

UNIT 1A: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Foundations of American Democracy Vocab

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Politics2. Government3. Democracy4. Natural rights5. Social contract6. American political culture7. Popular sovereignty8. Republicanism9. Liberty10. Participatory democracy11. Civil society groups12. Pluralist theory (of democracy)13. Elite theory (of democracy)14. Political institutions15. Constitutional republic16. Limited government17. Direct democracy18. Initiative19. Referendum20. Recall21. Representative democracy22. Majority rule23. Majority24. Plurality25. Autocracy26. Declaration of Independence | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The process of influencing the actions and policies of government.2. The rules and institutions that make up the system of policymaking.3. A system of government where power is held by the people.4. The right to life, liberty, and property, which government cannot take away.5. A "contract" in which people allow their government to rule over them to ensure an orderly and functioning society.6. The set of beliefs, customs, traditions, and values that Americans share.7. The idea that the government's right to rule comes from the people.8. A system in which the government's authority (leaders who are elected for a specific period) comes from the people.9. Social, political, and economic freedoms.10. A theory that widespread political participation is essential for democratic government.11. Independent associations outside the government's control. A theory of democracy that emphasizes the role of groups in the policymaking process.12. Political power rests with competing interest groups so that no one group dominates political decisions.13. A theory of democracy that the elites (wealthy, well-educated, influential) have a disproportionate amount of influence in the policymaking process.14. The structure of government, including the executive, legislature, and judiciary.15. A democratic system with elected representatives in which the Constitution is the supreme law.16. Governmental power is restricted or limited by law, usually in a written constitution.17. Government in which citizens vote on laws and select officials directly.18. Procedure whereby a certain number of voters may, by petition, propose a law or constitutional amendment and have it submitted to the voters.19. Procedure for submitting to popular vote measures passed by the legislature or proposed amendments to a state constitution.20. Procedure for submitting to popular vote the removal of officials from office before the end of their term.21. Government in which the people elect those who govern and pass laws; also called a republic.22. Governance according to the expressed preferences of the majority.23. The candidate or party that wins more than half the votes cast in an election.24. Candidate or party with the most votes cast in an election, not necessarily more than half.25. A type of government in which one person with unlimited power rules.26. Formal statement written by Thomas Jefferson declaring the freedom of the thirteen American colonies from Great Britain. |
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UNIT 1B: THE CONSTITUTION

Foundations of American Democracy Vocab

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Constitution2. Republic3. Articles of Confederation4. Unicameral5. Shays's Rebellion6. Constitutional Convention7. Virginia Plan8. New Jersey Plan9. Grand Committee10. Connecticut (Great) Compromise11. Bicameralism12. Three-fifths Compromise13. Slave Trade Compromise14. Separation of powers15. Checks and balances16. Federalism17. Legislative branch18. Executive branch19. Judicial branch20. Amendment21. Federalists22. Antifederalists23. <i>The Federalist Papers</i>24. <i>Federalist No. 51</i>25. Faction26. <i>Federalist No. 10</i>27. <i>Brutus No. 1</i>28. Electoral College | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A document that sets out the fundamental principles of governance and establishes the institutions of government.2. A government ruled by representatives of the people.3. The first constitution of the U.S. that created a union of thirteen sovereign states in which the states, not the national government, were supreme. It was drafted in 1777, ratified in 1781, and replaced by the Constitution in 1789.4. A one-house legislature.5. A popular uprising against the government of Massachusetts. It highlighted the need for a strong national government just as the call for the Constitutional Convention went out.6. A meeting attended by state delegates in Philadelphia, May 25 to September 17, 1787, to fix the Articles of Confederation.7. A plan of government calling for a three-branch government with a bicameral legislature, where more populous states would have more representation in Congress.8. A plan of government that provided for a unicameral legislature with equal votes for each state.9. Committee organized at the Constitutional Convention that worked out the compromise on representation in the national legislature.10. Compromise that settled issues of state representation by calling for a bicameral legislature with a House of Representatives (lower house) apportioned by population and a Senate (upper house) apportioned equally (in which each state would have two senators).11. The principle of a two-house legislature.12. Compromise between northern and southern states at the Constitutional Convention that a slave would count as three-fifths of a person in calculating a state's representation and determining taxation.13. Congress could not restrict the slave trade until 1808.14. A design of government that distributes powers across institutions (legislative, executive, and judicial branches) in order to avoid making one branch too powerful on its own.15. A design of government in which each branch has power that can prevent the other branches from making policy and therefore ensure that no one branch can dominate.16. The sharing of power between the national (aka central or federal or U.S.) government and the states.17. The institution responsible for making laws.18. The institution responsible for carrying out laws passed by the legislative branch.19. The institution responsible for hearing and deciding cases through the federal courts.20. Process by which change may be made to the Constitution (laid out in Article V).21. Supporters of ratification of the Constitution and of a strong central government.22. Opponents of ratification of the Constitution, who favored stronger state governments.23. A series of 85 essays promoting ratification of the Constitution, published anonymously by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison in 1787 and 1788.24. An essay in which Madison argues that separation of powers and federalism will prevent tyranny.25. A group of self-interested people (usually united by a particular common political purpose) who use the government to get what they want, trampling the rights of others in the process.26. An essay in which James Madison argues that a large republic and republican government can mitigate the dangers of a faction.27. An Antifederalist Paper (against ratification of the Constitution) arguing that the country was too large to be governed as a republic and that the Constitution gave too much power to the national government.28. The electoral system used in electing the president and vice president, in which voters vote for electors pledged to cast their ballots for a particular party's candidate. |
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UNIT 1C: FEDERALISM
Foundations of American Democracy Vocab

