

# Foundations of American Government

## Participating IN GOVERNMENT

### Public Opinion

*Create a short questionnaire to find out how people in your community feel about government. Ask questions such as, “Do public officials care about what people like you think? Yes or no?” After tabulating the survey results, draw a circle graph that portrays public attitudes and display the graphs in class.*



## Electronic Field Trip

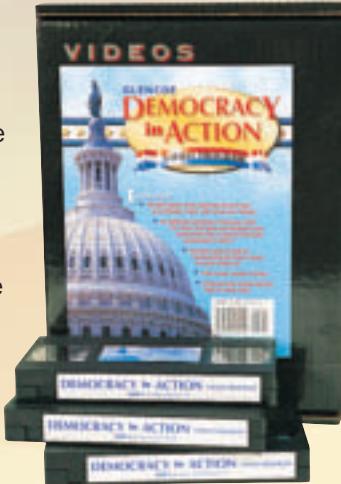
### Independence Hall

Take a virtual tour of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress met and founded the United States of America.

#### Glencoe's Democracy in Action Video Program

Independence Hall, or the Old State House, was the birthplace of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The **Democracy in Action** video program "Independence Hall" shows the unique role of Independence Hall in American history.

As you view the video program, try to identify some of the people involved in framing the United States government.

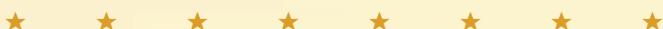


► The first die for the Great Seal of the United States and the larger die of the Old Treaty Seal, used to make pendant seals for American treaties



#### Hands-On Activity

Use your school's computerized card catalog or the Internet to research additional information about the historical significance of Independence Hall. How did its location contribute to the events that unfolded there? Using multimedia tools or software, create a multimedia presentation about the role of Independence Hall during the early years of our nation. Incorporate images from the Internet.



## Chapter 1

# People and Government



### Why It's Important

**People and Government** Around the world, people live under a variety of governments. Are governments necessary? How well do governments serve people? Chapter 1 will explain the basic forms of government so that you can answer these questions.



To better understand the foundations of government and their impact on your life, view the *Democracy in Action* Chapter 1 video lesson:

#### Government and Our Lives



### GOVERNMENT *Online*

**Chapter Overview** Visit the *United States Government: Democracy in Action* Web site at [gov.glencoe.com](http://gov.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 1—Overview** to preview chapter information.

# Principles of Government

## Reader's Guide

### Key Terms

state, nation, nation-state, consensus, sovereignty, government, social contract

### Find Out

- What are the four main purposes of government?
- How do various theories explain the origin of government?

### Understanding Concepts

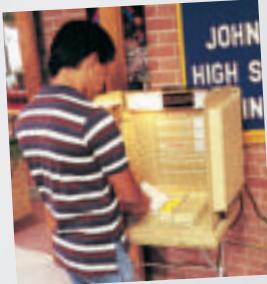
**Public Policy** Which policies of the government make your life better? Which do you think make life worse?

#### COVER STORY

## Teens Get the Vote

WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 30, 1971

Several states jockeyed today to become the 38th state to ratify the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution, which lowers the voting age to 18. Ohio seems to have won the contest; its legislature voted approval in a rare evening meeting. This surprise move deprived Oklahoma of the honor; its legislature was not in session. Also thwarted was North Carolina, which approved the amendment earlier today but delayed official ratification until tomorrow morning. Proposed by Congress on March 23, no other amendment has won such rapid approval. The old record was just over six months in 1804 for the Twelfth Amendment.



A teen's first vote

In 1972, for the first time, many 18-year-olds were allowed to vote. Perhaps waiting in line to vote allowed time for reflection. Why am I doing this? Will it make a difference? Is government really necessary? What does government have to do with my life?

While most of us realize that government is necessary, people have asked basic questions about the institution of government for centuries. What is the proper function of government? What form of government serves best? Where or why did government originate? Many scholars have written much about these issues. This text will help answer some of these basic questions.

## The State

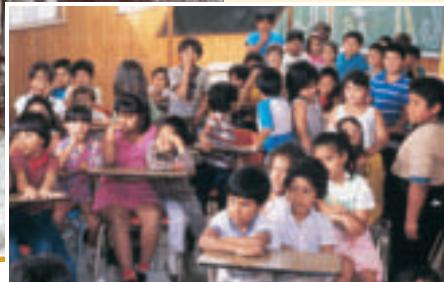


Aristotle, a scholar in ancient Greece, was one of the first students of government. He studied the polis, the ancient Greek city-state. Many terms and concepts of government, such as *politics*, *democracy*, and *republic*, originated in ancient Greece and Rome.

The familiar terms *country* and *state* have basically the same meaning. The word *state* comes from a form of the Latin word *stare*, meaning "to stand." Today the word *state* precisely identifies a political community that occupies a definite territory and has an organized government with the power to make and enforce laws without approval from any higher authority. The United States is one of close to 200 states in the world today.

To citizens of the United States, the term *state* sometimes has a different meaning. The name *United States* was first used in 1776 when the thirteen British colonies became states by declaring their independence. At that time, each state thought of itself as a country. Even though the states later joined together as one nation under the Constitution, the term *state* continued to be used to describe the main political units within the United States.

## Changing Population and State Power



◀ **Past** Between 1941 and 1945 more than 700,000 African Americans moved from one part of the United States to another seeking opportunity.

**Present** As people seek a better life, the population of the United States changes, sometimes straining existing facilities, as illustrated in this overcrowded classroom in San Antonio, Texas.

**Political Processes**  
*How does a shifting population affect the power of each of the states?*

The term *nation* is often used to describe an independent state or country. Strictly speaking, however, a **nation** is any sizable group of people who are united by common bonds of race, language, custom, tradition, and, sometimes, religion. Usually the territorial boundaries of modern states and those of nations are the same. For example, although not all citizens of France are of French descent, the territories of both the nation of France and the state of France coincide. The term **nation-state** is often used to describe such a country.

Not all groups that consider themselves to be nations have their own states. Eastern Canada, for example, includes many French-speaking Catholics who prefer to follow French culture and traditions rather than those of the English-speaking non-Catholic majority of Canada. Some of these people want to break away from Canada and establish their own state. On the other hand, in Africa the populations of some national groups are divided among several African states, the result of artificial borders established during the colonial era. The popular use of the term *nation*, however, fits the standard definition of state. For this reason this text will use the terms *state* and *nation* interchangeably.

## Essential Features of a State

▀ The states that make up today's political world share four essential features: population, territory, sovereignty, and government.

**Population** The most obvious essential for a state is people. The nature of a state's population affects its stability. States where the population shares a general political and social **consensus**, or agreement about basic beliefs, have the most stable governments. For example, most Americans share basic beliefs about the value of democratic government.

Another way that population affects the political organization of a state is through its mobility. Millions of Americans change residences each year. As a result, political power is slowly changing and being modified. A major shift in population from the North and East to the South and West caused Southern and Western states to gain representatives in Congress based on the census, while some states in the North and East lost representation. The movement of some of the population from inner cities to suburban areas resulted in a similar shift in political power.

**Territory** A state has established boundaries. The United States's continental boundaries are the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and recognized borders with Canada and Mexico.

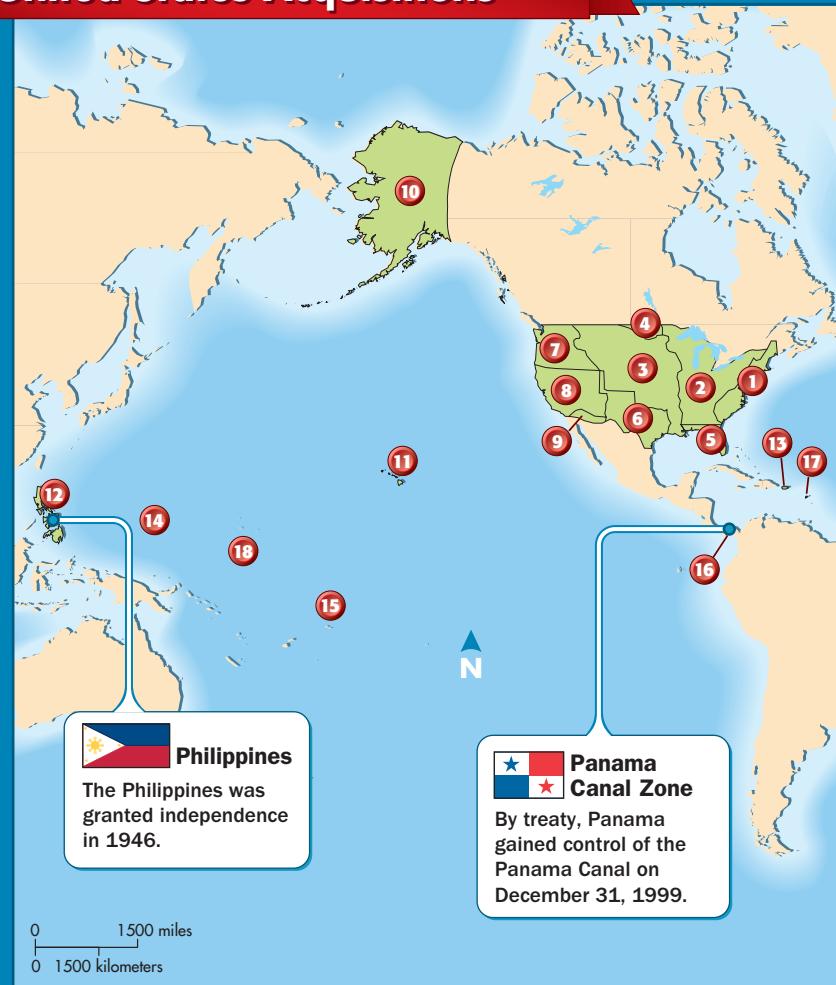
The exact location or shape of political boundaries is often a source of conflict among states. Territorial boundaries may change as a result of war, negotiations, or purchase. The territory of the United States, like that of some other states, has grown considerably since the original thirteen states declared their independence. By purchase, negotiation, and war the United States extended its territory to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

