



**Foundations of American Democracy**  
Unit 1 ↓

**Enlightenment:** challenged traditional politics, justified opposition to British  
**Declaration of Independence**  
**US Constitution**  
**Principles:** natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, separation of powers, social contract (**Locke/Rousseau**)  
**Types of Democracy:** participatory (ex: referendums), pluralist (groups influence policy), elite (single group)  
**Federalists vs. Anti Federalists:** strong (fed) vs. weak (anti) federal gov't; anti-feds wanted Bill of Rights Gov't power vs. Individual liberty  
**Federalist 10**  
**Articles of Confederation:** an awful first Constitution (Shay's Rebellion proved it) overpowered states, federal gov't weak, bad at taxes, Single-branch (legislative) gov't  
**Ratification and Compromises**  
 - Great Compromise (bicameral Congress: Senate + House); combo of VA (large states) and NJ (small states) compromises  
 - Others: Electoral College, 3/4 Compromise, amendment process  
**Separation of Powers / Other Parts of Constitution**  
 Legislative, Article I; Executive, Article II; Judicial, Article III  
 Checks and balances | **Federalist 51**  
**Expressed powers** are written, **implied powers** are indicated by the expressed  
**Federalism:** relationship between state and federal gov't  
**Dual/Layer Cake:** act in OWN SPHERES; SEPARATE of one another  
**Cooperative/Marble Cake:** work TOGETHER to do stuff, blurred line  
**Fiscal:** spending, taxing, providing grants (*categorical:* fed → state for specific purpose, *block:* general, *mandates* (state MUST follow it))  
**Supremacy Clause:** federal > state  
**McCulloch v. Maryland Commerce Clause:** def. of "interstate commerce" widened; expands fed. power BUT has been restricted in some cases  
**US v. Lopez**  
**Devolution:** more power to the states

**Branches of Government**  
Unit 2 ↓

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: MAKES LAWS, ARTICLE I**  
**Congress: Senate & House**  
**House:** 435 members, apportioned by population - 1 per district | 2-year terms, CLOSER to people + more members = more FORMAL debate  
**Senate:** 6-year terms, 2 per state = 100 total  
**Structures, Powers, Functions**  
**HOUSE:** led by Speaker + Other members: Maj Ldr, Min Ldr, Whips (round up votes)  
**SENATE:** VP = Senate President by default; ceremonial role: only breaks ties, Maj Ldr "actually" leads, Min. Ldr, Whips (collect votes)  
**Committee Types:** Standing, select, conference  
**House Rules:** all bills in House must pass for debate rules to be considered, closed rule: more strict, open: less strict  
**Bill → Law:** any legislator introduces → sent to committee & subcommittee (may be pigeonholed AKA die in committee) → full chamber vote → send to other house, if different bill versions passed → conference committee  
 10 days for President to sign/veto until it becomes law (unless Congress leaves in 10 days → pocket veto)  
**Federal Spending:** discretionary (ex: defense), mandatory (REQ'D by law, ex: social security)  
**Gerrymandering:** state legislatures dividing districts to influence elections | **Shaw v. Reno and Baker v. Carr**  
**Redlining:** banks refuse to loan to certain residents  
**Constituent Accountability:** legislator is a delegate (what the constituents want), a trustee (legislator's judgment), or a politico (mix of both)  
**EXECUTIVE BRANCH: ENFORCES LAWS, ARTICLE II**  
**Roles of the President and Checks on Presidency**  
 - Commander in Chief (BUT Congress declares war)  
**War Powers Act:** President must notify Congress within 48 hrs of deploying troops, can stay 60 days w/o declaration  
 - Chief Diplomat (appoints ambassadors/negotiates treaties  
**WITH Senate Confirmation**)  
**Executive agreement:** informal non binding treaty  
 - Appoints **JUDGES** (Senate must confirm; serve for life to avoid political pressure) & Cabinet Members who are more loyal to departments  
 - Expansion of Power | **Federalist 70**  
 - 22nd Amendment = only 2 terms! (not 4, like FDR!)  
**JUDICIAL BRANCH: INTERPRETS LAWS, ARTICLE III**  
**Structure of Federal Court System** 91 District Courts, 13 Courts of Appeal, **SUPREME COURT**  
**Judicial Review:** SCOTUS power to declare actions by other branches unconstitutional | **Federalist 78 & Marbury v. Madison**  
**Precedent/Stare Decisis:** SCOTUS generally bases decisions on previous rulings BUT can choose not to | **Brown v. Board**  
**Judicial Restraint:** follow Constitution/Framers' intent verbatim  
**Judicial activism:** contemporary interpretation  
**BUREAUCRACY: EXECUTIVE BRANCH, ENFORCES LAWS**  
**Examples:** Cabinet, Independent Regulatory Agencies, Independent Executive Agencies  
**Discretionary Authority:** bureaucrats enforce laws as they see fit (Congressional oversight: can restrict funding)

