

H O L T

American Government

REFERENCE SECTION

Atlas	558
The Declaration of Independence	562
The Constitution of the United States	564
Glossary	585
Index	600
Acknowledgments	617

NEW YORK ROCKEFELLER
NEEDS
A MAN
OF
DEEDS
FOR GOVERNOR

USA NEEDS NEW LEADER

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT VICE

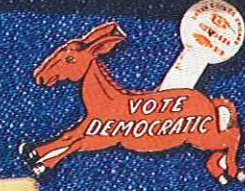
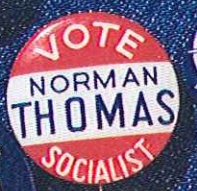
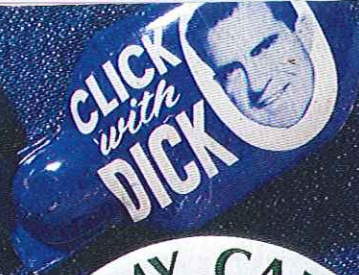
CLINTON-GORE '92

We Want
FDR

TEXAS

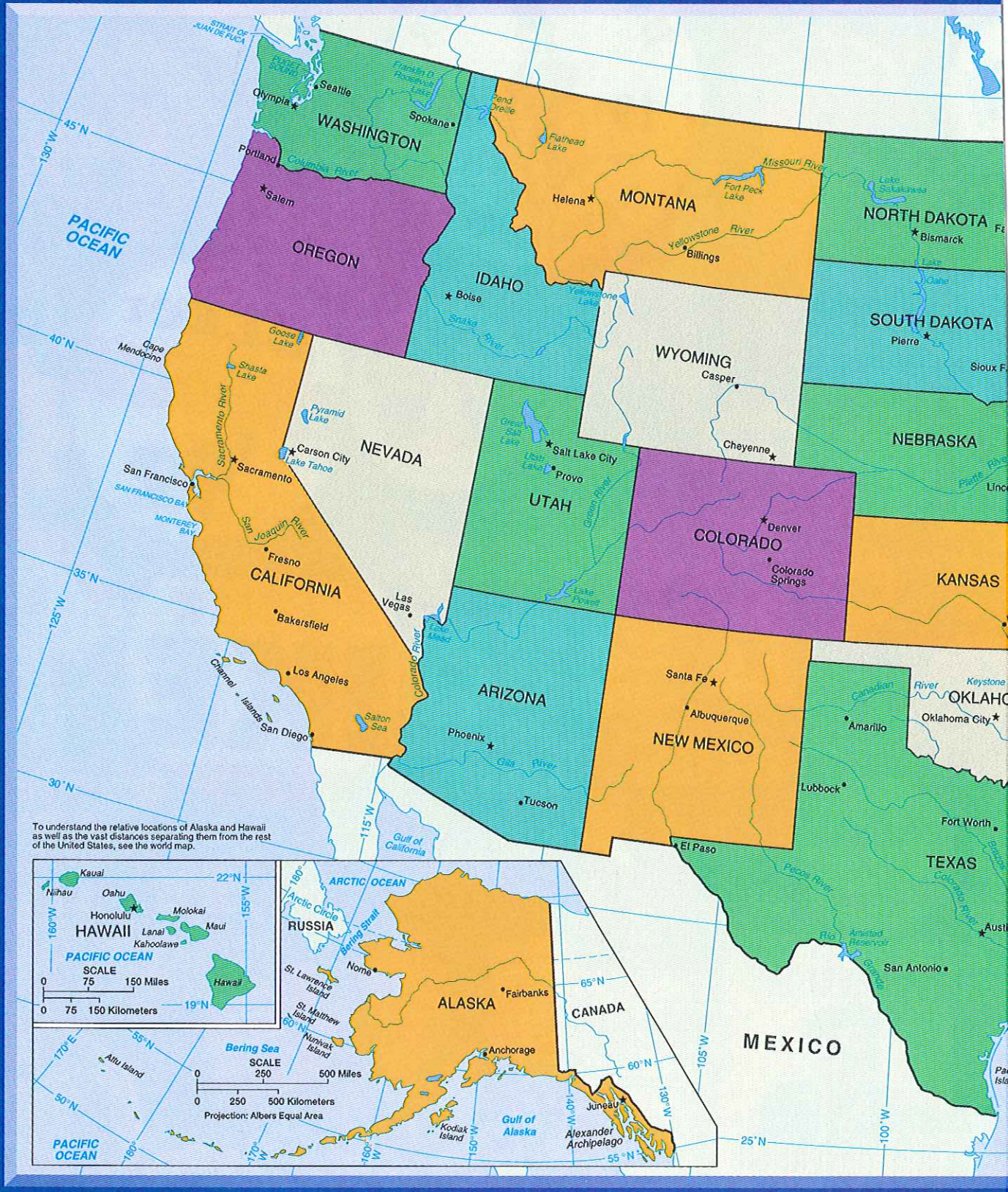
FOR PRESIDENT
WILSON

UNCLE SAM



POLITICAL ATLAS

United States: Political



To understand the relative locations of Alaska and Hawaii as well as the vast distances separating them from the rest of the United States, see the world map.



⊗ National capital
★ State capitals
• Other cities



Gulf of Mexico



250 500 Miles
250 500 Kilometers
Projection: Albers Equal Area

The World: Political

- ⊗ National capitals
- Other cities

Scale at Equator

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Miles

0 1,000 2,000 Kilometers

Mollweide Projection



Central America and the Caribbean



COUNTRY

- 1 St. Kitts & Nevis
- 2 Antigua & Barbuda
- 3 Dominica
- 4 St. Lucia
- 5 Barbados
- 6 St. Vincent & The Grenadines
- 7 Grenada
- 8 Trinidad & Tobago

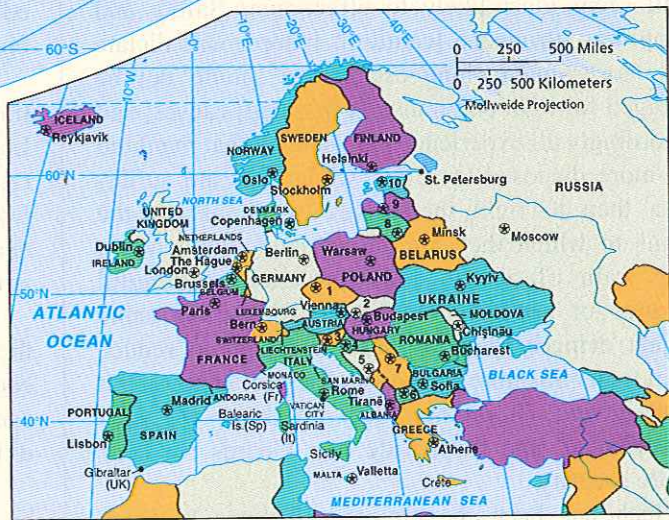
CAPITAL

- Basseterre
- St. John's
- Roseau
- Castries
- Bridgetown
- Kingsstown
- St. George's
- Port of Spain



Europe

COUNTRY	CAPITAL
1 Czech Republic	Prague
2 Slovakia	Bratislava
3 Slovenia	Ljubljana
4 Croatia	Zagreb
5 Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo
6 Macedonia	Skopje
7 Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	Belgrade
8 Lithuania	Vilnius
9 Latvia	Riga
10 Estonia	Tallinn



The Declaration of Independence

In Congress, July 4, 1776 The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel [drive] them to the separation.

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

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving [obtaining] their just powers from the consent of the governed,

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence [caution], indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient [passing] causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations [wrongful seizures of power], pursuing invariably the same Object evinces [demonstrates] a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism [unlimited power], it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which

constrains [restricts] them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny [oppressive power] over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid [unbiased] world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable [fearsome] to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository [storehouse] of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations [additions] of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure [term] of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering [housing] large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary [unrestrained] government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the Lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation [ruin] and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy [treachery] scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their

Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress [compensation] in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity [nobleness], and we have conjured [called upon] them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow [disclaim] these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity [common ancestry]. We must, therefore, acquiesce [consent to] in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude [rightness] of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved [set free] from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence [guidance], we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The Constitution of the United States of America

PREAMBLE

The short and dignified Preamble explains the goals of the new government under the Constitution.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Article I explains how the legislative branch, called Congress, is organized. The chief purpose of the legislative branch is to make the laws. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The decision to have two bodies of government solved a difficult problem during the Constitutional Convention. The large states wanted the membership of Congress to be based entirely on population. The small states wanted every state to have an equal vote. The solution to the problem of how the states were to be represented in Congress was known as the Great Compromise.

The number of members of the House is based on the population of the individual states. Each state has at least one representative. The current size of the House is 435 members, set by Congress in 1929. If each member of the House represented only 30,000 American people, as the Constitution states, the House would have more than 6,000 members.

PREAMBLE

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

ARTICLE I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty-five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, ~~which shall~~

* Parts of the Constitution that have been ruled through are no longer in force or no longer apply.

The Constitution

~~be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three; Massachusetts eight; Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one; Connecticut five; New York six; New Jersey four; Pennsylvania eight; Delaware one; Maryland six; Virginia ten; North Carolina five; South Carolina five; and Georgia three.~~

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. ~~The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.~~

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; ~~and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.~~

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

Every state has two senators. Senators serve a six-year term, but only one third of the senators reach the end of their terms every two years. In any election, at least two thirds of the senators stay in office. This system ensures that there are experienced senators in office at all times.

The only duty that the Constitution assigns to the vice president is to preside over meetings of the Senate. Modern presidents have given their vice presidents more and varied responsibility.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have ^{the} Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most

The House charges a government official of wrongdoing, and the Senate acts as a court to decide if the official is guilty.

Congress has decided that elections will be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. The Twentieth Amendment states that Congress shall meet in regular session on January 3 of each year. The president may call a special session of Congress whenever necessary.

Congress makes most of its own rules of conduct. The Senate and the House each have a code of ethics that members must follow. It is the task of each house of Congress to discipline its own members. Each house keeps a journal, and a publication called the Congressional Quarterly records what happens in congressional sessions. The general public can learn how their representatives voted on bills by reading the Congressional Quarterly.

The framers of the Constitution wanted to protect members of Congress from being arrested on false charges by political enemies who did not want them to attend important meetings. The framers also wanted to protect members of Congress from being taken to court for something they said in a speech or in a debate.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

Section 1. The Senate, Cases and manner of holding Sessions
of, but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such

chosen every second Year by the People of the several States,
Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section 8. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

The power of taxing is the responsibility of the House of Representatives. Because members of the House are elected every two years, the framers felt that representatives would listen to the public and seek its approval before passing taxes.

The veto power of the president and the ability of Congress to override a presidential veto are two of the important checks and balances in the Constitution.

The framers of the Constitution wanted a national government that was strong enough to be effective. This section lists the powers given to Congress. The last sentence in Section 8 (see page 170) contains the famous "elastic clause," which can be stretched (like elastic) to fit many different circumstances. The clause was first disputed when Alexander Hamilton proposed a national bank. Thomas Jefferson said that the Constitution did not give Congress the power to establish a bank. Hamilton argued that the bank was "necessary and proper" in order to carry out other powers of Congress, such as borrowing money and regulating currency. This argument was tested in the court system in 1819 in the case of *McCulloch v. Maryland*, when Chief Justice Marshall ruled in favor of the federal government. Powers given to the government by the "elastic clause" are called implied powers.

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

~~Section 9. The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.~~

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

If Congress has implied powers, then there also must be limits to its powers. Section 9 lists powers that are denied to the federal government. Several of the clauses protect the people of the United States from unjust treatment. For instance, Section 9 guarantees the writ of habeas corpus and prohibits bills of attainder and ex post facto laws (see page 163).

chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and
a Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.
No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless
in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before
directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from
any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of
Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those
of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State,
be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in
Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regu-
lar Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures
of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States:
And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under
them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of
any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind what-
ever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty,
Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and
Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing
but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass
any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or law impairing
the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay
any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what
may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection
Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid
by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use
of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws
shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the
Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any
Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of
Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another
State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actu-
ally invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit
of delay.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a
President of the United States of America. He shall hold
his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with
the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected,
as follows.

Section 10 lists the powers that are denied
to the states. In our system of federalism,
the state and federal governments have
separate powers, share some powers, and
are denied other powers. The states may
not exercise any of the powers that belong
to Congress.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The president is the chief of the executive
branch. It is the job of the president to
enforce the laws. The framers wanted the
president and vice president's term of
office and manner of selection to be differ-
ent from those of members of Congress.
They decided on four-year terms, but they

ons, except as to the Place of choosing Senators.

had a difficult time agreeing on how to select the president and vice president. The framers finally set up an electoral system, which varies greatly from our electoral process today. The Twelfth Amendment changed the process by requiring that separate ballots be cast for president and vice president. The rise of political parties has since changed the process even more.

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

~~The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice President.~~

In 1845 Congress set the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of every fourth year as the general election date for selecting presidential electors.

The youngest elected president was John F. Kennedy; he was 43 years old when he was inaugurated. (Theodore Roosevelt was 42 when he assumed office after the assassination of McKinley.) The oldest elected president was Ronald Reagan; he was 69 years old when he was inaugurated.

The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, ~~or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution,~~ shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the

chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and
a Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he 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, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Emolument means "salary, or payment." In 1969 Congress set the president's salary at \$200,000 per year. The president also receives an expense account of \$50,000 per year. The president must pay taxes on both.

The oath of office is administered to the president by the chief justice of the United States. Washington added "So help me, God." All succeeding presidents have followed this practice.

The framers wanted to make sure that an elected representative of the people controlled the nation's military. Today the president is in charge of the army, navy, air force, marines, and coast guard. Only Congress can decide, however, if the United States will declare war. This section also contains the basis for the formation of the president's cabinet. Every president, starting with George Washington, has appointed a cabinet.

Most of the president's appointments to office must be approved by the Senate.

Every year the president presents to Congress a State of the Union message. In this message, the president explains the legislative plans for the coming year. This clause states that one of the president's duties is to enforce the laws.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have ^{two} Representatives, or such a Number as

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Articles of Confederation did not make any provisions for a federal court system. One of the first things that the framers of the Constitution agreed upon was to set up a national judiciary. With all the laws that Congress would be enacting, there would be a great need for a branch of government to interpret the laws. In the Judiciary Act of 1789, Congress provided for the establishment of lower courts, such as district courts, circuit courts of appeals, and various other federal courts. The judicial system provides a check on the legislative branch; it can declare a law unconstitutional.

Congress has the power to decide the punishment for treason, but it can punish only the guilty person. Corruption of blood refers to punishing the family of a person who has committed treason. It is expressly forbidden by the Constitution.

Section 4. The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—~~between a State and Citizens of another State;~~—between Citizens of different States;—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, ~~and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.~~

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Section 1. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and
Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

~~No Person held to Service of Labor in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labor, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labor may be due.~~

Section 3. New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

ARTICLE V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several

THE STATES

States must honor the laws, records, and court decisions of other states. A person cannot escape a legal obligation by moving from one state to another.

Section 3 permits Congress to admit new states to the Union. When a group of people living in an area that is not part of an existing state wishes to form a new state, it asks Congress for permission to do so. The people then write a state constitution and offer it to Congress for approval. The state constitution must set up a representative form of government and must not in any way contradict the federal Constitution. If a majority of Congress approves of the state constitution, the state is admitted as a member of the United States of America.

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

America's founders may not have realized just how enduring the Constitution would be, but they did make provisions for changing or adding to the Constitution. They did not want to make it easy to change the Constitution. There are two different ways in which changes can be proposed to the states and two different ways in which states can approve the changes and make them part of the Constitution (see the chart on page 163).

ms, except as to the Clause of choosing Senators.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have ^{the} Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most

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States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that ~~no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.~~

NATIONAL SUPREMACY

One of the biggest problems facing the delegates to the Constitutional Convention was the question of what would happen if a state law and a national law conflicted. Which law would be followed? Who decided? The second clause of Article VI answers those questions. When a national and state law disagree, the national law overrides the state law. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. This clause is often called the "supremacy clause."

RATIFICATION

The Articles of Confederation called for all 13 states to approve any revision to the Articles. The Constitution required that the vote of 9 out of the 13 states would be needed to ratify the Constitution. The first state to ratify was Delaware, on December 7, 1787. The last state to ratify the Constitution was Rhode Island, which finally did so on May 29, 1790, almost two and a half years later.

ARTICLE VII

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

ARTICLE VI

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

DONE in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. IN WITNESS whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

George Washington—President and deputy from Virginia

New Hampshire
John Langdon
Nicholas Gilman

The Granger Collection, New York.

Section 11. One or more States and manner of receiving
of, but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such

chosen every second year by the People of the several States, and
Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

Massachusetts
Nathaniel Gorham
Rufus King

Delaware
George Read
Gunning Bedford, Jr.
John Dickinson

Connecticut
William Samuel
Johnson
Roger Sherman

Richard Bassett
Jacob Broom

New York
Alexander Hamilton

Maryland
James McHenry
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer
Daniel Carroll

New Jersey
William Livingston
David Brearley
William Paterson
Jonathan Dayton

Virginia
John Blair
James Madison, Jr.

Pennsylvania
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Mifflin
Robert Morris
George Clymer
Thomas FitzSimons
Jared Ingersoll
James Wilson
Gouverneur Morris

North Carolina
William Blount
Richard Dobbs Spaight
Hugh Williamson

South Carolina
John Rutledge
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler

Georgia
William Few
Abraham Baldwin

Attest: William Jackson, Secretary

THE AMENDMENTS

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several states, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution. [The First through Tenth amendments, now known as the Bill of Rights, were proposed on September 25, 1789, and declared in force on December 15, 1791.]

