

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

Thomas Jefferson was the 3rd President of the US, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the most influential Founding Fathers for his promotion of the ideals of republicanism in the US. 36

Boston Tea Party was a direct action by colonists in Boston against the British government. They boarded on the ships and threw the tea which belonged to the East India Company into Boston Harbor. It was a significant event in the growth of the American Revolution. 46

Slavery was an institution in the US and was practiced throughout the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries. People known as slaves, especially Black people, were deprived of freedom and compelled to work. Slavery was a legal institution until the Thirteenth Amendment abolished it in 1865. 48

Civil War was a war fought to preserve the Union from 1861 to 1865 between the North and the eleven southern states that seceded from the Union to form a separate Confederate nation. The northern victory restored the Union and helped to quicken America's transformation into a modern nation. 49

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the US, leading the country through the Civil War. In doing so, he played an important role in preserving the Union, abolishing slavery, strengthening the federal government and promoting the economy and modernization. 40

Gilded Age, between the Civil War and the start of the 20th century, was an era of rapid economic growth. It was an era of material comfort for the middle and upper classes but hopelessness and hardship for other Americans, the laborers who had made the growth possible failed to share its prosperity. 53

Depression Era was an era of a severe worldwide economic depression which originated in the US when the stock market crashed. It brought physical and psychological hardship to all classes of Americans. The negative effects of the Depression lasted until the beginning of World War II. 46

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the US and the only president elected to four terms. He was a central figure in world events during the mid-20th century, leading the US during a time of worldwide economic depression and total war. 43

CHAPTER TWO THE CONSTITUTION AND THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Legislative article is the longest of all articles. It says that **only Congress has the power to make laws and defines its two-chamber system**. The Senate consists of 100 members (two from each state) while the House of Representatives consists of 435, which was fixed by Congress in 1929. 49

Executive article establishes the Electoral College, describes the president's term of office, the qualification for becoming president, and the president's duties and powers such as negotiating foreign treaties and vetoing. It also puts the president at the head of law enforcement for the national government. 45

Judicial article is about **the court system and is vague on purpose**. The Constitution makes every effort to keep the courts independent of the legislature and the president. The judicial branch can be checked by Congress through its power to create and eliminate lower federal courts. 46

Separation of powers is **the division of the law-making, law-enforcing, and law-interpreting powers among independent legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government**. It is designed to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful. 33

Checks and balances maintain **the balance of power between the three branches of government**. The Constitutional system of checks and balances means that **each branch of government scrutinizes and restrains the other branches so as to prevent one branch from ignoring or overpowering the others**. 45

Federalist papers are a collection of 85 articles and essays advocating the ratification of the Constitution. **They are a primary source for interpretation of the Constitution and remain the best single commentary ever existed on the meaning of the Constitution**. 40

James Madison, the 4th President of the US, was hailed as **the "Father of the Constitution"** for his pivotal role in drafting and promoting the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He also wrote the Federalist Papers with Alexander Hamilton. 41

Alexander Hamilton was **the 1st US Secretary of the Treasury, the Founding Father of the US and the founder of the Federalist Party**. He called for a powerful central government and co-wrote the Federalist Papers. 35

Republicanism: A republican government is one in which **people elect representatives to govern**. People vote for members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and for members of the Electoral College who, in turn, choose the president. **Republicanism is to avoid aristocracy and monarchy**. 45

Federalism is **the division of power between a central government and state units**. The Constitution specified the powers of the national government and the powers that were denied to the states. All other powers belonged to the states. But the final authority lies with the national government. 47

Two-chamber system means that **Congress is divided into two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives**. The Senate consists of 100 members (two from each state) while the House of Representatives consists of 435 members. The number of Representatives from each state is determined by the state's population. 50

CHAPTER THREE THE AMENDMENTS

Bill of Rights is the collective name for the first ten amendments to the US Constitution. They refrain the national government from tampering with fundamental rights and civil liberties and emphasize the limited character of national power. 36

Freedom of ideas is in the First Amendment to the US Constitution which protects against government suppression of the unrestricted exchange of ideas and guarantees the freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and religion. 34

Freedom of speech, protected by the First Amendment to the US Constitution, is the right to speak freely without censorship. It includes the right to express, seek, receive and impart information and ideas regardless the medium used. 37