**Sovereignty** The key characteristic of a state is its sovereignty. Political **sovereignty** means that the state has supreme and absolute authority within its territorial boundaries. It has complete independence, and complete power to make laws, shape foreign policy, and determine its own course of action. In theory, at least, no state has the right to interfere with the internal affairs of another state.

Because every state is considered sovereign, every state is equal with respect to legal rights and duties—at least in theory. In practice, of course, states with great economic strength and military capabilities have more power than other states.

## United States Acquisitions

Territory or Accession	Date
① Original 13 Colonies	—
② Territory in 1790	—
③ Louisiana Purchase	1803
④ Red River Basin	1818
⑤ Florida	1819
⑥ Texas	1845
⑦ Oregon	1846
⑧ Mexican Cession	1848
⑨ Gadsden Purchase	1853
⑩ Alaska	1867
⑪ Hawaii	1898
⑫ Philippines	1898
⑬ Puerto Rico	1899
⑭ Guam	1899
⑮ American Samoa	1900
⑯ Panama Canal Zone	1904
⑰ Virgin Islands	1917
⑱ Trust Territory of Pacific Islands	1947



**Critical Thinking** The Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War, established the original boundaries of the United States. Why do you think the United States acquired so many territories in the South Pacific?

**Government** Every state has some form of government. **Government** is the institution through which the state maintains social order, provides public services, and enforces decisions that are binding on all people living within the state.

## Theories of the Origin of the State

How did the state, or government, come to be? No one knows precisely how or why people created the earliest governments. Many scholars have constructed theories that attempt to explain the origin of the state.

### Evolutionary Theory

Some scholars believe that the state evolved from the family. This is the basis of the **evolutionary theory** of government origin. The head of the primitive family was the authority that served as a government.

An extended family might include hundreds of people. Abraham's descendants in the Old Testament of the Bible are an example of the emergence of this kind of rule. Gradually the large, extended family needed more organization.

**Force Theory** In the earliest civilizations, people worked together to build walled cities, control floods, and construct buildings for worship. They also cooperated in other ways. Leaders issued decrees and soldiers went to war to protect their city. Some scholars believe that the state was born of force. The **force theory** says that government emerged when all the people of an area were brought under the authority of one person or group.

**Divine Right Theory** The notion that a god or gods have chosen certain people to rule by **divine right** has been important in many civilizations. The Egyptians, Chinese, and Aztec were among those

who believed that their rulers were either descendants of gods or at least chosen by gods. By the middle of the 1600s in Europe, monarchs often referred to their right to rule as coming from God. People believed that the state was created by God, and those who were born to royalty were chosen by God to govern. To oppose the monarch was to oppose God and was considered both treason and sin.

**Social Contract Theory** Beginning in the 1600s, Europeans challenged the rule of sovereigns who ruled by divine right. They were often supported by the writings of philosophers who believed that the origin of the state was in a social contract. **Thomas Hobbes** in England was one of the first to theorize on the **social contract**.

He wrote that in a "state of nature," no government existed.

Without an authority to protect people from one another, life was "nasty, brutish, and short." By contract, people surrendered to the state the power needed to maintain order. The state, in turn, agreed to protect its citizens. Hobbes believed that people did not have the right to break this agreement.

**John Locke** took the social contract a step further. In 1688 the British Parliament forced King James II out of office and invited William and Mary of Orange to rule. Locke defended Parliament's overthrow of the king. He wrote that people were naturally endowed with the right to life, liberty, and property. To preserve their rights, they willingly contracted to give power to a governing authority. When government failed to preserve the rights of the people, the people had the right to break the contract.

Nearly a century later, the American colonies revolted against King George III. In declaring their independence, they cited the political philosophy of natural rights that Locke had written.

# The Purposes of Government

 Today governments serve several major purposes for the state: (1) to maintain social order; (2) to provide public services; (3) to provide for national security and a common defense; and (4) to provide for and control the economic system. In carrying out these tasks, governments must make decisions that are binding on all citizens of the state. Government has the authority to require all individuals to obey these decisions and the power to punish those who do not obey them.

The decisions of government are authoritative—that is, they can be enforced upon all of society. Governments derive their authority from two sources—their legitimacy and their ability to use coercive force. Legitimacy means the willingness of citizens to obey the government. In democratic countries legitimacy is based on the consent of the people. Americans understand that if their elected officials fail to respond to the interests of the people, they can be voted out of office. Therefore, the people entrust their government with power.

Coercive force, the second source of government authority, derives from the police, judicial,

and military institutions of government. Government can force people to pay taxes and can punish offenders by fines or imprisonment.

**Maintaining Social Order** John Locke, writing in *Two Treatises of Government* <sup>1</sup> in 1690, explained:

**“Men being, as has been said, by Nature, all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this Estate, and subjected to the Political Power of another, without his own Consent. The only way whereby any one divests himself of his Natural Liberty, and puts on the bonds of Civil Society is by agreeing with other Men to joyn [join] and unite into a Community. . . .”**

—John Locke, 1690

According to the social contract theory, people need government to maintain social order because they have not yet discovered a way to live in groups

 See the following footnoted materials in the Reference Handbook:  
1. *Two Treatises of Government*, page 806.

## GOVERNMENT and You

### Government in Daily Life

**G**overnment is much closer than the officials working in Washington, your state capital, or even city hall. Many things that Americans take for granted result from services and protections offered by government.

The roads on which you drive are constructed and maintained by state and/or local governments. Traffic laws dictate how you drive on those roads. When you go to the store, government regulations make it likely that the groceries you buy will not poison you. Your hair stylist and dentist are expected to be skilled professionals because government licenses these and other businesses and sets minimum standards. Turn on your radio or TV. The program you receive will be clear because government prevents stations from interfering with each other's signals. All in all, the presence of government in daily life is greater than you may think.

Ensuring traffic safety



### Participating IN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

**Solving Problems** Assume you serve on your city council. A group of citizens has petitioned the city to change the speed limit on all nonresidential streets from 35 mph to 50 mph. Brainstorm the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative and how it would impact citizens. Recommend what speed limit should be in effect and why.

# TIME

## For the Record

**Lucky 13** Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson all helped create the Great Seal of the United States. After working on the design for six years, they completed their task on June 20, 1782. Much of the seal's symbolism is tied to the number 13, the number of original states. On the seal are 13 stars in the crest over the eagle, 13 stripes on the shield, 13 arrows in the eagle's left claw, 13 olives and leaves in its right claw, and 13 letters in the seal's motto, *E Pluribus Unum* ("Out of Many, One"). On the back of the seal are a pyramid with 13 steps and another 13-letter motto, *Annuit Coeptis* ("Providence Favors Our Undertakings").



without conflict. There are many sources of conflict in any group. Two people may argue over the boundary line between their properties. Members of a community may disagree about what is best for the group. In any group, some members may try to take unfair advantage of others. Conflict seems to be an inescapable part of group life.

Governments provide ways of resolving conflicts among group members, helping to maintain social order. Governments have the power to make and enforce laws. Governments can require people to do things they might not do voluntarily, such as pay taxes or serve in the army. Governments also provide structures such as courts to help people resolve disagreements in an orderly manner.

Without government, civilized life would not be possible. Government controls and contains conflict between people by placing limits on what individuals are permitted to do. Government provides a group with law and order. An effective government allows citizens to plan for the future, get an education, raise a family, and live orderly lives.

**Providing Public Services** Abraham Lincoln identified one purpose of government:

**“**The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do for themselves in their separate and individual capacities. But in all that people can individually do for themselves, government ought not to interfere. **”**

—Abraham Lincoln, 1854

One of the important purposes of government is to provide essential services that make community life possible and promote the general welfare. Governments undertake projects, such as building sewer systems, that individuals could not or would not do on their own.

Governments also provide an essential service by making and enforcing laws that promote public health and safety. Government inspectors check meat and produce to prevent the sale of spoiled food. State legislators pass laws that require people to pass a driving test.

