

EQ #1- WHAT Is Government? What is Politics?

Chapter 1

Textbook

- With your table partner, explore your textbook and answer the Textbook Search questions.

Pretest

1. What is government?
2. Describe the term *politics*.
3. Describe a person (age, race, gender, education, etc.) who you think is **LEAST** likely to participate in American politics.

Introduction

- Politics and government matter.
- Americans are apathetic about politics and government.
- American youth are less likely to be informed about government and politics and to participate less in politics.

Introduction

- The Political Disengagement of College Students

FIGURE 1.1

The Political Disengagement of College Students Today

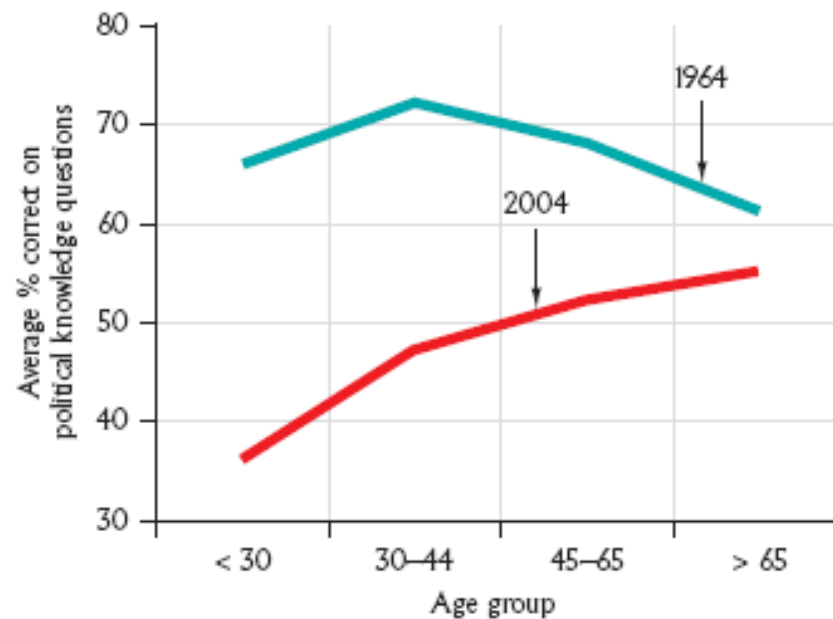


Source: UCLA Higher Education Research Institute.

Introduction

FIGURE 1.2

Age and Political Knowledge: 1964 and 2004 Compared

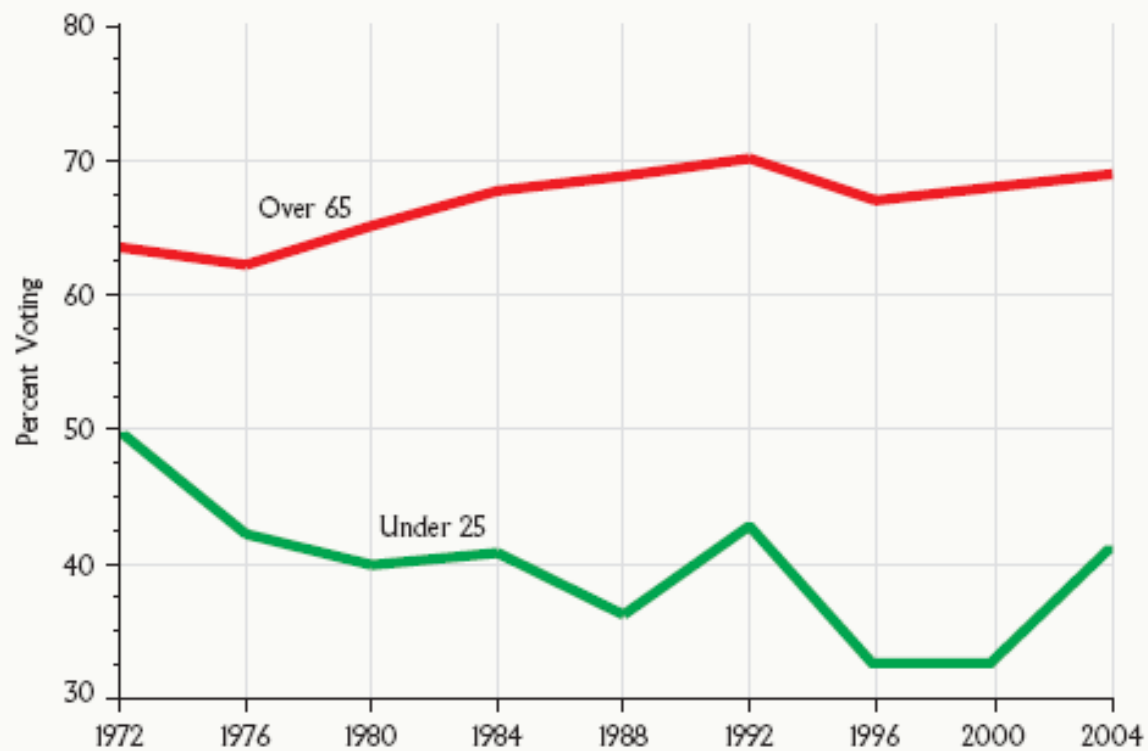


Source: Authors' analysis of 1964 and 2004 National Election Studies.

