GOVERNMENT
IN AMERICA

PEOPLE, POLITICS, AND POLICY

MyPoliSciLab®

AP EDITION
SIXTEENTH EDITION

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**SIMULATION: YOU ARE A FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR 550**
In 2012, American voters reelected President Barack Obama, a Democrat, while simultaneously keeping control of the House of Representatives in the Republicans’ hands. You may be puzzled about why—after such a long, expensive, and hotly contested campaign—voters divided political power in Washington. And you might also wonder why our political system permits, and even encourages, such mixed verdicts. We have found that election results like these lead many students to conclude that government in America is incredibly complex and hard to make sense of. We are not going to make false promises and tell you that American government is easy to understand. However, we do intend to provide you with a clear roadmap to understanding our complex political system.

The framers of our Constitution could have designed a much simpler system, but they purposely built in complexities as insurance against the concentration of power. Despite these complexities, many of the founders, such as Jefferson, were confident that the American people would be able to navigate their constitutional system and effectively govern themselves within it. In writing this book, we are similarly confident that young adults in the twenty-first century can participate effectively in our democracy.

The major message that we convey in this book is that politics and government matter to everyone. Government in America AP Edition explains how policy choices make a difference and shape the kind of country in which we live. We will show you how these choices affect the taxes we pay, the wars we fight, the quality of our environment, and many other critical aspects of our lives.

Students often ask us whether we are trying to convey a liberal or conservative message in this book. The answer is that our goal is to explain the major viewpoints, how they differ, and how such differences matter. We wish to give you the tools to understand American politics and government. Once you have these tools, you can make your own judgment about policy choices and become a well-informed participant in our democratic process. In the twenty-first century, it is often said that “knowledge is power.” We sincerely hope that the knowledge conveyed in this book will help you exercise your fair share of political power in the years to come.
In 2008, the United States elected Barack Obama as president in the hope of making progress on a host of issues, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, immigration, climate change, and health care. Some changes did occur: health care reform expanded health insurance coverage to millions of Americans and protected millions of others against abuses by insurance companies; new regulations on Wall Street were put in place in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008; and immigration policy limited the deportation of young illegal immigrants.

More generally, however, the nation faced gridlock, especially following the substantial Republican gains in the 2010 congressional elections. The national government even came close to defaulting on its debt. Democrats and Republicans have been further apart in their thinking about the role of government than at any time since Reconstruction, and Republicans have pledged to undo the Democrats’ health care reform.

The sixteenth edition of Government in America AP Edition explains the reasons we have such a difficult time resolving differences over public policy and the stakes we all have in finding solutions to the challenges facing our nation. We frame its content with a public policy approach to government in the United States and continually ask—and answer—the question, “What difference does politics make to the policies that governments produce?” It is one thing to describe the Madisonian system of checks and balances and separation of powers or the elaborate and unusual federal system of government in the United States; it is something else to ask how these features of our constitutional structure affect the policies that governments generate.

The essence of our approach to American government and politics is that politics matters. The national government provides important services, ranging from retirement security and health care to recreation facilities and weather forecasts. The government may also send us to war or negotiate peace with our adversaries, expand or restrict our freedom, raise or lower our taxes, and increase or decrease aid to education. In the twenty-first century, decision makers of both political parties are facing difficult questions regarding American democracy and the scope of our government. Students need a framework for understanding these questions.

We do not discuss policy at the expense of politics, however. We provide extensive coverage of four core subject areas: constitutional foundations, patterns of political behavior, political institutions, and public policy outputs; but we try to do so in a more analytically significant—and interesting—manner. We take special pride in introducing students to relevant work from current political scientists, for example, on the role of PACs and SuperPACs or the impact of divided party government—something we have found instructors to appreciate.
New to This Edition

*Government in America* AP Edition has been substantially revised and updated to reflect recent changes—often of a historic magnitude—in politics, policy, and participation. Naturally, we have full coverage of the 2012 presidential and congressional elections and of the latest Supreme Court decisions on civil liberties, civil rights, federalism, and congressional and presidential powers. The historic struggles over the budget and national debt, health care reform, economic policy, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan also receive significant coverage.

Extensive changes in this edition make the text even more accessible and relevant to students. For example, we have changed the content of many of our chapter-opening vignettes and features to make them as relevant as possible to current concerns and to pique student interest. From the first chapter, we emphasize the significance of government to young people and the importance of their participation. We have streamlined our presentation of material by combining our chapter on campaigns, nominations, and elections with our chapter on voting behavior, as well as by combining our chapters on economic and social welfare policymaking. We have reorganized our discussion of federalism to make it easier for students to grasp, and have done the same for Supreme Court decision making—clarifying the different bases of decisions—such as original meaning, original intent, and personal ideology.

