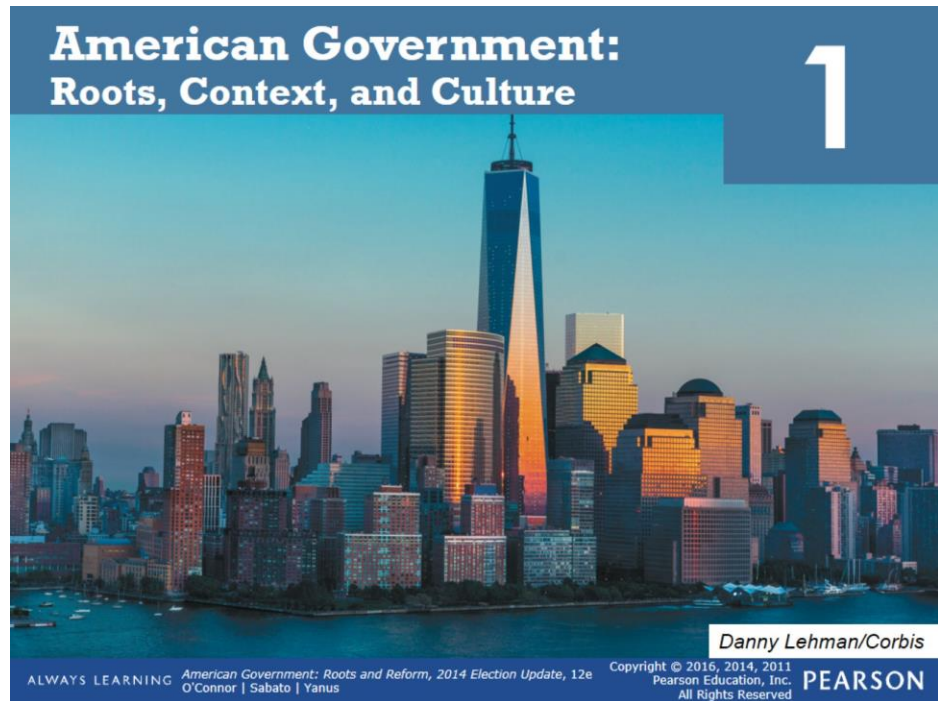


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Slide 1

Conditions in the Jamestown, Virginia, settlement of 1607 were harsh. While eventually life in the settlement improved, it is important to remember the sacrifices of early colonists and the trials other waves of immigrants have faced to be part of the American dream.

Much has changed since the days of the Jamestown Colony, and the people who live in America today differ greatly from those early settlers. The experiences and values of those settlers, however, continue to influence politics. This chapter explores the political process, placing people at its center.



Slide 2

We'll learn in this chapter about the beginnings of our government and how our government compares to other types of government.

Keep these learning objectives in mind as we begin our exploration of American government.

Learning Objectives

1.1

Trace the origins of American government.

1.2

Evaluate the different types of government countries may employ.

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Slide 3

As you can see, we'll learn about the meaning of democracy.

Learning Objectives

1

1.3

Explain the functions of American government.

1.4

Describe American political culture, and identify the basic tenets of American democracy.

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Slide 4

We continue to explore the political process.

Learning Objectives

1

1.5

Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

1.6

Assess the role of political ideology in shaping American politics.

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Slide 5

Aristotle classifies types of governments according to who rules, and in whose interest. Types of governments include monarchy, totalitarianism, aristocracy, oligarchy, polity, and democracy.

Fears about mob rule and the vast size of the United States led the Framers to create a republican democracy that relies on the role of representatives to filter citizens' viewpoints.

Types of Government

1.2

- Devising a National Government in the American Colonies

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Slide 6

We classify governments according to who participates, who governs, and how much authority those who govern enjoy.

Monarchy is defined by the rule of one hereditary king or queen in the interest of all of his or her subjects. An aristocracy is government by the few in the service of the many.


In totalitarian systems, the leader exercises unlimited power, and individuals have no personal rights or liberties. An oligarchy occurs when a few people rule in their own interest. In an oligarchy, wealth, social status, military position, or achievement dictates participation in government.