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or

BILL OF RIGHTS

One of the conditions set by several states for ratifying the Constitution was the inclusion of a Bill of Rights. Many people feared that a stronger central government might take away basic rights of the people that had been guaranteed in state constitutions. If the three words that begin the preamble, We the people—were truly meant, then the rights of the people needed to be protected.

The First Amendment protects freedom of speech and thought, and forbids Congress to make any law "respecting an establishment of religion" or restraining the freedom to practice religion as one chooses.

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Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have, ^{two} Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most

abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Second Amendment

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.

Third Amendment

No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Fourth Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Fifth Amendment

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Sixth Amendment

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

A police officer or sheriff may enter a person's home with a search warrant, which allows the law officer to look for evidence that could convict someone of committing a crime.

The Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh amendments describe the procedures that courts must follow when trying people accused of crimes. The Fifth Amendment guarantees that no one can be put on trial for a serious crime unless a grand jury agrees that the evidence justifies doing so. It also says that a person cannot be tried twice for the same crime.

The Sixth Amendment makes several promises, including a prompt trial and a trial by a jury chosen from the state and district in which the crime was committed. The Sixth Amendment also states that an accused person must be told why he or she is being tried and promises that an accused person has the right to be defended by a lawyer.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imports and Exports, to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, to borrow Money on the credit of the United States, to define and punish Offenses against the Law of Nations, to punish Counterfeiting of Securities and current Coin, to regulate the Coinage, Weights and Measures, to establish Post Offices and Post Roads, to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries, to grant Patents and Copyrights, to organize and regulate the Militia, to take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and to receive and appoint Ambassadors, Consuls, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges, and all other Officers, and all other Persons, who shall be appointed, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such

The Constitution

Seventh Amendment

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

The Seventh Amendment guarantees a trial by jury in cases that involve more than \$20, but in modern times, usually much more money is at stake before a case is heard in federal court.

Eighth Amendment

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Ninth Amendment

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

The Ninth and Tenth amendments were added because not every right of the people or of the states could be listed in the Constitution.

Tenth Amendment

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Eleventh Amendment

[Proposed March 4, 1794; declared ratified January 8, 1798]

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Twelfth Amendment

[Proposed December 9, 1803; declared ratified September 25, 1804]

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;—The President of the

The Twelfth Amendment changed the election procedure for president and vice president. This amendment became necessary because of the growth of political parties. Before this amendment, electors voted without distinguishing between president and vice president. Whoever received the most votes became president, and whoever received the next highest number of votes became vice president. A confusing election in 1800, which resulted in Thomas Jefferson's becoming president, caused this amendment to be proposed.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have ^{two} Representatives, or such number as may be

Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President;—The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice President, shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice President of the United States.

Although some slaves had been freed during the Civil War, slavery was not abolished until the Thirteenth Amendment took effect.

Thirteenth Amendment

[Proposed January 31, 1865; declared ratified December 18, 1865]

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

In 1833 Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the Bill of Rights limited the national government but not the state governments. This ruling meant that states were able to keep African Americans from becoming state citizens. If African Americans were not citizens, they were not protected by the

Fourteenth Amendment

[Proposed June 13, 1866; declared ratified July 28, 1868]

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge

Section 1. The States, and members of every State
of, but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such

chosen every second year by the People of the several States, and
a Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, ~~excluding Indians not taxed.~~ But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the ~~male~~ inhabitants of such State, being ~~twenty one years of age,~~ and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such ~~male~~ citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens ~~twenty one years of age~~ in such State.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or ~~any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave;~~ but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Fifteenth Amendment

[Proposed February 26, 1869; declared ratified March 30, 1870]

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States

Bill of Rights. The Fourteenth Amendment defines citizenship and prevents states from interfering in the rights of citizens of the United States.

The Fifteenth Amendment extended the right to vote to African American males.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have ^{two} Representatives, or such a number as may be

The Sixteenth Amendment made legal the income tax described in Article I.

The Seventeenth Amendment required that senators be elected directly by the people instead of by the state legislature.

Although many people felt that Prohibition was good for the health and welfare of the American people, the amendment was repealed 14 years later.

or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Sixteenth Amendment

[Proposed July 12, 1909; declared ratified February 25, 1913]

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Seventeenth Amendment

[Proposed May 13, 1912; declared ratified May 31, 1913]

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

~~This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.~~

Eighteenth Amendment

[Proposed December 18, 1917; declared ratified January 29, 1919; repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment December 5, 1933]

~~Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.~~

~~Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.~~

~~Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution~~

Section 1. The times, places and manner of holding elections
thereof, but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such

chosen every second year by the People of the several States, or a Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Nineteenth Amendment

[Proposed June 4, 1919; declared ratified August 26, 1920]

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Twentieth Amendment

[Proposed March 2, 1932; declared ratified February 6, 1933]

Section 1. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3rd day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such persons shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution

Abigail Adams was disappointed that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution did not specifically include women. It took almost 150 years and much campaigning by women's suffrage groups for women to finally achieve voting privileges.

In the original Constitution, a newly elected president and Congress did not take office until March 4, which was four months after the November election. The officials who were leaving office were called "lame ducks" because they had little influence during those four months. The Twentieth Amendment changed the date that the new president and Congress take office. Members of Congress now take office on January 3, and the president takes office on January 20.

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The Twenty-first Amendment is the only amendment that has been ratified by state conventions rather than by state legislatures.

From the time of President Washington's administration, it was a custom for presidents to serve no more than two terms of office. Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, was elected to four terms. The Twenty-second Amendment made into law the old custom of a two-term limit for each president, if reelected.

Until the Twenty-third Amendment, the people of Washington, D.C., could not vote in presidential elections.

by the legislatures of three fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Twenty-first Amendment

[Proposed February 20, 1933; declared ratified December 5, 1933]

Section 1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3. ~~This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.~~

Twenty-second Amendment

[Proposed March 24, 1947; declared ratified March 1, 1951]

Section 1. No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. ~~But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.~~

Section 2. ~~This Article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.~~

Twenty-third Amendment

[Proposed June 16, 1960; declared ratified April 3, 1961]

Section 1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in

chosen every second year by the People of the several States, and
Branch of the State Legislature.

The Constitution

Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Twenty-fourth Amendment

[Proposed August 27, 1962; declared ratified February 4, 1964]

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Twenty-fifth Amendment

[Proposed July 6, 1965; declared ratified February 23, 1967]

Section 1. In case of removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3. Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

The illness of President Eisenhower in the 1950s and the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 were the events behind the Twenty-fifth Amendment. The Constitution did not provide a clear-cut method for a vice president to take over for a disabled president or for the death of a president. This amendment provides for filling the office of the vice president if a vacancy occurs, and it provides a way for the vice president to take over if the president is unable to perform the duties of that office.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of
each State shall have ^{the} Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

The Voting Act of 1970 tried to set the voting age at 18 years old. But the Supreme Court ruled that the act set the voting age for national elections only, not state or local elections. This ruling would make necessary several different ballots at elections. The Twenty-sixth Amendment gave 18-year-old citizens the right to vote in all elections.

Twenty-sixth Amendment

[Proposed March 23, 1971; declared ratified July 5, 1971]

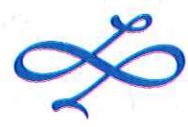
Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Twenty-seventh Amendment

[Proposed September 25, 1789; declared ratified May 7, 1992]

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.



The Granger Collection, New York.

Section 1. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections
may at any time by Law make or alter such

GLOSSARY

This glossary contains terms you need to understand as you study government. After each term there is a brief definition or explanation of the term as it is used in *Holt American Government*. The page number refers to the page on which the term is introduced in the textbook.

Phonetic Respelling and Pronunciation Guide

Many of the key terms in this textbook have been respelled to help you pronounce them. The letter combinations used in the respellings throughout the narrative are explained in the following phonetic respelling and pronunciation guide. The guide is adapted from *Webster's Tenth New Collegiate Dictionary*, *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary*, and *Webster's New Biographical Dictionary*.

MARK	AS IN	RESPELLING	EXAMPLE
a	<u>al</u> phabet	a	*AL-fuh-bet
ā	<u>A</u> sia	ay	AY-zhuh
ä	cart, <u>top</u>	ah	KAHRT, TAHp
e	let, <u>ten</u>	e	LET, TEN
ē	<u>even</u> , <u>leaf</u>	ee	EE-vuhn, LEEF
i	it, <u>tip</u> , British	i	IT, TIP, BRIT-ish
ī	site, <u>buy</u> , Ohio	y	SYT, BY, oh-HY-oh
	<u>iris</u>	eye	EYE-ris
k	<u>card</u>	k	KAHRD
ō	<u>over</u> , <u>rainbow</u>	oh	oh-vuhr, RAYN-boh
ū	<u>book</u> , <u>wood</u>	oo	BOOHK, WOOHD
ò	<u>all</u> , <u>orchid</u>	aw	AWL, AWR-kid
ò	<u>foil</u> , <u>coin</u>	oy	FOYL, KOYN
àu	<u>out</u>	ow	OWT
ə	<u>cup</u> , <u>butter</u>	uh	KUHP, BUHT-uhr
ü	<u>rule</u> , <u>food</u>	oo	ROOL, FOOD
yü	<u>few</u>	yoo	FYOO
zh	<u>vision</u>	zh	VIZH-uhn

*A syllable printed in small capital letters receives heavier emphasis than the other syllable(s) in a word.

A

absentee ballot a ballot that a voter who will be unable to appear at his or her polling place on the day of an election can use to vote in advance by mail. 441

act of admission an act of Congress that, when signed by the president, makes a territory a state. 76

administrative law 1) the rules and regulations that government agencies use to carry out statutory law, and the procedures through which those rules and regulations are created and practiced. 2) the body of laws that create government agencies and govern judicial review of

actions taken by government agencies. 272

affirmative action a program, supported by law, requiring American employers, labor unions, and other institutions to actively seek to eliminate discrimination against women and minorities and to increase the hiring, promotion, wage, training, and other opportunities for such persons. 355

agribusiness the industry that is involved in producing, processing, or distributing agricultural products. 386

Albany Plan of Union a plan to unite the thirteen colonies in 1754. Proposed by Benjamin Franklin, the Albany Plan of Union called for a council of representatives from each colony to levy taxes, handle military matters,

and regulate affairs with American Indians. A president-general with veto power was head of the council, whose acts would be law throughout the colonies unless vetoed by the British monarch. Never approved by the British and colonial governments, the plan was never put into effect. 26

alien a citizen of one nation who is temporarily or permanently living in another nation. 298

alliance an agreement between two or more nations to work together toward some common (typically military or economic) goal. 151

ambassador The highest-ranking diplomat who represents a nation to the government of another nation. An ambassador is the personal representative of his or her nation's head of state. 224

amendment 1) an addition to an already adopted constitution. 51 2) an addition to a bill that is under consideration by a legislature. 126-27

amicus curiae brief a formal brief that reflects a group's concerns regarding a court decision. 260

amnesty an act of forgiveness by a government for persons who have committed a crime, usually a political offense. Amnesty is granted to a group of people, in contrast to a pardon, which is granted to individuals. 344

anarchy the absence of any legitimate governmental authority, resulting in political disorder and sometimes chaos and mob rule. 14

Antifederalist someone who opposed the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in the late 1780s. Antifederalists feared the creation of a strong national government, preferring that state governments retain the greater share of power. 40

appellate jurisdiction the requirement that an appeals court must hear cases that are appealed to it if the cases meet certain conditions set by law. 253

apportion to determine how many legislators should represent a jurisdiction in a legislative body. 99

appropriations 1) funds assigned by a legislature to pay for something that has been authorized by law. 2) congressional legislation authorizing federal agencies to make payments out of the Treasury for specified purposes. 118

arraignment in a criminal case, a court hearing in which the defendant is formally charged with a crime, informed of his or her rights, and required to enter a plea to the charge. 277

Articles of Confederation a legal document to form a single national government in the United States. The Articles of Confederation went into effect in 1781 and created a "league of friendship" for the common defense and mutual welfare of the individual states. 31

attorney general 1) the head of the U.S. Department of Justice and the chief legal adviser to the president and federal government. The attorney general is a member of

the president's cabinet and is appointed by the president, subject to approval by the Senate. 2) the primary legal official of a state, usually elected by the people. 174

authoritarian a system of government in which a dictator answers only to him- or herself. 9

authoritarian socialism See communism.

autocracy a government in which one person, a dictator, has unlimited political power. 9

B

bail money that is paid to guarantee that a defendant will appear in court if he or she is released from jail while awaiting trial in a criminal case. 276

bench trial a trial in which a judge, rather than a jury, decides an issue. 331

bias 1) a preference or prejudice, particularly one that hinders impartial judgment. 2) an unfair act or policy resulting from prejudice. 379

bicameral having two houses or chambers. Bicameral legislatures were originally designed to represent both the elite and the common members of a society. 22

bilateral alliance an agreement between two countries to help each other in time of war. 233

bill proposed legislation that has been formally introduced into a legislature for consideration. A bill that is passed by Congress and signed by the president becomes a law. 118

bill of attainder a law that convicts people of a crime and punishes them without a trial. 108

Bill of Rights the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantee certain individual liberties, including property rights, the right to trial by jury, and freedom of expression and religion. 53

block grant a payment that the federal government distributes to a state or local government and for which the recipient determines the specific use. 78

Bolsheviks a revolutionary group that came to power following the Russian Revolution of 1917. See also Communist Party. 517

bond 1) a certificate that a government or corporation issues to a lender from whom it has borrowed money 2) bail money that is held as security to ensure that an accused person will not flee from the jurisdiction of the court if released. Bond money is returned when the accused person appears for the trial. See also bail. 201, 276

bond rating a measure of the probability that a bond issuer will or will not pay its obligation to investors in its bonds. 475

bourgeoisie the people who own the means of production in a capitalist system. 511

boycott a refusal to do business with or buy the products of a company, an industry, or a nation in order to pressure it into changing its policies. 28

brief a written statement prepared by each side before a court hearing to summarize that side's view of the facts in the dispute and how the law should be applied. 253

bureaucracy any management structure that carries out policy on a day-to-day basis, that is based on job specialization, uses standardized procedures, and continues its operations regardless of changes in leadership. 176

bureaucrat a worker in a bureaucracy. 176

C

cabinet an advisory board that is made up of the heads of the government's executive departments and reports to the chief executive. 58

capital punishment the death penalty. Capital punishment can be ordered only for a defendant who has been convicted of a specified, very serious crime such as murder or treason. 282

capitalist 1) a person who supports or favors capitalism as an economic system. 2) a person who has invested money in business, particularly someone who has a major financial interest in an important business venture. 507

categorical grant a payment that the federal government distributes to a state or local government to fund specific activities. 73

caucus a meeting of political party members to seek agreement on a course of action, nominate candidates for political office, or select delegates to a state or national nominating convention. 159

censorship the legal act of determining if information or speech is suitable for the public, or if that information or speech should be banned. 377

censure a legislature's formal expression of disapproval of one of its members. 117

census a periodic, official counting of a population. Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution requires a U.S. census every 10 years to use in apportioning seats in the House of Representatives among the states. 98

change of venue the movement of a trial to a court in a different geographic location. 330

charter 1) a document that monarchs use to grant privileges to groups or individuals. 23 2) a record that defines the purposes and powers of a city government. 485

checks and balances limitations placed on a branch of government's political power by giving the other branches some control over its affairs. 48

circuit a geographic area over which a federal court of appeals has jurisdiction. 252

citizen an officially recognized member of a state. 3

city manager someone hired to run the daily operations of a municipality. 488-89

civil law the body of law that governs relationships among individuals and that defines people's legal rights. 78

civil liberty a basic individual right to which every human being is entitled. 297

civil rights the rights that legally belong to a person because of his or her citizenship in a nation. 346

civil rights movement the ongoing effort of women and minority groups to gain in practice the rights guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution. 347

civil servant any nonmilitary employee of government, particularly one who was awarded his or her job on the basis of the merit system. *See also* merit system. 178

class-action suit a court action brought against an individual or a company by a person or small group for themselves and for all others who have been affected similarly by a particular wrong. 394

class struggle according to Marxist theory, the ongoing competition between economic groups for resources and power. The idea of class struggle was introduced by German political theorists Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in their 1848 work *Communist Manifesto*. 515

closed primary a primary election in which only the members of a political party are permitted to vote in selecting the party's candidates. *See also* open primary. 432

cloture a method for ending a filibuster in the U.S. Senate. 27

collective security a multinational diplomatic and military arrangement to maintain peace by taking united action against any hostile and potentially hostile nation that is a threat to peace. 237

command economy an economy in which government authorities control some or all of the major economic processes. 514

commission a board that holds all executive, legislative, and administrative power in a municipality. 489-90

common law a body of law that developed from traditions, customs, and precedents (or earlier judicial decisions). 271

communism 1) a theoretical economic system in which all land and capital is owned collectively by society. 2) an economic system in which the government owns or controls nearly all factors of production; also known as authoritarian socialism. 512

Communist Manifesto a book completed in 1848 by German political theorists Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) that presented the basic principles and beliefs of communism. 515

