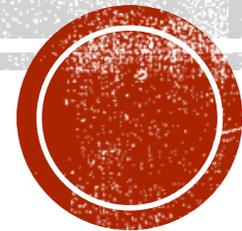


AP GOVERNMENT

OUTLINE SUMMARY



ORIGIN OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

- In the US, the federal system of government combines a system of state governments with a centralized national government.



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- Ratified in 1781 setting up a weak association of states that favored states' rights over central power so that states retained their sovereignty.
- Shays Rebellion exposed the national government's inability to impose order and protect the welfare of the nation.
- Delegates met at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation.



US CONSTITUTION

- Ratified in 1788 to set up a stronger Centralized government divided up into three branches. (Legislative, Executive, and Judicial)
- **Separation of Power**: Legislative given power to make the laws, Executive given power to execute laws, and Judicial given power to interpret law.
- **Checks & Balances**: Branches overlap one another in certain areas giving them the power to check the power of another.
 - Presidential Veto Power
 - Congressional Override of Veto Power
 - Senates power of Advise & Consent
 - Supreme Court power to strike down any law as unconstitutional



US CONSTITUTION CONTINUED

- Disagreement over ratification was immediate between two sides
 - **Federalists**: supported the Constitution because it established a strong central government.
 - **Anti-Federalists**: feared the Constitution would produce too strong centralized power into the hands of a few and wanted states to maintain their sovereignty.



US BILL OF RIGHTS

- Ratified in 1791 consisting of the first 10 amendments
- Guarantees individual liberties and states' rights
- Guards against potential tyranny of the central government
- Was a concession to gain enough support from the Anti-Federalists in order to ratify the Constitution.



FEDERAL VS. STATE POWERS

- **Express Powers**: Powers that the Constitution explicitly grants the federal government.
 - Collect taxes
 - Regulate interstate commerce
 - Coin money
 - Declare War
- **Implied Powers**: based on the elastic clause (Art. 1 Section 8 Clause 18) powers considered “necessary and proper” for carrying out the enumerated (expressed) powers of Congress.
 - Creation of National Banks



- **Denied Powers**: Powers that the Constitution explicitly denies to the federal govt.
 - No bills of attainder
 - No ex-post facto laws
- **Supreme Law of the Land**: the Constitution and federal laws take precedence over state laws.



STATE POWERS

- **Powers reserved to the States:**

- 10th Amendment states all powers not given to the Federal government nor denied to the states are therefore reserved to the states.
 - Marriage Laws
 - Drinking Age Laws

- **Overlapping Powers:**

- Concurrent Powers include the power to levy taxes
- Power to borrow money
- Power to charter corporations



- **State to State Regulations:**

- Full Faith and Credit Clause: each state must honor and obey laws and legal proceedings from other states.
- Citizen of one state is a citizen of every state
- Extradition Laws
- Congress only has the power to create new states.



THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

▪ **House of Representatives Qualifications and Logistics**

- 25 years old for Representative, US Citizen for 7 years, Resident of the State.
- 30 years old for Senator, US Citizen for 9 years, Resident of the State.
- Representatives terms last 2 years with no term limits.
- Senators terms last 6 years with staggered terms (1/3 every two years) with no term limits.
- Number of Representatives capped at 435 (1929 Reapportionment Act)
- Each state has the number of congressional districts that match up with the number of Representatives they get based off of population (720,000 people)
- States get 2 Senators per state regardless of state population.



- **Gerrymandering**

- Dividing regions into election districts in order to give an advantage to a particular political party or interest group.
- Technically is illegal unless it benefits no group disproportionately.
- Often skews the direct representation of the House because of the strange configurations of districts, the popular vote for House members is often not accurately reelected in House membership.



