

American Government and Politics Today

2018—2019 Brief Edition



Steffen W. Schmidt

Iowa State University

Mack C. Shelley II

Iowa State University

Barbara A. Bardes

University of Cincinnati



Australia • Brazil • Mexico • Singapore • United Kingdom • United States

Copyright 2019 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be copied, scanned, or duplicated, in whole or in part. WCN 02-200-203

Copyright 2019 Cengage Learning. All Rights Reserved. May not be copied, scanned, or duplicated, in whole or in part. Due to electronic rights, some third party content may be suppressed from the eBook and/or eChapter(s). Editorial review has deemed that any suppressed content does not materially affect the overall learning experience. Cengage Learning reserves the right to remove additional content at any time if subsequent rights restrictions require it.

Contents in Brief

PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

- Chapter 1** The Democratic Republic 1
- Chapter 2** Forging a New Government: The Constitution 21
- Chapter 3** Federalism 44
- Chapter 4** Civil Liberties 66
- Chapter 5** Civil Rights 92

PART II: THE POLITICS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

- Chapter 6** Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media 118
- Chapter 7** Interest Groups and Political Parties 146
- Chapter 8** Campaigns and Elections 174

PART III: INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

- Chapter 9** Congress 199
- Chapter 10** The President 225
- Chapter 11** The Executive Branch 250
- Chapter 12** The Courts 271

PART IV: POLICYMAKING

- Chapter 13** Domestic and Economic Policy 296
- Chapter 14** Foreign Policy 320

- Appendix A** The Declaration of Independence 345
- Appendix B** The Constitution of the United States 347
- Appendix C** *Federalist Papers* No. 10 and No. 51 367
- Appendix D** Government Spending and Revenue Charts 375

Glossary 377

Index 389



Contents

PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

Chapter 1 The Democratic Republic 1

Politics and Government 2

- Why Is Government Necessary? 2
- Limiting Government Power 2
- Authority and Legitimacy 3

Democracy and Other Forms of Government 4

- Types of Government 4
- Direct Democracy as a Model 4
- The Dangers of Direct Democracy 5
- A Democratic Republic 5

What Kind of Democracy Do We Have? 6

- Democracy for Everyone 7
- Democracy for the Few 7
- Democracy for Groups 8

Fundamental Values 8

- Liberty versus Order 8
- Liberty versus Equality 9
- The Proper Size of Government 11

AT ISSUE: Does Entitlement Spending Corrupt Us? 13

Political Ideologies 13

- Conservatism 14
- Liberalism 15
- The Traditional Political Spectrum 15
- Problems with the Traditional Political Spectrum 16
- A Four-Cornered Ideological Grid 16

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Seeing Democracy in Action 18

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

iv



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Chapter 2 Forging a New Government: The Constitution 21

The Colonial Background 22

- Separatists, the *Mayflower*, and the Compact 22
- More Colonies, More Government 23

AT ISSUE: Is America a Christian Nation? 24

- British Restrictions and Colonial Grievances 24
- The First Continental Congress 25
- The Second Continental Congress 25

An Independent Confederation 26

- The Resolution for Independence 26
- July 4, 1776—The Declaration of Independence 26
- The Rise of Republicanism 28
- The Articles of Confederation: Our First Form of Government 28

The Constitutional Convention 30

- Factions among the Delegates 31
- Politicking and Compromises 31
- Working toward Final Agreement 33
- The Final Document 35

The Difficult Road to Ratification 36

- The Federalists Push for Ratification 36
- The March to the Finish 37
- The Bill of Rights 37

Altering the Constitution 38

- The Formal Amendment Process 38
- Informal Methods of Constitutional Change 39

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: How Can You Affect the U.S. Constitution? 41

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself



Nikreates/Alamy Stock Photo

Chapter 3 Federalism 44

Federalism and Its Alternatives 45

- A Unitary System 45
- A Confederal System 45
- A Federal System 46
- Why Federalism? 46