Communist Party a political party formed by the Bolsheviks in Russia following the Russian Revolution of 1917. The party was originally led by Vladimir Lenin and was based on his interpretation of the writings of radical political thinkers Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx. 517

commutation in law, the reduction of a punishment to a less severe one. 153

comparative advantage the ability of a nation, region, or company to produce a certain good or service more cheaply than any other good or service. 534

competition effort that sellers of similar goods or services exert in obtaining the business of consumers. Each seller tries to gain a larger share of a market and to increase profits. 508

concurrent power a power or authority that is held by more than one level of government. 68

concurring opinion in a court decision, a formal statement by a judge on a judicial panel. The person issuing the concurring opinion agrees with the decision of the majority but for different reasons than those cited in the majority opinion. 261

confederal system a form of government in which independent states unite to accomplish common goals. 10

conference committee a meeting of members from both the House and Senate to resolve differences over similar bills passed in both houses. 119

Congressional Budget Office an agency created by Congress to provide legislators with data and technical assistance on financial policy, issues surrounding government programs, and other spending-related matters. 205

constituent a resident of a district or state represented by an elected official. 94

constitution the basic political and legal structures under which a government operates. 21

constitutional interpretation a judicial function in which judges determine the meaning of a state's or the federal constitution as it relates to a case before the court. 272

constitutional monarchy a government whose head of state inherits the position and holds it for life but either shares power with elected leaders or merely serves as the nation's symbolic leader, exercising no significant power. 8

consul an official whose main function is to further his or her nation's business and trade interests in another country. A consul is thus distinct from the nation's ambassador, who furthers its diplomatic and political interests in the other country. 225

consulate the office of a consul, from which he or she protects his or her nation's commercial interests. 223

consumer buyer of goods or services for personal use. 508

containment a basic U.S. foreign and military policy during the Cold War. Through containment, the United

States sought to stop the spread of communism into nations that were not under communist control. 229

convention an assembly of political party members gathered to perform some official duty, such as choosing candidates for elective office, adopting a party platform, or selecting delegates to a higher-level party meeting. 159

council-manager system a system of municipal government in which an elected city council appoints a professional city manager to run the government's day-to-day affairs. 488

county the unit of government directly below state government. Counties are generally governed by elected boards or commissions, although some are administered by a single elected or appointed official. 275

court of appeals 1) a court established to hear appeals of trial court cases. In the court structure of most states, courts of appeals are midway between the trial courts and the state supreme court. 472 2) one of 13 federal appeals courts, ranking just below the Supreme Court, that hear appeals from cases tried in federal district courts. 252

criminal law the body of law that regulates the conduct of individuals as members of the state. 78

customs duty a tax on imports that may be levied by a nation's government to raise revenue or to protect an industry within the nation from foreign competition. A customs duty is sometimes called a tariff. 193

D

de facto segregation racial separation that exists not because of laws or government action, but because of social and economic factors and conditions. *See also de jure segregation.* 349

de jure segregation racial segregation that is enforced by law. In the past, laws in many states required separate schools, parks, public transportation, and so on for whites and African Americans. *See also de facto segregation.* 348

deduction in income tax policy, any business or personal expense or loss that reduces taxable income. 191

defendant the party accused in a civil or criminal court of having committed a wrongful act. 274

defense alliance an agreement in which countries come to one another's aid if any of them are attacked. 235

deficit the amount by which a person's, business's, or a government's expenses exceed its income. 202

deforestation the clearing of forests without replacing them. Deforestation results from the harvesting of timber and the clearing of land for agriculture, industry, or mining. 542

- delegate** someone who is authorized to represent and act for others within a voting assembly, convention, or other meeting in which a small group of individuals makes decisions for a larger general group. 28
- democracy** a system of government in which political authority is held by the people. Democracies typically feature constitutional governments with majority rules, a belief in individual worth and in equal rights for all people, freedom of expression, political freedom, and freedom of choice. 8
- democratic socialism** an economic system in which some means of producing and distributing goods are owned or controlled by the government. The extent of the government's economic role is determined by elections rather than ideology. 511
- denaturalization** the act of taking away a person's citizenship. 341
- deportation** the act of officially returning an alien to his or her country of origin. 344
- détente** a French word meaning "relaxation of tensions" that is used to describe U.S. foreign policy toward the Soviet Union in the early and mid-1970s. 232
- developed nation** a nation with a high level of industrial development and technical expertise, as well as various established economic institutions such as banks and stock markets. The citizens of a developed nation enjoy a high standard of living with an average, annual per capita income of at least \$2,000. 533
- developing nation** a nation with little industry and that has a low standard of living in comparison with developed nations. The annual, average per capita income in a developing nation is less than \$2,000. 533
- dictatorship** a system of government in which one person or a small group of ruling elite has total political power. 9
- diplomacy** 1) the art of negotiating, conducting, and maintaining relationships with other nations. 2) all formal relations and communications that nations maintain with one another. 144
- diplomatic recognition** an acknowledgment by one nation's government that another nation's government is legitimate. Diplomatic recognition occurs when the chief executive of the acknowledging nation sends an ambassador or other diplomatic official to the nation being recognized. 151
- direct democracy** a system of government in which decisions are made directly by the people rather than by their elected representatives. 15
- direct primary** a primary election in which the winner becomes the party's candidate for elective office. 431
- discount rate** the interest rate charged by the Federal Reserve for loans to member banks. 201
- discrimination** the practice of treating a person or group differently because of prejudice, such as that based on race, sex, religion, age, or physical characteristics. 345
- disposable income** money that remains after taxes have been paid. Personal disposable income is a key factor in determining the level of consumption and savings in an economy. 198
- dissenting opinion** in a court decision, a formal statement by a judge on a judicial panel. The person issuing the dissenting opinion disagrees with the decision of the majority and cites the reasons for disagreeing. 261
- district court** a federal trial court in which issues involving federal law are heard. Each state has at least one district court. 252
- docket** the list of cases to be heard by a court; also called a calendar of cases. 259
- double jeopardy** trying someone more than once for the same criminal offense. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution prohibits double jeopardy, but this protection is not absolute. If a mistrial has occurred because of some procedural error or if a deadlocked jury cannot reach a verdict, the prosecution may retry the accused. 331
- draft** the practice of requiring civilians to serve in the military for a specified period of time. 310
- due process** a constitutional protection that prevents the government from depriving individuals of their rights and freedoms without following established legal procedures. 319



- Elastic Clause** a clause in Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution. Also called the Necessary and Proper Clause, it grants Congress the authority to enact all laws that are "necessary and proper" to carrying out its other powers. 68
- elector** a member of the electoral college. 157
- electoral college** a body of representatives from the 50 states and the District of Columbia who officially elect the president and vice president of the United States. 157
- electorate** the total number of citizens who are eligible to vote in an election. 405
- embassy** a diplomatic center that a nation maintains in a foreign country. 223
- enabling act** a federal law that allows the residents of a territory to draft a constitution and take other steps necessary in preparing for statehood. 76
- endorsement** official declaration of support for a candidate for political office by a political party, political action committee, newspaper, labor union, or other organization. 391
- English Bill of Rights** a law passed by Parliament in

- 1689 that forms one of the foundations of Britain's unwritten constitution. The bill prohibited the monarchy from suspending laws, levying taxes, or maintaining an army in peacetime without consent of Parliament. 23
- entitlements** benefits that federal law requires the government to give to individuals who meet established requirements. 209
- entrepreneur** someone who undertakes and develops a new business enterprise at some risk of failure or loss. The entrepreneur typically invests capital and human resources in the hope of earning a profit. 507
- Establishment Clause** the part of the First Amendment to the Constitution that prohibits Congress from passing any law that establishes a religion or that favors one religion over others. 300
- estate tax** a tax levied on the estate, or property, of a person who has died. 193
- ethnic group** a group of people within a nation who share certain characteristics, such as race, language, cultural heritage, religion, or national origin. 345
- ex post facto law** a law that illegalizes specific acts that took place before it was passed. 108
- excise tax** a tax placed by the federal government and some state governments on the manufacture, sale, or consumption of certain goods, often those considered to be luxury items or socially undesirable products. 193
- exclusionary rule** a Supreme Court precedent establishing that illegally obtained evidence may not be used in a criminal trial. 151, 322
- executive agreement** an agreement between the president and the heads of other nations. 58
- executive order** a rule or regulation issued by the president or another executive branch official on how to carry out and enforce legislation. 148
- executive privilege** the principle that the executive branch may withhold information from Congress and the courts to preserve national security. 149
- exemption** an amount of income on which the government does not levy a tax. 191
- exit poll** a survey of selected voters as they leave polling places to determine how they voted. 373
- expatriation** the voluntary giving up of one's citizenship. 341
- expressed power** a governmental power that is specifically granted in a constitution; also called an enumerated or a delegated power. 67
- **expulsion** the removal by a legislature of one of its members for serious or criminal misconduct. Expulsion is the most serious disciplinary action that a legislature may take against a member. 118
- extradition** the process by which one state or nation returns a person accused or convicted of a crime to the state or nation where the crime was committed. 79
- faction** a group of people seeking to advance their own concerns. 60
- factor of production** a resource used in the production process. The four factors of production are natural resources, human resources, capital resources, and entrepreneurship. 507
- federal budget** the estimate of the revenues and expenses of the federal government for a fiscal year. 204
- federal mandate** a federal requirement that state or local governments take a specific action, offer a particular program, or pay for a program the federal government establishes. 73
- Federal Reserve system** the Fed; a system of 12 government banks and 25 branches across the United States run by a board that is appointed by the president. 200
- federal system** a form of government in which power is shared among central, state, and regional levels. 10
- Federalist** 1) someone who supported the proposed U.S. Constitution in the late 1780s and favored a strong national government. 40 2) a member of the Federalist Party, an early political party in the United States. 409–10
- felony** a major violation of criminal law that almost always calls for a minimum scheduled sentence of a year in prison. 273
- filibuster** a delaying tactic that legislators sometimes use to prevent a vote on a bill they dislike. 127
- fiscal policy** the overall government program that establishes levels of taxing, borrowing, and spending that promote the desired economic goals for the nation. 198
- floor leader** a legislator chosen by members of his or her party to advance their political agenda through the legislative process. 116
- forces of production** in Marxist terminology, the combination of the means of production and the potential productivity of workers. 516
- foreign aid** any assistance granted by a nation's government or private organizations to another nation's government or people. 234
- foreign policy** a nation's plans and procedures for dealing with other nations. 145
- foreign service** a nation's professional diplomats, who carry out its foreign policy throughout the world. 225
- franking privilege** the right of a member of Congress to send mail without paying postage. 101
- free enterprise** a system in which private business operates with a minimal government regulation. 196
- Free Exercise Clause** a clause in the First Amendment to the Constitution that prohibits government interference with the "free exercise" of religious practices. 302

G

general election an election in which voters choose from among candidates running for federal, state, or local elective office. 159, 417

gerrymandering the redrawing of legislative district boundaries in order to strengthen the political power of one group or political party over another. 100

gift tax a tax by the federal government and some state governments on large transfers of certain goods that are made without something of value being given in return. 193

glasnost the Russian term for the late 1980s Soviet political reforms which permitted freer expression of political views. The term glasnost means "openness." 233

global warming the theory that the world's climates are becoming dangerously warmer. 538

government an institution that determines and enforces a society's laws. The size and nature of a government varies according to the society it governs. 3

government corporation an independent agency that manages a self-supporting business. 178

governor the chief executive of a state government who is elected by the state's voters. 468

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. This law set maximum limits on yearly budget deficits and required automatic spending cuts whenever those maximums were exceeded. 210

grand jury a panel of 12 to 23 citizens who review evidence that a prosecutor presents against a person accused of a crime. The grand jury determines if the government has enough evidence to issue an indictment and bring the person to trial. 277

grant-in-aid a federal payment to a state, or a federal or state payment to a local government, for a specific purpose. 72

grassroots lobbying a lobbying technique used to encourage large groups of citizens at the local level to try to influence legislators or other government officials. 394

Great Compromise the agreement to establish a two-house U.S. legislature. The compromise was presented to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 by the Connecticut delegation. It combined elements of two plans. The Virginia Plan called for proportional representation determined by population and the New Jersey Plan proposed that each state have an equal vote in the legislative process. These two plans became the basis for the House of Representatives and Senate. 58

gross domestic product (GDP) the total value of all goods and services produced within a country in a given year. 208

H

hate speech words or symbols that can reasonably be expected to cause anger, fear, or resentment in others on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, or gender. 311

hung jury a jury that is divided over a case and unable to reach a unanimous decision about a defendant's guilt or innocence. 279

I

idealism in international relations, the belief that a nation's foreign policy should be guided by noble goals such as justice, equality, and world service instead of purely by national interest. 220

ideological party a political party that forms around a political idea or point of view that is different from the majority of the population's view. Unlike many third parties, ideological parties tend to exist over long periods of time. *See also* splinter party. 415

ideology an organized set of beliefs that a person or group holds about people, society, and the world. 368

illegal alien a person from one country who is living or working in another country unlawfully. 344

immunity a protection for certain government officials from being sued or prosecuted for actions that are part of their elective office. 101

impeach the bringing of formal charges by a legislature against a public official. Impeachment is the first step in removing an official from office. 106

implied power a power that is implied, or suggested, by the expressed powers in a constitution. 68

incumbent a political candidate who currently holds an elected or appointed office. 113

independent a candidate with no political party affiliations who is running for a political office. 413

independent agency a federal executive agency not included in a cabinet department. There are three types of independent agencies: regulatory commissions, government corporations, and independent executive agencies. 177

indictment a formal document issued by a grand jury that names and charges an individual with a violation of criminal law, usually a felony. 277

inflation an increase in overall prices that results from rising wages, an increased money supply, and increased spending relative to the supply of products. 197

information a formal document—issued to a court by the state's prosecuting attorney—charging a specific individual with a violation of criminal law. This process is used in states that do not use the grand jury system. 277

inherent power a power that is not specifically granted in or implied by a constitution, but that belongs to the governments of all sovereign nations. 68

initiative a process in some states that allows citizens to propose and enact laws. 463

interest group a group whose members hold common political beliefs and work to influence government officials, policies, and practices. Interest groups are also called pressure groups. 94

interdependence mutual reliances between the world's countries. Countries' actions affect one another's economic growth and stability. 527

international law the principles and rules that have been set up to guide the actions of nations in their relations with one another and in their dealings with other countries' citizens. 532

internationalist a person who believes that nations should act as a community and should interact with one another peacefully and cooperatively. *See also* isolationist and neoisolationist. 219

interstate compact a formal agreement approved by Congress between two or more states to jointly operate mutually beneficial programs. 79

isolationist a person who believes that a nation should interact politically as little as possible with other nations so that it can exist peacefully by itself in the world. 218

J

Jim Crow laws laws passed in the southern United States to require or permit racial segregation. Jim Crow laws are now unconstitutional. 348

joint committee a congressional committee composed of members from both the Senate and the House of Representatives. 119

judicial activism the practice of judges using their court decisions to make new public policy in order to advance what they believe to be desirable social goals. *See also* judicial restraint. 265

judicial restraint the practice of judges narrowly interpreting laws and limiting their decisions in order to avoid making public policy. *See also* judicial activism. 264

judicial review the power of a court to determine whether laws and other government actions are constitutional or otherwise lawful. 49

jurisdiction the power of a court to interpret and administer the law. 250

jury pool a group of people who are summoned to appear in court and from among which the actual jury in a criminal or civil proceeding will be selected. Also called a jury panel. 471

jus sanguinis the legal principle that a person's citizenship is determined by that of his or her parents rather than by his or her place of birth. *See also* *jus soli*. 339

jus soli the legal principle that a person's citizenship is determined by where he or she was born rather than by the citizenship of his or her parents. *See also* *jus sanguinis*. 339

juvenile delinquent a young person who is judged guilty of a criminal offense. The age of a juvenile may vary from under 16 to under 21 years of age, depending on the state. 283

K

Keynesianism a school of thought pioneered in the 1930s by British economist John Maynard Keynes that calls for government to use fiscal policy and monetary policy to influence a nation's economy. 202

L

labor union an organization of workers that negotiates with employers for better wages, improved working conditions, and job security. 387

law a set of rules, issued and enforced by a government, that binds every member of society. 3

legitimacy the legal and recognized right of a government to make decisions for the citizens of a nation, state, or locality. 4

libel deliberately publishing false written or visual statements harming the reputation or business of an individual or group. 307

line-item veto the power of a government's chief executive to reject specific parts of a bill passed by a legislative body, rather than having to veto the entire measure. 128

lobbying the process by which an individual, a group, or an organization seeks to influence government policy makers. 392

loose constructionist a person who believes that a constitution should be interpreted reasonably, but broadly, in order to meet the needs of changing times. *See also* strict constructionist. 290

M

machine politics *See* party machine.