**Providing National Security** A third task of government is to protect the people against attack by other states or from threats such as terrorism. Protecting its national security is a major concern of each sovereign state. In today's world of nuclear weapons, spy satellites, international terrorists, and huge armies, the job of providing for the defense and security of the state is complex.

In addition to protecting the nation from attack, government handles normal relations with other nations. The United States Constitution gives our national government a monopoly over our nation's dealings with foreign countries. Thus, our national government has the exclusive power to make treaties with other nations. Government helps to provide economic security by enacting

### GOVERNMENT *Online*

**Student Web Activity** Visit the *United States Government: Democracy in Action* Web site at [gov.glencoe.com](http://gov.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 1-Student Web Activities** for an activity about principles of government.

trade agreements with other countries. Some state governments maintain informal relations with foreign governments for trade and cultural purposes. The national government, however, has the power to limit these arrangements.

### Making Economic Decisions

Nations vary greatly in their ability to provide their citizens with economic opportunities or resources. No country provides its citizens with everything they need or desire. Even in a wealthy country like the United States, many people are poorly clothed, housed, and fed. The problem of scarcity is far greater in many other nations around the world.

Material scarcity is often the cause of conflict in society. Countries in which the gap between rich and poor is great may experience civil unrest. Historically this has been the primary cause of several full-blown revolutions. For this reason governments often use their power to reduce the cause of such conflict by intervening in the economic system.



**The government enforces laws that protect the public safety and health.**

Governments do not intervene only in domestic crises. They may intervene in the economic affairs of another nation. For example, after World War II, the United States aided nations in which it believed economic conditions might foster Communist revolutions.

Governments pass the laws that shape the economic environment of the nation. These laws could be as limited as providing a national currency or as extensive as controlling every individual's economic decisions.

Governments also may make choices that distribute benefits and public services among citizens. For example, the government can make payments to farmers who raise certain crops or allow tax advantages to certain industries.

The government's decision to build a veterans' hospital in a certain town benefits some of the people and not others. Governments usually try to stimulate economic growth and stability through controlling inflation, encouraging trade, and regulating the development of natural resources.

## Section 1 Assessment

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Main Idea** In a graphic organizer similar to the one below, identify four major purposes of government and give an example of each.

Purpose	Example

- 2. Define** state, nation, nation-state, consensus, sovereignty, government, social contract.  
**3. Identify** Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke.  
**4. Summarize** the divine right and social contract theories.

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Comparisons** Thomas Hobbes and John Locke both subscribed to the social contract theory of government. Analyze their views of that theory.

### Concepts IN ACTION

**Public Policy** Read news articles concerning decisions made by foreign governments. Classify those decisions that you believe are making life better for their citizens and those you believe are making life worse.

# The Formation of Governments

## Reader's Guide

### Key Terms

unitary system, federal system, confederacy, constitution, constitutional government, preamble, constitutional law, politics, industrialized nation, developing nation

### Find Out

- What are the similarities and differences between a unitary government and a federal government system?
- What are the main purposes of a constitution?

### Understanding Concepts

**Global Perspectives** The United States Constitution is the oldest written constitution still in use. What does this imply about the stability of governments in the world?

### COVER STORY

## Debates Rage On

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, 1788

The proposed national constitution, written last summer in Philadelphia, is stirring controversy throughout the state. Although it is based on a design developed by Virginians, many state leaders believe the planned government is too strong. "It squints toward monarchy," says former governor Patrick Henry.

James Madison, a leading Virginia delegate at Philadelphia, defends the convention's work. He asks, "What is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels," he observes, "no government would be necessary."



Patrick Henry

The government of each nation has unique characteristics derived from how that nation developed. To carry out their functions, governments are organized in a variety of ways. Most large countries have several different levels of government. These usually include a central or national government as well as the governments of smaller divisions within the country, such as provinces, states, counties, cities, towns, and villages.

## Government Systems

 The relationship between a nation's national government and its smaller governmental divisions can be described as either unitary or federal.

**Unitary System** A **unitary system** of government gives all key powers to the national or central government. This does not mean that only one level of government exists. Rather, it means that the central government has the power to create state, provincial, or other local governments and may give them limited sovereignty. Great Britain, Italy, and France developed unitary governments as these nations emerged from smaller kingdoms.

**Federal System** A **federal system** of government divides the powers of government between the national government and state or provincial governments. Each level of government has sovereignty in some areas. The United States developed a federal system after the thirteen colonies became states.

To begin with, the United States formed a **confederacy**, a loose union of independent states. When the confederacy failed to provide an effective national government, the Constitution made the national government supreme while preserving some state government powers. Today, other countries with federal systems include Canada, Switzerland, Mexico, Australia, India, and Russia.

# Constitutions and Government

 A **constitution** is a plan that provides the rules for government. A constitution serves several major purposes. (1) It sets out ideals that the people bound by the constitution believe in and share. (2) It establishes the basic structure of government and defines the government's powers and duties. (3) It provides the supreme law for the country. Constitutions provide rules that shape the actions of government and politics, much as the rules of basketball define the action in a basketball game.

Constitutions may be written or unwritten; however, in most modern states, constitutions are written. The United States Constitution, drawn up in 1787, is the oldest written constitution still serving a nation today. Other nations with written constitutions include France, Kenya, India, Italy, and Switzerland. Great Britain, on the other hand, has an unwritten constitution based on hundreds of years of legislative acts, court decisions, and customs.

All governments have a constitution in the sense that they have some plan for organizing and operating the government. In this sense the People's Republic of China has a constitution. The term **constitutional government**, however, has a special meaning. It refers to a government in which a constitution has authority to place clearly recognized limits on the powers of those who govern. Thus, constitutional government is *limited* government. Despite the existence of a written constitution, the People's Republic of China does not have constitutional government. In that country, there are few limits on the power of the government.

**Incomplete Guides** Constitutions themselves are important but incomplete guides to how a country is actually governed. They are incomplete for two reasons. First, no written constitution by itself can possibly spell out all the laws, customs, and ideas that grow up around the document itself. In the United States, for example, until Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president four times, it was custom, rather than law, that no person should be elected president more than twice.



**First page of the Constitution (above) and inkwell used to sign the Constitution**

Only when the Twenty-second Amendment went into effect was a president limited by law to two elected terms.

Second, a constitution does not always reflect the actual practice of government in a country. The People's Republic of China, for example, has a written constitution filled with statements about the basic rights, freedoms, and duties of citizens. Yet, for years the Chinese government has maintained an extensive police force to spy on Chinese citizens and punish those whose ideas are not acceptable to the state. Although the government relaxed some restrictions in the late 1980s, authorities crushed a pro-democracy movement in 1989.

**A Statement of Goals** Most constitutions contain a statement that sets forth the goals and purposes to be served by the government. This statement is usually called the **preamble**. The Preamble to the United States Constitution states the major goals of American government:

### Constitutional Interpretations

Wendell Lewis Willkie became the Republican nominee for president in 1940 when Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for an unprecedented third term. Roosevelt violated George Washington's precedent that limited presidents to two terms.

**How did George Washington's precedent reflect the idea of limited government?**



*"We, the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence [defense], promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."*

—Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

### A Framework for Government

The main body of a constitution sets out the plan for government. In federal states, such as the United States, the constitution also describes the relationship between the national government and state governments. Most written constitutions also describe the procedure for amending, or changing, the constitution.

The main body of a constitution is usually divided into parts called articles and sections. The United States Constitution has 7 articles containing a total of 21 sections. The French constitution has 89 articles grouped under 16 titles. The Indian constitution, the longest in the world, consists of hundreds of articles.

**The Highest Law** Constitutions provide the supreme law for states. A constitution is usually accepted as a superior, morally binding force. It draws its authority from the people or from a special assembly chosen by the people to create the constitution. **Constitutional law** involves the interpretation and application of the constitution.

Thus, constitutional law primarily concerns defining the extent and limits of government power and the rights of citizens.

### Politics and Government

 The effort to control or influence the conduct and policies of government is called **politics**. The Constitution did not prevent the development of politics because politics and government are closely related. In fact, a major political struggle developed over the ratification of the Constitution itself. Within a few years major political parties played key roles in elections.

People are taking part in politics when they join a citizens' group protesting higher taxes or when they meet with the mayor to ask the city to repave the streets in their neighborhood. Legislators are acting politically when they vote to have government buildings constructed in the districts they represent.

**Seeking Government Benefits** Participation in politics arises because people realize that government has the potential to influence their lives in many ways. Different people make different demands on government. Construction workers may want government to support the building of new highways to create jobs. Conservationists may want the government to spend its money on mass transit and public parks instead. Still other people, who favor lower taxes, may want neither the new highways nor more public parks.

In a large, diverse nation like the United States, there is a continual struggle over what benefits and services government should provide, how much they should cost, and who should pay for them. Through politics, individuals and groups seek to maximize the benefits they get from government while they try to reduce the costs of these benefits. Through politics, people also seek to use government to turn their values and beliefs into public policy. One group, for example, tries to influence government to ban smoking in public places. Other people pressure government not to restrict smoking in any way.

