

Unit1.

Characteristics of a state:

Population, Territory, Sovereignty, and Government.

Divine right theory:

The doctrine that states the right of rules in a monarch (one ruler) is developed directly from God and is only accountable to God because God created the state. Also that God had given those of royal birth a "divine right" to rule, without consent of the people.

6 purposes of government:

form a more perfect union / establish justice / insure domestic tranquility / provide for the common defense / promote the general welfare / secure the blessings of liberty

Dictatorship:

Form of government in which one person or an oligarchy possesses absolute power without effective constitutional checks.

Limited Government:

is a government where any more than minimal governmental intervention in personal liberties and the economy is not usually allowed by law, usually in a written Constitution.

5 Basic concepts of democracy:

- A. Necessity of compromise
- B. Equality of all persons
- C. Majority rule with minority rights
- D. Individual liberty
- E. Worth of the individual

3 Influencing English documents:

Magna Carta

July4, 1776

we claimed our independence from Britain and Democracy was born

Weaknesses of the Articles of confederation:

- 1) Under the Articles there was only a unicameral legislature so that there was no separation of powers.
- 2) The central government under the Articles was too weak since the majority of the power rested with the states.
- 3) Congress, under the Articles, did not have the power to tax which meant that they could never put their finances in order.
- 4) In order to change or amend the Articles, unanimous approval of the states was required which essentially meant that changes to the Articles were impossible.
- 5) For any major laws to pass they had to be approved by 9 or the 13 states which proved difficult to do so that even the normal business of running a government was difficult.

Unit2.

Separation of powers

The separation of powers, also known as trias politica, is a model for the governance of democratic states.

Marbury vs. Madison

In this landmark decision, the Supreme Court stated that it was the final arbiter of the Constitution of the United States. This power ultimately established the Supreme Court as a co-equal branch of the government.

Checks and Balances

The system of checks and balances is a part of our Constitution. It guarantees that no part of the government becomes too powerful. For example, the legislative branch is in charge of making laws. The executive branch can veto the law, thus making it harder for the legislative branch to pass the law. The judicial branch may also say that the law is unconstitutional and thus make sure it is not a law.

Supreme law of the land

The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. No other laws from State governments may supersede this document's authority

Concurrent powers

Concurrent powers are those exercised independently in the same field of legislation by both federal and state governments, as in the case of the power to tax or to make bankruptcy laws.

Expressed powers

Those delegated powers of the National Government that are given to it in so many words by the constitution; also sometimes called the "enumerated powers"

Three Exclusive powers

Impeachments, Appointments, Treaties

Extradition

Extradition law in the United States is the formal process by which a fugitive found in one country or state is surrendered to another country or state for trial or punishment.

Amendments

1st Freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, to assemble, and to petition

13th Abolishes slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime

14th Defines citizenship and deals with post-Civil War issues.

18th Prohibition of alcohol (Repealed by Twenty-first Amendment)

19th Federal recognition of women's suffrage

26th Voting age nationally established at 18 (see suffrage)

Unit3

Establishment Clause:

Clause in the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbidding Congress from establishing a state religion. It prevents the passage of any law that gives preference to or forces belief in any one religion. It is paired with a clause that prohibits limiting the free expression of religion.

Due Process Clause:

The 5th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States states that "no person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." This right was extended to the states by the 14th Amendment (1868). Fundamental to procedural due process are adequate notice before the government can deprive one of life, liberty, or property, and the opportunity to be heard and defend one's rights. The boundaries of due process are not fixed and are the subject of endless judicial interpretation and decision making

Free Exercise Clause:

Provision in First Amendment to the United States Constitution providing that "Congress shall make no law . . . Prohibiting the free exercise" of religion.

Slander:

Oral communication of false statements injurious to a person's reputation.

Industries subject to extensive federal regulation:

Financial, communication.

Limits on commercial speech:

commercial speech is not protected to the same extent as other forms of protected speech.

Largest minority group today:

Hispanics make up 12.5% of U.S. citizens, leading African-Americans by a slight margin(12.1%)

Brown vs. Board of Education:

(1954) U.S. Supreme Court case in which the court ruled unanimously that racial segregation in public schools violated the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment says that no state may deny equal protection of the laws to any person within its jurisdiction. The court declared separate educational facilities to be inherently unequal, thus reversing its 1896 ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The *Brown* ruling was limited to public schools, but it was believed to imply that segregation is not permissible in other public facilities. Guidelines for ending segregation were presented and school boards were advised to proceed "with all deliberate speed." *See also* Thurgood Marshall.

Civil Rights Act of 1964:

Unit4.

5 functions of political parties:

Nominating candidates, Informing/Activating supporters, bonding agent function, governing, and acting as watchdog.

Why the US has a 2 party system:

A number of factors help to explain why America has had and continues to have a two-party system. No one reason alone offers a wholly satisfactory explanation for the phenomenon. However, several reasons do add up to a quite persuasive answer.

- **The Historical Basis:** the two party system is rooted in the beginnings of the nation itself.
- **The Force of Tradition:** the very fact that the nation began with a two-party system has been a leading reason for the retention of a two-party system. Over time, it has become an increasingly important, self-reinforcing reason.
- **The Electoral System:** Several features of the American electoral system tend to promote the existence of but two major parties. Republican and Democratic
- **The American Ideological Consensus:** Americans are, on the whole, an ideologically homogeneous people. That is, over time, the American people have shared many of the same ideals, the same basic principles and the same patterns of belief.

4 types of minor parties:

- 1- Ideological parties.
2. Single-Issue parties.
3. Economic protest parties.
4. Splinter parties

3 role minor parties play:

Characteristics of democratic voters:

Stages of expanding the right to vote:

Why must one register to vote:

5 methods for nominating candidates for election:

Split-ticket voting:

is when you vote for candidates from different parties in the same election

- 6) Under the Articles, Congress did not have the power to regulate commerce which will cause competition between states as well as diplomatic issues,

Anti-Federalists objections to the Constitution:

They believed that the U.S. Constitution gave the national government too much power.

They believed that the state governments should have more power than the national government

3/5 Compromise:

was a compromise between Southern and Northern states reached during the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 in which three-fifths of the population of slaves would be counted for enumeration purposes regarding both the distribution of taxes and the apportionment of the members of the United States House of Representatives.

3 authors of The Federalist Papers:

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay.

Comprehensive U.S. law intended to end discrimination based on race, colour, religion, or national origin. It is generally considered the most important U.S. law on civil rights since Reconstruction (1865 – 77). It guarantees equal voting rights (Title I); prohibits segregation or discrimination in places of public accommodation (Title II); bans discrimination, including sex-based discrimination, by trade unions, schools, or employers that are involved in interstate commerce or that do business with the federal government (Title VII); calls for the desegregation of public schools (Title IV); and assures nondiscrimination in the distribution of funds under federally assisted programs (Title VI). A 1972 amendment, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, extended Title VII coverage to employees of state and local governments and increased the authority of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

Treatment of women throughout history:

Women have in general been treated as inferiors to men.