Magna Carta a document prepared by English nobles that granted certain rights to English citizens. The charter was signed under the threat of force by King John of England in 1215. 21-22

majority opinion a formal statement of the decision of a majority of members of a judicial panel hearing a case, giving the reasons for the decision. The majority opinion is the official opinion of the court. *See also* concurring opinion and dissenting opinion. 261

majority party a political party whose members make up the majority in a legislative house. 115

majority rule the principle that the will of the largest portion of a group should prevail in electing leaders and making policies. Majority rule is a basic characteristic of democratic systems of government. 15

Marshall Plan a massive U.S. foreign-aid program to help Europe recover from World War II. 235

mayor-council system a system of urban government in which power is shared by an elected chief executive (a mayor) and a separately elected legislature (a city council). 488

megalopolis a large, densely populated area made up of two or more cities and their suburbs. A megalopolis forms when metropolitan areas grow into one another. 484

merit system a system for hiring government workers based on demonstrated qualifications and competitive examinations. 180

metropolitan area an urban area made up of a city whose population is over 50,000 as well as its suburbs and all the surrounding counties dependant on the city. 484

minority party a political party whose members do not make up the majority in a legislative house. 115

minority rights political rights that cannot be abolished in a democracy, even though they are held by less than half of the population. 15

Miranda Rule an arresting officer's requirement to inform criminal suspects of their rights before questioning. 327

misdemeanor a minor violation of criminal law that is generally punishable by a fine or by a jail term of less than one year. *See also* felony. 273

mixed economy an economy that combines elements of the traditional, market, and command economic models. Almost all modern economies are mixed economies. 509

monarchy a system of government in which the head of state, usually a royal figure, is a hereditary position. 8

monetarism a school of thought pioneered by American economist Milton Friedman. Monetarism is based on the theory that if left alone, a market economy will operate at full employment and low inflation. 202

monetary policy a government's program for regulating a nation's money supply and the availability of credit in order to accomplish certain economic goals. 198

Monroe Doctrine a foreign-policy statement made by President James Monroe in 1823. Monroe declared that the United States would not allow European nations to further colonize or take any aggressive actions in the Western Hemisphere. 228

multilateral treaty a legal agreement among three or more nations to accomplish a common purpose. 237

multiparty system a political system in which several major and minor political parties compete for political power and government offices. 407

municipality a city or town with its own level of government. 487



national debt the total amount of money that a nation owes its creditors. It is the sum of each year's unpaid spending deficits—that is, the money borrowed to finance deficit spending that has not been repaid. 210

national security the freedom of a nation to protect its citizens from hostile or destructive forces or actions from within or outside its borders. 217

nationalization the government takeover of specific companies or of a major segment of a nation's private industry, such as manufacturing, agriculture, or transportation. 512

natural right a right that is considered to belong to all people, regardless of time or place. Being natural to everyone, these rights do not need to be granted by a government and should not be transferred or taken away. Natural rights are also known as inalienable rights. 4

naturalization the process by which a nation grants citizenship to an immigrant. 340

neoisolationist an individual opposed to the internationalism that has dominated American foreign policy since the end of World War II. Unlike a traditional isolationist, a neoisolationist does not oppose all U.S. entanglement with other nations. Neoisolationists support alliances and methods of furthering U.S. national interests abroad. 219–20

New England Confederation the first confederation of English colonies in North America. The confederation was formed in 1643 to unite four New England colonies, largely for defense against American Indians and England's European rivals. 25

New Jersey Plan a plan for establishing a one-house legislature in which each state would have an equal vote. The proposal was put before the Constitutional Convention in 1787 by William Paterson of New Jersey. 37–38

no-contest plea a formal answer in court in which a defendant states simply that he or she will not fight the charge, but neither proclaims innocence nor admits guilt. 277

nominate to name a political party member as a candidate for a particular public office. 157

nonpartisan primary a primary election in which candidates from all political parties are on the same ballot and in which all voters can participate, regardless of their political affiliation. 432

nonrenewable resources any limited resource whose supply cannot be replenished in the short term. 540

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) a collective security organization created by a multilateral treaty in 1949. NATO was originally created to protect the Western European and North American nations in the North Atlantic region against attack by the Soviet Union. 237

Northwest Ordinance an act of Congress under the Articles of Confederation that set procedures for granting statehood to territories. The Northwest Ordinance allowed an area to become a territory once it had a population of at least 5,000 free males. It allowed a territory to apply for statehood once it reached a population of 60,000 free inhabitants. 32

nuclear proliferation the spread of nuclear weapons to nations that did not previously have them. 529



objectivity the ability to judge or present information factually, in a manner that is not influenced by emotions or prejudices, but that is instead based on evidence. 379

obscenity printed or visual material that is not protected by the First Amendment because it is considered to lack serious social value and to be highly offensive. 307

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) an executive branch agency within the Executive Office of the President that is responsible for preparing the president's budget request. 204

oligarchy a system of government in which political power and control is held by a small group of political elite. The leaders of an oligarchy often govern for their own benefit or for the benefit of their social class. 9

one-party system a political system in which one political party controls the government and clearly dominates political activity. 407

open primary a primary election in which a voter may participate in the selection of a political party's candidates regardless of the voter's own political affiliation. 432

open-market operations the purchasing and selling of securities—usually government securities—by the Federal Reserve system on the open market in order to help carry out monetary policy. 201

original jurisdiction the requirement or authority of a court to be the first to hear a case. 250

oversight the power of a legislature to review and monitor the activities of an executive branch agency to

determine whether it is properly executing laws under its administration. 96



pardon the official release of a person charged with or convicted of a crime, at the request of a chief executive. 153

parliamentary system a system of government in which power is concentrated in a legislature. The legislature selects one of its members, usually called a prime minister, as the nation's principal leader and other legislative members serve as the leader's cabinet. 11

parochial religious in nature, as in elementary and high schools run by churches and other religious organizations. 301

parole the release of a prisoner before he or she has served a full sentence. 282

party machine an organized group of individuals who dominate a political party within a geographic area and who use the party's resources to further their own power and to fight off challenges from other party members for party control. 416

party platform a statement of a political party's position on issues. 161

party whip a member of the Senate or House of Representatives who is chosen by his or her party colleagues to assist the party's floor leader in managing its legislative program. 116

passport a document that a nation issues to its citizens that allows them travel to other nations, identifies them to government authorities in those nations, and gives them the right to return home. 225

patronage the practice of elected officials rewarding political supporters with government contracts, appointments to office, jobs, and other benefits. 416

peremptory challenge in choosing a jury for a trial, the right of either the defense or the prosecution to reject a possible juror without providing a reason. 279

perestroika a Russian word meaning "restructuring." Perestroika was an effort by the Soviet Union to change its economy from communism to market socialism. 233

petit jury a group of citizens who decide the verdict in a civil or criminal trial. 278

Petition of Right a document drawn up by the English Parliament and signed by King Charles I in 1628. The Petition of Right, like Magna Carta, limited the ability of the monarch to act on his or her sole authority. 23

picketing marching around in a specific area while carrying signs that communicate a message of protest. 313

plaintiff the party who brings a legal action in a court of law. 274

- plank** a political party's specific proposal for legislation or a statement of a short-term goal regarding a single issue. Planks are the components of a party platform. 161
- plea bargain** in a criminal court case, an agreement negotiated between the prosecutor and the defendant and his or her attorney to avoid the time, expense, and uncertain outcome of a trial. 280
- plurality** the greatest number of popular votes received by a candidate in an election. A plurality can be, but is not necessarily, a majority. 163
- pocket veto** a method of preventing a bill from becoming a law. The pocket veto enables the president to dismiss a bill by simply refusing to sign it, without having to state his or her reasons for doing so. 128
- police power** the power of a government to use force if necessary to control affairs within its jurisdiction in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. 322
- political action committee (PAC)** an organization that is created to raise and distribute campaign money to candidates for elective political office. 94
- political party** a formal organization of people who seek to influence government actions and policies by electing its members to public office. 58
- political socialization** the process through which individuals obtain their political attitudes and values. 368
- politics** the art and science of governing. Through politics, people express opinions about what government should or should not do. 6
- polling** the process of systematically surveying the views of individuals within a selected group or groups in order to determine public opinion on an issue. 372
- popular sovereignty** governing authority that comes from the people. 47
- popular vote** the total votes cast by the general public in an election. 163
- pork-barrel spending** legislative funding for unnecessary projects that favor the district of a particular legislator. 129
- precedent** the legal principle of a court's ruling in a case serving as a model for future decisions in similar cases, unless for some reason it is specifically overruled by another case. 249
- precinct** the smallest political subdivision of a U.S. city, town, or county for voting purposes and for political party organization. 418
- prejudice** the holding of an opinion about a person, group, or thing without rational grounds or without having enough information upon which to base it. 345
- presentment** a formal statement issued by a grand jury to authorize a trial for someone accused of a crime. 327
- president *pro tempore*** the senator who presides over the Senate when its official presiding officer—the vice president of the United States—is absent. 116
- presidential doctrine** a presidential statement that guides the nation's foreign policy—for example, the Monroe Doctrine or the Truman Doctrine. 222–23
- presidential succession** the order in which the vice president or other designated official becomes president of the United States should the office become vacant. 147
- presidential system** a system of government in which the legislative and executive branches operate independently of each other. 11
- primary election** an election to choose a political party's candidates for an elective office. 159, 417
- prior restraint** an action by a government to prevent the publication of something or to require approval before it can be published. Thus, prior restraint is a form of censorship. 306
- privatization** the act of turning functions previously performed by government over to the private sector. 186
- probable cause** reasonable grounds to accuse an individual of committing a specific crime. 322
- probation** freedom granted to a person convicted of a crime, with the condition that he or she meet certain conditions of good behavior for a specified period of time. 281
- procedural due process** the principle that the law must be applied fairly and evenly to all people, using established rules and procedures. *See also* substantive due process. 319
- profit** the difference between the revenue received from the sale of a good or service and the costs of providing that good or service. 508
- proletariat** the working class, whose members the radical political theorist Karl Marx believed were oppressed by the bourgeoisie. 511
- property tax** government tax revenue levied on the value of certain kinds of property. 493
- public comment** the opportunity for interested parties to react to a regulation that is proposed by a government agency before the regulation goes into effect. 177
- public good** the common interests of the members of a society; also known as the public interest. 6
- public interest group** an interest group that supports positions and causes that it believes to be in the general public good, as contrasted with interest groups that work for a particular social or economic interest. 388
- public opinion** the collective opinion on a particular issue or group of related issues that is held by a large segment of society. 367
- public policy** decisions and laws that a government makes in a particular area of public concern. 4

Q

quorum the minimum number of legislators who must be present to vote and conduct other formal business when Congress is in session. 113

quota the minimum number of new hires to be made through an affirmative action program. 355

R

ratification the process of giving formal approval of an action by an agency or government. Ratification is generally the final step in accepting a treaty or a constitutional amendment. 31

realignment a switching of political loyalties among the electorate or of political parties in a legislature. Realignment generally refers to significant and long-lasting changes in the attitudes of the electorate. 409

realism in international relations, the belief that a nation's foreign policy should be based on the realities of human nature and history. Realists believe that foreign policy should be directed toward achieving power, maintaining national security, and pursuing other national interests. 219

recall a procedure that allows the electorate to vote an elected official out of office before his or her term has expired. 464

recession a substantial and general decline in overall business activity over a significant period of time. 197

reconciliation a step in the federal budget process in which Congress adjusts the spending requests contained in the president's budget proposal. 207

referendum a procedure in some states that gives voters the opportunity to approve or reject laws passed by the legislature or a local assembly. 465

refugee a person who flees from a region, either voluntarily or by force, because of political, military, religious, social, or other conflict. 527

regulatory commission an independent agency created by Congress with a greater degree of autonomy, or self-rule, than others. 177

relations of production according to Marxist theory, the way people interconnect in the work process. The relations of production are determined by who owns the means of production, what position workers hold in relation to other groups involved in production, and how production and income are distributed among these groups. 516

renewable resources resources that can be replenished in the short term through natural means. 540

repeal to reverse or cancel an existing law or regulation. 52

representative democracy a system of government in

which the people choose political leaders to make policy decisions on their behalf. 16

reprieve a postponement in the carrying out of a convicted person's sentence. 153

republic a system of government in which governmental power comes from the people, who elect individuals to represent them in decision making. 8

reserved power any power that the Constitution does not expressly or by implication give to Congress. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution specifically reserves such powers to the states or to the people. 68

reserve requirement a bank's financial reserve held either in its own vaults or in a district Federal Reserve bank. In essence, it is the bank's savings account. 201

resolution a formal declaration or statement of policy concerning a specific issue or matter. 206

revenue the total income of a business or a unit of government. 191

revenue sharing the distribution by a government of a portion of its income to lower levels of government. 72

roll-call vote a legislative procedure in which each legislator is called on individually to cast his or her vote. 127

runoff primary a second election that is held in some states if no candidate in the primary election receives a majority of the votes. 432

rural area a region of low population density where people live on farms or ranches or in small towns and where economic activities center around land-based enterprises such as agriculture or mining. 481

S

sales tax a tax on the sale of goods and services. 473

sampling a procedure for choosing a small portion of a population to represent the population as a whole in a survey. 374

sampling error an error in polling results caused by choosing a sample of individuals to poll that was not representative of the larger population being studied. 375

search warrant a written authorization issued by a judge to allow law enforcement authorities to search a person's property for specified items and to seize those items if they are found. 322

secret ballot the popular name for a voting system that allows voters to choose candidates in private. It originated in Australia and is now universally used in U.S. elections. 441

secretary the head of a cabinet-level department within the executive branch of the U.S. government—for

- example, the secretary of defense, the secretary of state, and the secretary of the treasury. 174
- sedition** language or actions that call for or encourage resistance or rebellion against a lawfully established government. *See also* treason. 305
- segregation** the separation of people according to any specified identifying characteristic. 348
- select committee** a House or Senate committee that is generally established for a limited time and for a specific, often investigative, purpose. 119
- self-interest** the impulse that encourages people to fulfill their needs and wants. 508
- senatorial courtesy** the practice that allows senators from the same political party as the president to approve or disapprove each potential nominee for certain appointed positions in their state before the official nominations are made. 254
- seniority system** a system for granting congressional committee positions based on the length of time in service. 120
- separate-but-equal doctrine** a legal precedent (established by the Supreme Court in the 1896 case *Plessy v. Ferguson*) that racial segregation was not a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as long as separate facilities for African Americans and whites were of equal quality. This principle remained in place until 1954, when the Supreme Court overturned it in *Brown v. Board of Education*. 348
- separation of powers** the distribution of political power among the branches of government, giving each branch a particular set of responsibilities. 48
- sequester** to isolate a jury from the public during a trial. 279
- shield law** a law that protects reporters from having to reveal confidential sources of information. Shield laws allow people to provide information to the media without fear that they will be revealed as informants. 307
- sin tax** a tax on products or activities that government authorities consider harmful or otherwise undesirable. 474
- single-issue voting** a situation in which an individual chooses to support or reject a political candidate on the basis of just one factor, excluding all other issues. 391
- single-member district** an electoral district in which only one candidate can win election to a particular office. 440
- slander** deliberately making false spoken statements that might damage the reputation of a business, an individual, or a group. Slander is a criminal offense, but it generally is not prosecuted. However, the victims of slander often seek damages in civil lawsuits. 307
- social contract** the theory that people give up their individual sovereignty in exchange for peace and order provided by the state. 4
- socialism** an economic system in which the government owns or controls many of the means of production and directly provides for many of the people's needs. A socialist system may or may not be democratic. 511
- sovereignty** the absolute authority that a government has over the citizens of a state. 3
- Speaker** the presiding officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and second (after the vice president) in the line of succession to the presidency. The Speaker is elected by the House and has always been a member of the majority party. 115
- special district** a unit of government, typically at the local level, that serves a specific function and that sometimes crosses existing political boundaries. 490
- splinter party** a political party that is created when a group that is unhappy with the candidate, and sometimes the positions, of a major party breaks off from that party (or from both major parties). *See also* ideological party. 415
- split ticket** the result of an individual voting for persons from different political parties for different political offices. 417
- spoils system** the practice of government officials awarding public jobs and public contracts to political supporters rather than awarding them on the basis of job qualifications. *See also* merit system. 178
- Stamp Act** a 1765 law passed by Parliament to raise money by taxing paper goods. However, because of violent protests in the colonies, the tax was repealed the year after it was introduced. 26
- standard of living** people's economic well-being as determined by the quantity of goods and services they consume in a given time period. 195
- standing committee** a regular or permanent committee created by a legislature to review bills within a specified subject area. 119
- stare decisis** the legal principle and judicial practice of following precedents set in earlier legal decision. The Latin term means "let the decision stand." 261
- state** 1) a territory whose population maintains an organized governmental body that regulates internal and external affairs. 2) a political unit in a federal system, such as a state within the United States. 3
- State of the Union Address** the president's annual message to Congress, in which he or she usually proposes the administration's legislative program. 143
- statutory interpretation** a judicial function in which a judge decides a law's meaning in regards to a specific court case. 273
- statutory law** all regulations put forth by a lawmaking government body. 272
- straight ticket** the result of a voter's selecting only candidates from a particular party for every office on the ballot. 417

strict constructionist a person who believes that a constitution should be interpreted rigidly and narrowly based only on what is written in the document. 249

subcommittee 1) a smaller, more specialized part of a committee. 2) a group of committee members selected to work on specific categories of bills or other matters that come before the entire committee. 119

subpoena a written order requiring a person to testify in court as a witness or to bring certain items to court as evidence. 279

substantive due process the principle that a law must be fair and reasonable. The right to substantive due process requires a court to consider the fairness of the law itself. 320

suburb a primarily residential community that is located near a city and whose residents largely depend on the city for jobs and other services. 481

suffrage the right to vote. 442

summit conference a meeting between the heads of state of two or more nations in order to discuss and conduct international relations. Summit conferences may involve military, economic, or diplomatic matters. 223

supply and demand the forces that determine prices in a free market. 508

suspect classification a potentially illegal basis for making distinctions between individuals or groups. 347

symbolic speech messages that are communicated nonverbally. Symbolic speech can include articles worn on clothing, hand gestures, and certain types of actions. 310

T

tax a required payment to a local, state, or national government, usually made on some regular basis. 191

term limits legal limits on the number of terms certain elected officials can hold a particular office. 113

third party a political party outside the dominant parties in a two-party system. 413

totalitarian a system of government in which a dictator or a small group of leaders exercise tremendous control over citizens' lives. 9-10

township communities established in states such as New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Governments of townships served some of the same functions as New England town governments. 487

trade association an organization formed by companies within an industry that represents the concerns of the industry. 386

trade deficit a situation in which the total value of a country's imports is higher than the total value of its exports. 537

trade embargo a government order that forbids trade with a specified nation. 218

trading bloc a group of nations working together to provide trade benefits to its members. Trading-bloc members set import and export quotas, fix tariffs, and establish other trade controls. 534

treason an act of disloyalty against one's own country. 304

Truman Doctrine a 1947 foreign-policy statement made by President Harry Truman that pledged U.S. military and economic aid to nations that were trying to avoid a communist takeover. 229

two-party system a system in which two political parties dominate the political system and compete for political power. 407