- **Sole Powers of the House of Representatives**

- To vote on charge of impeachment
- To propose bills for raising revenue (money bills)



- **Leadership Positions of House of Representatives:**

- **Speaker of the House**

- Elected by the House's majority party
 - Presiding officer of the House
 - Recognized speaker, controls floor debate
 - Determines committee assignments for members
 - Assigns bills to committees

- **Majority Leader**

- Aids the Speaker of the House in making committee appointments and referring bills
 - Schedules floor action (debate)
 - Formulates House agenda



- **Minority Leader**

- Heads opposition party
- Consults with majority leader
- Forms reaction to majority party agenda

- **Majority and Minority Whips**

- Enforce the party line
- Line up votes for legislation



- **Committees:**

- Propose and evaluates bills
- Recommend action on bills
- Divides work in the House allowing members to specialize in certain subject matters, usually in matters important to their constituents.

- **Standing Committees**

- Permanent committees that can amend, expedite, delay, or stop bills.
- Rules Committee sets House rules can defeat almost any bill by not letting it pass out of committee and is generally controlled by the Speaker
- Ways & Means Committee considers revenue raising measures such as tax bills.
- Budget Committee
- Appropriations Committee



- **Joint Committees**: composed of both senator and representatives and there are 4
 - Joint Economic Committee
 - Joint Committee on Taxation
 - Joint Committee on Printing
 - Joint Committee on the Library of Congress

- **Select Committees**: Hold inquiries and hearings but cannot propose bills.
 - Benghazi Hearings
 - Russian hacking
 - Clinton Emails



SENATE QUALIFICATIONS AND LOGISTICS

- 30 years old for Senator, US Citizen for 9 years, Resident of the State.
- Senators terms last 6 years with staggered terms (1/3 every two years) with no term limits.
- States get 2 Senators per state regardless of state population and currently 100 Senators.



- **Filibuster**: A strategy that opponents of a bill employ to defeat it
 - Senator or Senators hold the floor indefinitely to postpone a vote and defeat a bill since there are no time limits for debate in the Senate.
 - Cloture Rule as passed in 1917 allowing Senators to end a filibuster if they can muster 3/5 (60 Senators) to vote for Cloture
 - One of the only means for minority interests in the Senate to thwart the interest and agenda of the majority.



- **Sole Powers of Senate:**

- To try an impeached official
- To confirm presidential appointments, Supreme Court Justices, Ambassadors, and cabinet officials.
- To ratify treaties by 2/3 vote.



SENATE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- **Role of the Vice President**

- Serves as president of the Senate
- Votes only in case of a tie

- **President Pro Tempore**

- Leads the Senate while the vice president is absent
- Selected by the majority party; usually a senior member of the party

- **Majority & Minority Leaders**

- Head their respective parties
- Majority Floor Leader controls legislative process in Senate
- Formulate Senate Agenda



SENATE LEADERSHIP CONTINUED

- **Majority & Minority Whips**

- Coordinate party support for legislation

- **Committees**

- Propose and evaluate bills, make recommendations
- Help divide labor in the Senate, allowing senators to specialize in certain subject matters

- **Standing Committees**

- Can amend, expedite, delay, or stop bills
 - Budget Committee
 - Appropriations Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Foreign Relations Committee
 - Judiciary Committee



THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- **Presidential Qualifications and Logistics**
 - At least 35 years of age
 - Natural Born Citizen
 - Resident of the U.S. for the past 14 years
 - Term of Office: 4 Years
 - Two Term Limit
 - Washington set precedent of resigning after two terms until FDR broke precedent and served 3 full terms.
 - 22nd Amendment set two term limit for Presidency.



- **Power**: Constitution outlines a number of specific presidential powers including:
 - Serves as Commander in Chief
 - Accepts or vetoes congressional bills
 - Makes Treaties with advice and consent of Senate
 - Makes executive appointments with advice and consent of Senate
 - State of the Union Address
 - Oversees enforcement of US laws
 - Grants pardons in federal cases except for impeachment
 - Receives ambassadors and other foreign diplomats.



- Even though the original intent of the presidency was to only enforce federal laws, the power of the president has dramatically increased over the years.
- Andrew Jackson was the 1st president to extensively use his veto power to enforce his political will.