**Importance of Politics** Through politics, conflicts in society are managed. As people seek rewards and benefits, politics provides a peaceful way for them to compete with one another. The outcomes of politics—the struggle to control government—affect such key matters as the quality of air and water, economic conditions, peace and war, and the extent of citizens' rights and freedoms.

**Special Interests** The Constitution says that government should promote the *general* welfare. The Framers believed government should operate

in the interests of *all* the people, not favoring any special group or person. One of the issues that concerned the Framers of the United States Constitution was the possibility that groups of people, united by special political interests, would hinder the launching of the new government. James Madison explained his concerns in a series of articles called *The Federalist*:

**“** Among the numerous advantages promised by a well-constructed Union . . . [is] its tendency to break and control the violence of faction. . . . By a faction, I understand a number of citizens . . . who are united and actuated [moved] by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community. . . . **”**

—James Madison, 1787

Some people equate politics with bribery or corruption. They believe the general welfare may be sacrificed to the desires of a special-interest group. The misuse of politics, however, should not obscure the value of a political system.

## We the People Making a Difference

### Laura Epstein



Laura Epstein did not plan to stir her community to action when she spent the summer of 1996 with a paint brush. She and eight other young people only wanted to paint over graffiti-covered walls to help beautify downtown Seattle.

Working with Seattle's waste department, Laura and her team painted murals on many of the city's graffiti-covered walls. Volunteers helped decorate one of the park walls, once a graffiti eyesore, with giant bugs.

Laura was surprised when the graffiti-erasing campaign turned into a creative project for the community and the children in the neighborhood. "That was the best part—having the

neighbor kids help us paint and get involved," she said. Laura feels she has contributed to the neighborhood by leaving behind something that neighborhood kids can point to and say, "Hey, I helped make that!"

The antigraffiti project is just one of hundreds of projects being carried out by youth teams across the nation who are members of the Youth Volunteer Corps of America (YVCA). The YVCA is a project funded by the federal government that gives young people a way to get involved in their communities. According to Bill Barrett, who works for the national program, "People who serve others are providing the solutions to our country's problems."

## Destruction and Development



**Inequalities Among Countries** Nations must cooperate to solve worldwide concerns. Today the increasing demands for natural resources threaten many tropical rain forests, like this one in South America. *What tensions do you think occur between developing nations and industrialized nations over the destruction of the rain forests?*

## Governing in a Complex World

 The United States government conducts policy in a complex world. Changing relationships challenge the policies of every nation. It is not easy to define the boundaries of government.

**Major Inequalities Among States** Because of great inequalities among countries, the world today is full of contrasts. The United States and about 20 other states, such as Japan, Canada, Australia, and France, are **industrialized nations**. Industrialized nations have generally large industries and advanced technology that provide a more comfortable way of life than developing nations do. **Developing nations** are only beginning to develop industrially. More than 100 developing nations have average per capita, or per person, incomes that are a fraction of those of industrialized nations. In the poorest countries, starvation, disease, and political turmoil are a way of life. Many states of Africa south of the Sahara and of

Southeast Asia are developing nations. Between these two levels of nations are many newly industrialized nations such as Mexico, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Algeria, and Kenya.

**Growing Interdependence** Although each state is sovereign, nations today exist in a world of global interdependence. This means that people and nations must interact or depend upon one another, especially economically and politically. It also means that what happens in one nation or area of the world affects what happens in other places. Thus, our lives can be directly impacted not only by the decisions of foreign governments but also by the combined effect of billions of individual choices made by people across the world.

Global interdependence is increasing due to growing industrialization and rapid technological advances in manufacturing, transportation and telecommunications. In communications, the development of the Internet and the World Wide Web is linking billions of people and organizations across the globe. In the near future, half the world's population will have access to the Web.

Global interdependence is affecting highly developed as well as developing states. Canada, Mexico, and the United States are developing greater economic, political, and social ties through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), signed in 1993. At the same time, many developing states have become very dependent on the industrialized ones for economic aid, medical supplies and services, financial investment, assistance to cope with natural disasters, and military aid.

**Nonstate International Groups** Today's world is also home to nonstate groups that play a role in international politics. Some of these groups, such as terrorist groups and national liberation organizations, are politically motivated and often use violence to achieve their goals. Multinational corporations and international organizations are aimed at developing economic growth and making profits.

In recent decades, quasi-military organizations that use terrorism to gain their objectives have grown in international influence. Al-Qaeda, the group that staged the September 11, 2001, terrorist strikes against the United States, is one example. Al-Qaeda is composed mostly of Islamic radicals drawn largely from Middle Eastern countries. It operates on a global scale with a large budget and holds training centers in a number of countries around the world.

National liberation organizations aim to establish an independent state for a particular ethnic or religious group. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) is one example of a nationalist organization. The aim of the IRA is to integrate Ireland and Northern Ireland into a single country under one Irish government. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) claims to represent all Palestinians struggling to gain territory within the state of Israel as their own national homeland.

Multinational corporations are huge companies with offices and factories in many countries. The biggest of these firms have come to be called “stateless” corporations because they are so international in ownership, management, workforce, and areas of operations that it is impossible to identify them with any single nation.

International organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), are composed of many nations working together for common goals. The WTO, for example, seeks to improve economic development around the world. While they do not

have political sovereignty, they do carry out their activities on a global scale, selling their products worldwide and entering into agreements with foreign governments. Thus, multinational corporations influence international politics and the internal decisions of their host countries. Richard Holder, president of Reynolds Metals Company, explained that a global company is one that

*“ . . . operates as a worldwide, integrated system in which all operations, wherever they may be, are interdependent in terms of operations and strategies. Every decision . . . is considered in the light of a worldwide system. ”*

—Richard Holder, October 1989

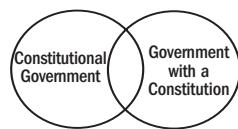
General Motors, American Telephone and Telegraph, Unilever, Nabisco, British Petroleum, Royal Dutch/Shell, Mitsubishi, and Sony are examples of global corporations that have attained worldwide economic importance.

Finally, the modern world includes many international organizations. These groups range from the United Nations (UN) to more specialized organizations such as the International Sugar Council and the Universal Postal Union. These organizations undertake a wide variety of tasks, often to serve the needs of member states. The World Meteorological Organization, for example, facilitates the exchange of weather information among states.

## Section 2 Assessment

### Checking for Understanding

- Main Idea** In a Venn diagram like the one below right, show the similarities and differences between a constitutional government and a government that merely has a constitution.
- Define** unitary system, federal system, confederacy, constitution, constitutional government, preamble, constitutional law, politics, industrialized nation, developing nation.
- Identify** *The Federalist*.
- Analyze how events in the Middle East illustrate economic interdependence.



### Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** James Madison wanted to prevent “factions,” or special interest groups. Would it be possible to have government without interest groups? Explain.

### Concepts IN ACTION

- Global Perspectives** Choose five foreign nations and find out about each nation’s basic structure of government. When was its constitution adopted? Is the government democratic? Obtain information from a local library or on the Internet.

# Types of Government

## Reader's Guide

### Key Terms

autocracy, monarchy, oligarchy, democracy, republic, political party, free enterprise

### Find Out

- What are the main characteristics of a democracy?
- Why is free enterprise conducive to the growth and preservation of democracy?

### Understanding Concepts

**Cultural Pluralism** How does a representative democracy provide a good government for diverse peoples?

### COVER STORY

## Democracy Assaulted

BEIJING, CHINA, JUNE 1989

Some 10,000 Chinese troops surprised sleeping protesters in Tiananmen Square early this morning. The brutal assault, one of the worst days of bloodshed in Communist China's history, came after seven weeks of demonstrations by students calling for democracy. The protesters scattered in terror as soldiers sprayed them with automatic weapons fire. Once government forces gained control of the 100-acre square, they used a tank to crush the Goddess of Democracy, a 33-foot plaster and styrofoam statue that students had erected. The Chinese Red Cross put the death toll at almost 2,600.



The “Goddess of Democracy”

The United States has established a representative democracy that serves as a model for government and inspires people around the world. Students in China in 1989 marched for “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Today democracies outnumber all other forms of government.

Over the centuries, people have organized their governments in many different ways. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the ruling royal family controls the government and its resources. Family members choose the king from among themselves. Thousands of miles away, in Burkina Faso in Africa, a small group of wealthy landowners and military officers governs that country. In Sweden the people elect the *Riksdag*, the national legislature, which in turn selects the prime minister to carry out the laws.

## Major Types of Government



Governments can be classified in many ways. The most time-honored system comes from the ideas of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. It is based on a key question: Who governs the state? Under this system of classification, all governments belong to one of three major groups: (1) autocracy—rule by one person; (2) oligarchy—rule by a few persons; or (3) democracy—rule by many persons.