The term democracy applies to a system of government that gives power to the people, either directly, or indirectly through elected representatives.

Types of Government

1.2

- Classification of governments
- Types of governments
 - Monarchy
 - Aristocracy
 - Totalitarianism
 - Oligarchy
 - Democracy
 - Direct democracy
 - Representative democracy



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Slide 7

Table 1.1 How Did Aristotle Classify the Types of Governments?

Aristotle classified types of governments by who ruled, in whose interest they ruled, and how much power they enjoyed.

Source: *Aristotle, Politics 3, 7.*

TABLE 1.1 How did Aristotle classify the types of governments?

1.2

TABLE 1.1 HOW DID ARISTOTLE CLASSIFY THE TYPES OF GOVERNMENTS?

Rule by	In Whose Interest	
	Public	Self
One	Monarchy	Tyranny
The Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
The Many	Polity	Democracy

SOURCE: Aristotle, *Politics* 3, 7.

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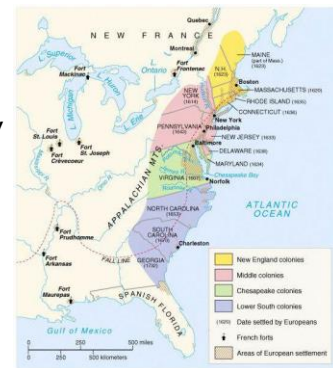
Slide 8

American colonists rejected a system with a strong ruler, such as the British monarchy, when they declared their independence. The colonists also feared replicating the landed and titled system of the British aristocracy. Due to the vast size of the new nation, direct democracy was unworkable. They viewed a republican form of government as most in keeping with their values and situation, with an indirect democracy in which people vote for representatives who work on their behalf.

Devising a National Government in the American Colonies

1.2

- ❑ Rejected monarchy/aristocracy
- ❑ Rejected direct democracy as unworkable
- ❑ Chose republic
- ❑ Indirect democracy



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Activity: The idea of direct democracy has gained increasing traction as the Internet expands the possibility of expanding the role of citizens in the development of public policy. But the framers explicitly rejected the idea of direct democracy, even when the United States was a much smaller country.

Ask students if recent technological innovations make the idea of direct democracy more attractive and feasible. Assume, for example, that millions of American televisions could be hooked up to a centralized computer system that in turn could instantly register the public's view on issues (yes or no responses). Would this be an improvement to the American political system? Why or why not?

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Slide 9

One of the first tasks expected of any government is the creation of a system of laws. Societies must abide by the rule of law so that justice can be dispensed fairly to the citizens. The Constitution authorized Congress to create a federal judicial system to dispense justice.

The role of governments in ensuring domestic tranquility is a subject of much debate. In crises, such as the terrorist attacks of 9/11, government can take extraordinary measures to contain the threat. In normal times, local governments have police forces, states have national guards, and the federal government can always call up troops to quell any threats to order.

The Framers recognized that a major purpose of government is to provide defense for its citizens against threats of foreign aggression. Thus, the Constitution calls for the president to be commander in chief of the armed forces, and Congress has the authority to raise an army.

Promoting the general welfare was more of an ideal than a mandate for the new national government. Over time, though, our notions of what governments should do have expanded along with governmental size.

Americans enjoy a wide range of liberties and opportunities to prosper. These freedoms to criticize the government and to petition it are perhaps the best way to "secure the Blessings of Liberty."

1.3

Functions of American Government

- Establishing Justice
- Ensuring Domestic Tranquility
- Providing for the Common Defense
- Promoting the General Welfare
- Securing the Blessings of Liberty



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Slide 10

Political culture is a group's commonly shared attitudes, beliefs, and core values about how government should operate. Key tenets of Americans' shared political culture are:

- liberty and equality.
- popular consent, majority rule, and popular sovereignty.
- individualism.
- religious freedom.

American Political Culture and the Basic Tenets of American Democracy

1.4

- ▣ Liberty and Equality
- ▣ Popular Consent, Majority Rule, and Popular Sovereignty
- ▣ Individualism
- ▣ Religious Faith and Religious Freedom

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Slide 11

Popular consent is the principle that governments must draw their powers from the consent of the governed. Derived from political philosopher John Locke's social contract theory, the notion of popular consent was central to the Declaration of Independence.