- **Process of Election**

- Do not use popular vote to determine winner of presidency
- Use Electoral College, which is a group of representatives chosen by the voting public to vote directly for the president and the vice president.
- Each state is given 1 electoral vote for every senator and representative from the state (2 for Senators and at least 1 Rep per state/3 minimum)
- Candidates usually spend a lot of time campaigning in heavy populated states where more electoral votes are at stake
- Big Four (CA, TX, FL, NY)



PROCESS OF ELECTION CONTINUED

- General presidential elections are held in each state, and the winner takes all of the states electoral votes (Unit Rule)
- Two states, Nebraska and Maine can be split based on proportional election results.
- If not candidate wins the 270 electoral votes needed to win then the decision falls to the House of Reps where each state only gets one vote and the candidate who wins the majority of votes (26) wins



- **Process of Removal**

- President, VP, and federal judges can be removed from Office on impeachment for , and conviction of, treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors.
- The House votes the charges of impeachments
- The Senate tries all cases of impeachment.
 - Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial
 - A conviction requires a 2/3 vote in the Senate
 - Andrew Johnson & Bill Clinton only 2 presidents to have been impeached. Both were acquitted by Senate.



- **Vice President**

- Before 1804, the vice presidency was awarded to the candidate who came in 2nd place in the electoral votes.
- 12th Amendment revised the election process so that candidates clearly run as either president or vice president.

- **Power**

- Presides over the Senate but votes only in case of a tie
- Become president if the president is unable to serve.



DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICERS

- **White House Staff**

- Aides and advisers who work closely with the president
- Often these aides are longtime political associates and allies of the president.
- The chief of staff heads and coordinates the entire White House staff.

- **Cabinet**

- The Constitution does not expressly provide for the cabinet.
- Cabinets creation is in Article 2, Section 2 of the Constitution “The president may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.”
- Compose of the heads of 15 federal agencies who are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
- Advisors unofficially called “cabinet” since the 1790’s name not official recognized in law until 1907.



- **Executive Agencies**

- Dept. of Agriculture
- Dept. of Commerce
- Dept. of Defense
- Dept. of Education
- Dept. of Energy
- Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Dept. of Homeland Security
- Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
- Dept. of the Interior
- Dept. of Justice
- Dept. of Labor
- Dept. of State
- Dept. of Transportation
- Dept. of the Treasury
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs



- **Executive Offices of the President**
 - Council of Economic Advisers
 - Council on Environmental Quality
 - Council on Women's Initiative and Outreach
 - Domestic Policy Council
 - National Economic Council
 - Nations Security Council
 - Office of Administration
 - Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives
 - Office of the First Lady
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Office of National AIDS Policy
 - Office of National Drug Control Policy
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy
 - Office of the Vice President of the United States
 - President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board
 - United States Trade Representative



THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

- The Supreme Court is the only court expressly provided for in the Constitution. Congress is given the power to establish lower federal courts as it sees fit “to constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court”



- **Structure**

- Supreme Court justices are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
 - No qualifications are laid out in the Constitution
 - Nomination generally is based on candidate's competence, ethics, ideology, political support, and political activism.
- **Term of Office**: Justice hold position for life, barring resignation or impeachment.
- **Number of Justices**
 - Originally 6 when the Court was established in 1789.
 - At one point after the Civil War, there were 10 justices
 - Since 1869, the Court has been comprised of 9 justices.



- **Court Packing Scheme**

- In 1937 FDR tried to increase number of justices 1 for every justice over age of 70 in order to increase the likelihood that the court would better support his New Deal policies.
- Would have allowed FDR to add 6 justices to the Supreme Court if allowed.
- Senate rejected the policy change and the uproar cost FDR some credibility.

- **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court**

- Presides over meetings
- Assigns writing of opinions
- Can significantly shape the Court's direction



- **The Marshall Court (1801-1835)**: under Chief Justice John Marshall, greatly enhance federal power at the expense of states' rights.
- **The Warren Court (1953-1969)**: under Chief Justice Earl Warren, was liberal and progressive and expanded civil and political rights.