**Autocracy** Any system of government in which the power and authority to rule are in the hands of a single individual is an **autocracy**. This is the oldest and one of the most common forms of government. Historically, most autocrats have maintained their positions of authority by inheritance or the ruthless use of military or police power. Several forms of autocracy exist. One is an absolute or **totalitarian dictatorship**. In a totalitarian dictatorship, the ideas of a single leader are glorified. The government seeks to control all

aspects of social and economic life. Examples of totalitarian dictatorship include Adolf Hitler's government in Nazi Germany (from 1933 to 1945), Benito Mussolini's rule in Italy (from 1922 to 1943), and Joseph Stalin's regime in the Soviet Union (from 1924 to 1953). In such dictatorships, government is not responsible to the people, and the people lack the power to limit their rulers.

**Monarchy** is another form of autocratic government. In a monarchy a king, queen, or emperor exercises the supreme powers of government. Monarchs usually inherit their positions. **Absolute monarchs** have complete and unlimited power to rule their people. The king of Saudi Arabia, for example, is such an absolute monarch. Absolute monarchs are rare today, but from the 1400s to the 1700s, kings or queens with absolute powers ruled most of Western Europe.

Today some countries, such as Great Britain, Sweden, Japan, and the Netherlands, have **constitutional monarchs**. These monarchs share governmental powers with elected legislatures or serve mainly as the ceremonial leaders of their governments.

**Oligarchy** An **oligarchy** is any system of government in which a small group holds power. The group derives its power from wealth, military power, social position, or a combination of these elements. Sometimes religion is the source of power. Today the governments of Communist countries, such as China, are mostly oligarchies. In such countries, leaders in the Communist Party and the armed forces control the government.

Both dictatorships and oligarchies sometimes claim they rule for the people. Such governments may try to give the appearance of control by the people. For example, they might hold elections, but offer only one candidate, or control the election results in other ways. Such governments may also have some type of legislature or national assembly elected by or representing the people. These legislatures, however, approve only policies and decisions already made by the leaders. As in a

## French Dictator



**Absolute Power** Artist Jacques-Louis David depicts absolute ruler and military leader Napoleon Bonaparte in *Napoleon Crossing the Great St. Bernard* in the late 1790s.

**Why do you think dictators control their national armies and police forces?**

dictatorship, oligarchies usually suppress all political opposition—sometimes ruthlessly.

**Democracy** A **democracy** is any system of government in which rule is by the people. The term *democracy* comes from the Greek *demos* (meaning “the people”) and *kratia* (meaning “rule”). The ancient Greeks used the word *democracy* to mean government by the many in contrast to government by the few. Pericles, a great leader of ancient Athens, declared, “Our constitution is named a democracy because it is in the hands not of the few, but of the many.”

The key idea of democracy is that the people hold sovereign power. Abraham Lincoln captured this spirit best when he described democracy as “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”



## COMPARING Governments

### Government Systems

Country	GOVERNMENT POWER	TYPE OF GOVERNMENT			
		Unitary	Federal	Democracy	Dictatorship
Chile	Unitary	★			
China	Unitary	★			★
Cuba	Unitary	★			
India	Federal		★		
Japan	Unitary	★			
South Africa			★		
Syria	Unitary	★			
United States			★		

Source: Clement, Clement's Encyclopedia of World Governments (Dallas: Political Research Inc., 1996).

**Critical Thinking** The United States is one of many countries with a democratic type of government. *What is the difference between a democracy and an oligarchy?*

Democracy may take one of two forms. In a **direct democracy**, the people govern themselves by voting on issues individually as citizens. Direct democracy exists only in very small societies where citizens can actually meet regularly to discuss and decide key issues and problems. Direct democracy is still found in some New England town meetings and in some of the smaller states, called *cantons*, of Switzerland. No country today, however, has a government based on direct democracy.

In an indirect or **representative democracy**, the people elect representatives and give them the responsibility and power to make laws and conduct government. An assembly of the people's representatives may be called a council, a legislature, a congress, or a parliament. Representative democracy is

practiced in cities, states, provinces, and countries where the population is too large to meet regularly in one place. It is the most efficient way to ensure that the rights of individual citizens, who are part of a large group, are represented.

In a **republic**, voters are the source of the government's authority. Elected representatives who are responsible to the people exercise that power. As Benjamin Franklin was leaving the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, a woman approached him and asked, "What kind of government have you given us, Dr. Franklin? A republic or a monarchy?" Franklin answered, "A republic, Madam, if you can keep it." Franklin's response indicated that the Founders preferred a republic over a monarchy but that a republic requires citizen participation.

For most Americans today, the terms *representative democracy*, *republic*, and *constitutional republic* mean the same thing: a system of limited government where the people are the ultimate source of governmental authority. It should be understood, however, that throughout the world not every democracy is a republic. Great Britain, for example, is a democracy but not a

republic because it has a constitutional monarch as its head of state.

### Characteristics of Democracy

 Today some nations of the world misuse the word *democracy*. Many countries call their governments "democratic" or "republican" whether they really are or not. The government of North Korea, for example, is an oligarchy, because a small number of Communist Party leaders run the government. Yet their country is called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. A true democratic government, as opposed to one that only uses the term *democratic* in its name, has characteristics that distinguish it from other forms of government.

**Individual Liberty** No individual, of course, can be completely free to do absolutely anything he or she wants. That would result in chaos. Rather, democracy requires that all people be as free as possible to develop their own capacities. Government in a democracy works to promote the kind of equality in which all people have an equal opportunity to develop their talents to the fullest extent possible.

## Majority Rule with Minority Rights

Democracy also requires that government decisions be based on majority rule. In a democracy people usually accept decisions made by the majority of voters in a free election. Representative democracy means that laws enacted in the legislatures represent the will of the majority of lawmakers. Because these lawmakers are elected by the people, the laws are accepted by the people.

At the same time, the American concept of democracy includes a concern about the possible tyranny of the majority. The Constitution helps ensure that the rights of individuals in the minority will be protected.

Respect for minority rights can be difficult to maintain, especially when society is under great

stress. For example, during World War II, the government imprisoned more than 100,000 Japanese Americans in relocation camps because it feared they would be disloyal. The relocation program caused severe hardships for many Japanese Americans and deprived them of their basic liberties. Even so, the program was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1944 in *Korematsu v. United States*<sup>1</sup> and in one other similar case.



### Landmark Cases

#### ***Endo v. United States***

In the same year as the *Korematsu* case, the Supreme Court did uphold the rights of Mitsuye Endo. A native-born citizen, Endo was fired from a California state job in 1942 and sent to a relocation center. Her lawyer challenged the War Relocation Authority's right to detain a loyal American citizen. The case finally reached the Supreme Court in 1944.

On the day after the exclusionary order was revoked by the military commander, the Court



See the following footnoted materials in the Reference Handbook:

1. *Korematsu v. United States* case summary, page 760.

## Relocation and Discrimination

**Civil Liberties** More than 70,000 of the people of Japanese descent interned during World War II were *Nisei*, or American-born. **What kind of recompense did internment victims receive in the 1980s?**



ruled that Mitsuye Endo could no longer be held in custody. Justice Frank Murphy wrote:

*“Detention in Relocation Centers of people of Japanese ancestry regardless of loyalty is not only unauthorized by Congress or the Executive, but is another example of the unconstitutional resort to racism inherent in the entire evacuation program. . . . Racial discrimination of this nature bears no reasonable relation to military necessity and is utterly foreign to the ideals and traditions of American people.”*

—Justice Frank Murphy, 1944

In recent years the wartime relocation program has been criticized as a denial of individual rights and as proof that tyranny can occur in even the most democratic societies. In 1988 Congress acknowledged the “grave injustice” of the relocation experience and offered payments of \$20,000 to those Japanese Americans still living who had been relocated.



## Participating IN GOVERNMENT

### Determining the Social Consensus

Democracy depends, in part, on a social consensus. Certain ideas, values, and beliefs that are shared by a great majority of people help to support and stabilize democratic governments. What are the key elements in the social consensus of your community?

Survey a variety of people asking whether they agree or disagree with the following:

1. Everyone should be given an opportunity for a free public education.



Analyzing survey results

**Free Elections** As we have seen, democratic governments receive their legitimacy by the consent of the governed. The authority to create and run the government rests with the people. All genuine democracies have free and open elections. Free elections give people the chance to choose their leaders and to voice their opinions on various issues. Free elections also help ensure that public officials pay attention to the wishes of the people.

In a democracy several characteristics mark free elections. First, everyone's vote carries the same weight—a principle often expressed in the phrase **“one person, one vote.”** Second, all candidates have the right to express their views freely, giving voters access to competing ideas. Third, citizens are free to help candidates or support issues. Fourth, the legal requirements for voting, such as age, residence, and citizenship, are kept to a minimum. Thus, racial, ethnic, religious, or other discriminatory tests cannot be used to restrict voting. Fifth, citizens may vote freely by secret ballot, without coercion or fear of punishment for their voting decisions.