AT ISSUE: Should Recreational Marijuana Be Legal? 48

Arguments against Federalism 48

The Constitutional Basis for American Federalism 49

Powers of the National Government 49

Powers of the State Governments 50

AT ISSUE: Should We Let Uber and Lyft Pick Up Passengers? 51

Prohibited Powers 51

Concurrent Powers 52

The Supremacy Clause 52

Interstate Relations 53

Defining Constitutional Powers—The Early Years 53

McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) 53

Gibbons v. Ogden (1824) 54

States' Rights and the Resort to Civil War 55

The Continuing Dispute over the Division of Power 56

Dual Federalism 56

The New Deal and Cooperative Federalism 57

The Politics of Federalism 58

Methods of Implementing Cooperative Federalism 58

Federalism and Today's Supreme Court 61

A Trend toward States' Rights? 61

Recent Decisions 61

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Writing E-mails and Letters to the Editor 63

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 4 Civil Liberties 66

The Constitutional Bases of Our Liberties 67

Protections Listed in the Original Constitution 67

Extending the Bill of Rights to State Governments 68

Incorporation under the Fourteenth Amendment 68

Freedom of Religion 69

The Separation of Church and State—The Establishment Clause 69

The Free Exercise Clause 72

Freedom of Expression 73

No Prior Restraint 73



ZUMA Press Inc / Alamy Stock Photo



Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

The Protection of Symbolic Speech 73
 The Protection of Commercial Speech 74
 Attempts to Ban Subversive or Advocacy Speech 74
 The Eclipse of Obscenity as a Legal Category 75
 Unprotected Speech: Slander 76
 Student Speech 77
 Freedom of the Press 78

The Right to Privacy 79

Privacy Rights and Abortion 79
 Privacy Rights and the “Right to Die” 82

The Great Balancing Act: The Rights of the Accused versus the Rights of Society 83

AT ISSUE: Do Police Use Excessive Force against Black Men? 84

Rights of the Accused 84
 Extending the Rights of the Accused 85
 The Exclusionary Rule 86
 Civil Liberties versus Security Issues 86
 Subsequent Revelations of NSA Activity 87

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Your Civil Liberties: Searches and Seizures 89

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 5 Civil Rights 92

The African American Experience and the Civil Rights Movement 93

Ending Servitude 93
 The Ineffectiveness of the Early Civil Rights Laws 94
 The End of the Separate-but-Equal Doctrine 96
De Jure and *De Facto* Segregation 96
 The Civil Rights Movement 97
 Modern Civil Rights Legislation 97

Civil Rights and the Courts 101

Standards for Judicial Review 101
 The Supreme Court Addresses Affirmative Action 102

Experiences of Other Minority Groups 104

Latinos and the Immigration Issue 104
 National Security and the Rights of Immigrants 106

AT ISSUE: Should We Deport Unauthorized Immigrants? 107

The Agony of the American Indian 107



Charlotte Observer/Tribune News Service/Getty Images

Women's Struggle for Equal Rights 108

- Early Women's Political Movements 108
- The Modern Women's Movement 109
- Women in Politics Today 110
- Gender-Based Discrimination in the Workplace 111

The Rights and Status of Gay Males and Lesbians 112

- Growth in the Gay Male and Lesbian Rights Movement 112
- State and Local Laws Targeting Gay Men and Lesbians 112
- "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" 113
- Same-Sex Marriage 113
- The Rights of Transgender Individuals 114

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Dealing with Discrimination 115

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

PART II: THE POLITICS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Chapter 6 Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media 118

Public Opinion and Political Socialization 119

- Consensus and Divided Opinion 119
- Forming Public Opinion: Political Socialization 120
- The Media and Public Opinion 121
- Political Events and Public Opinion 122

The Influence of Demographic Factors 123

- Educational Achievement 123
- Economic Status 123
- Religious Denomination 123
- Religious Commitment and Beliefs 125
- Race and Ethnicity 125
- The Hispanic Vote 126
- The Gender Gap 126
- Geographic Region 127

Measuring Public Opinion 127

- The History of Opinion Polls 127
- Sampling Techniques 127
- The Difficulty of Obtaining Accurate Results 128
- Additional Problems with Polls 129



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images News/Getty Images

Public Opinion and the Political Process 131

- Political Culture and Public Opinion 131
- Policymaking and Public Opinion 131

The Media in the United States 132

- The Roles of the Media 132
- Television versus the New Media 135
- Challenges Facing the Media 136

The Media and Political Campaigns 137

- Political Advertising 138
- Management of News Coverage 138
- Going for the Knockout Punch—Presidential Debates 139
- Political Campaigns and the Internet 140
- Blogosphere Politics 140
- Bias in the Media 141

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Being a Critical Consumer of the News 143