Freedom of religion is a constitutional protected right in the First Amendment to the US Constitution. It is the freedom of an individual or community, in public or private, to manifest religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. 40

Right to bear arms is protected by the Second Amendment which declares that a well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. People hold different attitudes while lobbies for it remain strong. 49

Symbolic speech means expressing something by doing something, or even wearing something, without saying anything. The freedom of symbolic speech is also protected by the First Amendment to the US Constitution. 31

Miranda rights include 4 parts. You have the right to remain silent. Everything you say can be used against you in court. You have the right to talk with an attorney before questioning and have your attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, an attorney will be provided without charge. 53

CHAPTER FOUR EDUCATION

Self-government: Decision about education should be made by each state and local government. Education in America is a local matter. Each state has its own laws regulating education. Local boards of education are immediate policy-makers for the school. 38

Decentralization: There is no federal institution established to supervise the American educational system with a uniform curriculum for schools or a uniform set of standards for the qualification of educational administrators and teachers. The right to make decisions about education is reserved to state governments. 45

Universality means that a basic education was an unalienable right to children and youth who live in the US. The public schools had the obligation to provide some form of educational service for all students of school age. 38

Compulsory education (elementary & secondary) includes elementary education and secondary education. Everyone is required to attend school from age 6 to 18. Massachusetts passed the first compulsory education law and all other states followed suit. Compulsory education guarantees that people acquire basic knowledge. 43

Public taxation for schools: Local taxation is the major source of school financing while state and federal funds constitute additional subsidies only. In fact, more than 90% of the money to finance public school education comes from tax money which is primarily property tax money. 45

G. I. Bill of Rights granted financial aid to members of armed forces after the end of World War II. Veterans thus could go to college. Their achievements changed the traditional image of higher education from something only for the elite to something within the reach of ordinary citizens. 49

CHAPTER FIVE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY

Hispanics refers to the people from or connected with a country where Spanish or Portuguese is spoken. 17

Asian Americans are Americans of Asian descent, including sub-ethnic groups such as Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans and Japanese Americans. 19

Afro-Americans are an ethnic group of Americans with total or partial ancestry from any of the Black racial groups of Africa. 21

Native Americans, or Indians, are considered to be people whose pre-Columbian ancestors were indigenous to the lands within the nation's modern boundaries. These peoples were composed of numerous distinct tribes, bands and ethnic groups.

Melting pot is a pot where the ingredients are melted together with heat to form one ingredient. It emphasizes total assimilation into mainstream American society. 25

Salad bowl contains many ingredients that keep their original forms. It represents a potent affirmation of multiculturalism and believes it is possible to be a good American while at the same time retaining the values, customs, language, and culture of the country of the immigrant's origin. 46

Xenophobia is the intense dislike or fear of foreigners or strangers. 11

Immigrations Act (1965) represented a marked shift of policy. It did away with the national origins system and based immigration permits on the need for occupational skills. It placed a high priority on family reunification and established a seven-category preference system for family members, skill-based individuals and refugees. It removed barriers to Asian immigration, which eventually resulted in an unexpectedly greater proportion of immigrants arriving from Asia than from Europe.

Affirmative action was to achieve equality in school admission and employment for women, minorities, and the handicapped. 17

CHAPTER SIX FAMILY AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

Traditional family: In colonial American society, it was a place of production, a primarily self-sufficient agricultural unit, where most of the work took place, and a place where servants, apprentices, boarders and lodgers might live. 35

Heterosexual marriage is a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife. Marriage is a social institution that includes legal, economic, emotional, sexual, and political factors. 30

No fault divorce provides that divorce should be granted on the basis of irreconcilable differences that have caused the irremediable breakdown of the marriage. It also provides for mostly equal division of property, and bases alimony on the length of the marriage and the earning ability of both spouses. 49

No-family household refers to people living alone, single-parent families and childless couples. It consists either of one person living alone or of two or more persons who share a dwelling, but do not constitute a family.