Majority rule means that election of officials and transformation of policies into law will take place only if the majority of citizens support such changes. The American system also stresses preservation of minority rights, as evidenced by protections of individual liberties found in the Bill of Rights.

Popular Consent, Majority Rule, and Popular Sovereignty

1.4

- ▣ Popular consent
 - Governments derive power by consent of the governed
- ▣ Majority rule
 - Bill of Rights protects minority rights
- ▣ Popular sovereignty
 - Basis in natural law



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Popular sovereignty is the notion that ultimate authority in society rests with the people. It has its basis in natural law, a doctrine that certain ethical principles are part of nature and can be understood by reason, so they should govern society.

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Slide 12

American democracy places heavy importance on the individual, an idea that may be traced back to the Puritans.

This emphasis on individualism makes Americans quite different from citizens of other wealthy democracies. Community-focused societies reject the American emphasis on individuals and try to improve the lives of their citizens by making services and rights available on a universal basis.

In contrast, individuals in the U.S. are deemed endowed, as Thomas Jefferson proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, "with certain unalienable rights."

Individualism

1.4

- ❑ Unique to American democracy
- ❑ Traced to Puritans
- ❑ Linked to unalienable rights



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Slide 13

Religious conflicts in Europe brought many settlers to the New World. Seeking an opportunity to practice their religious faith, colonists initially settled large sections of the East Coast.

However, that faith did not always imply religious tolerance. The clashes that occurred within settlements led the Framers to agree that notions of religious freedom must form the foundation of the new nation.

Religious tolerance, however, has often proved to be more of an ideal than a reality.

Religious Faith and Religious Freedom

1.4

- ❑ Religious conflict motivation for immigration
- ❑ Colonists sought freedom of religion.
 - Did not want to grant it to others
- ❑ Religious freedom enshrined in Constitution
 - Tolerance still more of an ideal



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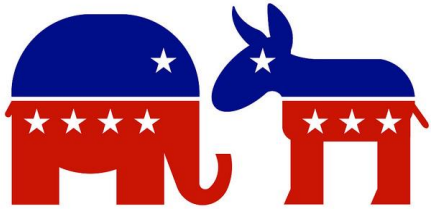
Slide 14

Ideologies, the belief systems that shape the thinking of individuals and how they view the world, affect people's ideas about government. The major categories of political ideology in America are conservative, liberal, and moderate.

Political Ideology

1.6

- ▣ Finding Your Political Ideology
- ▣ Problems with Ideological Labels



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Slide 15

Ideologies are sets or systems of beliefs that shape the thinking of individuals and how they view the world, especially in regard to issues of "race, nationality, the role and function of government, the relations between men and women, human responsibility for the natural environment, and many other matters." A political ideology, specifically, is the coherent set of values and beliefs people hold about the purpose and scope of government. Ideologies are a potent political force, due to the four functions they fulfill.

Political Ideology

1.6

Political socialization is the "study of the developmental processes by which people of all ages and adolescents acquire political cognition, attitudes, and behaviors". en.wikipedia.org



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Ideologies can offer explanations why social and political conditions are the way they are, especially in time of crisis. Ideologies can also provide standards for evaluating social conditions and political institutions and events.

Americans' belief in the importance of individual ability and personal responsibility helps explain the opposition of some people to the Obama administration's health care reforms.

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Slide 16

And, much like a compass, ideologies provide individuals with an orientation toward issues and a position within the world. When many African American women decided to campaign for Barack Obama and not Hillary Rodham Clinton in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, their identity as African Americans may have trumped their identity as women.

Finally, ideologies help people make political choices and guide their political actions. Thus, since the Republican Party is identified with a steadfast opposition to abortion, anyone with strong anti-abortion views would find the party's stance on this issue a helpful guide in voting.

Political Ideology

1.6

- Influences on Political Socialization
 - Families
 - Schools
 - Friends
 - Economic Status
 - Media



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Slide 17

Conservatives tend to believe that a government is best when it governs least. They want less government, especially in terms of regulating the economy. Conservatives favor local and state action over federal intervention. Conservatives are also likely to believe that the private sector is better equipped than the government to address domestic problems such as homelessness, poverty, and discrimination.