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 7 Interest Groups and Political Parties 146**A Nation of Joiners 147**

- Thousands of Groups 147
- Interest Groups and Social Movements 148
- Reasons to Join—or Not Join 148

Types of Interest Groups 148

- Economic Interest Groups 149
- Environmental Interest Groups 151
- Public-Interest Groups 152
- Additional Types of Interest Groups 152

Interest Group Strategies 153

- Direct Techniques 153
- Indirect Techniques 155
- Regulating Lobbyists 155

Political Parties in the United States 157

- Functions of Political Parties in the United States 157
- The Party Organization 158
- The Party-in-the-Electorate 159
- The Party-in-Government 160



Pacific Press/LightRocker/Getty Images

A History of Political Parties in the United States 160

- The Formative Years: Federalists and Anti-Federalists 161
- Democrats and Whigs 162
- The Civil War Crisis 162
- The Post–Civil War Period 162
- The Progressive Interlude 163
- The New Deal Era 163
- An Era of Divided Government 164
- The Parties Today 164

Why Has the Two-Party System Endured? 165

- The Historical Foundations of the Two-Party System 166
- Political Socialization and Practical Considerations 166
- The Winner-Take-All Electoral System 167
- State and Federal Laws Favoring the Two Parties 167
- The Role of Minor Parties in U.S. Politics 168
- The Rise of the Independents 170

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: You Can Be a Convention Delegate 171

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 8 Campaigns and Elections 174

The Twenty-First-Century Campaign 175

- Who Is Eligible? 175
- Who Runs? 175
- Managing the Campaign 176

Financing the Campaign 178

- The Evolution of the Campaign Finance System 178
- The Current Campaign Finance Environment 180

AT ISSUE: Can Money Buy Elections? 182

Running for President: The Longest Campaign 183

- Reforming the Presidential Primaries 184
- The Invisible Primary 184
- Primaries and Caucuses 185
- Front-Loading the Primaries 186
- On to the National Convention 187
- The Electoral College 188



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images News/Getty Images

How Are Elections Conducted? 189

- Voting by Mail 189
- Voting Fraud and Voter ID Laws 189
- Turning Out to Vote 191
- Legal Restrictions on Voting 192
- Is the Franchise Still Too Restrictive? 193

How Do Voters Decide? 194

- Party Identification 194
- Other Political Factors 194
- Demographic Characteristics 195

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Registering and Voting 196

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

PART III: INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Chapter 9 Congress 199

The Nature and Functions of Congress 200

- Bicameralism 200
- The Lawmaking Function 201
- The Representation Function 201
- Service to Constituents 202
- The Oversight Function 202
- The Public-Education Function 203
- The Conflict-Resolution Function 203
- The Powers of Congress 203

House-Senate Differences and Congressional Perks 204

- Size and Rules 204
- Debate and Filibustering 205

AT ISSUE: Is It Time to Get Rid of the Filibuster? 206

- Congresspersons and the Citizenry: A Comparison 207
- Perks and Privileges 207



Zach Gibson/Getty Images

Congressional Elections and Apportionment 208

- Candidates for Congressional Elections 208
- Apportionment of the House 209
- Gerrymandering 209
- “Minority-Majority” Districts 211

How Congress Is Organized 212

- The Power of Committees 213
- Types of Congressional Committees 213
- The Selection of Committee Members 215
- Leadership in the House 215
- Leadership in the Senate 217

Lawmaking and Budgeting 218

- How Much Will the Government Spend? 218
- Preparing the Budget 220
- Congress Faces the Budget 221
- Budget Resolutions and Crises 221

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Learning About Your Representatives 222

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 10 The President 225

Who Can Become President? 226

- Birthplace and Age 226
- The Process of Becoming President 226

The Many Roles of the President 227

- Head of State 227

AT ISSUE: Should We Elect the President by Popular Vote? 228

- Chief Executive 229
- Commander in Chief 230

AT ISSUE: Should President Trump Send U.S. Ground Forces to Syria? 231

- Chief Diplomat 231
- Chief Legislator 233
- Party Chief and Politician 235

Presidential Powers 236

- Emergency Powers 237
- Executive Orders 238



JStone/Shutterstock.com

- Executive Privilege 238
- Signing Statements 239
- Abuses of Executive Power and Impeachment 239

The Executive Organization 240

- The Cabinet 240
- The Executive Office of the President 241

The Vice President 244

- The Vice President's Job 244
- Presidential Succession 245

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Communicating with the White House 247