Cohabitation is an arrangement where two people who are not married live together without formally registering their relation as a marriage. It has become widespread in America. Many people view it as an alternative to marriage. However, education and the intensity of religious belief have an inverse relationship to cohabitation. 50

CHARPTER SEVEN DOMESTIC ECONOMY

Fiscal policy focuses on the taxing, spending, and borrowing activities of the national government. The principal instrument is the federal budget which is a collection of presidential initiatives, congressional decisions, and economic conditions. 33

GDP, Gross Domestic Product, is the market value of all the goods and services produced by labor and property located in the region. 23

Federal budget is a collection of presidential initiatives, congressional decisions, and economic conditions, thus a sum of hundreds of political calculations and compromises. It has three major elements, that is, spending, revenues and the surplus or deficit. 37

Surplus means the amount by which money received is greater than money spent.

Deficit means the amount by which money spent or owed is greater than money earned in a particular period of time.

Monetary policy is the process by which the monetary authority of a country controls the supply of money, often targeting a rate of interest for the purpose of promoting economic growth and stability. 33

Federal Reserve System is the central banking system of the US. At the top of the system is the Federal Reserve Board which is an independent agency over whose actions neither the president nor Congress has any direct control. It consists of the Board of Governors, twelve Federal Reserve Banks and member banks. Its influence over the economy is mainly through monetary policy. 63

NAFTA, North American Free Trade Agreement approved in 1993, erased the international flow of goods, services, and investments among America, Mexico and Canada by eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers. It created the largest free trade zone in the world. 40

WTO, World Trade Organization, is an organization to supervise and liberalize international trade. It slashed tariffs on thousands of goods throughout the world and covered agricultural products for the first time. 31

Dow Jones Industrial Average, a stock market index created by Dow Jones and Charles Dow, shows how 30 large publicly owned companies based in America have traded during a standard trading session in the stock market. It is the second oldest US market index after the Dow Jones Transportation Average. 50

NASDAQ, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation, is an American stock exchange. It is the largest electronic screen-based equity securities trading market in the US and second-largest by market capitalization in the world. 34

CHAPTER EIGHT SOCIAL WELFARE

Poverty line is a bit more than one-third of the median income of all American families. The federal government's definition of poverty focuses on the cash income needed to maintain a decent standard of living. 35

Welfare state is a concept of government in which the state plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the social and economic well-being of its citizens. It is based on the principles of equality of opportunity, equitable distribution of wealth, and public responsibility. 46

Social insurance vs. public assistance: Social insurance is a government-backed guarantee against loss by individuals. To be eligible, beneficiaries must have made contributions to the programs before entitled to benefits regardless of their personal wealth. Public assistance is government aid to individuals who can demonstrate that they are living in poverty by official standards. 49

Unemployment compensation temporarily replaces part of the wages of workers who lose their jobs and helps stabilize the economy during recessions. Benefits are funded by a combination of federal and state unemployment taxes on employers. 35

Medicare is a two-part program that provides health care insurance to elderly and disabled people. Part A is Hospital Insurance and Part B is Supplemental Medical Insurance. 27

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides health services to low-income people. People receiving benefits under TANF (AFDC) and SSI automatically qualify for Medicaid. 25

AFDC vs. TANF: AFDC, Assistance for Dependent Children, is a means-tested, cash grant program to enable the states to assist needy children. AFDC was changed from an open-ended entitlement program to a block grant program called TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), with fixed amounts sent to the states and more freedom for the states to do with welfare as they wish.

CHAPTER NINE POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Two-party system is a party system where two major political parties dominate politics within a government. In America, it is Republican Party and Democratic Party.

Republican Party has an origin of the antislavery and nationalist forces that united in the 1850s and nominated Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860.

Democratic Party has an origin of Thomas Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party, obtaining its current name under Andrew Jackson in 1828.

The Electoral College is the institution that elects the President and Vice President in the US every four years. Each state is allocated a number of Electors or Electoral College Votes (ECV) based on its Congressional representation. The Electors meet in their state capitals and formally elect the president. The successful candidate must obtain an absolute majority in the College—at least 270 ECV.

Traditional images of the two parties

Democrats (South)	Republicans (North & Midwest)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Less affluent people, more liberal-minded, play an active role for the federal government in the economic and social sectors ● Helping the poor, elderly, homeless ● Handling unemployment ● Dealing with the environment ● Improving health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Affluent and conservative, favor free economic principles, prefer state and local government power to federal power ● Managing foreign policy ● Dealing with national defense ● Holding down taxes

Lobbying is the act of attempting to influence decisions made by officials in a government.