FEDERAL JURISDICTION

- **Court has jurisdiction over any case involving:**
 - The US Constitution, federal laws, treaties, and admiralty and maritime affairs
 - Ambassadors, other public ministers, or consuls
 - Cases in which the US or a state itself is a party
 - Interstate affairs
- **Original Jurisdiction:** in all cases involving a state or an ambassador or other public minister or consul.
- **Appellate Jurisdiction:** in federal cases (sometimes state cases) in which the original decision is appealed.



3 PATHS TO THE SUPREME COURT

▪ Writs of Certiorari

- The court grants a writ when it agrees to hear a case
- 4 of 9 justice must agree to hear the case
- If the Supreme Court refuses to hear the case, the lower court decision will stand
- The Court may refuse to hear the case if they feel it doesn't involve a federal matter or they are too divided on the matter.

▪ Right of Appeal

- The Court must hear appeals of decision made by three-judge district courts (Circuit Courts)
- It can simply affirm or reverse the decision with a short statement.



PATHS TO THE SUPREME COURT CONT.....

- **In Forma Pauperis Petition**

- According to federal law, any indigent who takes a “paupers oath” postponing payment of required fees can submit a case to a federal court.
- Most of these petitions are written by inmates in federal and state prisons
- Many petitions go unanswered; in rare instances the court holds hearing and reopens the case. (ex. Gideon v. Wainwright)



NOTABLE SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

- **Marbury v. Madison (1803)**

- Established principle of **judicial review** which is the courts power to rule an act of Congress unconstitutional.

- **McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)**

- Established that the federal government's power must be considered supreme within its sphere and the states do not have the power to interfere with the exercise of federal powers.

- **Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)**

- Interpreted Congress's right to regulative interstate commerce to include all forms of business, not just the exchange of goods.



NOTABLE CASES CONT.....

- **Dred Scott v Sanford (1857)**

- Effectively nullified the Missouri Compromise and declared slaves to be property, not citizens.

- **Slaughterhouse Cases (1873)**

- Drew a distinction between state and federal citizenship and ruled that the 14th Amendment does not guard against all instance of state discrimination. In its ruling, the Court considered the amendment's original purpose: to protect citizenship right of freed slaves.



NOTABLE CASES CONT.....

- **Munn v. Illinois (1877)**

- Allowed states to regulate private businesses when “public interest” are involved; has since been modified

- **Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)**

- Ruled that segregation is legal as long as accommodations were “separate but equal”

- **Cumming v. County Board of Education (1899)**

- Ruled that laws establishing separate schools for whites are constitutional even if there are no comparable schools for blacks.

- **Northern Securities Company v. United States (1904)**

- The first case in which the Sherman Anti-Trust Act was successfully invoked to break up a business monopoly.



NOTABLE CASES CONT....

- **Muller v. Oregon (1908)**
 - Authorized states to pass laws setting maximum working hours.
- **Standard Oil Company of New Jersey v. United States (1911)**
 - Authorized the federal government to break up trusts for “unreasonable restraint of trade”
- **Schenck v. United States (1919)**
 - Set the “clear and present danger” standard for restricting free speech, especially applicable during wartime, upheld in the Espionage Act of 1917.



NOTABLE CASES CONT.....

- **Schechter v. United States (1935)**

- Declared the National Recovery Administration unconstitutional on the bases that the NRA gave the executive branch regulatory powers that belonged exclusively to Congress.

- **Dennis et al v. United States (1951)**

- Upheld the Smith Act of 1940 which made it a crime to advocate overthrowing the government.

- **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**

- Declared segregation in schools unconstitutional, overturning the “separate but equal” doctrine established in Plessy v. Ferguson of 1896.



NOTABLE CASES CONT....

- **Roth v. United States (1957)**

- Defined obscene publications as those that attract “prurient interests” and lack any “redeeming social importance”

- **Mapp v. Ohio (1962)**

- Extended the federal exclusionary rule to states; the rule prohibited illegally obtained evidence from being presented in courts.

- **Engel v. Vitale (1962)**

- Ruled school prayer unconstitutional on the basis that it violates the Establishment Clause of the 1st Amendment.