A growing percentage of voters can be classified as social conservatives, who believe that moral decay must be stemmed and that government should support and further traditional moral teachings. These voters favor government intervention to regulate sexual and social behavior and have mounted effective efforts to restrict contraceptives, abortion, and same-sex marriage.

Liberals seek to change the political, economic, and social status quo and foster the development of equality and the well-being of individuals. Modern liberals generally value equality over other

Finding Your Political Ideology

1.6

- Conservatives
 - Social conservatives
- Liberals
- Moderates



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aspects of shared political culture. They support well-funded government social welfare programs that seek to protect individuals from economic disadvantages or to correct past injustices, and they generally oppose government efforts to regulate private behavior or infringe on civil rights and liberties.

Moderates take a relatively centrist view on most political issues. Aristotle actually favored moderate politics, believing that domination in the center was better than any extremes. Approximately 35 percent of the population today consider themselves political moderates.

Slide 18

As the nation and its economy grew in size and complexity, the federal government took on more responsibilities. Americans' demands upon government increased, as did their dissatisfaction. Today, many Americans lack faith in the country's institutions. We want government to do both more and less, and do it with fewer resources. For example, many Americans say they want less government, but as they get older, they don't want less Social Security and Medicare. They want lower taxes and better roads, but they don't want to pay road tolls. They want better education for their children, but lower expenditures on schools. They want greater security at airports, but low fares and quick boarding.

Redefining Our Expectations

1.7

- Loss of faith in American institutions
 - Frustration
 - Dissatisfaction



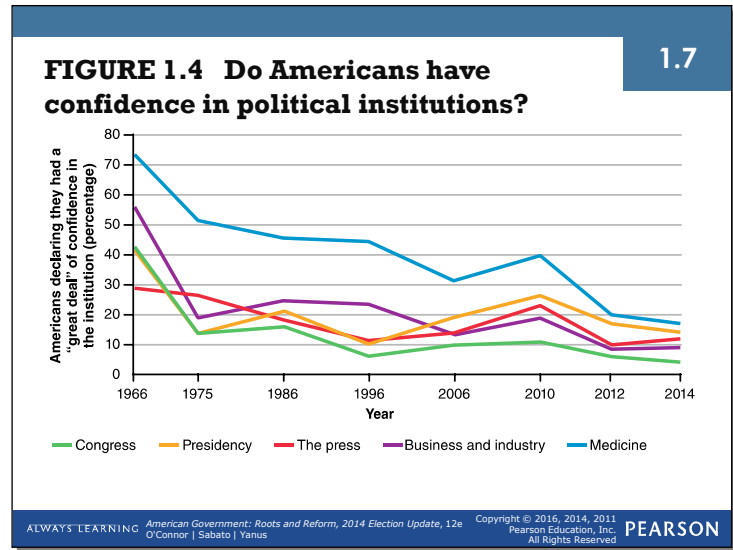
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Slide 19

Figure 1.4 Do Americans have confidence in political institutions? The line graph below shows the percentages of Americans declaring they had a “great deal” of confidence in American institutions. Note the declining trend of trust in all political institutions, as well as Americans’ record low levels of trust in institutions such as Congress and the press.

SOURCE: Newsweek (January 8, 1996):32; Public Perspective 8 (February/March 1994): 4; Lexis-Nexis RPOLL; Washington Post (June 13, 2006): A2; www.pollingreport.com; www.gallup.com/poll/1597/confidence-institutions.aspx.



Activity: Ask students to find a political cartoon relating to a recent event or issue. Daryl Cagle's PoliticalCartoons.com website (<http://www.politicalcartoons.com>) may provide a useful starting point. Then ask students to bring their cartoon to class and discuss how the cartoon illustrates a central theme in American politics.

Slide 20

Slide 21

Discussion Question

In what ways has America changed since the first permanent settlement of European immigrants at Jamestown? Consider ethnic, racial, religious, geographic, economic, political, and other changes.

Further Review

- Listen to the Chapter
- Study and Review the Flashcards
- Study and Review the Practice Tests