## PLS 101-AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT Part IV: Rights & Policies

## Chapters 3-4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- I. Introduction Box, pp. 36-37
  - A. Civil liberties: freedoms of expression & rights in the legal system -- balances individual liberty with govt-guaranteed order
  - B. Civil rights: citizenship rights & the right to be free from unjust discrimination -- balances individual liberty with govt-guaranteed equality
  - C. Constitutional provisions that limit the powers of the federal and state governments
    - 1. Article I, sections 9 & 10
    - 2. Bill of Rights (when incorporated into the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment see next section)
    - 3. Later amendments: 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>
  - D. Incorporation doctrine:
    - 1. Definition: selective applications of the protections of the Bill of Rights to the states (mostly through the due process & equal protection clauses of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
    - 2. Exceptions
      - a. Grand jury trial in criminal cases
      - b. Jury trial in civil cases
      - c. Prohibition of excessive bail and fines
      - d. Quartering of troops in peacetime
      - e. Until recently: the right to bear arms; however, the USSC's 5:4 rulings in 2008 overturned D.C.'s handgun ban and ruled for the 1<sup>st</sup> time that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment's right to bear arms confers an individual right that states (and localities) may not prohibit (but can still regulate)

## II. Civil liberties

- A. Freedoms of expression
  - 1. Religion
    - a. No-establishment clause
      - (1) Wording: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion"
      - (2) Two judicial interpretations (a 3<sup>rd</sup> & more radical interpretation, Christian nationalist, is supported by the Christian right)
        - (a) Strict construction (separationists)
          - Goal: erect a *wall of separation* between church & state no government establishment or preference for one religion over another or over non-religion (at least 8 of the 13 states in 1789 had state-established churches)
          - ii) Rationale: because of diversity of faiths, state-established religions can cause harm intolerance, prejudice, hate, discrimination, persecution
          - iii) Examples of Supreme Court decisions that struck down government establishment of religion:
            - a) State sponsorship of religious observances and ceremonies in public schools
              - 1) State-sponsored prayer
              - 2) State-sponsored Bible-reading
              - 3) State-sponsored invocations/benedictions at graduation exercises
              - 4) State-sponsored posting of 10 commandments
            - b) Religious instruction in public-schools
              - 1) Released time inside public schools for religious instruction
              - 2) States prohibiting teaching of evolution
              - 3) States requiring teaching of creation science
            - c) State-funded salary supplements to parochial-school teachers
            - d) Separate public-school district for Hasidic Jews
        - (b) Loose construction (accommodationists)
          - i) Goal: *accommodate religious diversity* government *should* provide *nondiscriminatory* aid to religions in general Box, p. 44
          - ii) Rationale: mixing religion & politics can improve politics & government morality, virtue, charity
          - iii) Examples of Supreme Court decisions that upheld nondiscriminatory aid:
            - a) Tax exemptions, deductions, & credits for religious activities
            - b) Sunday blue laws
            - c) Subsidies to public-school student publications or organizations that are religious
            - d) After-hours religious meetings in public facilities
            - e) Released time from public schools for religious instruction outside public school buildings
            - f) Aid to parochial-school students (busing, secular textbooks, secular buildings)
            - g) Prayer in state legislatures
            - h) Public-school teachers can teach parochial-school special-ed. courses (with salaries paid by the public school)

- (3) Judicial principles used to resolve no-establishment clause disputes
  - (a) Government aid must have a secular *purpose*
  - (b) Government aid must have a secular effect (neither advancing nor inhibiting any religion relative to others)
  - (c) No excessive entanglement of government in religion
  - (d) Strict scrutiny when public school children are involved
- b. Free exercise clause: libertarians & communitarians
- 2. Speech
- 3. Press
- 4. Assembly & petition
- B. Crime and due process
  - 1. Pre-trial
    - a. Electronic surveillance
    - b. Entry, search, and seizure
    - c. Interrogation: Miranda rights Box, p. 50
    - d. Formal charge/indictment: habeas corpus
    - e. Release from custody
  - 2. Trial
    - a. Jury: size, composition, vote division
    - b. Speedy
    - c. Public
    - d. Defense witnesses
    - e. Cross-examination
    - f. Counsel
    - g. Self incrimination
    - h. Exclusion of illegally gained evidence
  - 3. Post-trial
    - a. Punishment
    - b. Double jeopardy
    - c. Appeal
- III. Civil rights
  - A. Discrimination: prejudging an individual not on the basis of the individual's actual characteristics, but instead on the basis of the presumed characteristics of the individual's group (not all is invidious: public restrooms, in-state v. out-of-state UNCW tuition)
    - 1. De jure discrimination: legally enforced
    - 2. De facto discrimination: imposed by custom
  - B. Remedies
    - 1. Private, voluntary actions
    - 2. Government policies
      - a. Anti-discrimination policies: outlaw <u>overt</u> discrimination Box, pp. 57-58
        - (1) Voting: 15th Amendment & Voting Rights Act of 1965
        - (2) Schools: *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS* (1954) | Figure 3.1, p. 60
        - (3) Jobs: EO (1941 & 47) & Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII)
        - (4) Housing: EO (1961) & Open Housing Act of 1968
      - b. Affirmative action policies: preferential or compensatory opportunities for individuals and groups disadvantaged by past overt (intentional) discrimination or current systemic (unintentional) discrimination
        - (1) Basic test: unequal outcomes
        - (2) Rationale:
          - (a) Past or present overt discrimination has left individuals and groups handicapped in resources and abilities
          - (b) Therefore, such individuals and groups deserve preferential or compensatory treatment to "level the playing field" so that they have a truly equal opportunity to fairly compete.
        - (3) Examples of civil-rights & non-civil-rights motivations for preferential treatment by government
          - (a) Voting district boundaries: racial v. partisan gerrymandering
          - (b) Public school admissions: race & gender v. wealth & athletic criteria
          - (c) Employment decisions (hiring & promoting): race & gender v. veterans preferences, nepotism, & political patronage
          - (d) Public housing eligibility criteria: race v. income preferences
          - (e) Tax credits, deductions, & exemptions: weak v. powerful
          - (f) Public welfare: weak v. powerful
        - (4) Problems
          - (a) Threats to otherwise legitimate decision criteria (e.g., merit and seniority criteria, bank-loan red lining)
          - (b) Threats to otherwise legitimate institutions (e.g., neighborhood schools, at-large elections, runoff primaries, property-tax basis of public-school funding, annexation)
          - (c) Unjust reverse discrimination against those not responsible for past or current acts of discrimination
          - (d) Harm done to motivation and self-esteem of protected groups
          - (e) Group rights v. individual rights