In addition, we have a great deal of new material in the chapters. For example, not only is there extensive coverage of the 2012 elections, but a completely revised and updated discussion of campaign financing places new focus on the role of money in campaigns. We also have new material on the increasingly ideological presentation of the news on cable television and its potential consequences. The updating of Supreme Court decisions includes recent key decisions such as those on health care reform and immigration. In our chapter on the presidency and throughout the book, we have broad coverage of the Obama administration, in areas ranging from budgetary policy and relations with Congress in this era of polarization to foreign policy challenges such as the upheaval in the Middle East. The entire chapter on the core issue of the budget has been thoroughly updated, with new graphics, to reflect the central importance of taxing and spending in American government and the core issues of the fiscal and debt crises. We have the latest on all the policies we cover, from health care reform and Medicare to the war in Afghanistan and relations with Iran.

Over 30% of the photos in this edition are new. They capture major events from the last few years, of course, but to illustrate the relevance of politics, they show political actors and processes as well as people affected by politics and policies, creating a visual narrative that enhances rather than repeats the text. Also, all of the *figures and tables* reflect the latest available data, and we take pride in continuously improving our graphical presentations of these data.

Finally, to create a tighter pedagogical connection between this book and *MyPoliSciLab*, we integrated several new features that move students from the book to online active learning opportunities. The icons listed throughout the book lead to learning resources on *MyPoliSciLab*.

- A new design simplifies the presentation of content to facilitate print and digital reading experiences. It also focuses reading by turning our book's *learning objectives* into a clear learning path backed by personalized study plans on *MyPoliSciLab*.
- *Videos* now support the narrative in each chapter. We—the authors—frame each chapter topic, and interviews with political scientists and everyday citizens look at interesting aspects of each topic. We list the
Government in America AP Edition follows two central themes. The great question central to governing, a question every nation must answer, is “How should we govern?” In the United States, our answer is “by democracy.” Yet democracy is an evolving and somewhat ambiguous concept. The first theme, then, is the nature of our democracy. In Chapter 1, we define democracy as a means of selecting policymakers and of organizing government so that policy represents and responds to citizens’ preferences. As with previous editions, we incorporate theoretical issues in our discussions of different models of American democracy. We try to encourage students to think analytically about the theories and to develop independent assessments of how well the American system lives up to citizens’ expectations of democratic government. To help them do this, in every chapter we raise questions about democracy. For example, does Congress give the American people the policies they want? Is a strong presidency good for democracy? Do our mass media make us more democratic? Are powerful courts that make policy decisions compatible with democracy?

The second theme, the scope of government, focuses on another great question of governing: “What should government do?” Here we discuss alternative views concerning the proper role and size for American government and how the workings of institutions and politics influence this scope. The government’s scope is the core question around which politics revolves in contemporary America, pervading many crucial issues: To what degree should Washington impose national standards for health care or speed limits on state policies? How high should taxes be? Do elections encourage politicians to promise more governmental services? Questions about the scope of government are policy questions and thus obviously directly related to our policy approach. Since the scope of government is the pervasive question in American politics today, students will have little problem finding it relevant to their lives and interests.

Each chapter begins with a preview of the relevancy of our two themes to the chapter’s subject matter, refers to the themes at points within the chapter, and ends with an “Understanding” section that discusses how the themes illuminate that subject matter.

Our coverage of American government and politics is comprehensive. First, we present an introductory chapter that lays out the dimensions of our policymaking system and introduces our themes of democracy and the scope of government. Next, we provide four chapters on the constitutional foundations of American government, including the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, and civil rights. We then offer five chapters focusing on influences on government, including public opinion, the media, interest groups, political parties, and elections and voting behavior.
Our next five chapters focus on the workings of the national government. These chapters include Congress, the president, budgeting (at the core of many issues before policymakers), the federal courts, and the federal bureaucracy. Finally, we present three chapters on the decisions policymakers take and the issues they face. First are economic and social welfare policies; then come health care, environmental protection, and energy policies; and finally, we focus on national security policy.

The AP Edition of *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy* includes a Correlation Guide. This guide lists all of the topics covered in the AP Exam and shows how they correlate to this book’s coverage. By following this guide, students can comprehensively and successfully study for the AP Exam.

Our features support our fundamental idea that politics matters and engage students in important political and policy issues.

- The classic *You Are the Policymaker* asks students to read arguments on both sides of a current issue—such as whether we should prohibit PACs—and then to make a policy decision. In Chapters 4 and 5 (“Civil Liberties” and “Civil Rights”), this feature is titled *You Are the Judge* and presents the student with an actual court case.

- The *America in Perspective* feature examines how the United States compares to other countries on topics such as tax rates, voter turnout, and the delivery of public services. By reading these boxes and comparing the United States to other nations, students can obtain a better perspective on the size of our government and the nature of democracy. Instructors report that this feature provides them with especially useful teaching points.

- Several times in each chapter, *Why It Matters to You* insets encourage students to think critically about an aspect of government, politics, or policy and to consider the repercussions—including for themselves—if things worked differently. Each Why It Matters to You feature extends the book’s policy emphasis to situate it directly within the context of students’ daily lives.

- The popular *Young People and Politics* feature illustrates how policies specifically impact young adults, how their political behavior patterns are unique and important, and how public offices are meeting or ignoring their particular policy desires.

- Every chapter includes a *marginal glossary* to support students’ understanding of new and important concepts at first encounter. For easy reference, key terms from the marginal glossary are repeated at the end of each chapter and in the end-of-book glossary. Unique to *Government in America* AP Edition, we also include a key term glossary in Spanish.