Interest groups are organizations that pressure the government to advance their policy goals. It is viewed as a form of democratic representation. Their purposes are to protect economic interests, to advance social movements, and to seek government benefits. 38

CHAPTER TEN WORK

Structural change in the US labor market: First, it is much bigger. Second, the employment distribution dramatically has switched from blue-collar in the direction of white-collar work. Third, the employment status of men has slipped, whereas the situation of women has improved. 42

Minimum wage helps many teenagers and adults currently in low-income families to earn wages that guarantee a basic minimum standard of living expected of all Americans. However, working at or near a minimum wage is not the solution to those families living near or below poverty. 46

Unemployment rate is measured as the percentage of people in the labor force who are both available for work and actively looking for work but unable to find a job. 30

Structural unemployment results from a mismatch of skilled labor and job vacancies. Periods of structural unemployment tend to occur when new technologies are adopted.

Telecommuting means working from home, which is made possible by advanced technology.

Graying workforce is a problem of finding enough workers to ensure corporate success and a strong economy when the baby boomers born between the close of WWII and 1946 begin to retire. The generation that will replace the boomers is smaller. What's worse, many choose to retire before 65 years old.

Service sector consists of the soft parts of the economy, that is, activities where people offer their knowledge and time to improve productivity, performance, potential and sustainability, which is termed as affective labor. The basic characteristic is the production of services. 41

Blue collar is a working class person who performs manual labor and earns an hourly wage. Blue-collar work involves skilled or unskilled physical work.

White collar typically performs work in an office environment and may involve sitting at a computer or desk. It is a salaried professional or an educated worker who performs semi-professional office, administrative, and sales-coordination tasks.

CHAPTER ELEVEN THE PRINT MEDIA

Top Five Newspapers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Wall Street Journal ● USA Today ● The New York Times ● The Los Angeles Times ● The Washington Post 	
Top Ten Consumer Magazines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modern Maturity ● Reader's Digest ● TV Guide ● National Geographic ● Better Homes and Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family Circle ● Good Housekeeping ● Woman's Day ● Lady's Home Journal ● Time

Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the US Constitution. The mass media in America claim explicit recognition of their right to be free from government control and censorship.

Censorship is the practice or system of censoring something/to examine books, films, letters, etc. to remove anything that is considered offensive, morally harmful, or politically dangerous.

Watergate is the collective term for the illegal campaign practices, burglaries, unauthorized wire-taps, use of intelligence agencies for domestic surveillance, use of the Internet Revenue Service to harass political opponents, and ultimately the lying, bribery, hush money, and perjury authorized by the president or his close associates to obstruct justice. 50

CHAPTER TWELVE THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Maturity of TV

After WWII, TV rapidly became popular. The 1950s are known as the golden age of TV, a period marked by growth and innovation. By the 1960s, TV had become another part of daily life. One of the most noticeable effects was on leisure. Evidence of the maturity of TV:

- The Kennedy-Nixon debates were telecast to an audience of 65 million in 1960.
- NBC and CBS expanded their nightly newscasts to thirty minutes three years later.
- TV coverage of the assassination and funeral of President John F. Kennedy demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism in TV journalism.

TV's influence on elections: Political campaign is now largely a media battle. Candidates usually rely on professional campaign management firms, public relations specialists, advertising production people, and media consultants, to carry on the fight. Still, it is the candidates that stand in the limelight.

Three giant commercial TV networks

American Broadcasting Company (ABC)

Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS)

National Broadcasting System (NBS)

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) serves as a network for noncommercial stations. It is an organization whose duties resemble those performed by commercial networks, that is, promotion and distribution of programming among member stations.

Invasion of privacy might be triggered by disclosing the truth. There are four ways that the mass media can invade someone's right of privacy.

- Intruding upon a person's solitude or seclusion
- Unauthorized release of private information
- Publicizing people in a false light or creating a false impression of them
- Use of a person's name or likeness for commercial purposes

Copyright protection/infringement: copyright provides an author with protection against unfair use of his/her work. Copyright protection lasts for the life of an author plus 50 years. Copyright infringement is the unauthorized use of works under copyright, infringing the copyright holder's exclusive rights, which often refers to copying intellectual property without written permission from the holder.

