Chapter 1
The Political Landscape
Chapter Outline and Learning Objectives

Roots of American Government: We the People

★ LO 1.1: Trace the origins of American government.

The Theoretical Foundations of American Government

★ LO 1.2: Show how European political thought provided the theoretical foundations of American government.
American Political Culture and the Basic Tenets of American Democracy

★ LO 1.3: Describe American political culture, and identify the basic tenets of American democracy.

Functions of American Government

★ LO 1.4: Explain the functions of American government.
Chapter Outline and Learning Objectives

The Changing American Public

★ LO 1.5: Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

Political Ideology

★ LO 1.6: Assess the role of political ideology in shaping American politics.

Toward Reform: People and Politics

★ LO 1.7: Characterize changes in Americans’ attitudes toward and expectations of government.
Roots of American Government: We the People

LO 1.1: Trace the origins of American government.

• The earliest inhabitants of the Americas
• The first colonists
  – A religious tradition takes root
    • Calvin and Newton
    • Protestant Puritans
  – Religious tolerance grows
• Becoming Americans
In which state did the Puritans first settle?

A. Massachusetts
B. Virginia
C. New York
D. Rhode Island
E. New Hampshire
In which state did the Puritans first settle?

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B. Virginia
C. New York
D. Rhode Island
E. New Hampshire
The Theoretical Foundations of American Government

LO 1.2: Show how European political thought provided the theoretical foundations of American government.

- Social contract theory
- Devising a national government in the American colonies
- Types of government
Social Contract Theory

- The *Mayflower Compact*
- Hobbes’s *Leviathan*
- Locke’s *Second Treatise on Civil Government*
- Montesquieu’s *Spirit of the Laws*
- Rousseau’s *Social Contract*
Devising a National Government in the American Colonies and Types of Government

- Direct democracy versus indirect democracy
- Republics
- Monarchy
- Totalitarianism
- Oligarchy
Which political philosopher had the greatest influence on the Declaration of Independence?

A. Thomas Hobbes
B. Charles Montesquieu
C. Jean Jacques Rousseau
D. John Locke
E. Jesus
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C. Jean Jacques Rousseau  
D. John Locke  
E. Jesus
American Political Culture and the Basic Tenets of American Democracy

LO 1.3: Describe American political culture, and identify the basic tenets of American democracy.

• Liberty and equality
• Popular consent, majority rule, and popular sovereignty
  – Natural law
• Individualism
• Religious faith and religious freedom
What is the idea that society should be governed by certain ethical principals that are part of nature and, as such, can be understood by reason?

A. Biblical law
B. Natural law
C. Majority rule
D. Oligarchy
E. Both B and D

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B. **Natural law**
C. Majority rule
D. Oligarchy
E. Both B and D
Functions of American Government

LO 1.4: Explain the functions of American government.

- Establishing justice
- Insuring domestic tranquility
- Providing for the common defense
- Promoting the general welfare
- Securing the blessings of liberty
Which function of government is most concerned with economic well being?

A. Establishing justice
B. Insuring domestic tranquility
C. Providing for the common defense
D. Promoting the general welfare
E. Securing the blessings of liberty
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B. Insuring domestic tranquility
C. Providing for the common defense
D. Promoting the general welfare
E. **Securing the blessings of liberty**
The Changing American Public

LO 1.5: Analyze the changing characteristics of the American public.

- Racial and ethnic composition
- Aging
  - Baby boomers
- Religious beliefs
- Regional growth and expansion
- Family and family size
In 2010, the Texas Board of Education required textbooks to do which of the following?

A. Stress the positive effects of capitalism
B. Question the Framers’ concept of a purely secular government
C. Present conservative beliefs in a much more positive light
D. All of the above
E. None of the above
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E. None of the above
Political Ideology

LO 1.6: Assess the role of political ideology in shaping American politics.

Functions of ideologies

• Explanation – provide reasons for why things are the way they are
• Evaluation – provide standards for evaluating conditions, institutions, and events
• Orientation – provide individuals with an orientation toward issues
• Political program – guide individuals in choices and political actions
Finding a Political Ideology and Problems with Ideological Labels

- Conservative
- Liberal
- Moderate
- Libertarian
Which ideology seeks to change the political, economic, and social status quo to foster the development of equality and the well-being of individuals?

A. Conservative  
B. Liberal  
C. Libertarian  
D. Social conservative  
E. Moderate
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Toward Reform: People and Politics

LO 1.7: Characterize changes in Americans’ attitudes toward and expectations of government.

Redefining our expectations

**ANALYZING VISUALS**

Faith in Institutions

This line graph shows the percentages of Americans declaring they had a “great deal” of confidence in American institutions. Examine the graph and answer the questions.

- Which institution received the highest overall ratings from 1966 to 2010? The lowest overall ratings?
- Congress, the executive branch, and business and industry all experienced a significant drop in ratings in 1975. What political events may have contributed to Americans’ lack of faith in these institutions at that time?
- Why do you think faith in institutions has declined over time?

What has happened to faith in public institutions over the last half century?

A. It has stayed the same.
B. It has risen.
C. It has risen dramatically.
D. It has declined.
E. It has ceased to exist.
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Figure 1.1: What did colonial settlement look like before 1700?
Figure 1.2: How has the U.S. population grown over time?

Figure 1.3: How does the racial and ethnic composition of America now differ from that of 1967?
Figure 1.4: Is America getting older?

Figure 1.5: What are Americans’ political ideologies?

Source: Roper Center at the University of Connecticut, Public Opinion Online, Roper iPoll.
Table 1.1: What were Aristotle’s classifications of government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule by</th>
<th>In Whose Interest?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Few</td>
<td>Aristocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Many</td>
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*Source: Aristotle, Politics 3, 7.*