U

unconstitutional a law or government action that violates provisions set forth in the U.S. Constitution. 49

unicameral a legislative body that has one chamber or house. Nebraska is the only American state with a unicameral legislature. 30

unitary system a system of government in which all legal power is held by the national, or central, government. 10

urban area a region characterized by cities and other areas of high population density, and in which most of the working residents are involved in manufacturing, commercial, or other nonagricultural economic activities. 481

U.S. Agency for International Development a U.S. government organization that carries out U.S. foreign-aid programs. The agency concentrates on five areas of foreign policy; promoting economic growth, advancing democracy, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting public health and protecting the environment. 235

V

value a basic quality, principle, or standard that is considered important or desirable and by which people live their lives. For example, humility is a value that many people consider important. 6

vanguard the leading position in a movement, or those who occupy that position. In 1917 the Bolsheviks were the vanguard that led the Russian Revolution. 517



veto the formal rejection of legislation by a chief executive. 48

Virginia Plan a plan for establishing a one-house legislature in which each state would have proportional representation based on its population. The plan was submitted to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 by the Virginia delegation. Many of the plan's proposals were included in the U.S. Constitution. 36

visa the permission that a nation gives to a citizen of another nation who wishes to visit it. 225

voir dire the questioning of prospective jurors—by the judge and prosecuting and defense attorneys in a court case—to see if they are acceptable—to the judge and the attorneys—to serve on a jury. The phrase *voir dire* means “to speak truth.” 278–79

ward a territorial division of city government that is also often used as a voting subdivision and a unit of political party organization. 418

writ of certiorari a formal order from an appeals court that requires a lower court to provide the record of a case for review. Most cases reaching the Supreme Court are heard because the Court has issued a writ of *certiorari*. 259

writ of habeas corpus a judicial order directing law enforcement authorities to bring any prisoner before a court official and cite the reason for his or her imprisonment, to determine if that person is being held lawfully. 108

INDEX

A

- absentee ballot, 441
accused persons, rights of, 53, 326–28, *c326*
act of admission, 76
Adams, John: 30, 32, 158, 172, 251, 430, 448; Declaration of Independence and, 29, *p29*; *Marbury v. Madison*, 50
Adams, John Quincy, 106, 159, 163, *c163*
Adams, Samuel, 28
Adelson, Joseph, 369
administrative law, 272–73
admission of states, 76
advertising: freedom of speech and, 308–10
affirmative action, 350, 354, 355–56
AFL-CIO, 199, 387
Africa: relations with United States, 547–48
African Americans: 53; civil rights legislation and, 155; in Congress, 95, 104; discrimination against, 346, *p347*, 350, *p350*, 394; as presidential candidates, 145; redistricting and, *m101*; segregation, 260, *p266*, 347–49, *p348*; separate-but-equal doctrine, 347; voting restrictions for, 30; voting rights of, 53, 442–43. *See also* civil rights; minorities
age: requirement for voting, *p51*
agencies, congressional, 122
Agnew, Spiro, 147
agribusiness, 386
agricultural groups, 386
Air Force, U.S., 152
Air Force One, 146
Alaska, *p68*, 77, *p77*
Alaskan Purchase, the, *p68*, 77
Albany Plan of Union, 26
Albright, Madeleine, *p148*, 189
Alien and Sedition Acts, 305
aliens: civil rights of, 298
alliances, 151
ambassadors, U.S.: 224; appointed by president, 148; congressional approval of, 106
amendment, 51
Amendment, Eighteenth, 52, 54, 55
Amendment, Eighth, 53, *c53*, 329, 332–33, 334
Amendment, Eleventh, 265
Amendment, Fifteenth, 53
Amendment, Fifth, 53, *c53*, 280, 320, 327, 331–32
Amendment, First, 53, *c53*, 299, 300, 304–11
Amendment, Fourteenth, 53, 306, 320, 339–40, 346
Amendment, Fourth, 53, *c53*, 56, 322–24
Amendment, Nineteenth, 53–55, 443
Amendment, Ninth, 53, *c53*, 68
Amendment, Second, 53, *c53*, 323
Amendment, Seventeenth, 53–55, 102
Amendment, Seventh, 53, *c53*, 330
Amendment, Sixteenth, 55, 68, 265
Amendment, Sixth, 53, *c53*, 329–31
Amendment, Tenth, 53, *c53*, 68, 108
Amendment, Third, 53, *c53*
Amendment, Thirteenth, 53
Amendment, Twelfth, *c157*, 158
Amendment, Twentieth, 113
Amendment, Twenty-fifth, 147
Amendment, Twenty-first, 52
Amendment, Twenty-second, 59, 114, 146
Amendment, Twenty-seventh, 54, *p54*, 55, 101
Amendment, Twenty-sixth, *p51*, 265
amendments, constitutional: proposed by Congress, 52, 55
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 387
American Bar Association (ABA), 387
American Federation of Labor–Congress of Industrial Organizations. *See* AFL-CIO
American Indians: and American colonists, 26; civil rights of, 352–53; in Congress, 104, *p104*; voting restrictions for, 30
American Medical Association (AMA), 387
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 353, *p353*
amicus curiae brief, 260
amnesty, 344
Amnesty International, 236
anarchy, 14
Annan, Kofi, 551
Annapolis Convention, 34
Anthony, Susan B., 443
Antifederalists, 40–41, *p40*
appellate jurisdiction, 253
appointing powers: *p148*, 227, 254, 257; of president, 148–49
appointments, presidential: approval of Congress, 106, 227
apportionment: 99; gerrymandering and, 100–101, *m101*
appropriations, 118
Appropriations Committee, House, *p119*, 121, 206
Appropriations Committee, Senate, *p119*, 206
archivist, 57
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 77
Aristotle: influence on U.S. federal court system, 251
armed forces, U.S.: 152, *p152*, *p153*; branches of military, 152; commander in chief of, 143, *p143*; women in, 152
Armey, Dick, *p115*

Army, U.S., 152
arraignment, 277
arrest, 276
Arthur, Chester A., 178
Articles of Confederation: 10; changes called for at the Annapolis Convention, 34; definition of, 31; limits on powers of national government, 32–33, *c33*; obstacles to unity of states and, 33–34; powers of Congress under, 31–32; ratification of, 31; weaknesses of, 32–33
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 73
Asia: international trade, 535–36
Asian Americans: in Congress, 104
assembly. *See* freedom of assembly
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 536
attorney general, U.S., 174, *p175*
Australia: local governments of, 489
authoritarian, 9
authorizing committees, 118
autocracy, 9

B

bail, *p53*, 276
Balanced Budget Act (1997), 212
Balanced Budget Amendment, 135, 211, *p212*
ballot: absentee, 441; origins of, 441; process in elections, 441–42; secret, 441
Bank of the United States: 155; First, 107; Second, 107
Banneker, Benjamin, 92
Barlow, Joel, 337
bear arms: right to, *p53*, 323
bench trial, 331
Berlin Wall: fall of, 233
bias, 379
bicameral: definition of, 22; legislature created by Great Compromise, 38; state legislatures, 30
bilateral alliance, 238
bill of attainder, 108, *c326*, 327
Bill of Rights, English, 22
Bill of Rights, U.S.: 53, *c53*, 297–99; Antifederalists' support for, 40; Federalists' opposition to, 41; states' request for, 42
bills: 118. *See also* legislation, congressional
Black, Hugo H., 111, 331
Blackmun, Harry, 256
block grants, 73
Board of Governors, 200, *c201*
Bolsheviks, 517, *p517*
Bond, Julian, 298
bond rating, 475
bonds, 201, 276
borrowing powers: congressional, *p105*
Bosnia, 221, *p221*

Boston Massacre, 28, *p28*
Boston Tea Party, 28
bourgeoisie, 511–12
boycott, 28
Brady Law, 323
Brandeis, Louis, 324–25, *p325*
Brandenburg v. Ohio, 306
Branzburg v. Hayes, 307
Brezhnev, Leonid, *p151*, 232
brief, 253
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 260, 269, 348, 394
Brown v. Mississippi, 327
Bryan, William Jennings, 412–13, *p412*
Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, 204
Budget Committee, House, 206–207, *c207*
Budget Committee, Senate, 206–207, *c207*
budget, federal: *p61*, 62; 204–207, *c207*, *c209*; appropriations process, 205–207; balancing the, 210–12; changes in the budget process, 204–205; Congress and, 205–207; federal deficit, 208–10; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and, 204; preparation of, 205–207; president's role in, 205; process of, *c207*
bureaucracy, federal: civil service, 178–81, *p178*, *p179*, *c180*, *p181*; criticism of, 182–86; definition of, 176; downsizing of, 181; employees of, *p177*, 178–81, *c180*; government corporations, 178; independent agencies, 177–78; management of, 185–86; and the public good, 183–86; regulatory commissions, 176–77, *p178*; role of, 177–78; rules, 177–78
bureaucrat, 176
Burger, Warren, 263
Burma: 10; civil rights in, 352
Burr, Aaron, 158, *p158*
Bush, Barbara, 174
Bush, George, 151, 152, *p153*, 378, 414
busing of students, 349, *p349*
Byrd, Robert, 130

C

cabinet, U.S.: 58–59, *c173*, 174–75; congressional approval of, 106; presidential succession, 147, *c147*; women in, *c148*
Cain, Becky, 403
campaign contributions, 94
campaign financing: 437–39, *c437*; disclosure of financial information, 438; donor restrictions, 439; limits on contributions to, 438; political action committees (PACs), 438; reform of, 399, 403; regulation of, 438–39; sources of funding, 437–38; spending limits, 439
campaigns, political. *See* political campaigns
campaign worker, 431
Campbell, Angus, 369
Campbell, Ben Nighthorse, 104, *p104*
Camp David, 146

- Canada:** census counting in, 174; government of, 29; independence from Great Britain, 29; NAFTA, 535
- capitalism:** 507–10; characteristics of, *c509*; economic competition, 508, *c509*; profit, 508, *c509*; factors of production, 507, *c507*; market economy, 508, *c509*; mixed economy, 509; origins of, 508–509; private ownership, 507, *c509*; self-interest in, 508–509; in the United States, 509–10
- capitalist,** 507
- capital punishment,** 282–83, 333–34, *m333*
- Carter, Jimmy,** *c163*, 197
- Carter, Rosalyn,** 173
- Castro, Fidel,** 230–31
- caucus:** 160; political nominations, 429–30
- caucus, party:** role in choosing delegates to national convention, 160
- categorical grants,** 73
- ensorship,** 377
- censure,** 117
- census,** 98
- Census, Bureau of,** 174
- Center for Auto Safety,** 390
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA):** 170, 177; role in U.S. foreign policy, 226
- change of venue,** 330
- Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire,** 311
- charter,** 23–24, *p23*
- checks and balances,** 48–50, *c48*, *c49*, 61
- chief executive,** 143
- chief justice,** 256, *p256*
- China, People's Republic of:** 232, *p233*; communism in, 230, 233; and Hong Kong, 522; interest groups in, 397; relations with United States, 545–46
- Chisolm, Shirley,** 95
- “Choose or Lose” campaign,** 378
- Christian Coalition:** 388, 393
- circuit,** 252, *c252*
- Cisneros, Henry,** 499
- citizens:** definition of, 3
- citizenship:** acquiring, 339–41, *c340*; by birth, 339–40; *jus sanguinis*, 339; *jus soli*, 339; loss of, 341; by naturalization, 340–41, *c340*; requirements for, 340
- city council,** 488–89
- city government:** commission form of, *c489*, 490–91; council-manager form of, *c488*, 489–90; city manager, 489–90; mayor-council form of, 488
- city manager,** 489–90
- civil laws:** 274; states and, 78
- civil liberties,** 297–99
- civil rights:** 155; definition of, 346; discrimination, 350–52; equality before the law, 346–49; history of, 350–52; of the mentally ill, 258
- Civil Rights Acts:** of 1866, 350; of 1964, 52, 298, 351–52, 356; of 1968, 352; of 1991, 352
- civil rights lawyer,** 298
- civil rights movement,** 347
- civil servants,** 178
- civil service,** 178–81, *c180*; as nonelected officials, 183–84
- Civil War,** 72, 76, 412
- class-action suits,** 394
- class struggle,** 515
- Clay, Kirk,** 393, *p393*
- Clean Air Act,** 74, 394
- Clean Water Act,** 394
- clear-and-present-danger test,** 305–306
- Cleveland, Grover,** *c163*
- Clinton, Bill,** *p58*, 62, 73, *p143*, *p144*, *p145*, 150, 151, *p154*, *p159*, *p171*, 172, *p175*, 199, *p205*, 212, 378, 414
- Clinton, Hillary Rodham,** *p145*, 173–74
- closed primary,** 432
- cloture,** 127
- Coast Guard, U.S.,** 152
- Code Napoleon,** 321
- Cold War,** 229–32
- collective security,** 237, 527–32
- colonies, American:** *p23*, *p24*; Albany Plan of Union and, 26; boycott of British goods, 28, 29; British policies concerning, 26–28; charters of, 23–24; economic differences among, 25; geographic differences among, 27; government in, 24; independence of, 29–30; influence of British political ideals on, 21–23; New England Confederation and, 25–26; protests in, 28–29; Stamp Act, 26; types of, 24; unification of, 25–30
- Colorado:** congressional term limits set by, 114
- commander in chief,** 48, 143, 151, 223
- commerce:** interstate, 105; regulation of, 105
- Commerce, Department of,** *c173*, 174
- commission:** type of municipal government, *c488*, 490–91
- committees, congressional:** 118–22, 123–27; appropriations, 118; authorizing, 118; chairs, 120–21; conference, 119; joint, 119; membership of, 121; resources of, 121–22; select, 119; seniority system in, 120; staff of, 122; standing, 119, *c119*. *See also* names of committees
- Committees of Correspondence,** 28
- common law,** 271–72, 321
- communism:** 515–22; collapse of, 520–21; concepts of production in, 516; Marxian theory of, 515–17; proletarian dictatorship, 516–17; revolutionary ideology, 516; in Russia, 517–21; socialism and, 512
- Communist Manifesto,** 515, 525
- Communist Party:** 518; failure of, 520–21
- commutation,** 153
- comparative advantage,** 534
- competition,** 508
- concurrent powers,** 68, *c69*
- concurring opinion,** 261
- confederal system:** *c10*; definition of, 10
- Confederate States of America,** 158

conference committees, congressional, 119, 127

Congress, U.S.: *c102*; act of admission, 76; amending the Constitution, 265; appropriation committees, 118; appropriation of government funds, 227; approving presidential appointments, 106; under Articles of Confederation, 31–33; bicameral legislature, 48; borrowing power of, 105, *c105*; checks and balances, 48–49, *c49*; commerce power of, 105; committees system in, 118–22, *c119*; conference committees, 119; confirming presidential foreign-affairs appointments, 227; constituents' interests and, 94, 96–97; copyright and patent powers of, 105; currency power of, 105, *c105*; deciding presidential elections, 106; Due Process Clause, 306; enabling act, 76; Establishment Clause, 300; expressed powers of, 67, 105; *c105*; expulsion of members of, 117; federal budget and, 49; foreign-policy role of, 106; Free Exercise Clause, 302–303; home districts of, 129–31; immunity of, 101; impeachment powers of, 106, 253; implied powers of, 57–58, 68, 107; influence of personal beliefs on voting, 93–94; interest groups and, 94, 129; interpreting the Constitution, 57–58; investigatory powers of, 96; joint committees of, 119; judicial powers of, 265; lame ducks in, 113; lawmaking process in, 93–95, 123–28; leadership in, 115–16, *c116*; military powers of, 105, *c105*; minority representatives in, 104, *p104*; national sovereignty and, 105, *c105*; oversight function of, 96; party in control of, 115; “permanent,” 114; political party loyalty and, 95; pork-barrel spending and, 129–31; postal power of, *c105*, powers denied to, 108, *c108*; powers of, 48–49, *c49*; privileges of members, 101; profiles of, 104; proposing constitutional amendments, 52; qualifications of members, 101, 104; regulation of naturalization, 104; resources of, 121–22; restrictions on pay raises, 54, 55; role of, 93–97; role in federal budget, 205–207, *c207*; role in U.S. foreign policy, 227; rules of conduct for, 116–17; salaries and benefits of members, 101, 104; select committees of, 118–19; seniority system in, 120; services to constituents, 96–97; special powers of, 105–106; staff of, 121–22, *p122*; standing committees in, 119, *c119*; taxing power of, 105, *c105*, 193; terms of office of members, 99, 102; terms and sessions, 113, *c114*; term limits, 113–15; treaty powers of, 106, 227; types of committees in, 118–19; types of congressional staff, 121–22, *p122*; voting influences of, 93–95; war powers of, 227; women in, 95, *p95*, 104. *See also* House of Representatives; legislation, congressional; Senate, U.S.

Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, 204–205

Congressional Budget Office (CBO), 122, 205, 206

congressional districts, 99–100

Congressional Record, 135

congressional staffer, 120, *p120*

congressmember, 95

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), 351, 394

Connecticut: as crown colony, 24

Connecticut Plan. *See* Great Compromise

constituents, 94, 96–97

constitution, 21

constitution, state, 461–62

Constitution, U.S.: 10, 60–62; basic principles of, 47–50; bicameral legislature in, 38; bill of attainder, 327; checks and balances, 41, 48–50, *c48*, *c49*; concurrent powers in, 68, *c69*; creation of, 36–39, 40–42; custom and tradition, 58–59; Due Process Clause, 321, 322; Elastic Clause, 68; electoral college in, 157–58, *c157*; Equal Protection Clause, 346–48; equal-representation guarantee, 60; *ex post facto* laws, 327; expressed powers in, 67, *c69*, 105, *c105*; federalism and, *c48*, 50, 67–71; foreign relations, 145; foreign relations and war powers in, 223–27; framers of, 35–36; Full Faith and Credit Clause, 76, *p76*, 78; implied powers in, 68, 107; influence of Roman Republic on structure of, 103; inherent powers in, 68; interpreting, 57; judicial powers, 250, 265; judicial review in, 49–50; limited government and, 48; loose constructionists' interpretation of, 250; Miranda Rule and, 327–28, *c328*; “necessary and proper” clause of, 68; opponents of, 40–41; popular sovereignty and, 47; power to tax under, 193; powers denied to Congress in, 108, *c108*; powers denied to federal government in, 69; powers denied to states in, 50, 69; powers granted to Congress in, 48, 105–107, *c105*; powers granted to federal government in, 50; powers granted to the executive branch in, 48–49, 143, 145, 148–54; powers granted to states in, 68; Preamble to, 47; preparation of federal budget under, 206; presidential qualifications set by, 145; presidential selection in, 157–58, *c157*; presidential succession and, 146–47, *c147*; privileges and immunity clause of, 78–79; proposing amendments to, 52; protections for those accused of crimes, 326–28; *c326*; public good and, 60–62; public policies and, 61; ratification of, 41–42, *m41*, *p42*; ratifying amendments to, 52; reserved powers in, 68, *c69*; separation of powers under, 48; signing of, *p38*, 39; special powers of Congress in, 105–106; strict constructionists' interpretation of, 249–50; supporters of, 41; supremacy clause of, 50, 71; Supreme Court in, 48, 49–50; term of president in, 146; war powers, 143; writ of *habeas corpus*, 326–27. *See also* amendments; Bill of Rights; specific amendments

Constitutional Convention: 35–39, 107, 251; delegates of, 35–36; Great Compromise, 38; New Jersey Plan, *c36*, 37–38; election procedure of president, 39; slavery and trade issues, 38–39; Virginia Plan, 36–37, *c36*

constitutional interpretation, 272

constitutional law, 272

constitutional monarchy, *c9*; definition of, 8

consul, 224–25

consulate, 224

consumer, 508

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 178

containment, 229–30

contested elections, 442

Continental Congress: First, 28–29; Second, 29, 31

Contract with America, 95

convention, 159

conventions, national: delegates to, 159–60; keynote speaker at, 161; party caucuses and, 160; political nominations at, 430; presidential primaries and, 159–62, *p159*; women as delegates to, *c167*

corporate tax, 192
Corpus Christi, Texas, 483
corrections system, 281–86
Council of Economic Advisers, 172
council-manager system, *c488*, 489
counties: 275; government of, 486
court of appeals, 252–53, *c252*
court reporter, 332
courts: and the public good, 263–66; Russian, 253. *See also* federal court system; specific courts by name; state court system
criminal justice system: 275–80; capital punishment, 282–83; court procedures, 276–80, *c276*; imprisonment, 281–82, *c282*; juvenile crime, 283–86, *c285*; parole, 282; police, 275–76; probation, 281
criminal laws: 273–74; states and, 78
crown colony, 24
cruel and unusual punishment, 333
Cuba: 229, 230–31, 233; freedom of the press in, 378
Cuban missile crisis, 230–31
Curia Julia, *p103*
currency, national, 67, *p67*
customs duties, *c191*, 193–94

D

Davis, Jefferson, 158, *p158*
Davis v. Bandemer, 100
death penalty. *See* capital punishment
Declaration of Independence: 29–30, *p29*; natural rights in, 4
deductions, 191
Dees, Morris, 298, *p298*
de facto segregation, 349
defendant, 274
Defense, U.S. Department of (DOD): 170; joint chiefs of staff, 226; organization of, 225–26; role in U.S. foreign policy, 225–26
defense alliance, 235
defense policy: agencies concerned with, 225–27. *See also* foreign policy
deficit: 202, reduction, 208–12
deficit spending, 208–12
deforestation, 542
de jure segregation, 347–49
delegate, 28
delegated powers, 67–70, *c69*
delegates to national conventions: 159–60; women as, *c167*
democracy: *c9*; basic concepts of, 12, 14–15; definition of, 8–9; direct, 15; five basic principles of, 12, 14–15; freedom of choice in, 12–14; majority rule in, 15; minority rights in, 14–15; origins of, 15–16, *p15*; public good and, 15; representative, 16; taking part in, 433; types of, 15–16; worth of individual in, 14

Democratic Party: 411–13; domination of government from 1932 to 1968, 413; formation of, 411; and tax policy, 194
Democratic-Republicans, 409–11
democratic socialism: characteristics of, 512–14; definition of, 511
demonstrations. *See* protests
denaturalization, 341
deportation, 344
détente, 232
developed nation, 533
developing nation, 533
dictatorship: *c9*; definition of, 9–10
diplomacy, 144
diplomatic powers: of president, 149–51
diplomatic recognition, 151
direct democracy, 15
direct primary, 431
discount rate, 201
discrimination: 345; racial, 100–101, 394; rational basis test for, 346–47; reasonable distinction, 346; strict scrutiny test, 347; suspect classifications, 347
disposable income, 198
distributing power, 80–81
dissenting opinion, 261
district court, 252
District of Columbia, 92, 98
diversity: of U.S. population, *c344*, 345
division of powers. *See* separation of powers
docket, 259, 329
Dole, Bob, *p154*, 436
double jeopardy, 331–32
downsizing: of federal government, *c180*, 181
draft, 310
drinking laws, 74
due process: 319–22; definition of, 319; police power and, 322–23; procedural and substantive, 319–20; rights to security and privacy, 322–25
Due Process Clause, 306, 319–22
Durenberger, David, *p117*
Durkheim, Emil, 389

E

Earth Summit, 539
Eastern Europe: 229, 230; collapse of communism in, 521
East Germany: fall of the Berlin Wall, 233
economic deregulation, 197
economic systems: capitalism, 507–10; communism, 515–22; market economy, 508, *c509*; mixed economy, 509; socialism, 511–14
economist, 206
economy, U.S.: deficit spending, 208–12; federal budget and, 204–207; fiscal policy, 198, *c198*; inflation, 197;

Keynesianism, 202; laissez-faire, 197; monetarism, 202–203; monetary policy, 198–201; monetary policy vs. fiscal policy, 201–202; organization of, 196–97; and the public good, 202–203; raising revenue, 191–95; recession, 197; stabilization of, 197–200

Eighty Years and More, 453

Eisenhower, Dwight D., 167, 413, *p436*

Elastic Clause, 68, 107

election of 1796, 158, 447–48

election of 1800, 158, *p158*

election of 1824, 163

election of 1832, 159

election of 1876, *c163*

election of 1884, *c163*

election of 1888, *c163*

election of 1896, 412–13

election of 1940, 146

election of 1944, 146

election of 1960, *c163*

election of 1968, *c163*

election of 1976, *c163*

election of 1992, 429

election of 1996, 159, 162

elections: 440–42; ballot process in, 441–42; contested, 442; duties of Congress in, 106; electoral college and, 157–58, *c157*; general, 159–60, 440; interest groups and, 94; presidential, 157–64; primary, 159–60; redistricting and, 100–101, *m101*; special, 440; voting by mail, 441

elector, 157

electoral college: 106; criticism of, 163–64; electoral vote vs. popular vote, 163, *c163*; presidential selection and, 157–58, *c157*

electoral process: interest groups and, 391–92

electoral vote, 163

electorate, 405–406

embassy, *p223*, 224

enabling act, 76

endorsement, 391

Engels, Friedrich, 511, 515, 525

Engel v. Vitale, 301

entitlements, 209

entrepreneur, 507

environment: air pollution, 538; Earth Summit, 539; global warming, 538; international cooperation, 539–40; protecting natural resources, 540, 542; water pollution, 538–39

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *p74*, 177, 184, 394

Environmental Youth Award, 171

Equal Access Act (1984), 301

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), 177, 298

Equal Protection Clause, 346–49, 356

equal representation: protected by Constitution, 60

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), 52–53, *p52*

Establishment Clause, 300

estate tax, 193

ethnic group, 345

Europe: international trade, 534–35; relations with United States, 544–45

European Economic Community (EEC), 535

European Union (EU), 9, 10, 534–35

excise tax, 193

exclusionary rule, 322

executive agreement, 58, *p59*, 151

executive branch: creation of, 36–38, *c36*; criticism of, 182–86; expressed powers of, 67; organization of, *c173*; relationship to legislative branch, 11, 48–49, *c49*; role in federal budget, *c207*

Executive Office of the President, 169–75, *c173*

executive orders, 148

executive powers, 148–49

executive privilege, 149, *p149*

exemptions, 191

exit poll, 373

Ex parte Milligan, 326

expatriation, 341

ex post facto laws, 108, 327, *c326*

expressed denials of powers, 68–69

expressed powers, 67, *c69*, 105, *c105*

expulsion, 117

extradition, 79, *p79*

F

factions, 60–62; definition of, 60

factor of production, 507, *c507*

fair trial: right to, 329–32; and punishment, 332–34

fascism, 520

federal budget: 204. *See also* budget, federal

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 72, 78, *p78*, 130

Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 308

federal court system: 249–66; appellate jurisdiction, 253; appointment of judges to, 253–54, 256–57; congressional power over, 265; courts of appeals, 252–53; creation of, 255–56; district courts, 252; federalism and, 70–71, 82; impeachment of judges, 106, 253; jurisdiction in, 250; lower courts, 249–54; original jurisdiction, 250; philosophy and, 251; and the public good, 263–66; special courts, 253, *c253*; Supreme Court, 255–62

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), 178

Federal Election Campaign Act of 1972, 438

Federal Election Committee (FEC), 438

federal government: *c81*; as central authority, 80; concurrent powers of, 68, *c69*; criticism of, 182–86; disaster relief provided by, 70, *p71*; downsizing of, *c180*, 181; employees of, 178–81, *c180*; expressed powers of, *c69*; implied powers of, 68; inherent powers of, 68; management of, 185–86; 1990s shutdown of, 62; powers denied in

Constitution, 69; powers of, *c69*; privatization of, 186; public good and, 131–32; raising revenue, 191–95; responsibilities to states, 69–70; states' responsibilities to, 70; taxing powers of, 105, 191, 193. *See also* federalism; specific branches and departments

Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), 193

federalism: *c48*, 50, *c81*; central authority of, 80; checking power, 81; concurrent powers in, 68, *c69*; constitutional principle of, *c48*, 50; cooperative, 76–79; delegated powers in, 67–71, *c69*; distribution of power and, 80–81; expressed powers in, 67, *c69*; implied powers in, 68; individual rights and, 78–79, 80, 82; inherent powers in, 68; local governments and, 81, *c81*; obligations to states under, 69–70; powers denied to federal government under, 69; powers denied to states, 69; powers reserved to states, 68; problems of, 81–82; public good and, 80–82; reserved powers in, 68, *c69*; revenue sharing, 72; Supreme Court and, 70–71

Federalist Papers, 41, 45, 81, 251, 256, 265

Federalists, 40, 41, 409–11

Federal Judiciary Act of 1789, 50

federal mandates, 73–75

Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), 200

Federal Reserve Act of 1913, 200

Federal Reserve System: 200–201, *m200*, *c201*; reserve requirements, 201

federal system: *c10*; definition of, 10

federal tax, 191–95, *c191*

Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 178

felony, 273

Ferraro, Geraldine, 145, 427

filibuster, 127

Fillmore, Millard, 257

First Continental Congress, 28–29

first lady: Constitution and, 173; role of 173–74

fiscal policy: 198, *c198*; versus monetary policy, 201–202

Five-Year Plans, 518, 520

flag: burning of, 93–94, 310; saluting the, 303

floor leaders, congressional, 116,

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 168

forces of production, 516

Ford, Gerald R., 147, *c163*

foreign aid, 234–35, *c234*

foreign commerce: regulation of, 105

foreign policy, U.S.: constitutional oath of president, 145; foreign aid and alliances, 234–38; goals of, 217–18; history of, 228–33; isolationist policies, 228; major events of Cold War, 229–30, *c230*; National Security Council, 226; principles of, 218–21; and the public good, 221; rise to world power, 228–29; role of Central Intelligence Agency, 226; role of Congress, 227; role of president, 145, 222–23; role of U.S. Department of Defense, 225–26; role of U.S. Department of State, 223–25

Foreign Service, 224, 225

foreign-service officer (FSO), 224

France: 155, 235; parliamentary system in, 144; president of, 144; prime minister of, 144; right to speedy trial in, 330

Franco, Francisco, 520

franking privilege, 101

Franklin, Benjamin: 32; Albany Plan of Union proposal, 26, *p26*; Declaration of Independence and, 29, *p29*; delegate at Constitutional Convention, 35, 39

freedom of assembly: 312–14; peaceful association, 314; picketing, 313–14; on private property, 313–14; on public property, 312–13; time, place, manner regulations, 312–13

freedom of religion: 53, 300–303; Establishment Clause, 300; Free Exercise Clause, 302–303; schools and, 300–301; separation of church and state, 301–303

freedom of speech: 53, 304–11; advertising and, 308–10; Bill of Rights and, 299; flag burning and, 94; individual behavior and, 310–11; mass media and, 306–10; national security and, 304–306; prior restraint, 306; symbolic speech, 310, *c311*

freedom of the press: 53, 150, 306–10; obscenity laws and, 307–308; prior restraint, 306

Freedom Riders, the, 351

free-enterprise system, 196–97

Free Exercise Clause, 302–303

free trade, 218

French and Indian War, 26

Friedman, Milton, 202

Full Faith and Credit Clause, 76–78, *p76*

Furman v. Georgia, 334



Gallatin, Judith, 369

Gallup, George, 372, 383

Gallup poll, 372, 383

General Accounting Office (GAO), 122

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 223, 537

general election, 159, 440, 417

George III: American colonies and, 26, 29

Georgia: colonial, 24, *p24*, 25

Gephardt, Richard, *p93*

Germany: 229, 235; federalism in, 70; judicial review in, 273

Gerry, Elbridge, 100

gerrymandering, 100–101, *m101*

Gideon v. Wainwright, 276, 331

gift tax, 193

Gingrich, Newt, *p115*, 116, 117, *p154*

Gitlow v. New York, 320

glasnost, 233, 521

global warming, 538

Glorious Revolution of 1688, 23

Gooding, George, 130

Gorbachev, Mikhail, 233, 521

Gore, Al, *p159*, 172, *p172*, *p205*

government: definition of, 3; distribution of power in, 10–11, *c10*; forms of, 8–11; functions of, 4–6; limited, 21–22; origins of, 4; relationship between executive and legislative branches, 11; representative, 22–23; sources of authority, 8–10, *c9*

government, British: basic concepts of, 21–23

government, French, 144

government, U.S.: *c81*; barriers to effective government in, 61–62; independence of, 25–30; classification of, 3; colonial, 24; disaster relief provided by, 70, *p71*; federalism and, 50; inherent powers of, 68; limited, 32–33; 1990s shutdown of, 62; origins of, 4, 21–24; powers denied in Constitution, 69; powers granted in Constitution, 50, *c69*; Second Continental Congress, 31; under Articles of Confederation, 31–34

government corporations, 178

Government Printing Office, (GPO), 122

governor: in colonial elections, 30; powers of, 470–71; qualifications and terms, 468, *c470*; salaries of, 468, *c470*; role of, 468–70

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act (GRH), 210–11

grand jury, 277, 327,

Grant, Ulysses S., 179

grants-in-aid programs, 72–73

grassroots lobbying, 394

Gray, Horace, 262

Great Britain: as a constitutional monarchy, 9; executive agreement with United States, 58; House of Commons, *p22*, 118; House of Lords, *p22*, 118; judicial review in, 273; legislature of, 98, *c98*; Parliament, 115, 188; unwritten constitution, 21

Great Compromise, 38

Great Depression, 202, 413

Greece: polis in ancient, 15–16

Gregg v. Georgia, 334

Griswold v. Connecticut, 325

gross domestic product (GDP), 208

Group of Seven (G7), 545, *p545*

Guam: 98; American control of, 229

Gulf War, 198

gun control, 323

H

habeas corpus, writ of: definition of, 108, 326–27, 326

Haiti, 151, 220, 221

Hamilton, Alexander: 81, 204; delegate to Constitutional Convention, 35, 37–38; *Federalist Papers*, 41, 265

Harding, Warren G., 169–70

Harrison, Benjamin, *c163*

hate speech, 311

Hayes, Rutherford B., *c163*

Helms-Burton Act, 231

Henry, Patrick, 35–36, 40, *p40*, 41

Hispanic Americans: in Congress, 104; in state legislatures, 468; working to end discrimination, 468

Hitler, Adolf, 520

Hobbes, Thomas, 3, 4, 19

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 306

Hong Kong: interest groups in, 397; relations with China, 522

Hopwood v. University of Texas, 356

“horse-race” coverage, 380

House of Commons, 22, *p22*, 118

House of Lords, 22, *p22*, 118

House of Representatives, U.S.: *c102*; apportionment and, 99; committee system in, 118–22, *c119*; comparison with Senate, 101–102, *c102*; conference committees, 119; congressional districts and, 99–100, 129–31; election of president by, 158, *c163*, 164; expulsion of members of, 117; franking privilege, 101; immunity of, 101; joint committees of, 119; lawmaking process in, 93–95, 123–28; leadership in, 115–16, *c116*; minority members in, 104; nonvoting delegates of, 98; powers granted in Constitution, 48; privileges of members, 101; profiles of members, 104; proposing constitutional amendments, 52; qualifications of, 101; restrictions on pay raises, 54, 55; role in federal budget, 205–207, *c207*; rules of conduct for, 116–17; salary and benefits of, 101; size of, 98–99; Speaker of the House, 115–16, *p115*, *c116*; standing committees in, 119, *c119*; term limits in, 113–15; terms and sessions of, 99, 113, *c114*. *See also* Congress, U.S.