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Federalism2. Unitary system3. Confederal system4. Federal system5. Expressed or enumerated powers6. Exclusive powers7. Implied powers8. Commerce clause9. Necessary and proper clause10. Supremacy clause11. Tenth Amendment12. Reserved powers13. Concurrent powers14. Full faith and credit clause15. Fourteenth Amendment16. Dual federalism17. Cooperative federalism18. Grants-in-aid19. Fiscal federalism20. Categorical grants21. Unfunded mandate22. Block grants23. Revenue sharing24. Devolution25. Federal mandate26. <i>McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)</i>27. <i>U.S. v. Lopez (1995)</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A system of divides power between the national and state governments.2. A system where the central government has all the power over subnational governments.3. A system where the subnational governments have most of the power.4. A system where power is divided between the national and states governments.5. Powers explicitly granted to the national gov't through the Constitution.6. Powers only the national government can exercise.7. Powers not granted specifically to the national gov't but considered necessary to carry out the expressed/enumerated powers.8. Clause in the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3) that grants Congress the authority to regulate interstate business and commercial activity.9. Clause of the Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18) that grants the federal gov't the authority to pass laws required to carry out its enumerated powers.10. Contained in Article VI of the Constitution, this clause establishes the Constitution and the laws of the federal gov't passed under its authority as the highest laws of the land.11. Reserves powers not delegated to the national gov't to the states and the people; the basis of federalism.12. Powers not given to the national gov't, which are retained by the states and the people.13. Powers granted to both states and the federal gov't in the Constitution.14. Clause in the Constitution (Article 4, Section 1) requiring states to recognize the public acts, records, and civil court proceedings from another state.15. Provides that persons born in the U.S. are citizens and prohibits states from denying persons due process or equal protection under the law.16. State governments and national gov't operate independently in their own areas of public policy. Powers and policy assignments of the layers of government were distinct.17. States and national gov't work together to shape public policy. Sharing powers and policy assignments.18. Federal money provided to states to implement public policy objectives.19. The federal government's use of grants-in-aid to influence policies in the states.20. Grants-in-aid provided to states with specific provisions on their use. More "strings attached" to the money.21. Federal requirements that states must follow without being provided with funding.22. Grants-in-aid that give state officials more authority in the disbursement of federal funds. Less "strings attached" to the money.23. When the federal gov't apportions tax money to the states with no strings attached.24. Returning more authority to state or local governments.25. A requirement the federal government imposes as a condition for receiving federal funds.26. Ruled that Congress has implied powers necessary to implement its enumerated powers and established supremacy of the U.S. Constitution and federal laws over states laws.27. Ruled that Congress may not use the commerce clause to make possession of a gun in a school zone a federal crime, introducing a new phase of federalism that recognized the importance of state sovereignty and local control. |
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