Obscenity and pornography: Obscenity is most often used to describe expressions (words, images, actions) of an explicitly sexual nature. Pornography, which uses various media, is the explicit portrayal of sexual subject matter.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN LEISURE AND RECREATION

Theme parks are a group of entertainment attractions, rides, and other events in a location for the enjoyment of large numbers of people, and are based on themes or images drawn from children's literature, history, or exotic environments or forms of adventure.

Disneyland, established in Anaheim, was the first major theme park. It has generated an ever-widening circle of influence, ranging from town planning and historical preservation to building architecture, mall design and merchandising. Its impact extends further to video- and computer-assisted education, home and office decor, exhibit design, and crowd management.

Family-oriented travel attractions: Theme parks represent a key form of family-oriented travel attraction.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN TOURISM AND HOLIDAYS

Official national holidays (10)

HOLIDAY	TIME	DAYOFF
New Year's Day	1.1	✓
Martin Luther King Day	3 rd Monday in January	✓
George Washington's Birthday	3 rd Monday in February	✓
Memorial Day 纪念战争中死去的美国人	Last Monday in May	✓
Independence Day	7.4	✓
Labor Day	1 st Monday in September	✓
Columbus Day	2 nd Monday in October	
Veterans Day 纪念参与战争的美国人	2 nd Monday in November	
Thanksgiving	4 th Thursday in November	✓
Christmas	12.25	✓

CHAPTER FIFTEEN JUSTICE AND THE LAWS

Supreme Court is the highest court, whose decisions are not subject to further review by any other court. There have been nine justices on the Supreme Court since 1869 and the Court's jurisdiction is mostly appellate.

Nine justices: In response to the country's own expansion in size, the Supreme Court of the United States membership consists of the Chief Justice of the United States and eight Associate Justices.

Judicial review includes the power of the federal courts to declare federal, state, and local laws invalid if they violate the Constitution, the supremacy of federal laws or treaties when they conflict with state and local laws, and the role of the Supreme Court as the final authority on the meaning of the Constitution. 53

Judicial independence, embodied in life tenure and protected salaries, minimizes the risk of judges' deviating from the law established in the Constitution by freeing the judiciary from executive and legislative control.

Courts of appeals (circuit courts) in each of the 12 regional circuits are responsible for reviewing cases appealed from federal district courts within the boundaries of the circuit. The purpose is to examine the performance of federal district courts for errors and to decide when cases are worthy of consideration by Supreme Court.

District courts represent the basic point of input for the federal judicial system. They have original jurisdiction over virtually all federal cases. They are trial courts, generally tried before a single judge. They are the only federal courts in which attorneys examine and cross-examine witnesses.

Common law exists in the form of court decisions and legal precedents that are in fact in written form. It is law developed by judges through decisions of courts.

Public vs. private law: Public law involves the government acting as a government – as opposed to other roles, such as a property owner. Private law deals with the rights and obligations that private individuals and institutions have when they relate to one another.

Selection of Supreme Court Justices: All judges are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, with a simple majority of senators present required for confirmation.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN CRIME AND THE POLICE

Violent crimes are committed against persons, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Nonviolent/property crimes are usually committed against property, including burglary, larceny, arson and theft (including auto theft).

Uniform Crime Report (UCR), a method to measure crime by the FBI, is based on arrest information submitted annually by each of the 17,000 different police departments in the US. It is the only survey to provide a state-to-state breakdown of crime rates.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), a method to measure crime by the Census Bureau, is considered more reliable because it uses more scientific polling techniques. To conduct the survey, staff at the Census Bureau telephone a representative sampling of households around the country to determine how many people were victimized by one of seven crimes in the preceding year.

Gun control refers to laws or policies that regulate the manufacture, sale, transfer, possession, modification, or use of firearms. Attempts at gun control legislation frequently follow murders or assassination attempts on prominent public figures. Generally, polls have shown that Americans support restrictions on the sale of firearms to reduce violence. 50

The Second Amendment states "A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

The Brady Act requires a seven-day waiting-period for the purchase of a handgun. The act is named for James S. Brady, former press secretary to President Ronald Reagan, who was severely wounded in the 1981 attempted assassination of the president.