House Rules Committee, 126

Hull, Cordell, *p219*

human rights, 220

Humphrey, Hubert, *c163*

hung jury, 279

I

idealism, 220–21

ideological party, 415

ideology, 368

“I Have A Dream”: speech by Martin Luther King, Jr., 351

illegal alien, 344

immigration: 342–45; benefits of, 345; challenges of, 345; diversity, 345; illegal, 344–45; present policies, 344; restricted, 342–44; unrestricted, 342

immigration officer, 343

immunity, congressional, 101

impeachment, 106

implied powers, 68, 107

imprisonment, 281–82, *c282*

income tax: 55; corporate, *c191*, 192; individual, 191–92, *c191*; local government, 494, *c493*; state, 474

incumbents, 113–14, *c114*
independent, 413–14, *c414*
independent agencies, 176
India: judicial review in, 273; legislature of, *c98*
indictment, 277
individual rights: and English monarchy, 23; Declaration of Independence and, 29; federalism and, 78–79, 80, 82; fair trial and punishment, 329–34; free speech and, 310–11; protected by Bill of Rights, 53, *c53*, 297–99; protection of, 319–25; rights of the accused, 326–28; student rights, 324. *See also* civil rights
individual tax, 191–92, *c191*
industrial policy, 203
inflation, 197
information (in criminal court), 277
inherent powers, 68
initiatives process, 463–64; *c463*
Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, An, 508
In re Kemmler, 334
interdependence, 527
interest group directors, 393
interest groups: 94, 95; agricultural, 386; benefits of, 396–97; business, 386–87; cause-based, 387–90; criticism of, 397–99; in the electoral process, 391–92; employing the legal system, 394; environmental, 388, *p390*; functions of, 385–86; labor, 387; influence on congressional legislation, 124, 129; limitations of, 399–400; lobbying by, 392–94; media and, 395; minority, 396–97; professional, 387; public interest, 388, 390; public opinion and, 394–95; public policy and, 391–95; societal, 387; that promote causes, 387–90; types of, 386–90; women and, 387, 391, 403
Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 68, 130
International Broadcasting Bureau, 513
International Court of Justice, 531; judges of, *c531*
internationalist, 219
international law, 531–32
international relations, U.S.: with Africa, 547–48; with China, 545–46; collective security, 527–32; economic interdependence, 533–37; environmental interdependence, 538–42; with Europe, 544–45; with Japan, 543–44; with Latin America, 546–47; United Nations, 531–32, *c531*; weapons proliferation, 529–31, *c530*
international trade, 534–37
International Trade Commission (ITC), 193
interstate commerce: regulation of, 105
interstate compacts, 79
Intolerable Acts, 28
investigatory powers, congressional, 96
Iraq, 152
isolationism, 218–19
isolationist, 218
isolationist policies, 228
Italy: 235; multiparty system of, 408

J

Jackson, Andrew, *p154*, 155, *c163*, 178–79, 265–66; 411
Jackson, Jesse, 145, 354
Jamestown, 23, *p23*
Japan: 229, 235; budget deficit, 209; as a constitutional monarchy, 9; judicial review in, 273; U.S. pact with, 238; relations with United States, 543–44
Jay, John: *Federalist Papers*, 41, 256; first chief justice, *p256*
Jefferson, Thomas: 35, 106, 107, 155, 158, *p158*, 305, 317, 410–11; Declaration of Independence and, 29, *p29*; Louisiana Purchase and, 77; *Marbury v. Madison*, 50
Jehovah's Witnesses, 303
Jim Crow laws, 348
Johnson, Andrew: 106; Alaska and, 77
Johnson, Lady Bird, 173
Johnson, Lyndon B., 146, 154, 156, *p156*, 170, 232
Johnson, Richard M., 106
Joint Chiefs of Staff, 226
joint committees, congressional, 119
judges: appointment of, 253–54, 257; appointment versus election of, 263–64; congressional approval of Supreme Court nominees, 106; federal, 253–54, 257, *c257*, *p258*; impeachment of, 106; judicial restraint versus judicial activism, 264–65; state, 472; terms of, 253–54, 256–57
judicial activism, 265
judicial branch: 48, 49–50, *c49*; appointment versus election, 263–64; creation of, 36–38, *c36*; expressed powers of, 67; federal court system, 249–66; federalism and, 70–71; judicial restraint versus judicial activism, 264–65. *See also* federal court system; state court system
judicial powers: of Congress, 265; of president, 152–53, 265; of federal courts, 250
judicial restraint, 264
judicial review, 49–50, *p56*, 108, 273
Judiciary Act of 1789, 250, 255–56
jurisdiction, 250
jurisdiction, court: appellate, 253; of federal courts, 250, *c250*, 253; original, 250; of Supreme Court, 256, 258
jury: grand, 277, *c326*, 327; hung, 279; petit, 278; selection of, 278–79; sequestration of, 279; trial by, 330–31
jury pool, 471–72
jus sanguinis, 339
jus soli, 339
justices of Supreme Court, 256–57, *p258*
juvenile crime: 283–86; boot camps, 285–86; corrections, 285; court, 285, *c285*;
juvenile delinquent, 283

K

Kellogg, Frank, *p218*
Kellogg-Briand Pact, *p218*

Kenmiller, In re, 334
Kennedy, John F., 148, *c163*, 202, 231, *p231*
Keynes, John Maynard, 202, 215
Keynesianism, 202
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 351, *p351*, 359
Kissinger, Henry, 232
Klondike Gold Rush, 77
Korea, 151
Korean War, 230
Kuwait, 152



“laboratories of democracy”: states as, 80–81
labor unions, 387
laissez-faire, 197
“lame ducks,” 113
Land Ordinance of 1785, 72
Laswell, Harold, 369
Latin America: relations with United States, 546–47
LaTrobe, Benjamin H., 91
law: 3; administrative, 272–73; bill of attainder, 108; civil, 274; common, 271–72; congressional enforcement of, 105; constitutional, 272; criminal, 273–74; definition of, 3–4; *ex post facto*, 108, *c326*, 327; how bill becomes, 123–28; president’s powers in executing, 148; statutory, 272
law clerk, 259
League of Nations, 229
League of Women Voters, the, *p389*, 403
Lec, Richard Henry, 41
legal system, U.S., 271–86; corrections, 281–86; criminal justice system, 275–80, *c276*; types of law, 271–74
legislation, congressional: cloture, 127; committee stage of, 123–26; conference committee stage of, 127; filibuster, 127; floor rules in the House, 126; floor rules in the Senate, 127; hearings, 124, *p124*; House Rules Committee, 126; identifying numbers and letters, *p123*; interest groups and, 124; introduction of, 123; markup sessions, 124–26; number of bills that become laws, 123; presidential action on, 128; privileged bills, 126; referral to committee, 123–24; rules for passage of bill, 126–27; voting on, 127, *p128*
legislative branch: creation of, 36–38, *c36*; expressed powers of, 67; relationship to executive branch, 11, 48–49, *c49*
legislative powers: of president, 153–54
legislature, South Korea, *c98*
legislature, Thailand, 98, *c98*
legislature, United Kingdom, 98, *c98*
legislature, Venezuela, *c98*
legislatures, state: 466–68, *c467*; bicameral, 36; in colonial America, 30; committees of, 468; leadership of, 468; qualifications of members, 466–68; ratifying constitutional amendments, 52; salaries of, 468; sessions of, 466; terms of office in, 466; unicameral, 30

legitimacy, 4
Lend Lease Program, 234
L’Enfant, Pierre-Charles, 92, 255
Lenin, Vladimir, 517–18
Levin, Joseph, 298
Lemon test, 302
Lemon v. Kurtzman, 301–302
Lewis v. United States, 289
libel, 307
Library of Congress, *p57*, 122
“life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” 29
limited government, 21–22, 30, 31, 48, *c48*
Lincoln, Abraham, 72, 326, *p411*, 412
line-item veto, 128, 153
Livingston, Robert: Declaration of Independence and, 29
Lloyd Corporation v. Tanner, 313
lobbying: interest groups, 392–94; presidential, 153–54
local governments: authority of, 485–86; block grants to, 73; categorical grants, 73; communities administered by, 481–84; county, 486; federal system and, 81, *c81*; fees, grants, and bonds, 494–96; metropolitan, 491–92; municipal, 487–91; organization of, 485–92; political parties in, 416–20; powers of, 81; public good and, 492; revenue sharing by, 72; revenues of, 493–96; special districts, 491; state government and, 80–81; taxation by, 493–94, *c493*; towns and townships, 486–87; types of, *c81*. *See also* county governments; municipal governments; school districts; special districts; townships
Locke, John, 4, 29, 251
loose constructionist, 250
lotteries, state, 475–76
Lott, Trent, *p115*
Louisiana: gerrymandering in, *m101*; Napoleonic Code and, 321
Louisiana Purchase, 155
Loving v. Virginia, 349
lower federal courts: 249–54, *c269*; authority of, 250, *c250*; appointing judges of, 253–54; courts of appeals, 252–53, *m252*; district courts, 252; interpreting the law, 249–50; judges of, 253–54; organization of, 252–53, *m252*, *c253*; jurisdiction of, 250, *c251*; resolving disputes, 249; role of, 249–50; setting precedents, 249; special courts, 253, *c253*



Maastricht Treaty, 209, 535
Madison, James: 60–61, *p60*, 103, 410–11; delegate to Constitutional Convention, 36; *Federalist Papers*, 41, 251; *Marbury v. Madison*, 50; Virginia Plan, 36
Magna Carta, *p21*; definition of, 21–22
Maine, USS, 229
majority factions, 60–61
majority opinion, 261

majority party, congressional, 115
majority rule, 15
Management and Budget, Office of (OMB), 172
Mapp v. Ohio, 322
Marbury v. Madison, 50, 56, 256, 273
Marbury, William, 50
March on Washington, 351
Marine Corps, U.S., 152
market economy, 508, *c509*
Marshall, John, *p56*, 256
Marshall Plan, 234–35
Marshall, Thurgood, 256
Maryland: as proprietary colony, 24
Marx, Karl, 511–12, *p512*, 515–17, 525
Massachusetts: charter, 23; colonial, 25
mass media: bias in, 379; censorship in, 377; checks on, 380; criticisms of, 378–80; freedom of speech and, 306–10; as gatekeeper, 378; “horse-race” coverage, 380; impact on politics, 150, 182–83; interest groups and the, 395, *p395*; objectivity of, 379; political campaigns and, 436–37, 447–48; public good and, 377–80; public trials and, 329–30; role of, 377–78; use by president, 155; watchdog function of, 378
mayor, 488
mayor-council system, 488, *c488*
McCollum v. Board of Education, 300
McCullough v. Maryland, 71, 107
McKinley, William, 180, 305
Medicare, 193
megalopolis, 484
merit system, 179–80
metropolitan area, 484
metropolitan government, 491–92
Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF), 387
Mexico: 151; federalism and, 70; and NAFTA, 535
military academies, U.S., 152
military powers: of Congress, 105, 107; of president, 151–52;
Miller v. California, 307
Minersville School District v. Gobitis, 303
minimum wage, 199
minorities: in Congress, 104, *p104*; interest groups of, 396–97; as presidential candidates, 145–46; racial discrimination, 100–01; segregation, 260, 269
minority factions, 60–61
minority party, congressional, 115
minority rights, 14–15, 57
mint, U.S., *p67*
Miranda rights, 328, *c328*
Miranda rule, 327–28
Miranda v. Arizona, 276, 327–28
misdemeanor, 273
mixed economy, 509
monarchy: *c9*; definition of, 8

monarchy, British: Magna Carta and, 21, *p21*; limited powers of, 21–22
monetarism, 202–03
monetary policy: 198–202; discount rate, 201; open-market operations, 201; reserve requirements, 201; versus fiscal policy, 201–02
money: power to coin, 105
Monroe, James, 154, 163
Monroe Doctrine, 228
Montesquieu, Baron Charles de, 251, *p251*
Montgomery, Alabama, 350
Morrill Act, 72, *p73*
Moseley-Braun, Carol, 104
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), 388
Motor Voter Law, 444–45
Muir, John, 390
multilateral treaty, 237
multiparty system, 408
municipal government: commission, 490, *c488*; council-manager system of, 489–90, *c488*; federalism and, *c81*; mayor-council system of, 488, *c488*
municipality, 487
Mussolini, Benito, 520



Nader, Ralph, 390
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 177, *p185*
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 314, 387, 394
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) v. Alabama, 314
National Archives, 57
National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 528
national conventions. *See* conventions, national
national debt, 210, *c211*, *p212*
national defense: 105; Department of Defense, 225–26. *See also* national security
National Economic Council, 172
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), 125
National Guard, 70, *p71*, 72
nationalization, 512
National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), 178
National Organization for Women (NOW), 387
National Rifle Association (NRA), 388
national security: 105, 217; freedom of speech and, 304–06
National Security Council (NSC), 170–72, 226
national sovereignty, 105
Native Americans. *See* American Indians

naturalization: regulation of, 340–41, *c340*

natural rights, 4

Navy, U.S., 152

Near v. Minnesota, 306

Nebraska, 52

“necessary and proper” clause, 68, 107

neoisolationist, 220

New Deal, 215, 413

New England Confederation, 25–26

“New Freedom” reform, 153

New Hampshire: first female governor in, 479

New Jersey Plan, *c36*, 37–38

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 324

newspapers: 150; freedom of speech, 306–308

New York Times v. Sullivan, 307

Nixon, Richard M., 106, 147, 149, *p149*, 150, *p151*, 156, *c163*, 232, *p233*, 266, 413

no-contest plea, 277

nominate, 157

nomination, political: 407, 429–34; of president, 157–62, *c157*. *See also* conventions, national