We hope that students—long after reading *Government in America* AP Edition—will employ these perennial questions about the nature of our democracy and the scope of our government when they examine political events. The specifics of policy issues will change, but questions about whether the government is responsive to the people or whether it should expand or contract its scope will always be with us.
Pearson is pleased to offer teacher and student program components that will make teaching and learning from the AP Edition of *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy* even more effective and enjoyable.

**For the Teacher**

Most of the teacher supplements and resources for this text are also available electronically to qualified adopters on the Instructor Resource Center (IRC). Upon adoption or to preview, please go to [www.pearsonschool.com/access_request](http://www.pearsonschool.com/access_request) and select Instructor Resource Center. You will be required to complete a brief one-time registration subject to verification of educator status. Upon verification, access information and instructions will be sent to you via e-mail. Once logged into the IRC, enter ISBN 0-205-86575-5 in the “Search our Catalog” box to locate resources.

- **Instructor’s Resource CD.** Includes Instructor’s Manual, Test Bank, TestGen, PowerPoint, and Digital Transparency Masters.
- **Instructor’s Manual.** Create a comprehensive roadmap for teaching classroom, online, or hybrid courses. Designed for new and experienced instructors, the Instructor’s Manual includes a sample syllabus, lecture and discussion suggestions, activities for in or out of class, essays on teaching American Government, and suggestions for using MyPoliSciLab. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD or on the IRC for download.
- **Test Bank.** Evaluate learning at every level. Reviewed for clarity and accuracy, the Test Bank measures this book’s learning objectives with multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD or on the IRC for download.
- **Test Gen.** Customize and assign all of the AP-style multiple-choice questions from the Test Bank. This fully networkable, user-friendly program enables instructors to view and edit questions and print tests in a variety of formats. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD or on the IRC for download.
- **PowerPoint Presentation.** Make lectures more enriching for students. The PowerPoint Presentation includes a full lecture script, discussion questions, photos and figures from the book, and links to MyPoliSciLab multimedia. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD or on the IRC for download.
- **Digital Transparency Masters.** Features all of the maps, tables, and figures from the text. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD or on the IRC for download.

**For the Student**

**TEST PREP WORKBOOK FOR AP® GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: UNITED STATES.** Contains an overview of the College Board’s AP program and the Government and Politics: United States AP Exam, guidelines for mastering multiple-choice and free-response questions, practice tests, and more. Available for purchase.
MyPoliSciLab

Media Resources for Teachers and Students

MyPoliSciLab with Pearson eText is an online homework, tutorial, and assessment system that improves results by helping students better master concepts and by providing educators a dynamic set of tools for gauging individual and class performance. Its immersive experiences truly engage students in learning, helping them to understand course material and improve their performance. And MyPoliSciLab comes from Pearson—your partner in providing the best digital learning experiences.

✔ PERSONALIZE LEARNING. Reach every student at each stage of learning, engage them in active rather than passive learning, and measure that learning. Refined after a decade of real-world use, MyPoliSciLab can be customized to support each individual student’s and educator’s success. You can fully control what your students’ course looks like; homework, applications, and more can easily be turned on or off. You can also add your own original material.

- The intuitive assignment calendar lets educators drag and drop assignments to the desired date and gives students a useful course organizer.
- Automatically graded assessment flows into the gradebook, which can be used in MyPoliSciLab or exported.

✔ EMPHASIZE OUTCOMES. Keep students focused on what they need to master course concepts.

- Practice tests help students achieve this book’s learning objectives by creating personalized study plans. Based on a pre-test diagnostic, the study plan suggests reading and multimedia for practice and moves students from comprehension to critical thinking.
- Students can study key terms and concepts with their own personal set of flashcards.

✔ ENGAGE STUDENTS. Students—each one is different. Reach all of them with the new Video Series, which features this book’s authors and top scholars discussing the big ideas in each chapter and applying them to enduring political issues. Each chapter is supported by six videos that help students work through the material and retain its key lessons.

- The Big Picture. Understand how the topic fits into the American political system.
- The Basics. Review the topic’s core learning objectives.
- In Context. Examine the historical background of the topic.
- Thinking Like a Political Scientist. Solve a political puzzle related to the topic.
- In the Real World. Consider different perspectives on a key issue in American politics.
- So What? Connect the topic to what is at stake for American democracy.
**IMPROVE CRITICAL THINKING.** Students get a lot of information about politics; your challenge as an educator is to turn them into critical consumers of that information. **Explorer** is a hands-on way to develop quantitative literacy and to move students beyond punditry and opinion. In the book, infographics introduce key questions about politics. On MyPoliSciLab, guided exercises ask students to read the data related to the questions and then find connections among the data to answer the questions. Explorer includes data from the United States Census, General Social Survey, Statistical Abstract of the United States, Gallup, American National Election Studies, and Election Data Services with more data being regularly added.

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CORRELATION GUIDE FOR AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: UNITED STATES

Government and Politics: United States topics correlated to Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, 16/e, AP Edition

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