

Characteristics of early America

- Vast, fertile land
- Common ancestry & religious background
- Shared language
- Commitment to same political beliefs

Modern America:

- Diverse ethnic background
- Multiple languages spoken
- Diversity in religion
- Continued commitment to shared political beliefs.

* Who are Americans?

largest group: 24-54 years old
median: 37 years old.

- White: 60%
- Black: 13.4%
- Hispanic or Latino: 18.1%
- Asian: ~~18~~ 5.8%

* poverty level: 12.7%

* Religious Diversity:

- 76% of resident of U.S identify themselves as christian
- 8.8 million persons are non-christian

Immigration

* 2 Waves : 1821 - 2000

1901 → high peak

1991 - 2000 → high peak

Today :

• 40 million foreign born residents in U.S

↳ 13% of total population

↳ Over 50% from Latin America

↳ 14% from Asia.

* Fundamental Questions of Political Science

5 fundamental questions:

- 1.) What ~~are~~ is the form of the political unit?
- 2.) What are the ends or purposes of society?
- 3.) What role should government play in society?
- 4.) Who governs? ~~who should~~
↳ How should power be organized/distributed?
- 5.) How can the nation provide for its security?

Political Forms:

- Size of territory
↳ determines which politics take place
- Number of people in territory
- Diversity of the people within population

* There are 4/ with which humanity has had experience

- Tribe - (Native Americans)
- Empire - (Mongolian Empire)
- City-state (Athens, Sparta)
- Nation -

Chapter 2:

- Declaration of Independence has 2 parts:
 - Statement of principles
 - list of grievances.

* principles:

- All people are equal
- Rights cannot be taken away
- life, liberty, pursuit of happiness
- people form gov't to protect rights
- gov'ts get power from consent of governed.

* Grievances: 27

- against King George III.
- What American colonists cared about.

* 3 main ones are:

- Violation of the right of representation
- Maintenance of army not under civilian control
- Loss of an independent court.

"We hold these truths to be self evident.
that all men are created equal."

Where do people reside?

Form:

- Size: is it large land
- population: is it dense or scarce?
- Diversity: people or peoples

* Tribe - limited size, egalitarian

* Empire: expansive, many peoples, power centralized

* City-state: greater inequality, civic virtue

* Nation: larger, inequality, some protect/destroy public/private.

Idea of Regime

- Governing body or authoritative element in a political unit.
- How government structures are arranged and power distributed

Three basic Regimes

- One-person
- A few people
- Many people

* Kingship: One person by or within the law

* Tyrant or dictator: One person w/out or outside the law.

* Aristocracy: A few within the law

* Oligarchy: A few w/out the law.

• The American Regime.

* **Liberalism**: A system that respected the rights of individuals to pursue their own happiness as they see fit.

• A ruler is limited by law

* **Democracy**: Citizens get to choose government.

* **Limited government**: a gov't whose powers are defined and limited by constitution.

* **Liberty**: freedom from government control.
- personal & economic freedom

* **Equality**: Social or economic equality of results. people should have!
- equal opportunity
- political equality
- equality of results

* **Self-government**: popular sovereignty where political authority rests in the hand of people.
- citizens can actively participate in government.

Tocqueville:

- French diplomat
- came to America to study democracy and bring it back to France
- 1830s
- part of French aristocracy
- French revolution where aristocrats were massacred
- * Haitian Revolution: 1st real slave revolt
 - defeated the French
 - made them pay for lost profits
- * French revolution
 - Napoleonic period with Emperor
 - Paris commune
- * American Revolution
 - when colonists revolt against England
 - His audience are French political thinkers
 - physiognomies - form of writing in France, ~~the~~ that underlines physical characteristics of things.
 - genre is stereotypes

What he observed:

- New England pilgrims came for religious freedoms.
- pilgrims did not see social standing or riches as a necessity but for intellectual reasons
- Triumph of an idea
- All about politics.
- one had to be free from necessity in order to be fully political.
- Very strict and conservative
- order and violent place
- Idea of freedom is very exclusive
- authority: not about best way/
what is natural way of authority.
- massive changes in structure of europe
- Tocquville states that America pulls away from aristocratic values.
- Stated that America focused on wealth and divided up inheritance.
- "free movement of wealth"