NOTABLE CASES CONT.....

- **Baker v. Carr (1962)**

- Granted federal courts jurisdiction over state apportionment systems to assure that all citizens' votes are granted equal weight.

- **Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)**

- Required states to provide public defenders for indigent defendants in felony cases.

- **Miranda v. Arizona (1966)**

- Required police to make suspects aware of their rights to remain silent and to have an attorney present during questioning (Miranda Rights)



NOTABLE CASES CONT.....

- **Loving v. Virginia (1967)**
 - Declared laws against interracial marriage unconstitutional
- **New York Times v. United States (1971)**
 - Overturned the Justice Department's order to restrict free press in the interests of national security. The ruling firmly protected freedom of the press.
- **Roe v. Wade (1973)**
 - Ruled unconstitutional all laws outlawing abortion (except during the 3rd trimester) on the basis that these laws violate the 14th Amendment implied right for a women to make private decisions about their bodies and reproductive capacities.



NOTABLE CASES CONT.....

- **University of California v. Bakke (1978)**

- Allowed universities to admit students on the basis of race in order to counter discrimination.

- **Bowers v. Hardwick (1986)**

- Authorized states to regulate sexual interaction conducted in private between consenting adults.

- **Webster v. Reproductive Health Services (1989)**

- Allowed states to restrict access to abortion services significantly.



NOTABLE CASES CONT...

- **Bush v. Gore (2000)**
 - No recount of the 2000 Presidential election was feasible in a reasonable time period
- **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)**
 - Citizens have a right to possess firearms at home for self-defense
- **Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)**
 - Corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts in elections (money is speech)



NOTABLE CASES CONT....

- **National Federation of Independent Business v Sebelius (2012)**
 - Upheld the mandate that most Americans have health insurance (ACA)
- **Shelby County v. Holder (2013)**
 - States and localities do not need federal approval to change voting laws.



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

- **Bill is introduced in either House or Senate**
 - Exception: Revenue bills must originate in the House
- **First Reading**
 - Bills are no longer read out loud but instead are entered into the Senate Journal or the House Journal and referred to the appropriate committees.
- **Referral to Committee**
 - Input for relevant agencies is requested
 - Public hearings are held only if deemed necessary, if bill deemed important enough.
 - Markup: Subcommittee makes a favorable, unfavorable, or table recommendations to the full committee, sometimes with amendments.
 - Final committee action: Bills are discussed, amended, and voted on, usually either passed on to the full house or tabled indefinitely.



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW CONT...

- **Second Reading**

- Report

- Committee staff issues a report explaining the bill, the committee's actions and findings, and why the bill should be enacted.

- Bill is placed on the calendar

- Member debate

- Senators can indefinitely postpone a vote with a filibuster, but a filibuster can be halted by a 2/3 vote.
 - The amount of debate in the House is initially limited by the cloture rule, however, debate may be lengthened
 - Member amendments are offered.



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW CONT....

- **Third Reading by Title only and a vote**
- **Bill goes to other chamber of Congress**
 - Bill is either
 - Defeated
 - Passed as-is
 - Passed with new amendments, then sent to a joint House-Senate conference committee, and finally sent back to both houses for final vote.



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW CONT....

- **Bill is given to President**

- Bill is either
 - Signed (approved) and becomes law
 - Held, and then
 - Becomes law after 10 days
 - Is pocket vetoed which means if Congress adjourns within the 10 days, the bill is automatically defeated
 - Vetoed and returned to the originating house
 - The house of origin may override the veto by 2/3 or greater vote. The bill is then sent to the other house. If both houses vote to override the veto, the bill becomes law.



THE PARTY SYSTEM BACKGROUND

- Political parties were not originally present in the US government, as exemplified by George Washington's ideologically diverse cabinet.
- The Founding Fathers condemned parties as self-serving factions detrimental to the good of government.
- However, the “winner-takes-all” presidential system used in America naturally leads to two parties, because votes and issues become either/or questions, and people feel their votes are worthless if they do not vote for the front-runner or nearest challenger.



