



Glossary

- administrative discretion** The latitude that Congress gives agencies to make policy in the spirit of their legislative mandate. (13)
- affirmative action** Any of a wide range of programs, from special recruitment efforts to numerical quotas, aimed at expanding opportunities for women and minority groups. (16)
- agenda building** The process by which new issues are brought into the political limelight. (10)
- agenda setting** The stage of the policymaking process during which problems get defined as political issues. (17)
- aggregate demand** The money available to be spent for goods and services by consumers, businesses, and government. (18)
- amicus curiae brief** A brief filed (with the permission of the court) by an individual or group that is not a party to a legal action but has an interest in it. (14)
- anarchism** A political philosophy that opposes government in any form. (1)
- appellate jurisdiction** The authority of a court to hear cases that have been tried, decided, or reexamined in other courts. (14)
- appropriations committees** Committees of Congress that decide which of the programs passed by the authorization committees will actually be funded. (18)
- argument** The heart of a judicial opinion; its logical content separated from facts, rhetoric, and procedure. (14)
- Articles of Confederation** The compact among the thirteen original states that established the first government of the United States. (3)
- attentive policy elites** Leaders who follow news in specific policy areas. (6)
- authorization committees** Committees of Congress that can authorize spending in their particular areas of responsibility. (18)
- autocracy** A system of government in which the power to govern is concentrated in the hands of one individual. Also called monarchy. (2)
- Balanced Budget Act (BBA)** A 1997 law that promised to balance the budget by 2002. (18)
- bill of attainder** A law that pronounces an individual guilty of a crime without a trial. (15)
- Bill of Rights** The first ten amendments to the Constitution. They prevent the national government from tampering with fundamental rights and civil liberties, and emphasize the limited character of national power. (3)
- bimodal distribution** A distribution (of opinions) that shows two responses being chosen about as frequently as each other. (5)
- black codes** Legislation enacted by former slave states to restrict the freedom of blacks. (16)
- block grants** Grants-in-aid awarded for general purposes, allowing the recipient great discretion in spending the grant money. (4)
- blog** A form of newsletter, journal, or "log" of thoughts for public reading, usually devoted to social or political issues and often updated daily. The term derives from weblog. (6)
- boycott** A refusal to do business with a firm, individual, or nation as an expression of disapproval or as a means of coercion. (16)
- budget authority** The amounts that government agencies are authorized to spend for their programs. (18)
- budget committees** One committee in each house of Congress that supervises a comprehensive budget review process. (18)
- Budget Enforcement Act (BEA)** A 1990 law that distinguished between mandatory and discretionary spending. (18)
- budget outlays** The amounts that government agencies are expected to spend in the fiscal year. (18)
- bureaucracy** A large, complex organization in which employees have specific job responsibilities and work within a hierarchy of authority. (13)
- bureaucrat** An employee of a bureaucracy, usually meaning a government bureaucracy. (13)
- business cycles** Expansions and contractions of business activity, the first accompanied by inflation and the second by unemployment. (18)
- cabinet** A group of presidential advisers; the heads of the executive departments and other key officials. (12)
- capitalism** The system of government that favors free enterprise (privately owned businesses operating without government regulation). (1)
- casework** Solving problems for constituents, especially problems involving government agencies. (11)
- categorical grants** Grants-in-aid targeted for a specific purpose by either formula or project. (4)
- caucus** A closed meeting of the members of a political party to decide questions of policy and the selection of candidates for office. (8)
- caucus/convention** A method used to select delegates to attend a party's national convention. Generally, a local

meeting selects delegates for a county-level meeting, which in turn selects delegates for a higher-level meeting; the process culminates in a state convention that actually selects the national convention delegates. (9)

checks and balances A government structure that gives each branch some scrutiny of and control over the other branches. (3)

* **citizen group** Lobbying organization built around policy concerns unrelated to members' vocational interests. (10)

civil case A court case that involves a private dispute arising from such matters as accidents, contractual obligations, and divorce. (14)

civil disobedience The willful but nonviolent breach of laws that are regarded as unjust. (16)

civil liberties Freedoms guaranteed to individuals. (15)

civil rights Powers or privileges guaranteed to individuals and protected from arbitrary removal at the hands of government or individuals. (15, 16)

civil rights movement The mass mobilization during the 1960s that sought to gain equality of rights and opportunities for blacks in the South and to a lesser extent in the North, mainly through nonviolent, unconventional means of participation. (16)

civil service The system by which most appointments to the federal bureaucracy are made, to ensure that government jobs are filled on the basis of merit and that employees are not fired for political reasons. (13)

class action A procedure by which similarly situated litigants may be heard in a single lawsuit. (14)

class action suit A legal action brought by a person or group on behalf of a number of people in similar circumstances. (7)

clear and present danger test A means by which the Supreme Court has distinguished between speech as the advocacy of ideas, which is protected by the First Amendment, and speech as incitement, which is not protected. (15)

closed primary A primary election in which voters must declare their party affiliation before they are given the primary ballot containing that party's potential nominees. (9)

cloture The mechanism by which a filibuster is cut off in the Senate. (11)

coalition building The banding together of several interest groups for the purpose of lobbying. (10)

