

invidious discrimination Discrimination against persons or groups that works to their harm and is based on animosity. (16)

isolationism A foreign policy of withdrawal from international political affairs. (20)

issue definition Our conception of the problem at hand. (17)

issue framing The way that politicians or interest group leaders define an issue when presenting it to others. (5)

issue network A shared-knowledge group consisting of representatives of various interests involved in some particular aspect of public policy. (17)

joint committee A committee made up of members of both the House and the Senate. (11)

judgment The judicial decision in a court case. (14)

judicial activism A judicial philosophy whereby judges interpret existing laws and precedents loosely and interject their own values in court decisions. (14)

judicial branch The law-interpreting branch of government. (3)

judicial restraint A judicial philosophy whereby judges adhere closely to statutes and precedents in reaching their decisions. (14)

judicial review The power to declare congressional (and presidential) acts invalid because they violate the Constitution. (3, 14)

Keynesian theory An economic theory stating that the government can stabilize the economy—that is, can smooth business cycles—by controlling the level of aggregate demand, and that the level of aggregate demand can be controlled by means of fiscal and monetary policies. (18)

laissez faire An economic doctrine that opposes any form of government intervention in business. (1)

legislative branch The lawmaking branch of government. (3)

legislative liaison staff Those people who compose the communications link between the White House and Congress, advising the president or cabinet secretaries on the status of pending legislation. (12)

liberalism The belief that states should leave individuals free to follow their individual pursuits. Note that this differs from the definition of *liberal*. (1)

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

libertarianism A political ideology that is opposed to all government action except as necessary to protect life and property. (1)

libertarians Those who are opposed to using government to promote either order or equality. (1)

lobby See *interest group*.

lobbyist A representative of an interest group. (10)

majoritarian model of democracy The classical theory of democracy in which government by the people is interpreted as government by the majority of the people. (2)

majority leader The head of the majority party in the Senate; the second-highest-ranking member of the majority party in the House. (11)

majority representation The system by which one office, contested by two or more candidates, is won by the single candidate who collects the most votes. (8)

majority rule The principle—basic to procedural democratic theory—that the decision of a group must reflect the preference of more than half of those participating; a simple majority. (2)

managed trade Government intervention in trade policy in order to achieve a specific result. (20)

mandate A requirement that a state undertake an activity or provide a service, in keeping with minimum national standards. (4)

mandate An endorsement by voters. Presidents sometimes argue they have been given a mandate to carry out policy proposals. (12)

mandatory spending In the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, expenditures required by previous commitments. (18)

market-driven journalism Both reporting news and running commercials geared to a target audience defined by demographic characteristics. (6)

mass media The means employed in mass communication; often divided into print media and broadcast media. (6)

means-tested benefits Conditional benefits provided by government to individuals whose income falls below a designated threshold. (19)

media event A situation that is so “newsworthy” that the mass media are compelled to cover it. Candidates in elections often create such situations to garner media attention. (6)

Medicaid A need-based comprehensive medical and hospitalization program. (19)

Medicare A health insurance program serving primarily persons sixty-five and older. (19)

minority rights The benefits of government that cannot be denied to any citizens by majority decisions. (2)

Miranda warnings Statements concerning rights that police are required to make to a person before he or she is subjected to in-custody questioning. (15)

modified closed primary A primary election that allows individual state parties to decide whether they permit independents to vote in their primaries and for which offices. (9)

modified open primary A primary election that entitles independent voters to vote in a party's primary. (9)

monetarists Those who argue that government can effectively control the performance of an economy only by controlling the supply of money. (18)

monetary policies Economic policies that involve control of, and changes in, the supply of money. (18)

municipal governments The government units that administer a city or town. (4)

national committee A committee of a political party composed of party chairpersons and party officials from every state. (8)

national convention A gathering of delegates of a single political party from across the country to choose candidates for president and vice president and to adopt a party platform. (8)

national sovereignty "A political entity's externally recognized right to exercise final authority over its affairs." (1)

nation building A policy once thought to shore up Third World countries economically and democratically, thereby making them less attractive targets for Soviet opportunism. (20)

necessary and proper 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 *elastic clause*. (3)

New Deal The measures advocated by the Roosevelt administration to alleviate the Depression. (19)

New Jersey Plan Submitted by the head of the New Jersey delegation to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, a set of nine resolutions that would have, in effect, preserved the Articles of Confederation by amending rather than replacing them. (3)

newsworthiness The degree to which a news story is important enough to be covered in the mass media. (6)