THE PARTY SYSTEM BACKGROUND CONT..

- Two parties evolved in the 1790's around major issues, particularly the centralization of the government (states' rights vs. federal power) and support for Britain vs. support for France.
 - **Federalists**
 - Led by Alexander Hamilton
 - Pushed for strong central government
 - Pro-England
 - Centered in the Northeast
 - **Democratic-Republicans**
 - Led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison
 - Aimed to limit the power of the central government and expand individual and states' rights
 - Tended to be pro-France
 - Centered in the South



PARTY SYSTEM CONT.....

- Party politics has characterized in the US political scene ever since the formation of the Federalist and the Republicans with the exception of brief return to a one party system during the Era of Good Feelings when Republicans faced little or no opposition.
- Identification with parties has changed little in recent times, other than a steady increase in people who identify themselves as independents and a decrease in those who identify themselves as Democratic.
- Party members and representatives convene every four years at a national party convention
 - Choose presidential candidate
 - Sets the party platform



PARTY SYSTEM CONT....

- **Democratic Party**

- More liberal
- Formalized in support of Andrew Jackson
- During mid to late 1800's Championed state rights
- Before Civil War, supported the South and was the party of slaveholders
- After Civil War, champion of Confederates and opposed Reconstruction efforts
- Later, Industrialization pulled party towards social causes
- 1930's Major transformation under FDR and began to embrace more aggressive and involved role of federal government.
- New Deal policies lost support of white south but picked up support from ethnic minorities, farmers, urban workers, and women.
- That continues to be a strong part of the Democratic base today.



PARTY SYSTEM CONT....

- **Republican Party**

- In modern times, party that is more conservative and pro-business
- Emerged from Free Soil Party
- Supported early by many Northern States
- Came to power in election of 1860 with Lincoln
- Held the black vote for 60 years until New Deal Program



PARTY SYSTEM CONT.....

- **Whig Party**

- Emerged in opposition to Jackson
- Composed mostly of southern Republicans, Northern Democrats, and social reformers
- Gained popularity in the 1830's with election of Harrison who died before being sworn in as president.
- Started to fall apart in 1850's over issues concerning slavery and tariffs.
- Anti-Immigrant and anti-Catholic "Know Nothing Party" also added to its decline.



PARTY SYSTEM CONT...

- **Populist Party**

- Began in 1892 composed mostly of poor farmers from Midwest and South and poor laborers
- Platform included “Free Silver” policy, public ownership of railroads, immigration restriction, and direct election of senators.
- Appropriated platform with Democrats in 1896 with William Jennings Bryan.
- Faded from the national scene loss of 1896.



PARTY SYSTEM CONT....

- **Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party)**
 - Split from Republican party in 1912 due to T. Roosevelt leaving Republican party
 - Supported progressive policies including primary elections, women's suffrage, national social insurance, prohibition of child labor, and restrictions on the use of injunctions in labor disputes.
 - Most successful 3rd party in US history. Roosevelt won 27% of popular vote to Taft's 23% in the 1912 election. President Wilson won the election due to the Republican vote being split.



PARTY SYSTEM CONT...

- **Socialist Party**

- Leftist party that advocated workers' rights and collective ownership of the means of economic production.
- Gained increase in popularity during the Progressive Era (1900-1917)
- Won control of a number of city governments and elected some members of Congress and state legislatures.
- Eugen V. Debs was a presidential candidate five time between 1900-1920



PARTY SYSTEM CONT...

- **Libertarian Party**

- Founded in 1971
- Currently 3rd largest party
- Advocates minimal government interference in the economy and individuals' lives.
- Wants to repeal the income tax, privatize most government services, and eliminating laws such as gun control laws or abortion bans.
- Feel these encroach on individual rights and liberties.



PARTY SYSTEM CONT....

- **Green Party**

- Formed in 1984
- Values include grassroots democracy, campaign-finance reform, social justice, ecological conservation, strict business regulation and consumer protection, the end to the electoral college system, and universal health care.
- Elected members to city council and state legislatures
- Ralph Nader ran as the Green candidate in the 1996, 2000, and 2004 presidential elections.
- Pulled 2.6% of the popular vote and acted as a spoiler in the 2000 election that more than likely cost Al Gore (Democrat) the election to George W. Bush.



