

# Regulatory and Constituent Policies

Policy Classification in Practice

# What Are Regulatory Policies?

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**Definition:** Policies that restrict or guide the behavior of certain groups or individuals, using government authority to control or change behavior.

- Three main types:
  - Competitive
  - Protective
  - Constituent

# Competitive Regulatory Policies

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**Definition:** Manage competition among businesses, limit who can provide certain goods or services.

- Regulate price, quality, and availability.
- Both government and professions oversee the market.

# Competitive Regulation: Examples

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- Professional licensing (e.g., doctors, lawyers, teachers)
- Utility regulation
- Telecommunications & broadcasting licenses
- Banking, insurance, transportation regulation

# Competitive Regulation: Characteristics

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- Usually low visibility to the general public.
- Generates little conflict.
- Supported by institutions and stakeholders.

# Protective Regulatory Policies

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**Definition:** Designed to protect the public from potential harms of private activities.

- Often create additional costs for businesses.
- Shape behavior to avoid negative consequences.

# Protective Regulation: Examples

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- Environmental protection
- Consumer protection
- Food and drug safety
- Workplace safety

- Anti-discrimination & anti-harassment
- Privacy regulations
- Occupational health standards

# Protective Regulation: Characteristics

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- High visibility; often generates significant conflict.
- Frequently opposed by affected industries.
- Difficult to enact, change, or eliminate.



# Constituent Regulatory Policies

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**Definition:** Policies that protect individual rights or serve governmental functions; benefit the public or government itself.

# Constituent Policy: Examples

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- Foreign and defense policy
- Structure & operation of government agencies
- Basic civil rights protections

# Political Dynamics of Regulation

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- Regulatory policies shape the playing field for citizens, businesses, and government.
- Conflict and reform are the rule, not the exception.
- Visibility and conflict level often predict difficulty of change.

# Reflect & Discuss

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**Which regulatory policies have you encountered most directly in your life?**

*How do they shape your choices or opportunities? Who benefits? Who pays?*