Nineteenth Amendment The amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1920, that ensures women of the right to vote. (16)

Nixon Doctrine Nixon's policy, formulated with assistance from Henry Kissinger, that restricted U.S. military intervention abroad absent a threat to its vital national interests. (20)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) The latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (19)

nomination Designation as an official candidate of a political party. (8)

non-means-tested benefits Benefits provided by government to all citizens, regardless of income; Medicare and Social Security are examples. (19)

nonprofits Organizations that are not part of government or business and cannot distribute profits to shareholders or to anyone else. (17)

normal distribution A symmetrical bell-shaped distribution (of opinions) centered on a single mode, or most frequent response. (5)

norms An organization's informal, unwritten rules that guide individual behavior. (13)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) An organization including nations of Western Europe, the United States, and Canada, created in 1949 to defend against Soviet expansionism. (20)

obligation of contracts The obligation of the parties to a contract to carry out its terms. (15)

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) The budgeting arm of the Executive Office; prepares the president's budget. (18)

oligarchy A system of government in which power is concentrated in the hands of a few people. (2)

open election An election that lacks an incumbent. (9)

open primary A primary election in which voters need not declare their party affiliation and can choose one party's primary ballot to take into the voting booth. (9)

order The rule of law to preserve life and protect property. Maintaining order is the oldest purpose of government. (1)

original jurisdiction The authority of a court to hear a case before any other court does. (14)

oversight The process of reviewing the operations of an agency to determine whether it is carrying out policies as Congress intended. (11)

parliamentary system A system of government in which the chief executive is the leader whose party holds the most seats in the legislature after an election or whose party forms a major part of the ruling coalition. (11)

participatory democracy A system of government where rank-and-file citizens rule themselves rather than electing representatives to govern on their behalf. (2)

party conference A meeting to select party leaders and decide committee assignments, held at the beginning of a session of Congress by Republicans or Democrats in each chamber. (8)

party identification A voter's sense of psychological attachment to a party. (8)

party machine A centralized party organization that dominates local politics by controlling elections. (8)

party platform The statement of policies of a national political party. (8)

pay-as-you-go In the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the requirement that any tax cut or expansion of an entitlement program must be offset by a tax increase or other savings. (18)

peace through strength Reagan's policy of combating communism by building up the military, including aggressive development of new weapons systems. (20)

plea bargain A defendant's admission of guilt in exchange for a less severe punishment. (14)

pluralist model of democracy An interpretation of democracy in which government by the people is taken to mean government by people operating through competing interest groups. (2)

pocket veto A means of killing a bill that has been passed by both houses of Congress, in which the president does not sign the bill and Congress adjourns within ten days of the bill's passage. (11)

police power The authority of a government to maintain order and safeguard citizens' health, morals, safety, and welfare. (1)

policy entrepreneurs Citizens, members of interest groups, or public officials who champion particular policy ideas. (4)

policy evaluation Analysis of a public policy so as to determine how well it is working. (17)

policy formulation The stage of the policymaking process during which formal proposals are developed and adopted. (17)

political action committee (PAC) An organization that pools campaign contributions from group members and donates those funds to candidates for political office. (10)

political agenda A list of issues that need government attention. (6)

political equality Equality in political decision making: one vote per person, with all votes counted equally. (1, 2)

political ideology A consistent set of values and beliefs about the proper purpose and scope of government. (1)

political participation Actions of private citizens by which they seek to influence or support government and politics. (7)

political party An organization that sponsors candidates for political office under the organization's name. (8)

political socialization The complex process by which people acquire their political values. (5)

political system A set of interrelated institutions that links people with government. (8)

poll tax A tax of \$1 or \$2 on every citizen who wished to vote, first instituted in Georgia in 1877. Although it was no burden on most white citizens, it effectively disenfranchised blacks. (16)

poverty level The minimum cash income that will provide for a family's basic needs; calculated as three times the cost of a market basket of food that provides a minimally nutritious diet. (19)

precedent A judicial ruling that serves as the basis for the ruling in a subsequent case. (14)

preemption The power of Congress to enact laws by which the national government assumes total or partial responsibility for a state government function. (4)

preemptive action The policy of acting against a nation or group that poses a severe threat to the United States before waiting for the threat to occur; sometimes called the "Bush doctrine." (20)

presidential primary A special primary election used to select delegates to attend the party's national convention, which in turn nominates the presidential candidate. (9)