PARTY SYSTEMS CONT.....

- **Reform Party**

- Founded in 1995 by Ross Perot to challenge Democrats and Republicans
- Fought for campaign financing reform, balanced budget, paying off the national debt, open primaries, immigration restriction and replacing the electoral college system with a popular vote.
- Perot won 19% of popular vote in 1992.



THE AMERICAN MEDIA

- **Overview**

- Often referred to as the 4th branch of government
- Not elected, instead usually supported by advertising and driven by profit
- Politically uncensored, except in regard to obscenity and in times of war
- One of the few true free presses in the world



THE AMERICAN PRESS CONT...

▪ History

- Newspapers were launched by political groups to spread their ideas
- The telegram sped the sharing of information, giving newspapers a new purpose, to spread facts and human interest stories and also separating them from political parties.
- In the mid 1800's, increasing literacy and decreasing printing costs led to the penny presses, which had sensationalist tendencies, and to independent publications funded by entrepreneurs, which could provide more autonomous political reports.
- Modern media is now focused primarily on creating an objective journalism
- Since 1960's, a more critical advocacy-oriented media has evolved as the new journalism.



THE AMERICAN MEDIA CONT....

▪ **Influence**

- The media has grown to become a protector and representative of the people, investigating controversy and conspiracy, evaluating politics, and speaking for the public.
- **Selective perception:** people hear what they want to hear.
- **Selective exposure:** people avoid exposure to media that espouses viewpoints with which they disagree.
- **Public Relations (PR):** politicians have become increasingly adept at creating events, managing the press, and rewording, or spinning, the news toward a particular ideology.
- **Bias:** Studies point to a liberal bias in the media, but a number of conservative issues still garner media support, and in general, the media endorses Republican candidates more often than democratic candidates.



THE AMERICAN MEDIA CONT.....

- **Corporate Ownership**

- In 1982, 50 companies owned more than half of the media. This number dropped to 29 companies by 1986 and 20 companies by 1993.
- Mergers and acquisitions have resulted in a media currently dominated by several giant corporations
 - Time Warner, Disney, Bertelsmann, Viacom, News Corp., Sony, Comcast, TCI, Vivendi Universal, and NBC.
 - These companies own interests in TV, film, books, music, retail, amusement, magazines, and newspapers.



THE AMERICAN MEDIA CONT....

▪ Types

▪ **Television**

- In the 1960's, TV became the major source of news
- TV has made the presentation of people and ideas more important, giving rise to the sound bite, a short "representative" statement or prepared response for use in the media.
- In 1990, CNN became the first all news TV channel, blanketing the world with around the clock coverage of the Persian Gulf War(1991). Since then, other all news channels have emerged, including MSNBC and Fox News.

▪ **Radio**

- FDR is famous for effective use of the radio with his fireside chats, which boosted the public's confidence in government and won him widespread support.
- Political radio experienced a resurgence in the 1990's through talk shows that have made radio a haven for pundits, such as conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh.
- 90% of all Americans still listen to the radio.



THE AMERICAN MEDIA CONT....

▪ Newspapers

- Long history in politics
- Newspapers are more politically engaged and provide the most in depth information of all main media sources.
 - Yellow press advocate exaggerated viewpoints at the end of the 19th Century.
 - Publication of the pentagon Papers exposed government deception during the Vietnam War.
- Circulation of newspapers in the US has remained just about 115 million over the last 20 years.

▪ The Internet

- The Internet has become increasingly important in distributing information, providing anonymous contact between organizations and people, and passing rumors.
- Email has become an increasingly powerful means of coordination and sharing information (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)



INTERESTS GROUPS

- **Types**

- **Business**

- Large corporation and small businesses

- **Groups of Individuals**

- Professional associations (doctors, lawyers, educator, etc)
 - Employees/Workers
 - Labor Unions represent around 13% of American workforce.

