usually tied to number of employees supervised
 - (2) Disproportionate influence of money in politics
 - 3. Examples
 - a. Waste of expendables (e.g., ammunition by military)
 - b. Administrative bloat
 - (1) U.N.C. system and U.N.C.W.
 - (2) U.S. military
 - c. Wealthy individuals receiving public assistance
 - (1) Ocean-front property insurance subsidies
 - (2) Social Security and Medicare benefits
 - d. Wealthy corporations receiving public assistance
 - (1) Tax breaks not available to small businesses
 - (2) Federal subsidies not available to small businesses
- VII. Reinventing government: three problems impeding reform
 - A. Dilemma reducing red tape v. increasing other pathologies
 - B. Human nature flaws
 - 1. Self-interestedness
 - 2. Short-sightedness and emotion
 - C. Institutional safeguards dispersion of power