primary election A preliminary election conducted within a political party to select candidates who will run for public office in a subsequent election. (9)

prior restraint Censorship before publication. (15)

procedural democratic theory A view of democracy as being embodied in a decision-making process that involves universal participation, political equality, majority rule, and responsiveness. (2)

productive capacity The total value of goods and services that can be produced when the economy works at full capacity. (18)

program monitoring Keeping track of government programs; usually done by interest groups. (10)

progressive taxation A system of taxation whereby the rich pay proportionately higher taxes than the poor; used by governments to redistribute wealth and thus promote equality. (18)

progressivism A philosophy of political reform based on the goodness and wisdom of the individual citizen as opposed to special interests and political institutions. (7)

project grants Categorical grants awarded on the basis of competitive applications submitted by prospective recipients to perform a specific task or function. (4)

proportional representation The system by which legislative seats are awarded to a party in proportion to the vote that party wins in an election. (8)

protectionism The notion that women must be protected from life's cruelties; until the 1970s, the basis for laws affecting women's civil rights. (16)

protectionists Those who wish to prevent imports from entering the country and therefore oppose free trade. (20)

public assistance Government aid to individuals who can demonstrate a need for that aid. (19)

public debt The accumulated sum of past government borrowing owed to lenders outside the government. (18)

public figures People who assume roles of prominence in society or thrust themselves to the forefront of public controversy. (15)

public goods Benefits and services, such as parks and sanitation, that benefit all citizens but are not likely to be produced voluntarily by individuals. (1)

public opinion The collected attitudes of citizens concerning a given issue or question. (5)

public policy A general plan of action adopted by the government to solve a social problem, counter a threat, or pursue an objective. (17, 19)

racial gerrymandering The drawing of a legislative district to maximize the chance that a minority candidate will win election. (11)

racial segregation Separation from society because of race. (16)

racism A belief that human races have distinct characteristics such that one's own race is superior to, and has a right to rule, others. (16)

reapportionment Redistribution of representatives among the states, based on population change. The House is reapportioned after each census. (11)

recall The process for removing an elected official from office. (7)

receipts For a government, the amount expected or obtained in taxes and other revenues. (18)

redistributional policies Policies that take government resources, such as tax funds, from one sector of society and transfer them to another. (17)

redistricting The process of redrawing political boundaries to reflect changes in population. (4)

referendum An election on a policy issue. (7)

regulation Government intervention in the workings of a business market to promote some socially desired goal. (13, 17)

regulations Administrative rules that guide the operation of a government program. (13)

regulatory commission An agency of the executive branch of government that controls or directs some aspect of the economy. (13)

representative democracy A system of government where citizens elect public officials to govern on their behalf. (2)

republic A government without a monarch; a government rooted in the consent of the governed, whose power is exercised by elected representatives responsible to the governed. (3)

republicanism A form of government in which power resides in the people and is exercised by their elected representatives. (3)

responsible party government A set of principles formalizing the ideal role of parties in a majoritarian democracy. (8)

responsiveness A decision-making principle, necessitated by representative government, that implies that elected representatives should do what the majority of people wants. (2)

restraint A requirement laid down by act of Congress, prohibiting a state or local government from exercising a certain power. (4)

rights The benefits of government to which every citizen is entitled. (1)

rule making The administrative process that results in the issuance of regulations by government agencies. (13)

rule of four An unwritten rule that requires at least four justices to agree that a case warrants consideration before it is reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. (14)

school district The government unit that administers elementary and secondary school programs. (4)

select committee A temporary congressional committee created for a specific purpose and disbanded after that purpose is fulfilled. (11)

self-interest principle The implication that people choose what benefits them personally. (5)

senatorial courtesy A norm under which a nomination must be acceptable to the home state senator from the president's party. (14)

seniority Years of consecutive service on a particular congressional committee. (11)

separate-but-equal doctrine The concept that providing separate but equivalent facilities for blacks and whites satisfies the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. (16)

separation of powers The assignment of lawmaking, law-enforcing, and law-interpreting functions to separate branches of government. (3)

set-aside A purchasing or contracting provision that reserves a certain percentage of funds for minority-owned contractors. (16)

sexism Invidious sex discrimination. (16)

skewed distribution An asymmetrical but generally bell-shaped distribution (of opinions); its mode, or most frequent response, lies off to one side. (5)

social contract theory The belief that the people agree to set up rulers for certain purposes and thus have the right to resist or remove rulers who act against those purposes. (3)

social equality Equality in wealth, education, and status. (1)

social insurance A government-backed guarantee against loss by individuals without regard to need. (19)

socialism A form of rule in which the central government plays a strong role in regulating existing private industry and directing the economy, although it does allow some private ownership of productive capacity. (1)