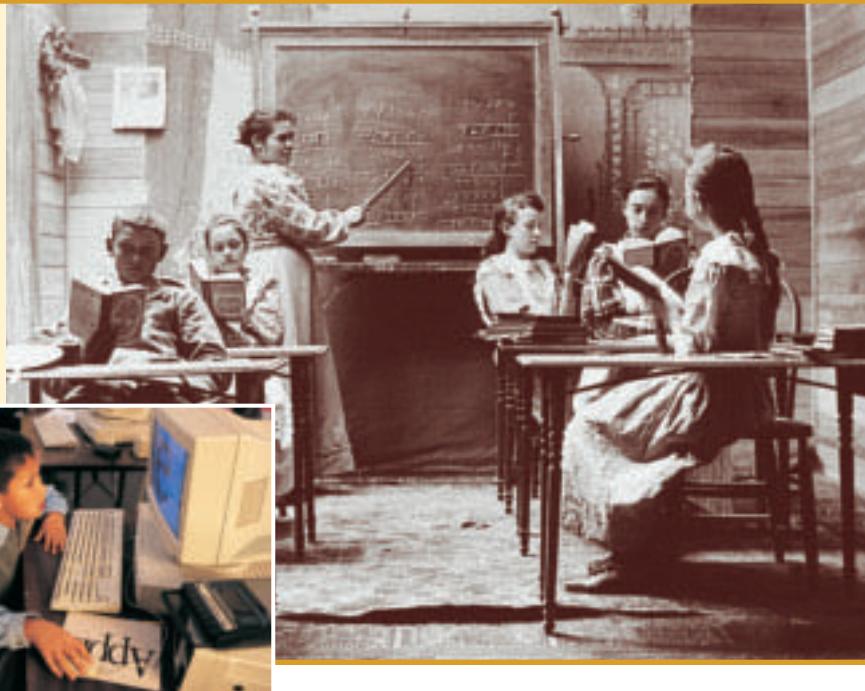
2. Burning the American flag as a symbol of protest should be made unconstitutional.
3. Freedom of speech includes the right to lie on your income tax form.
4. Wealthy people should pay a higher percentage of taxes than low-income people.
5. Anyone who dumps trash on public property should be fined.
6. Scientists should not be permitted to use animals for experiments.

### Activity

Compile the results of your survey. Analyze the data and create a poster that illustrates the social consensus of your survey group. Be sure your poster includes charts and graphs that display the survey results.

## Prerequisites of Democracy: An Educated Public

**Past** As the nation grew, standards and methods of education also expanded. A teacher at a school in Nebraska teaches a multiplication lesson in 1895.



**Present** Today students use computer technology to develop skills needed in modern society.

**Civic Participation**  
*Why would democracy more likely thrive in a country with an educated public?*



**Competing Political Parties** Political parties are an important element of democratic government. A **political party** is a group of individuals with broad common interests who organize to nominate candidates for office, win elections, conduct government, and determine public policy. In the United States, while any number of political parties may compete, a two-party system in which the Republicans and the Democrats have become the major political parties has developed.

Rival parties help make elections meaningful. They give voters a choice among candidates. They also help simplify and focus attention on key issues for voters. Finally, in democratic countries, the political party or parties that are out of power serve as a “loyal opposition.” That is, by criticizing the policies and actions of the party in power, they can help make those in power more responsible to the people.

## The Soil of Democracy

 Historically, few nations have practiced democracy. One reason may be that real democracy seems to require a special environment. Democratic government is more likely to

succeed in countries which to some degree meet five general criteria that reflect the quality of life of citizens.

**Active Citizen Participation** Democracy requires citizens who are willing to participate in civic life. Countries in which citizens are able to inform themselves about issues, to vote in elections, to serve on juries, to work for candidates, and to run for government office are more likely to maintain a strong democracy than countries where citizens do not participate fully in their government.

**A Favorable Economy** Democracy succeeds more in countries that do not have extremes of wealth and poverty and that have a large middle class. The opportunity to control one's economic decisions provides a base for making independent political decisions. In the United States this concept is called **free enterprise**. If people do not have control of their economic lives, they will not likely be free to make political decisions.

Countries with stable, growing economies seem better able to support democratic government. In the past, autocrats who promised citizens jobs and food have toppled many democratic

governments during times of severe economic depression. People who are out of work or unable to feed their families often become more concerned about security than about voting or exercising other political rights.

**Widespread Education** Democracy is more likely to succeed in countries with an educated public. The debate over public education in America was settled in the 1830s. For example, in 1835 Pennsylvania voted to fund public schools. Thaddeus Stevens, speaking to the Pennsylvania state legislature in favor of the funding legislation, said:

*“If an elective republic is to endure for any great length of time, every elector must have sufficient information . . . to direct wisely the legislature, the ambassadors, and the executive of the nation. . . . [I]t is the duty of government to see that the means of information be diffused to every citizen.”*

—Thaddeus Stevens, April 1835

**Strong Civil Society** Democracy is not possible without a **civil society**, a complex network of voluntary associations, economic groups, religious organizations, and many other kinds of groups that exist independently of government. The United States has thousands of such organizations—the Red Cross, the Humane Society, the Sierra

Club, the National Rifle Association, your local church and newspaper, labor unions, and business groups. These organizations give citizens a way to make their views known to government officials and the general public. They also give citizens a means to take responsibility for protecting their rights, and they give everyone a chance to learn about democracy by participating in it.

**A Social Consensus** Democracy also prosters where most people accept democratic values such as individual liberty and equality for all. Such countries are said to have a **social consensus**. There also must be general agreement about the purpose and limits of government.

History shows that conditions in the American colonies favored the growth of democracy. Many individuals had an opportunity to get ahead economically. The American colonists were among the most educated people of the world at the time. Thomas Jefferson remarked that Americans

*“. . . seem to have deposited the monarchial and taken up the republican government with as much ease as . . . [they] would throwing off an old and putting on a new suit of clothes.”*

—Thomas Jefferson, 1776

The English heritage provided a consensus of political and social values. In time, the benefits of democracy would extend to all Americans.

### Section 3 Assessment

#### Checking for Understanding

1. **Main Idea** In a graphic organizer similar to the one below, show who rules the state in each of Aristotle's three classifications of government.

Classification	Ruler(s)

2. **Define** autocracy, monarchy, oligarchy, democracy, republic, political party, free enterprise.  
3. **Identify** “one person, one vote.”  
4. What characteristics of democracy distinguish it from other forms of government?

#### Critical Thinking

5. **Distinguishing Fact from Opinion** Suppose you are assigned to interview the president of the Republic of Mauritania. What questions would help you determine if democracy exists there?

### Concepts IN ACTION

**Cultural Pluralism** How well are the will of the majority and the rights of minorities being preserved in the United States? Ask several people their opinions. Come to class prepared to share your findings.

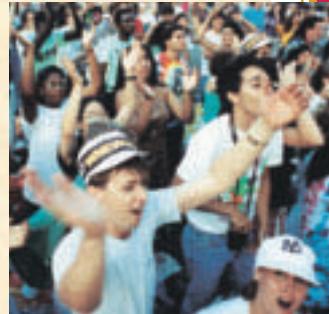


## Supreme Court CASES TO DEBATE

*free speech. At the same time, a legitimate purpose of government is to maintain public order, including protecting citizens from unwelcome and excessive noise. Does the First Amendment allow a city to regulate the sound level at rock concerts held in a public park? The case of Ward v. Rock Against Racism addressed this question.*

### **Ward v. Rock Against Racism, 1989**

*The Constitution limits the power of government to restrict*



**Students enjoying a Central Park concert**

#### **Background of the Case**

Rock concerts are regularly held in New York City's Central Park. Area residents had complained of too much noise at some events. At other events audiences said the sound was not loud enough. In 1986 the city passed a regulation requiring groups performing in the park to use a sound system provided and operated by the city.

Rock Against Racism, an anti-racist rock group, had sponsored annual concerts in Central Park and had always provided their own sound equipment and sound technician. Rock Against Racism charged that the city regulation violated their rights to free speech under the First Amendment. The group won a lower federal court case. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case in 1989.

#### **The Constitutional Issue**

Music has long been considered a form of protected speech under the First Amendment. However,

the courts do allow governments to make regulations that may incidentally limit speech in an effort to accomplish a legitimate purpose of government. Thus, in several cases the Supreme Court had said that the governments can limit the time, place, and manner of speech if the aim is not to censor the content of the speech but to help further such interests as health and safety. To be constitutional, however, such regulations must not be directed at the content of the speech.

Rock Against Racism argued that the regulation violated the First Amendment by giving city officials artistic control over performers in the park. The group claimed the regulation was not narrowly focused and gave city officials the chance to select poor equipment or to modify the sound if they did not like the message. The city responded that it had a legitimate purpose in protecting citizens from excessive noise and that its guidelines were focused on controlling noise levels in a way that was fair to the audience, the performers, and citizens living nearby.