Cold War A prolonged period of adversarial relations between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. During the Cold War, which lasted from the late 1940s to the late 1980s, many crises and confrontations brought the superpowers to the brink of war, but they avoided direct military conflict with each other. (20)

commerce clause The third clause of Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution, which gives Congress the power to regulate commerce among the states. (4)

common (judge-made) law Legal precedents derived from previous judicial decisions. (14)

communism A political system in which, in theory, ownership of all land and productive facilities is in the hands of the people, and all goods are equally shared. The production and distribution of goods are controlled by an authoritarian government. (1)

communitarians Those who are willing to use government to promote both order and equality. (1)

comparative advantage A principle of international trade that states that all nations will benefit when each nation specializes in those goods that it can produce most efficiently. (20)

competition and outsourcing Procedures that allow private contractors to bid for jobs previously held exclusively by government employees. (13)

concurrence The agreement of a judge with the Court's majority decision, for a reason other than the majority reason. (14)

confederation A loose association of independent states that agree to cooperate on specified matters. (3)

conference committee A temporary committee created to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of a specific piece of legislation. (11)

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) The budgeting arm of Congress, which prepares alternative budgets to those prepared by the president's OMB. (18)

congressional campaign committee An organization maintained by a political party to raise funds to support its own candidates in congressional elections. (8)

conservatives Those who are willing to use government to promote order but not equality. (1)

constituents People who live and vote in a government official's district or state. (11)

containment The basic U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union during the Cold War, according to which the Soviets were to be contained within existing boundaries by military, diplomatic, and economic means, in the expectation that the Soviet system would decay and disintegrate. (20)

conventional participation Relatively routine political behavior that uses institutional channels and is acceptable to the dominant culture. (7)

cooperative federalism A view that holds that the Constitution is an agreement among people who are citizens of both state and nation, so there is much overlap between state powers and national powers. (4)

Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) A group that works within the executive branch to provide advice on maintaining a stable economy. (18)

county governments The government units that administer a county. (4)

criminal case A court case involving a crime, or violation of public order. (14)

critical election An election that produces a sharp change in the existing pattern of party loyalties among groups of voters. (8)

Declaration of Independence Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the document that proclaimed the right of the colonies to separate from Great Britain. (3)

de facto segregation Segregation that is not the result of government influence. (16)

deficit financing The Keynesian technique of spending beyond government income to combat an economic slump. Its purpose is to inject extra money into the economy to stimulate aggregate demand. (18)

de jure segregation Government-imposed segregation. (16)

delegate A legislator whose primary responsibility is to represent the majority view of his or her constituents, regardless of his or her own view. (11)

delegation of powers The process by which Congress gives the executive branch the additional authority needed to address new problems. (12)

democracy A system of government in which, in theory, the people rule, either directly or indirectly. (2)

democratic socialism A socialist form of government that guarantees civil liberties such as freedom of speech and religion. Citizens determine the extent of government activity through free elections and competitive political parties. (1)

democratization A process of transition as a country attempts to move from an authoritarian form of government to a democratic one. (2)

department The biggest unit of the executive branch, covering a broad area of government responsibility. The heads of the departments, or secretaries, form the president's cabinet. (13)

deregulation A bureaucratic reform by which the government reduces its role as a regulator of business. (13)

descriptive representation A belief that constituents are most effectively represented by legislators who are similar to them in such key demographic characteristics as race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. (11)

desegregation The ending of authorized segregation, or separation by race. (16)

détente A reduction of tensions. This term is particularly used to refer to a reduction of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union in the early 1970s during the Nixon administration. (20)

direct action Unconventional participation that involves assembling crowds to confront businesses and local governments to demand a hearing. (7)

direct lobbying Attempts to influence a legislator's vote through personal contact with the legislator. (10)

direct primary A preliminary election, run by the state government, in which the voters choose each party's candidates for the general election. (7)