Social Security Social insurance that provides economic assistance to persons faced with unemployment, disability, or old age. It is financed by taxes on employers and employees. (19)

Social Security Act The law that provided for Social Security and is the basis of modern American social welfare. (19)

social welfare programs Government programs that provide the minimum living standards necessary for all citizens. (19)

socioeconomic status Position in society, based on a combination of education, occupational status, and income. (5)

soft money Financial contributions to party committees for capital and operational expenses. (9)

solicitor general The third-highest official of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the one who represents the national government before the Supreme Court. (14)

sovereignty The quality of being supreme in power or authority. (4)

Speaker of the House The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. (11)

special districts Government units created to perform particular functions, especially when those functions are best performed across jurisdictional boundaries. (4)

split ticket In voting, candidates from different parties for different offices. (9)

stable distribution A distribution (of opinions) that shows little change over time. (5)

standard socioeconomic model A relationship between socioeconomic status and conventional political involvement: people with higher status and more education are more likely to participate than those with lower status. (7)

standing committee A permanent congressional committee that specializes in a particular policy area. (11)

stare decisis Literally, "let the decision stand"; decision making according to precedent. (14)

states' rights The idea that all rights not specifically conferred on the national government by the U.S. Constitution are reserved to the states. (4)

straight ticket In voting, a single party's candidates for all the offices. (9)

strict scrutiny A standard used by the Supreme Court in deciding whether a law or policy is to be adjudged constitutional. To pass strict scrutiny, the law or policy must be justified by a "compelling governmental interest," as well as being the least restrictive means for achieving that interest. (15)

substantive democratic theory The view that democracy is embodied in the substance of government policies rather than in the policymaking procedure. (2)

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

supply-side economics Economic policies aimed at increasing the supply of goods (as opposed to increasing demand); consist mainly of tax cuts for possible investors and less regulation of business. (18)

supportive behavior Action that expresses allegiance to government and country. (7)

supremacy clause The clause in Article VI of the Constitution that asserts that national laws take precedence over state and local laws when they conflict. (3)

tax committees The two committees of Congress responsible for raising the revenue with which to run the government. (18)

television hypothesis The belief that television is to blame for the low level of citizens' knowledge about public affairs. (6)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act (TANF) A 1996 national act that abolished the longtime welfare policy, AFDC (Aid for Families with Dependent Children). TANF gives the states much more control over welfare policy. (19)

terrorism Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents. (7)

totalitarianism A political philosophy that advocates unlimited power for the government to enable it to control all sectors of society. (1)

trade association An organization that represents firms within a particular industry. (10)

transfer payment A payment by government to an individual, mainly through Social Security or unemployment insurance. (18)

trustee A representative who is obligated to consider the views of constituents but is not obligated to vote according to those views if he or she believes they are misguided. (11)

two-party system A political system in which two major political parties compete for control of the government. Candidates from a third party have little chance of winning office. (8)

two-step flow of communication The process in which a few policy elites gather information and then inform their more numerous followers, mobilizing them to apply pressure to government. (6)

uncontrollable outlay A payment that government must make by law. (18)

unconventional participation Relatively uncommon political behavior that challenges or defies established institutions and dominant norms. (7)

universal participation The concept that everyone in a democracy should participate in governmental decision making. (2)

U.S. court of appeals A court within the second tier of the three-tiered federal court system, to which decisions of the district courts and federal agencies may be appealed for review. (14)

U.S. district court A court within the lowest tier of the three-tiered federal court system; a court where litigation begins. (14)

veto The president's disapproval of a bill that has been passed by both houses of Congress. Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds vote in each house. (11, 12)

Virginia Plan A set of proposals for a new government, submitted to the Constitutional Convention of 1787; included separation of the government into three branches, division of the legislature into two houses, and proportional representation in the legislature. (3)

voter turnout The percentage of eligible citizens who actually vote in a given election. (7)

War on Poverty A part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program, intended to eradicate poverty within ten years. (19)

watchdog journalism Journalism that scrutinizes public and business institutions and publicizes perceived misconduct. (6)

welfare state A nation in which the government assumes responsibility for the welfare of its citizens by providing a wide array of public services and redistributing income to reduce social inequality. (19)