#### **Debating the Case**

##### **Questions to Consider**

- Was the regulation a proper exercise of the government's power to maintain order, or was it a violation of the First Amendment?
- If officials did not like the message in the music, could they use the regulation to control the content?

##### **You Be the Judge**

The courts have established that governments may enforce regulations that incidentally limit speech if the regulation serves a legitimate government interest. What was the city's goal in drawing up the regulation? Was there another, less intrusive way the city could have handled this issue?

# Economic Theories

## Reader's Guide

### Key Terms

economics, capitalism, free market, laissez-faire, socialism, bourgeoisie, proletariat, communism, command economy

### Find Out

- In what three ways has the United States modified its free enterprise system?
- According to Karl Marx, what was the ultimate goal of true communism?

### Understanding Concepts

**Free Enterprise** What features of the American economy provide incentive for people to achieve economic goals?

### COVER STORY

## Teen Entrepreneurs

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 17, 2000

Instead of yard work this summer, Mark Michael, Ryan Robinson, and Charlie Cannon decided to make big money. They started their own dot-com travel company and plan to earn \$3 million in the next year.

Michael has been clipping *Wall Street Journal* stories about young entrepreneurs since the ninth grade. "I've read them a million times," he says. Cannon researched the Web for travel-related sites. Robinson designed the Web pages, and Michael called companies to sell on-site ads. On July 1 they launched bopLOP.com with over 2,100 links to travel-related Web sites. "We are the only (search engine) that has actually 100 percent travel," Cannon says.



The bopLOP.com logo

Selling advertising, providing a service or product to meet a demand, paying wages and taxes—these are economic activities. **Economics** can be defined as the study of human efforts to satisfy seemingly unlimited wants through the use of limited resources. Resources include natural materials such as land, water, minerals, and trees. Resources also include such human factors as skills, knowledge, and physical capabilities. There are never enough resources to produce all the goods and services people could possibly want. Therefore, people in every nation must decide how these resources are to be used. Governments generally regulate this economic activity.

## The Role of Economic Systems



Governments around the world provide for many kinds of economic systems. All economic systems, however, must make three major economic decisions: (1) what and how much should be produced; (2) how goods and services should be produced; and (3) who gets the goods and services that are produced. Each major type of economic system in the world—capitalism, socialism, and communism—answers these questions differently.

### Capitalism



At one end of the spectrum is an economic system in which freedom of choice and individual incentive for workers, investors, consumers, and business enterprises is emphasized. The government assumes that society will be best served by any productive economic activity that free individuals choose. This system is usually referred to as free enterprise, or **capitalism**. Pure capitalism has five main characteristics: (1) private ownership and control of property and economic resources; (2) free enterprise; (3) competition among businesses; (4) freedom of choice; and (5) the possibility of profits.

## Tools of Capitalism

**Free Enterprise** Teens possess increased buying power and are a target audience for businesses.

**How does the free enterprise system contribute to the idea of individual rights and freedoms?**



**Adam Smith**



**Origins of Capitalism** No one person invented the idea of capitalism. It developed gradually from the economic and political changes in medieval and early modern Europe over hundreds of years. Two important concepts laid the foundation for the market system that is at the heart of capitalism. First is the idea that people could work for economic gain. Second is the idea that wealth should be used aggressively.

Major changes in the economic organization of Europe began with the opening of trade routes to the East in the thirteenth century. As trade increased, people began to invest money to make profits. By the eighteenth century, Europe had national states, a wealthy middle class familiar with money and markets, and a new attitude toward work and wealth. Included in this new attitude were the ideas of progress, invention, and the free market. The **free market** meant that buyers and sellers were free to make unlimited economic decisions in the marketplace.

In 1776 **Adam Smith**, a Scottish philosopher and economist, provided a philosophy for this new system. Smith described capitalism in his book *The Wealth of Nations*.<sup>1</sup> From the writings of Smith

and others came the basic idea of laissez-faire economics. **Laissez-faire**, a French term, means “to let alone.” According to this philosophy, government should keep its hands off the economy. In laissez-faire economics, the government’s role is strictly limited to those few actions needed to ensure free competition in the marketplace.

In theory, what does a free-enterprise economy mean? In a free-enterprise or pure market economy, economic decisions are made by buyers (consumers) and sellers (producers). Sellers own businesses that produce goods or services. Buyers pay for those goods and services that they believe best fit their needs. Thus, the answer to the question of what to produce is determined in the marketplace by the actions of buyers and sellers, rather than by the government.

Competition plays a key role in a free-enterprise economy. Sellers compete with one another to produce goods and services at reasonable prices. Sellers also compete for resources. At the same time, consumers compete with one another to buy what they want and need. These same consumers in their roles as workers try to sell their skills and labor for the best wages or salaries they can get.

See the following footnoted materials in the Reference Handbook:  
1. *The Wealth of Nations*, page 807.

**Free Enterprise in the United States** No nation in the world has a pure capitalist system. The United States, however, is a leading example of a capitalist system in which the government plays a role. For the most part, the government's main economic task has been to preserve the free market. The national government has always regulated American foreign trade, and it has always owned some property. Nevertheless, the government has tried to encourage business competition and private property ownership.

**Governmental Influence** Since the early 1900s, however, the national government's influence on the economy of the United States has increased in several ways. First, as the nation's government has grown, it has become the single largest buyer of goods and services in the country. Second, since the early 1900s, the United States government has increasingly regulated the economy for various purposes. The Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act were early attempts by government to protect the consumer. Since then, many laws have been passed giving the government a role in such areas as labor-management relations, the regulation of environmental pollution, and control over many banking and investment practices.

Third, the Great Depression of the 1930s left millions of Americans without jobs. The national government set up the Social Security system, programs to aid the unemployed, and a variety of social programs. In addition, the government began to set up public corporations like the Tennessee Valley Authority that competed directly with private companies to provide services such as electricity.

**Mixed-Market Economy** Today the American economy and others like it are described by economists as **mixed-market economies**. A mixed-market economy is an economy in which free enterprise is combined with and supported by government decisions in the marketplace. Government keeps competition free and fair and protects the public interest.

Even though it is a mixed-market economy, the American economic system is rooted deeply in the idea of individual initiative—that each person knows what is best for himself or herself. Further, it respects the right of all persons to own private

property. Finally, it recognizes that freedom to make economic choices is a part of the freedom of political choice.

## Socialism

 Under the second type of economic system—**socialism**—the government owns the basic means of production, determines the use of resources, distributes the products and wages, and provides social services such as education, health care, and welfare. Socialism has three main goals: (1) the distribution of wealth and economic opportunity equally among people; (2) society's control, through its government, of all major decisions about production; and (3) public ownership of most land, of factories, and of other means of production.

The basic ideas behind modern socialism began to develop in the nineteenth century. Industrialization in Europe caused several problems. A class of low-paid workers lived in terrible poverty, slums grew in cities, and working conditions were miserable. In reaction to these problems, some socialists rejected capitalism and favored violent revolution. Others planned and built socialist communities where laborers were supposed to share equally in the benefits of industrial production.

**Democratic Socialism** The socialists who believed in peaceful changes wanted to work within the democratic political system to improve economic conditions, under a system called **democratic socialism**. Under this system the people have basic human rights and have some control over government officials through free elections and multiparty systems. However, the government owns the basic means of production and makes most economic decisions.

Tanzania, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden today operate under a form of democratic socialism. The government controls steel mills, shipyards, railroads, and airlines. It also provides services such as health and medical care.

Opponents of socialism say that it stifles individual initiative. They also claim that socialist nations' high tax rates hinder economic growth. Further, some people argue that, because socialism requires increased governmental regulation, it helps create big government and thus may lead to dictatorship.

## Communism

 Karl Marx (1818–1883), a German thinker and writer, was a socialist who advocated violent revolution. After studying the conditions of his time, he concluded that the capitalist system would collapse. He first published his ideas in 1848 in a pamphlet called *The Communist Manifesto*. He later expanded his ideas in his book called *Das Kapital* (1867). Marx believed that in industrialized nations the population is divided into capitalists, or the **bourgeoisie** who own the means of production, and workers, or the **proletariat**, who work to produce the goods. Capitalists are a ruling class because they use their economic power to force their will on the workers. The workers, Marx argued, do not receive full compensation for their labor because the owners keep the profits from the goods the workers make. Marx believed that wages in a capitalist system would never rise above a subsistence level—just enough for workers to survive.

**Class Struggles** Marx interpreted all human history as a class struggle between the workers and the owners of the means of production. Friedrich Engels, a close associate of Marx, wrote:

**“Former society, moving in class antagonisms, had need of a state, that is, an organization of the exploiting class at each period for the maintenance of external conditions of production: . . . for the forcible holding down of the exploited class in the conditions of oppression.”**

—Friedrich Engels

Marx predicted that, as time passed, a smaller and smaller group of capitalists would control all means of production and, hence, all wealth. Eventually the workers would rise in violent revolution and overthrow the capitalists. The goal of this revolution was government ownership of the means of production and distribution.