discretionary spending In the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, authorized expenditures from annual appropriations. (18)

dissent The disagreement of a judge with a majority decision. (14)

distributive policies Government policies designed to confer a benefit on a particular institution or group. (17)

divided government The situation in which one party controls the White House and the other controls at least one house of Congress. (12)

docket A court's agenda. (14)

dual federalism A view that holds that the Constitution is a compact among sovereign states, so that the powers of the national government and the states are clearly differentiated. (4)

earmarks Federal funds appropriated by Congress for use on local projects. (11, 18)

economic depression A period of high unemployment and business failures; a severe, long-lasting downturn in a business cycle. (18)

elastic clause The last clause in Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, which gives Congress the means to execute its enumerated powers. This clause is the basis for Congress's implied powers. Also called the *necessary and proper clause*. (4)

election campaign An organized effort to persuade voters to choose one candidate over others competing for the same office. (9)

electoral college A body of electors chosen by voters to cast ballots for president and vice president. (3, 8)

electoral dealignment A lessening of the importance of party loyalties in voting decisions. (8)

electoral realignment The change in voting patterns that occurs after a critical election. (8)

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) The federal government's primary law to assist the nation's elementary and secondary schools. It emerged as part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program. (19)

elite theory The view that a small group of people actually makes most of the important government decisions. (2)

enlargement and engagement Clinton's policy, following the collapse of communism, of increasing the spread of market economies and increasing the U.S. role in global affairs. (20)

entitlements Benefits to which every eligible person has a legal right and that the government cannot deny. (18, 19)

enumerated powers The powers explicitly granted to Congress by the Constitution. (3)

equality of opportunity The idea that each person is guaranteed the same chance to succeed in life. (1, 16)

equality of outcome The concept that society must ensure that people are equal, and governments must design policies to redistribute wealth and status so that economic and social equality is actually achieved. (1, 16)

equal rights amendment (ERA) A failed constitutional amendment introduced by the National Women's Party in 1923, declaring that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." (16)

establishment clause The first clause in the First Amendment, which forbids government establishment of religion. (15)

exclusionary rule The judicial rule that states that evidence obtained in an illegal search and seizure cannot be used in trial. (15)

executive agreement A pact between the heads of two countries. (20)

executive branch The law-enforcing branch of government. (3)

Executive Office of the President The president's executive aides and their staffs; the extended White House executive establishment. (12)

executive orders Presidential directives that create or modify laws and public policies, without the direct approval of Congress. (12)

ex post facto law A law that declares an action to be criminal after it has been performed. (15)

extraordinary majority A majority greater than the minimum of 50 percent plus one. (3)

fair trade Trade regulated by international agreements outlawing unfair business practices. (20)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) An independent federal agency that regulates interstate and international communication by radio, television, telephone, telegraph, cable, and satellite. (6)

Federal Election Commission (FEC) A bipartisan federal agency of six members that oversees the financing of national election campaigns. (9)

federalism The division of power between a central government and regional governments. (3, 4)

federal question An issue covered by the U.S. Constitution, national laws, or U.S. treaties. (14)

Federal Reserve System The system of banks that acts as the central bank of the United States and controls major monetary policies. (18)

feedback Information received by policymakers about the effectiveness of public policy. (17)

feminization of poverty The term applied to the fact that a growing percentage of all poor Americans are women or the dependents of women. (19)

fighting words Speech that is not protected by the First Amendment because it inflicts injury or tends to incite an immediate disturbance of the peace. (15)

filibuster A delaying tactic, used in the Senate, that involves speechmaking to prevent action on a piece of legislation. (11)

first-past-the-post election A British term for elections conducted in single-member districts that award victory to the candidate with the most votes. (9)

fiscal policies Economic policies that involve government spending and taxing. (18)

fiscal year (FY) The twelve-month period from October 1 to September 30 used by the government for accounting purposes. A fiscal year budget is named for the year in which it ends. (18)