**Civil Rights & Liberties**  
Unit 3 ↓

**Civil Liberties:** constitutional rights that protect individuals from gov't | **Bill of Rights**  
**Civil Rights:** legislation/policy that protects people from discrimination  
**First Amendment:** RAPPS (Religion, Assembly, Press, Petition, Speech)  
**Religion:** Establishment (separation of church and state), Free Exercise (right to believe what you want)  
**Engel v. Vitale**  
**Wisconsin v. Yoder**  
**Speech:** all free political (& symbolic) speech is protected  
**Tinker v. Des Moines**  
**Schenck v. US**  
**Press:** libel - WRITTEN defamation, slander - SPOKEN defamation, prior restraint - PREVENTION of publication  
**NY Times Co v. US**  
**Second Amendment:** right to bear arms (public safety - individual rights conflict)  
Decisions often rest upon constitutional interp. of liberty  
**Individual Freedom vs. Public Order:** 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment (cruel and unusual punishment), 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Amendment (public safety and privacy → changed after 9/11)  
**Selective Incorporation:** Bill of Rights did NOT apply to states until selective incorporation brought them to states **PIECE BY PIECE** if fundamental  
**McDonald v. Chicago**  
**Rights of the Accused:** Exclusionary rule (4th) - can't use illegal evidence), lawyer must be provided (6th), Miranda Rule (5th - exception for public safety), & free, quick trial | **Gideon v. Wainwright**  
**Right to Privacy:** Due Process implies it | **Roe v. Wade**  
**Social Movements:** Civil rights groups used legislation & court cases  
**Letter from Birmingham Jail**  
**Brown v. Board of Education**

**American Political Ideologies and Beliefs**  
Unit 4 ↓

**IDEOLOGIES:**  
**Liberal:** more gov't economic regulation, personal privacy is very important  
**Conservative:** less gov't economic involvement, some gov't involvement in personal privacy (but not in religion/education),  
**Libertarian:** bare minimum gov't involvement in economy (only property rights and voluntary trade, etc), personal privacy (only private property/individual liberty)  
**FORMATION OF IDEOLOGIES**  
**Political socialization: process through which individual/group develops opinions/attitudes on society & politics**  
 Factors: environment, age cycle, family, school, peers, media, religion, civic organizations, globalization  
**Political Events/Era: major political events can significantly change/spread ideologies**  
**MANIFESTATION OF IDEOLOGIES: Linkage Institutions: allow communication of policy preferences (ex. interest groups, elections, parties)**  
 Political parties: DEM - left-leaning, generally more liberal, GOP - right-leaning, generally more conservative | **1960 & 2012 Elections**  
**SCOTUS Cases: illustrate views of era and participating demographics**  
 Privacy  
**Planned Parenthood v. Casey**  
 Civil rights | **Obergefell v. Hodges**  
**Public Opinion:** distribution of views of an issue/candidate/institution, can indicate political will  
**MEASURING PUBLIC OPINION: Types of Scientific Polls:** opinion (small section), entrance/exit (election day), benchmark polls (for later comparison), tracking (change in 1 group), mass survey (large sample - interviews), focus group (small, in-depth discussion)  
**Evaluating data: validity/veracity depends on method, questions, etc.**  
 Flaws: open-ended questions, insufficient sample size, high margin of error

**Political Participation**  
Unit 5 ↓

**VOTING**  
**Voting models:** single-issue (ex. abortion/gun rights), rational choice (self-interest), retrospective (party's recent past), prospective (party's future performance), party-line  
**Voter Turnout Factors:** election type (fed/state), voter registration laws, voting incentive, fees, midterm/pres.  
**Amendments:** 15<sup>th</sup> (suffrage: African-American men), 17<sup>th</sup> (popular election of US Senators), 19<sup>th</sup> (suffrage: women), 24<sup>th</sup> (voided fed. poll taxes), 26<sup>th</sup> (voting age 21 → 18)  
**Motor Voter Act AKA Nat'l Voter Reg. Act of 1993**  
**Voting Rights Act of 1965**  
**ELECTION STRUCTURE**  
**Winner-take-all:** limits third-parties/independents  
**Ranked choice:** Maine and Nebraska, more open to non-DEM/GOP  
**POLICY OUTCOMES**  
**Bush administration tax cuts**  
**Lobbying:** engaging in activities to influence public officials (ex. by fossil fuel companies/pharma)  
**Iron Triangles:** congressional committee-bureaucracy-interest group relationship (issue network: iron triangle w/more groups)  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE**  
**BCRA/McCain-Feingold Act of 2002:** Amended FEC Act of 1971 and limited soft money contributions and pre-primary campaign ads funded by corporations/unions  
**Citizens United vs. FEC:** Partially nullified the BCRA and qualified corporate political donations as free speech/expression under 1A  
**MEDIA COVERAGE**  
**Social media:** a modern campaign management need  
**Major network news:** profit/entertainment = primary objective → info is not always relevant (ex. "Horse races")