- **Ideological Groups**

- Include environmental groups, civil rights, religious, health, education, consumer protection, and taxpayer organizations.
 - May be temporarily powerful as the shifting public interest rallies behind a specific cause.

- **Government Groups**

- Includes groups of national governments (states, cities, counties) and foreign governments.



INTEREST GROUPS CONT....

- **Methods of Influence**

- Targeted campaign finance

- Business groups target the expected winner

- Use polling, party “safe seat” districts, and incumbency to predict the winner.

- Then, business groups invest heavily in selected politician's election with the hopes of influencing policy.



INTEREST GROUPS CONT....

- **Lobbying**

- Lobbyists often are ex-professionals or ex-bureaucrats with contacts that give them special access to legislators and bureaucrats. Sometimes, lobbyists are relative and friend of party members.
 - 15,000 full time lobbyists, 9,200 registered, up to 50,000 part time (3rd largest industry in Washington DC)
 - At least 80% of lobbyists have corporate ties.

- **Recruitment**

- Businesses push to get their own people into the 3,200 appointed positions in the executive department. Very few professional civil servants rise to the policymaking positions that are appointed.
- The Revolving Door: As administrations change, appointees revolve between government and private positions.



INTEREST GROUPS CONT....

- **Influence during bill creation**

- Supply information and make suggestions about policy during the drafting stage.
- Ghostwriting: Write bills, make legislative changes, and write speeches for legislators.
- Offer testimony and rationale for voting during hearing and member debate.
- Visit congressional offices before the vote.

- **Grassroots lobbying**

- Lobbyists sometimes use the public to pressure legislators via television ads, public relations efforts using new research studies, authoritative reports and ghost written editorials.

- **Deep lobbying**

- Predict future issues and develop future strategy.



INTEREST GROUPS CONT....

- **Court Strategies**

- **Test cases:** Cases brought to court in order to set precedent and change policy, using financial and legal resources.
- **Amicus Briefs:** “Friend of the court” third party briefs solicited from experts for neutral analyses, advocacy briefs.
- Efforts to influence judicial appointments to favor judges who are receptive to specific political causes.



ELECTIONS

- **Campaign Finance**

- **Comparative Spending**

- Most money in campaigns is spent on advertisements. TV usually receives more than half of all funds.
 - Remaining expenses cover staffing (20-25%), travel, office expenses, etc.

- **House of Reps Seats**

- In 2002, 95% of campaigns were won by the candidate with the most money. In 1996, the average winner spent \$636,000; the average loser, \$150,000

- **Senate Seats**

- In 2002, 76% of campaigns were won by the candidate with the most money. In 1996, the average winner spent \$5.6 million; the average loser, \$2 million.



ELECTIONS CONT....

- **Presidency**

- In 2000, the Republican winner spent \$186 million; the Democratic candidate spent \$120 million.
- \$62 million in public funding is reserved for campaign expenses incurred after the party convention for those candidates who agree to spending limits (in 2000, the Republicans did not).

- **Limits**

- **Passed in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974**

- Interest groups cannot give a candidate more than \$5,000
- Individuals cannot give a candidate more than \$1,000
- Every contribution over \$200 must be reported with the amount, date, and donor's name and address.



ELECTIONS CONT....

- **Loopholes**

- **Political Action Committees (PACS)**

- Corporations cannot donate directly to campaigns, so they form PACS by company and industry.

- **Multiplier**

- Industries get all the company PACs and the industry PACs to donate, thus multiplying the \$5,000 checks to any candidate.

- **Bundling**

- The collection of individual donations into bundles of checks, for example, the “family bundle”



- **Doubling**

- Donation during both the primary and the general elections. The law allows donations in both, effectively doubling the limit on money that can be donated.

- **Soft Money**

- Money that is donated to a political party and then spent by the party in support of a specific candidate. Soft money was banned by the Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002 (McCain Feingold Act)

- **Independent Committees**

- Committees formed to provide support to a candidate. As long as they do not explicitly solicit a vote, they can avoid campaign finance limits.

