

What is government?

Institutions and procedures through which a territory and its people are ruled.

What are the different forms of government?

Autocracy: a form of government in which a single individual, such as a king, queen, or dictator, rules.

Oligarchy: a form of government in which a small group, such as landowners, military officers, or wealthy merchants, controls most of the governing decisions.

Democracy: a system of rule that permits citizens to play a significant part in the governmental process.

What is politics?

Refers to conflicts and struggles over the leadership, structure, and policies of governments.

What is political culture?

Fundamental values that underlie the American system of government

- Liberty
- Equality
- Justice

These values are reflected in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights

What is citizenship?

Membership in a political community that confers legal rights and carries participation responsibilities.

When did native and black people get citizenship?

What are the main political values in the United States?

Liberty: freedom from governmental control

Personal freedom: Bill of Rights

Economic freedom: capitalism, free markets, and protection of private property

What are the main reasons the colonies wanted independence?

Why did Great Britain tax the colonies/mistreat them?

Articles of Confederation and why they didn't work

- Ratified by all the states in 1781
- Primarily concerned with limiting the powers of the central government
- The state governments retained their “sovereignty, freedom, and independence
- There was no national army or navy to protect the citizens—only state militias.
- The national government had no power to collect taxes.
- Any laws passed by the national government could only be carried out by state governments.

Failed Because:

- The United States had great difficulty conducting its foreign affairs successfully.
- There was no national military
- Competition among the states for foreign commerce allowed the European powers to play them off against one another.
- The power that states retained began to alarm well-to-do Americans.
- Radicals gained power in several states and pursued policies that opposed the interests of businesses and property owners.

Constitution and what compromises were made in it

The Virginia Plan (offered by Edmund Randolph) called for a system of representation based on:

- State population or proportion of each state's revenue contribution to the national government, or both
- Congress would be set up as a bicameral legislature or a legislative body composed of two chambers

New Jersey Plan:

- Each state was to have equal representation and a unicameral legislature or a legislative body with one chamber

The Great Compromise created a bicameral legislature:

- The House: representatives apportioned by the population in the state
- The Senate: equal representation for all states, regardless of population

The Three-Fifths Compromise:

- Seats in the House were apportioned by “population,” according to which each slave was only considered 3/5 of a person

Main Clauses in the Constitution (supremacy, credit, complete faith, commerce, comity, and necessary clause)

- Necessary and Proper Clause: provides Congress with the authority to make all laws “necessary and proper” to carry out its expressed powers.
- The supremacy clause (Article VI) specifies that the laws of Congress shall be the “supreme Law of the Land.”
 - When there is a conflict between national and state law, national law prevails.
- Comity Clause: A state cannot discriminate against someone from another state or give privileges to its own residents only.
- Commerce Clause: gives Congress the power to tax, raise an army, declare war, and establish post offices
- Full faith and credit clause: States are expected to honor public acts, records, and judicial decisions that take place in another state.

What powers does Congress have? What is the difference between expressed and implied powers?

- Expressed powers: These are specific powers in the Constitution that are granted to Congress and to the president. There are 17 expressed powers, which are found in Article I, Section 8.

- Implied powers: These powers are not specifically expressed but are implied through an expansive interpretation of delegated powers

What is the history of the new constitution?

What are the Bill of Rights and 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments?

3rd: You do not have to quarter troops in your home.

4th: Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.

5th: Right to due process of law.

6th: The right to a speedy trial.

7th: Right by trial by jury.

8th: No cruel or unusual punishments or excessive bail.

9th: rights not listed belong to the people

10th: Powers not listed belong to the states

13th: Banned slavery

14th: People born in the USA are citizens

15th: Slaves got the right to vote

What is the difference between civil liberties and civil rights? (provide examples of each)

Civil liberties: areas of personal freedom constitutionally protected from government interference

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom to worship

Civil Rights: guarantees of equal opportunity and protection through obligations imposed on government to protect individuals.

- The ideals of liberty, equality, and justice are embedded in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
- Includes the right to vote, the right to attend desegregated schools, and the right of people with disabilities to be free from discrimination

What were Jim Crow Laws (Black codes)?

When did African Americans, Native Americans, and women get voting rights?

Black: 15th Amendment (1870)

Native: Indian Citizenship Act (1924)

Women: 19th Amendment (1920)

What is Public Opinion, and why is it important?

What is the difference between values and views (attitude)?

- Attitudes (or opinions): views about particular issues, persons, or events
- Values (or beliefs): basic principles that shape a person's opinions about political issues and events

What are political ideologies in the United States?

What are the voting patterns of different groups?

What role does the media play in democracy?

What are the different forms of journalism?

What is the difference between framing and priming?

- Framing: presenting information from a certain perspective in order to shape audience's comprehension of that information
- Priming: calling attention to some issues and not others when evaluating political officials.