Glorification of the Proletariat



**Comparative Government** This painting, *The Cultivation of Cotton* by Aleksandr Volkov, is a propaganda piece exalting workers and the virtues of hard work. **Analyze the message this painting is supposed to send to citizens laboring under a Communist government.**

Karl Marx first called his own ideas “scientific socialism.” He believed that in time, socialism would develop into full communism. Under **communism** one class would evolve, property would all be held in common, and there would be no need for government.

In *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx not only wrote that economic events would finally lead to communism by means of revolution, but in fact encouraged it:

**“In short, Communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things. . . . Let the ruling class tremble at the Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. Working men of all countries, unite! ”**  
—Karl Marx, 1848



Karl Marx

## Communism as a Command Economy

In Communist nations, government planners decide how much to produce, what to produce, and how to distribute the goods and services produced. This system is called a **command economy** because decisions are made at the upper levels of government and handed down to managers. In

Communist countries this means that the state owns the land, natural resources, industry, banks, and transportation facilities. The state also controls mass communication including newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and motion picture production.

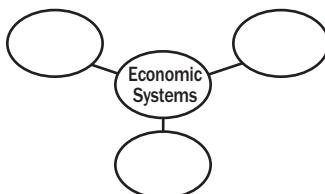
Many nations have developed their own styles of communism. The economy is a full-time responsibility of the People’s Republic of China, for example. Government planners adopted a five-year plan that agreed with the goals of the Communist Party. The plan specified, for example, how many new housing units would be produced over the next five years. It also dictated where this housing would be built, what kinds of materials would be used, who would be eligible to live in the new housing, and how much rent they would pay. Such planning removed economic freedom from individual builders, but also political freedom from consumers who were told where to live.

Because Communist countries sometimes fail to provide adequate standards of living, these governments have had to choose between change and revolt by the people. China has begun to loosen its controls and decentralize some business decisions.

## Section 4 Assessment

### Checking for Understanding

- Main Idea** In a graphic organizer similar to the one at the right, identify three functions of economic systems.
- Define** economics, capitalism, free market, laissez-faire, socialism, bourgeoisie, proletariat, communism, command economy.
- Identify** Adam Smith, Karl Marx.
- What did Marx believe would happen in a true communist economy?



### Critical Thinking

- Making Inferences** What ideas presented by Karl Marx appealed to people in nations where wealth was unevenly distributed?

### Concepts IN ACTION

**Free Enterprise** Competition is an important factor in the United States economy. Find advertisements in newspapers that illustrate various kinds of competition. Display these ads on a bulletin board. Should the government regulate prices? Why or why not?

# Skills

## Critical Thinking

# Identifying Central Issues

Identifying central issues is finding the key themes, or major ideas, in a body of information. Central issues are the framework that holds a body of information together.

### Learning the Skill

To identify a central issue:

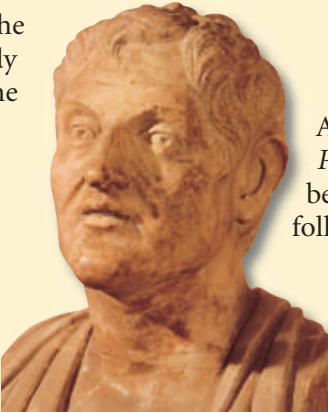
1. Find out the setting and purpose of the selection.
2. Skim the material to identify its general subject.
3. Read the information to pinpoint the ideas that the details support.
4. Identify the central issue. Ask: What part of the material conveys the main idea?

Read the following excerpt from a speech by Pericles honoring the soldiers of Athens.

**“**Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law, when it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses. . . . And, just as our political life is free and open, so is our day-to-day life in our relations with each other.**”**

—Thucydides, from *The History of the Peloponnesian Wars*, 400s B.C.

Pericles emphasizes equality before the law, ability as the basis of public service, and freedom. The central issue: Athens is a democracy.



Aristotle (384–322 B.C.)

### Practicing the Skill

Aristotle, a philosopher from Athens, wrote about government in *Politics*. Read the excerpt from *Politics* below and answer the questions that follow.

**“**The basis of a democratic state is liberty; which, according to the common opinion of men, can only be enjoyed in such a state:—this they affirm to be the great end of every democracy. One principle of liberty is for all to rule and be ruled in turn . . . whence it follows that the majority must be supreme, and that whatever the majority approve must be the end and the just. Every citizen, it is said, must have equality, and therefore in a democracy the poor have more power than the rich, because there are more of them.**”**

—Aristotle

1. According to Aristotle, which group holds the most power in a democracy?
2. Summarize the central issue in one sentence.

### Application Activity

Bring to class a news article that deals with some governmental issue. Identify the central issue and explain why it is important.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

# Assessment and Activities



**Self-Check Quiz** Visit the *United States Government: Democracy in Action* Web site at [gov.glencoe.com](http://gov.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 1—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

## Reviewing Key Terms

Insert the terms below into the following paragraph to describe the nature of government and differing political and economic systems. Each term should be used only once.

constitution, sovereignty, democracy, communism, autocracy, capitalism, state, free market, republic, command economy

Every (1) has a form of government that has (2) within its territorial boundaries. A (3) is a government of and by the people that may have a (4) that

protects the rights of the people—unlike an (5) that concentrates power in the hands of one person. The United States is a (6) with elected representation. It has a mixed economy based on (7). The (8) allows buyers and sellers to make economic decisions about what to produce, how much to produce, and who gets the goods and services produced. In contrast, under (9), the People's Republic of China and other states have operated a (10) with government planning.

## Recalling Facts

1. Why did the thirteen British colonies in America become known as “states”?
2. What system of government divides power among different levels rather than giving all power to a central government?
3. Describe three kinds of nonstate groups that influence national politics.
4. How is a direct democracy different from a representative democracy?
5. What is the role of government in a laissez-faire economic system?

## Chapter Summary

### Purposes of Government

- Maintain social order
- Provide public services
- Provide national security
- Make economic decisions

### Government Systems

- Unitary System—National or central government holds all key powers
- Federal System—Power is divided between the national government and state or provincial governments

### Characteristics of Democracy

- Individual liberty
- Majority rule with minority rights
- Free elections
- Competing political parties

### Economic Theories

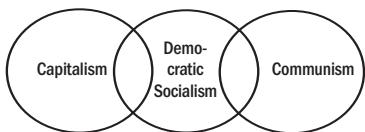
- Capitalism—Emphasis on freedom of choice and individual incentive
- Socialism—Government owns means of production, decides how to use resources, and distributes wealth equally among people
- Communism—No social classes; all property is held in common; government is unnecessary

## Understanding Concepts

- 1. Public Policy** List the major advantages of living under a constitutional government.
- 2. Global Perspectives** Which of the following ideas do you perceive to be the most powerful force in the world today: communism, socialism, or capitalism? Explain.

## Critical Thinking

- 1. Understanding Cause and Effect** Why is widespread educational opportunity necessary for a nation to develop a democratic system?
- 2. Making Comparisons** In a Venn diagram like the one below, show how capitalism, democratic socialism, and communism are alike and different.



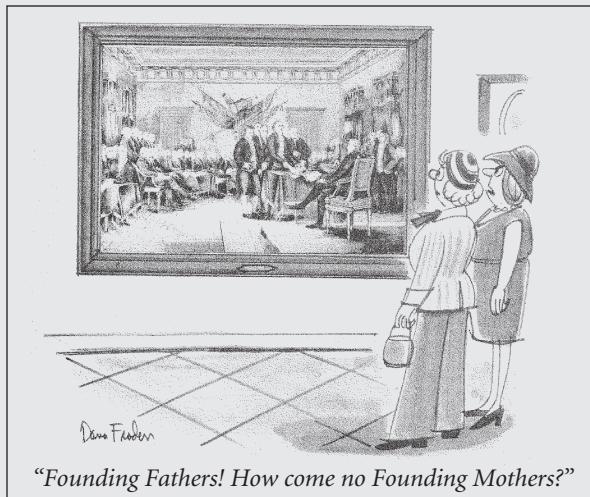
## Analyzing Primary Sources

The Declaration of Independence is not part of the U.S. Constitution and is not considered a legal document upon which the government of the United States is based. It did, however, did put into simple terms the reasons why the original 13 colonies were seeking to form their own nation. Read the excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

*"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. . . .*

*That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government . . . as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."*

## Interpreting Political Cartoons Activity



*"Founding Fathers! How come no Founding Mothers?"*

- What is the subject of the painting in the cartoon?
- According to the painting, who were the Founders of the United States?
- What message is the cartoonist trying to communicate?
- Do you think women influenced the creation of the United States government? Why or why not?

- How does the Declaration of Independence echo the ideas of John Locke?
- Why do you think the Founders did not include the Declaration of Independence within the constitutional plans for the new federal government?

## Participating in Local Government

Constitutions provide a plan for organizing and operating governments. What plan provides the rules for your local government? Does your local government operate under a constitution? Contact a local government official to find out about the basic plan of your city or town. Where did it originate? Present your findings in a diagram to share with the class.