527 committees Committees named after Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code; they enjoy tax-exempt status in election campaigns if they are unaffiliated with political parties and take positions on issues, not specific candidates. (9)

foreign policy The general plan followed by a nation in defending and advancing its national interests, especially its security against foreign threats. (20)

formula grants Categorical grants distributed according to a particular set of rules, called a formula, that specify who is eligible for the grants and how much each eligible applicant will receive. (4)

fragmentation In policymaking, the phenomenon of attacking a single problem in different and sometimes competing ways. (17)

franchise The right to vote. Also called *suffrage*. (7)

freedom from Immunity, as in *freedom from want*. (1)

freedom of An absence of constraints on behavior, as in *freedom of speech* or *freedom of religion*. (1)

free-exercise clause The second clause in the First Amendment, which prevents the government from interfering with the exercise of religion. (15)

free-expression clauses The press and speech clauses of the First Amendment. (15)

free-rider problem The situation in which people benefit from the activities of an organization (such as an interest group) but do not contribute to those activities. (10)

free trade An economic policy that allows businesses in different nations to sell and buy goods without paying tariffs or other limitations. (20)

front-loading States' practice of moving delegate selection primaries and caucuses earlier in the calendar year to gain media and candidate attention. (9)

gatekeepers Media executives, news editors, and prominent reporters who direct the flow of news. (6)

general election A national election held by law in November of every even-numbered year. (9)

gerrymandering Redrawing a congressional district to intentionally benefit one political party. (11)

globalization The increasing interdependence of citizens and nations across the world. (1)

global policy Like foreign policy, it is a plan for defending and advancing national interests, but—unlike foreign policy—it includes social and environmental concerns among national interests. (20)

good faith exception An exception to the Supreme Court exclusionary rule, holding that evidence seized on the basis of a mistakenly issued search warrant can be introduced at trial if the mistake was made in good faith, that is, if all the parties involved had reason at the time to believe that the warrant was proper. (15)

government The legitimate use of force to control human behavior; also, the organization or agency authorized to exercise that force. (1)

government corporation A government agency that performs services that might be provided by the private sector but that involve either insufficient financial incentive or are better provided when they are somehow linked with government. (13)

Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 A law requiring each government agency to implement quantifiable standards to measure its performance in meeting stated program goals. (13)

Gramm-Rudman Popular name for an act passed by Congress in 1985 that, in its original form, sought to lower the national deficit to a specified level each year, culminating in a balanced budget in FY 1991. New reforms and deficit targets were agreed on in 1990. (18)

grant-in-aid Money provided by one level of government to another to be spent for a given purpose. (4)

grassroots lobbying Lobbying activities performed by rank-and-file interest group members and would-be members. (10)

Great Compromise Submitted by the Connecticut delegation to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and thus also known as the Connecticut Compromise, a plan calling for a bicameral legislature in which the House of Representatives would be apportioned according to population and the states would be represented equally in the Senate. (3)

Great Depression The longest and deepest setback the American economy has ever experienced. It began with the stock market crash on October 24, 1929, and did not end until the start of World War II. (19)

Great Society President Lyndon Johnson's broad array of programs designed to redress political, social, and economic inequality. (19)

gridlock A situation in which government is incapable of acting on important issues. (12)

gross domestic product (GDP) The total value of the goods and services produced by a country during a year. (18)

hard money Financial contributions given directly to a candidate running for congressional office or the presidency. (9)

home rule The right to enact and enforce legislation locally. (4)

horse race journalism Election coverage by the mass media that focuses on which candidate is ahead rather than on national issues. (6)

impeachment The formal charging of a government official with "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." (11)

implementation The process of putting specific policies into operation. (13, 17)

implied powers Those powers that Congress needs to execute its enumerated powers. (3, 4)

incremental budgeting A method of budget making that involves adding new funds (an increment) onto the amount previously budgeted (in last year's budget). (18)

incrementalism Policymaking characterized by a series of decisions, each instituting modest change. (13)

incumbent A current officeholder. (11)

independent agency An executive agency that is not part of a cabinet department. (13)

inflation An economic condition characterized by price increases linked to a decrease in the value of the currency. (18)

influencing behavior Behavior that seeks to modify or reverse government policy to serve political interests. (7)

information campaign An organized effort to gain public backing by bringing a group's views to public attention. (10)

infotainment A mix of information and diversion oriented to personalities or celebrities, not linked to the day's events, and usually unrelated to public affairs or policy; often called "soft news." (6)

inherent powers Authority claimed by the president that is not clearly specified in the Constitution. Typically, these powers are inferred from the Constitution. (12)

initiative A procedure by which voters can propose an issue to be decided by the legislature or by the people in a referendum. It requires gathering a specified number of signatures and submitting a petition to a designated agency. (7)

Intelligence Community Sixteen agencies in the executive branch that conduct the various intelligence activities that make up the total U.S. national intelligence effort. (20)

interest group An organized group of individuals that seeks to influence public policy. Also called a *lobby*. (2, 10)

interest group entrepreneur An interest group organizer or leader. (10)

intermestic issues Issues in which international and domestic concerns are mixed. (20)