nonpartisan primary, 432

nonrenewable resource, 540

nontax revenue, 194

nonvoting, 448–49

North America: international trade, 535

North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA), 535

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 237

North Korea: communism in, 233

Northwest Ordinance, 32

Northwest Territory, *m32*

nuclear proliferation, 529

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 178

objectivity, 379

obscenity, 307–308

O’Connor, Sandra Day, 263, *p263*, 289

Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 204

oligarchy, 9

Olmstead v. United States, 324

one-party system, 407

“one-person, one-vote,” 99

open-market operations, 201

open primary, 432

Organization of American States (OAS), 238

original jurisdiction, 250

Ortiz, Solomon, *p122*

oversight, congressional, 96

Packwood, Bob, 117

Pan American Conference (1933), *p219*

pardon, 153

park ranger, 37

Parks, Rosa, 350

Parliament, British: 22–23, *p22*, 118

Parliament, French, 144

parliamentary system, 11

parole, 282

Parr, John, 499

parties, political. *See* political parties

party activist, 419

party machine, 416

party platform: at national conventions, 161

party whip, 116, *c116*

passport, 194, 225

patronage, 416

Peace Corps, *p176*, 541

Pearl Harbor, 229

Pendleton Act, 180

Pennsylvania: as proprietary colony, 24

Pentagon, 225, *p225*

Pentagon Papers, 306

People for the American Way, 393

peremptory challenge, 279

Peres, Shimon, *p58*

perestroika, 233, 521

“permanent Congress,” 114

Perot, Ross, 414–15, 438

Persian Gulf, 152

petition: nomination by, 430–31

Petition of Right, 22

petit jury, 278

Philippines: American control of, 229; bilateral treaty with U.S., 238

picketing, 313

plaintiff, 274

plank: at national conventions, 161

Planned Parenthood: as a cause-based interest group, 388

plea bargain, 280

Pledge of Allegiance: and freedom of religion, 303

Plessy v. Ferguson, 348

plurality, 163

pocket veto, 128

Poland: interest groups in, 397

police powers: 275–76; due process and, 322–23; Miranda Rule, 327–28, *c328*

political action committees (PACs), 94, 391–92, *c392*, *c400*

- political campaigns:** 160, 435–39; benefits of, 450; criticisms of, 447–48; financing of, 437–38, *c437*; mass media in, 436–37; negative campaigning, 447–48; and the public good, 447–50; role of media, 447–48
- political gridlock,** 62
- political parties:** *c410*; criticisms of, 421–22; definition of, 58; function of, 405–407, *c406*; history of, 409–13; loyalty toward, 95; in multiparty system, 408; national machinery of, 419–20; nominating function of, 407; in one-party system, 407; organization of, 416–20, *c418*; organizing function of, 406; president as leader of, 145; and the public good, 421–24; state and local machinery, 416–20; in two-party system, 407, 422–24; types of, 407–15
- political psychology,** 369
- political scientist,** 5
- political socialization,** 368
- politics,** 6
- polling,** 372, 437
- pollster,** 374
- Pomeroy, Earl,** 135
- popular sovereignty,** 47, *c48*
- popular vote,** 163, *c163*
- pork-barrel spending,** 129–31, *p131*
- Postal Service, U.S.,** 178
- Powell, Colin,** *p161*
- precedent,** 249
- precinct,** 418
- prejudice,** 345
- presentment,** 327
- president, U.S.:** background of, 145–46; as chief agenda setter, 143; as chief executive, 143; as chief of state, 144; as commander in chief, 48, 143, 151, 223; election by House of Representatives, 106, 158; election process of, 39, 157–64, *c157, c163*; Executive Office of the, 169–74, *c173*; executive privilege of, 149; financing campaign of, 437–39, *c437*; as foreign policy leader, 145; formal titles of, 143; impeachment of, 106; lawmaking process and, 128; lobbying for legislation, 153–54; the media and, 150, 155, 182–83; nomination and election of, 429–34; as party leader, 145; and the public good, 182–83; qualifications for, 145; as representative of the nation, 143–44; role in federal budget, 205, *c207*; role in U.S. foreign policy, 222–23; roles of, 143–45; salary and benefits of, 146; speechwriting for, 169–70; and State of the Union Address, 143, 153; succession of, 146–47, *c147*; terms of office of, 146
- presidential aide,** 183, *p183*
- presidential awards,** 171, *p171*
- presidential doctrines,** 222–23
- presidential electors.** *See* electoral college
- presidential powers:** appointing, 148–49, *p148, 254, 257*; criticism of, 156, *p156*; diplomatic, 149–51; executing the law, 148; executive, 148–49; executive agreements, 58, *p58*; 151, 223; foreign relations, 149–52, 222–23; growth of, 154–56, 182; how presidents have viewed, 148; judicial, 152–53, 265–66; legislative, 128, 153–54; military, 151–52, 223; and the public good, 182–83; treaty making, 149–51, *p151, 223*; veto, 48, 128, 153; war, 151, 227
- presidential primaries,** 159–60
- president *pro tempore,*** 116, *c116*
- president of the Senate,** 116, *c116*
- presidential succession,** 146–47, *c147*
- presidential system,** 11
- press.** *See* freedom of press; mass media; newspapers
- primaries:** closed, 432; direct, 431; nonpartisan, 434; open, 432; presidential, 159–60; runoff, 434; voter turnout in, 434
- primary election,** 159, 417
- prime minister, French,** 144,
- prior restraint,** 306
- privacy: right to,** 324–25
- private property: demonstrations on,** 313–14
- privatization,** 186
- privileges and immunity clause,** 78–79
- probable cause,** 322
- probation,** 281
- procedural due process,** 319–20
- profit,** 508
- Progressive Party,** 415
- prohibition,** 55
- Prohibition Party,** 415
- proletariat,** 511
- property tax: by local government,** 493–94, *c493*
- proprietary colony,** 24
- protests: freedom of assembly and petition,** 312–14; interest groups and, 395
- Public Citizen,** 390
- public comment,** 176–77
- public funding: of political campaigns,** 438
- public good: 15, 60–62; Aristotle's writings on the,** 251; boot camps, 285–86; civil liberties and the, 298–99; congressional committees and, 131; definition of, 6–7; economic policy and, 202–03; federal court system and the, 263–66; federal government and, 131–32, 183–86; federalism and, 80–83; interest groups and the, 396–400; local government and the, 492; mass media and the, 377–80; political campaigns and the, 447–50; political parties and the, 421–24; pork-barrel spending and, 129–31; and the presidency, 182–83; state governments and the, 465; tax policy and, 195; U.S. foreign policy and, 221
- public interest groups,** 388, *c390*
- public opinion: 366–80; definition of,** 367; forms of, 367–68; interest groups and, 394–95; mass media and, 370, *c371, 377–78, p377*; measuring, 372–76; nature of, 371; role of, 367; role of schools in, 370
- public opinion poll: 372–76, c376; conducting,** 373–76; origins of, 372–73; types of, 373
- public policy: 4, 61; interest groups and,** 391–95
- public property: demonstrations on,** 312–13
- public trial,** 329–30
- Puerto Rico: 98; U.S. control of,** 229

Q

Quayle, Dan, 102
quorum, 113
quotas, 355

R

radio: freedom of speech and, 308; influence on public opinion, 370; Roosevelt's "fireside chats," 155
ratification, 31
rational basis test, 346–47
Reagan, Nancy, 173, *p182*
Reagan, Ronald, *p150*, 154, *p182*, 198, 208, *p263*, 289
realignment, 409
realism, 219
realpolitik, 219
reasonable distinction, 346
recall, 464–65, *c464*
recession, 197
reconciliation, 207
redistricting: 99; racial gerrymandering and, 100–01, *m101*
referendum, 464, *c464*
Reform Party, 414–15
refugee, 527
Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, 356
regulatory commissions, 177–78
relations of production, 516
religion. *See* freedom of religion
renewable resource, 540
repeal, 52
reprieve, 153
representation: population and, 99
representative democracy, 16
representative government, 22–23
republic: *c9*; definition of, 8
republican, 69–70
Republican Party: 409; domination of the government from 1860 to 1932, 412; rise of, 411; and tax policy, 194
reserve requirements, 201
reserved powers, 68, *c69*
resolution, 206
revenue: 191; nontax, 194. *See also* Taxes
revenue sharing, 72
Revolutionary War, 31, 72
Reynolds v. United States, 302–03
Rhode Island: as crown colony, 24
Richard, Henry Lee, 41
Rio Pact, 237
Rockefeller, Nelson, 147

"Rock the Vote" campaign, 377–78
Roe v. Wade, 262, 325
roll-call vote, 127
Roman Empire, 103
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 173
Roosevelt, Franklin D., 58, *p59*, 146, *p146*, 150, 155, 173, 215, 229, 257–58, 413
Roosevelt, Theodore, 155, *p155*, 414
Roth v. United States, 307
royal colony, 24
rule of law: concept of, 22
runoff primary, 432
rural area, 481
Russia: communism in, 517–21; media and elections, 448; U.S. purchase of Alaska territory from, 77
Russian Revolution, 517–18

S

sales tax: 473–74; by local government, 494, *c493*
SALT treaty. *See* Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
sampling, 374–75
sampling error, 375
Schenck v. United States, 305
schools: federal government aid issue, 302; Pledge of Allegiance debate and, 303; prayer in, 301; religious activities in, 301; student religious groups in, 301
search and seizure, *c53*, 322–24, *p322*, *p324*
search warrant, 322
Second Continental Congress, 29, 31
secretaries: 174. *See also* cabinet, U.S., government departments by name
secret ballot, 441
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), 178
security of home and person, 322–24
sedition, 305
segregation: 269, 347–49; *de facto*, 349; definition of, 349; *de jure*, 347–49
select committees, congressional, 119
self-incrimination, 327–28
self-interest, 508–09
Senate Ethics Committee, *p117*
Senate, Roman, 103, *p103*
Senate, U.S.: *c102*; appropriations committee of, 118; cloture in, 127; committee system in, 118–22, *c119*; comparison with House of Representatives, 101–02, *c102*; conference committees, 119; confirmation of cabinet members, 106; confirmation of federal judges, 106, 254, 257; confirmation of presidential appointments, 106, 149; expulsion of members of, 117; filibusters in, 127; joint committees of, 119; lawmaking process in, 93–95, 123–28; leadership in, 115–16, *c116*; minority members of, 104, *p104*; powers granted in Constitution, 48; president *pro tempore*, 116, *c116*; privileges of members, 101; profiles of members,

- 104; proposing constitutional amendments, 52; qualifications of members, 104; restrictions on pay raises, 54, 55; role in federal budget, 205–07, *c207*; rules of conduct, 116–17; salary and benefits of, 104; select committees of, 119; size of, 102; standing committees in, 119, *c119*; term limits, 113–15; terms and sessions, 102, 113, *c114*; treaty powers of, 106. *See also* Congress, U.S.
- senatorial courtesy, 254
- seniority system, 120
- separate-but-equal doctrine, 348
- separation of powers, 48, *c48*, 67–71, *c69*
- sequester, 279
- Seven Years' War, 26
- severance tax, 474
- Seward, William H., 77
- Shaheen, Jeanne, 479
- Shalala, Donna, *p106*
- Shays, Daniel, 34
- Shays's Rebellion, 34
- Sherman, Roger: Declaration of Independence and, 29
- shield law, 307
- Sierra Club, 388, 390, *c390*
- Singapore: freedom of speech in, 305
- single-issue voting, 391
- single-member district, 440
- sin tax, 474
- slander, 307
- slavery: 53; Northwest Ordinance ban on, 32; southern states and, 33–34, *p33*; Three-Fifths Compromise, 39; and trade issues at Constitutional Convention, 39
- Smith, Adam, 508–509
- social contract, 4
- social insurance tax, *c191*, 193
- socialism: 511–14; communism and, 512; definition of, 511; democratic, 511, 512–13; history of, 511–12; nationalization, 512–13; taxation, 513–14
- social scientist, 5
- Social Security Administration, 177
- Somalia, 218, 221
- South Africa, 47
- South Carolina: constitution of, 85
- Southern Poverty Law Center, 298
- South Korea: bilateral treaty with United States, 238; legislature of, *c98*
- sovereignty, 3
- Soviet Union, 231, 232
- Spanish-American War, *p228*, 229
- Speaker of the House: 115–16, *p115*, *c116*; succession to presidency, 147, *c147*
- special districts: federalism and, *c81*
- special elections, 440
- special interest groups. *See* interest groups
- special powers, 105–106
- speech. *See* freedom of speech
- speechwriting, 169–70
- speedy trial, *c53*, 329
- splinter party, 415
- split ticket, 417
- Spirit of the Laws*, 251
- spoils system, 178–79
- staff, congressional, 121–22
- Stalin, Joseph, 518, 520
- Stamp Act, 26, 28
- Stamp Act Congress, 28
- standard of living, 195
- standing committees, congressional, 119, *c119*
- Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 443, 453
- stare decisis*, 262, 271
- state: as a political unit, 3
- State, U.S. Department of: issuing passports, 225; maintaining embassies and consulates, 224–25; organization and structure of, 223–24; role in foreign policy, 223–25; secretary of, 189
- state court system: 471–72; appeals courts, 472; selection of judges for, 472; special courts, 472, trial courts, 471–72
- state government: 461–76; budgets and revenues, 473–76; early constitutions of, 30; in colonial America, 30; constitutions of, 461–62; executive branch of, 468–71; federalism and, 50; implied rights in Constitution, 53; judicial branch of, 471–72; legislative branch of, 466–68; limited power of, 30; lotteries and gambling revenues, 475–76; organization of, 466–72; powers denied in Constitution, 50; and the public good, 465; taxation by, 473–74; voting rights in, 30
- State of the Union Address, 143, 153
- states: *c81*; admission to Union, 76; under Articles of Confederation, 33–34, block grants to, 73; categorical grants to, 73; civil laws, 78; concurrent powers of, 68, *c69*; cooperation among, 76–79; criminal laws, 78; distribution of power among, 80–81; extradition, 79, *p79*; federal government's responsibilities to, 69–70; federal grants, 475; Full Faith and Credit Clause, 76–78, *p76*; governors of, 468–71, *c470*; grants-in-aid programs, 72–73; interstate compacts, 79; interstate relations, 76–79; as “laboratories of democracy,” 81; political parties in, 416–20; powers denied in Constitution, 69; presidential nomination and election, 159–64; representation in the U.S. legislature, 38; reserved powers of, 68, *c69*; responsibilities to federal government, 70; revenue sharing by, 72; setting speed limit on highways, 74–75, *p75*; territorial rights of, 70. *See also* state governments; states by name
- state trial judge, 278
- straight ticket, 417
- statutory interpretation, 272
- statutory law, 272
- Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT), 232
- strict constructionist, 249
- strict scrutiny test, 347
- Students Against Affirmative Action and for Equality, 354
- Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), 387–88

student rights, 324
subcommittees, congressional, 119
subpoena, 279
substantive due process, 320
suburb, 481–82
suffrage, 442
summit conferences, 223
supply and demand, 508
Supremacy Clause, 50, 71
Supreme Court, U.S.: 48, 255–62, *c269*; appointing justices to, 257; briefs filed with, 259–60; cases argued before the, *c258*; development of, 255–56; expressed powers of, 67; federalism and, 70–71; first woman on, 289; how cases reach, 258–59; judicial review by, 49–50, *p56*, 108, 299; jurisdiction of, 258; justices of, 256–58, *c257*, *p258*; meeting in conference, 261; operation of, 258–62; oral arguments before, 260–61; origins and role of, 255–56; packing of, 257–58; preparing and handing down opinions, 261–62; presidential appointment of justices, 149; terms of justices, 257
suspect classifications, 347
Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg, 348–49
Sweatt v. Painter, 348
symbolic speech, 310, *c311*

T

taxes: in American colonies, 26–28; congressional power to tax, *c105*, 193; constitutional limits on, 108; corporate, *c191*, 192; customs duties, *c191*, 193–94; estate, *c191*, 193; excise, *c191*, 193; federal, 191–94, *c191*; gift, *c191*, 193; income, 191–92, *c191*; individual income, 191–92, *c191*; local, 493–94, *c493*; nontax revenue, 194; power to levy, 193; public good and, 195; religious organizations and, 302; sales, 473–74; sin, 474; social insurance, *c191*, 193; state, 473–74; tax policy, 194–95

Tax Reform Act of 1986, 194

teen court, 284

television: freedom of speech and, 308; influence on public opinion, 370, *c370*; ratings system for, *c308*; spread of cable television, *c371*; Supreme Court nominations and, 257

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), 178

term limits, congressional, 113–15

Thailand: legislature of, 98, *c98*

third party, 413–15, *c414*

Thomas, Clarence, 257

Thornburg v. Gingles, 100–101

Three-Fifths Compromise, 39

Tilden, Samuel, *c163*

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 309, 310

totalitarian, 9–10

town government, 486–87

township: 487; federalism and, *c81*

trade: international, 534–37; power of Congress to regulate,

105, *c105*. See also commerce

trade association, 386–87

trade deficit, 537

trade embargo, 218

trading bloc, 534

Travelgate, 150

treason, 304–305

treaty powers: Congress and, 106, 227; of president, 149–51, 223

trial: bench, 331; by jury, 53, 330–31; fair, 329; media coverage of, 329–30, *p330*; public, 329–30; speedy, 53, 329, 330

Truman, Harry S., 144, 146, 148, 229, 230, *p238*, 241

Truman Doctrine, 229–30, 241

two-party system: 407; benefits of, 422–24

Two Treatises of Government, 251

Tyler, John, 159, 257

tyranny: 28; factions and, 60

U

“unalienable rights,” 29

unconstitutional, 49

unicameral, 30

unitary system: *c10*; definition of, 10

United Farm Workers of America, *p385*

United Nations, 531–32, *c531*, 551

United States v. Lovett, 327

United States v. Miller, 323

United States v. O'Brien, 310

Unsafe at Any Speed, 390

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 235

U.S. Trade Representative, Office of, 536

urban area, 481

V

values: definition of, 6

vanguard, 517

Venezuela: legislature of, *c98*

veto, 48–49

veto powers: of president, 128

vice president, U.S.: *c173*; duties of, 172–73, *p172*; election by House of Representatives, 106; impeachment of, 106; importance of office, 172; as president of Senate, 116, *c116*; succession to presidency, 146–47, *c147*

Vietnam, 151, 156, 231–32

Virginia: colonial, 23, *p23*, 24, 25

Virginia Plan, *c36*, 36–38

Virgin Islands: nonvoting delegate to House of Representatives, 98

visa, 225

Voice of America (VOA), 513
voir dire, 278–79
volunteerism, 13
voter registration, 74, 368, *c368*
voting behavior: factors influencing, 445–46; nonvoting, 448–49
voting rights: 442–45; of African Americans, 30, 53, 442–43; age and, *p51*, 443–44; of American Indians, 30; citizenship and residence requirements, 444; property qualifications for in 1780s, 30; property and tax requirements, 30, 442; psychological factors in, 369; registration requirements, 444; restrictions in early America, 30; of women, 30, 53–55, 443, *p443*
Voting Rights Act Amendments: of 1970, *p51*
Voting Rights Act of 1965: 352; racial gerrymandering and, 100–101, *m101*



Wallace, George C., *c163*
Walt v. Tax Commission, 302
ward, 418
war powers: of Congress, 151, 227; of president, 151, 227; undeclared war, 151
War Powers Act, 151–52
Washington, D.C. *See* District of Columbia
Washington, George, 31, 34, 35, 42, 58, 143, 146, 154, 158, 169
Watergate, 147, 149, *p149*, 150, 156, 266
Weems v. United States, 333
welfare state, 512
Wesberry v. Sanders, 99, 111
West Germany: fall of the Berlin Wall, 233

West Virginia, 130
West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, 303
Whigs, 411
Whiskey Rebellion, 154–55
White House, *p141*, 146
White House Office, 169–70, *c170*
Whitewater, 150
Wilson, Woodrow: 144, 153, 155, 162, 229, 443
women: in armed forces, 152; in cabinet, *p148*, 189; civil rights, 353–56; in Congress, 95, *p95*, 104; as delegates at national conventions, *c167*; Equal Rights Amendment and, 52–53, *p52*; as governors, 479; interest groups and, 387, 388, 403; in military academies, 152; in presidential campaigns, 145; on Supreme Court, *c257*, *p258*, 263, *p263*, 289; as vice presidential candidates, 427; voting rights of, 53–54, 443, *p443*, 453; voting restrictions against, 30
World Health Organization (WHO), 532
World Trade Organization (WTO), 536–37
World War I, 229, 305
World War II, 229
writ of *certiorari*, 259



Yeltsin, Boris, *p145*, 233
Young-sam, Kim, *p172*



Zedong, Mao, 230