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 11 The Executive Branch 250

The Nature and Scope of the Federal Bureaucracy 251

- Public and Private Bureaucracies 251
- The Size of the Bureaucracy 251
- The Federal Budget 252

The Organization of the Executive Branch 253

- Cabinet Departments 253

AT ISSUE: Should We Simplify the Income Tax System? 254

- Independent Executive Agencies 254
- Independent Regulatory Agencies 255
- Government and Government-Controlled Corporations 258

Staffing the Bureaucracy 259

- Political Appointees 259
- History of the Federal Civil Service 260

Modern Attempts at Bureaucratic Reform 262

- Sunshine Laws before and after 9/11 262
- Privatization, or Contracting Out 263
- The Issue of Whistleblowers 263

Bureaucrats as Politicians and Policymakers 265

- The Rulemaking Environment 265
- Negotiated Rulemaking 266
- Bureaucrats as Policymakers 266
- Congressional Control of the Bureaucracy 267



US Food and Drug Administration

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: What the Government Knows about You 268

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 12 The Courts 271

Sources of American Law 272

- The Common Law Tradition 272
- Constitutions 273
- Statutes and Administrative Regulations 273
- Case Law 273

The Federal Court System 273

- Basic Judicial Requirements 274
- Parties to Lawsuits 274
- Procedural Rules 274
- Types of Federal Courts 275
- Federal Courts and the War on Terrorism 277

The Supreme Court at Work 279

- Which Cases Reach the Supreme Court? 280
- Court Procedures 280
- Decisions and Opinions 281

The Selection of Federal Judges 282

- Judicial Appointments 282

AT ISSUE: Should State Judges Be Elected? 283

- Partisanship and Judicial Appointments 284
- The Senate's Role 285

Policymaking and the Courts 286

- Judicial Review 286
- Judicial Activism and Judicial Restraint 287
- The Roberts Court 288
- What Checks Our Courts? 289

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Changing the Legal System 292

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself



PART IV: POLICYMAKING

Chapter 13 Domestic and Economic Policy 296

AT ISSUE: Should States Raise the Minimum Wage? 297

The Policymaking Process: Health Care as an Example 298

- Health Care: Agenda Building 298
- Health Care: Policy Formulation 300
- Health Care: Policy Adoption 300
- Health Care: Policy Implementation 301
- Health Care: Policy Evaluation 302

Immigration 303

- The Issue of Unauthorized Immigration 304
- The Immigration Debate 304

Energy and the Environment 306

- Energy Independence—A Strategic Issue 306
- Climate Change 307

The Politics of Economic Decision Making 308

- Good Times, Bad Times 309
- Fiscal Policy 310
- The Public Debt and Deficit Spending 311
- Monetary Policy 313

The Politics of Taxation 315

- Federal Income Tax Rates 315
- Income Tax Loopholes and Other Types of Taxes 316

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Learning about Entitlement Reform 317

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself

Chapter 14 Foreign Policy 320

Facing the World: Foreign and Defense Policies 321

- Aspects of Foreign Policy 321
- Idealism versus Realism in Foreign Policy 321



Bloomberg/Getty Images

Terrorism and Warfare 323

- The Emergence of Terrorism 323
- Wars in Iraq 324
- Afghanistan 325
- The Civil War in Syria and the Rise of ISIS 326

U.S. Diplomatic Efforts 327

- Nuclear Weapons 327
- Israel and the Palestinians 329
- The New Power: China 330
- Economic Troubles in Europe 331

Who Makes Foreign Policy? 333

- Constitutional Powers of the President 333
- The Executive Branch and Foreign Policymaking 334
- Congress Balances the Presidency 335

The Major Foreign Policy Themes 336

- The Formative Years: Avoiding Entanglements 336
- The Era of Internationalism 337
- Superpower Relations 338

AT ISSUE: How Dangerous Is Putin's Russia? 340

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Working for Human Rights 341

Key Terms • Chapter Summary • Test Yourself



Pool/ABACA/Newscom/Abaca Press/TAORMINA/Italy

Appendix A The Declaration of Independence 345

Appendix B The Constitution of the United States 347

Appendix C *Federalist Papers* No. 10 and No. 51 367

Appendix D Government Spending and Revenue Charts 375

GLOSSARY 377

INDEX 389