Introduction

FIGURE 1.3

Presidential Election Turnout Rates by Age, 1972–2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Surveys. Data can be found at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html.

Who is he?
Why is he in the news?



Why is he mad at the NY
Times?



Deadly Earthquakes and landslides hit which country?



Why is this in the local news?



Test Your Political Knowledge

- Use your smart phone or get a computer from the COW.
- Be sure it is your assigned computer based on the posted sheet.
- Go to the website and take the quiz
- <http://www.pewresearch.org/quiz/the-news-iq-quiz/>
- When you finish, leave your “RESULTS” page up!!

Political IQ Debrief Q's

1. How did you do? Are you surprised?
2. What is a demographic group?

Take five minutes to analyze the data on the Results Page when you finish.

3. Explain **THREE** relevant facts from the data posted about the results of this quiz. What did you learn that made an impression on you?

Government

- Definition:
 - The institutions (Courts, Congress, President) and processes (voting, interest groups...) through which public policies are made for society.
- This definition leads to two basic questions:
 - How should we govern?
 - What should government do?

Politics

- POLITICS:
 - The process by which we select our governmental leaders and what policies these leaders produce.
 - Is about PROCESS & POLICY
 - Politics are subjective / PERSONAL
- Also consider Lasswell's definition:
 - *Who gets what, when and how.*

Warm-Up-What do you think?

- As a public school teacher, can I wear a **TRUMP** shirt to school?
- Can I wear a **Black Lives Matter** shirt?
- Why or why not?
- What messages am I sending if I do?
- If you don't think I legally can, *should* I be able to? How is this question different?
- Are these questions more about “government” or “politics?” Explain.

Read the News

- Read the news article
- Mark it up as you read
- Highlight FIVE key points from your article that you will share with your table partner
- When everyone has read and prepared, share your key points with your partner

Reflection

- On a LEFT side, answer the question based on your personal opinion...
- Should the CHS teachers have taken a knee at the assembly? Why/not?
- 3-5 sentences

News Quiz

- Every Monday
- 5 points only
- 8 questions
- You can earn extra credit
- If you google “news quizzes” you can see some of what I look at for questions

What are Linkage Institutions?

- Linkage institutions connect citizens to their government.
- Linkage Institutions
 - Help voters learn about what government is doing
 - Provide ways for voters to influence government and express their opinions



Linkage Institutions

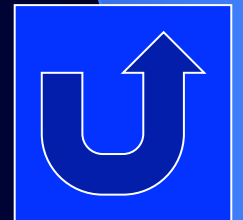
- There are FOUR Types of linkage institutions in US Government.
 - Political Parties
 - Elections
 - News & Entertainment Media
 - Interest Groups

Policy Agenda

- The policy agenda are issues that attract the serious attention of elected officials.
- Political issues arise when people disagree about a problem and how to fix it.
- A government's policy agenda changes regularly.

Policymaking Institutions

- Are the branches of government that take action on political issues.
 - Legislature (Congress)
 - Executive (President)
 - Bureaucracies (Federal and State)
 - Courts (Federal and State)



Policies Impact People

- Public Policy: a choice that government makes in response to a political issue.
 - Some policies HELP solve the problem.
 - Some policies create NEW problems

TABLE 1.1

Types of Public Policies

TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Congressional statute	Law passed by Congress	No Child Left Behind Act
Presidential action	Decision by president	U.S. troops invade Iraq
Court decision	Opinion by Supreme Court or other court	Supreme Court ruling that individuals have a constitutional right to own a gun.
Budgetary choices	Legislative enactment of taxes and expenditures	The federal budget resolution
Regulation	Agency adoption of regulation	Food and Drug Administration's approval of a new drug

Democracy

- Definition:
 - Government BY and FOR the people
 - A system where citizens vote and government is organized so that laws represent and respond to the public's preferences.
- Examples:
 - Equality in voting
 - Effective participation
 - Enlightened understanding
 - Citizen control of the agenda
 - Inclusion

American Democracy

- How does our democracy in the U.S. function? Is it fair or are some favored?
- We will discuss **THREE** theories of what democracy in America is like.
 1. Pluralism
 2. Elite Class
 3. Hyperpluralism

Theories of U.S. Democracy- Pluralism

- PLURALIST Theory Beliefs
 - Politics is mainly a competition among groups, each one pressing for its own preferred policies.
 - All interest Groups have equal access to government.
- Groups will work together
- Public interest will prevail

Theories of U.S. Democracy- Elite Class Theory

- Elite and Class Theory Beliefs
 - American society is divided along class lines
 - The upper-class elite will rule, regardless of the government's organization and insistence that it's fair to all.
- Not all groups are equal
- Policies benefit those with money / power

Theories of U.S. Democracy- Hyperpluralism

- Hyperpluralism Beliefs
 - Interest groups in the U.S. are so strong and numerous that government is weakened and ineffective because it tries to give ALL groups something.
- There are too many groups and too many ways for groups to control policy.
- This results in confusing & contradictory policies.

Scope of Government

- How big a role government plays in everyday life describes its scope.
 - How much tax do we pay? How many rules must we follow?
- Does a bigger, more involved (active) government limit the people's freedoms?
- Do we need a bigger, more involved government to protect our freedoms?

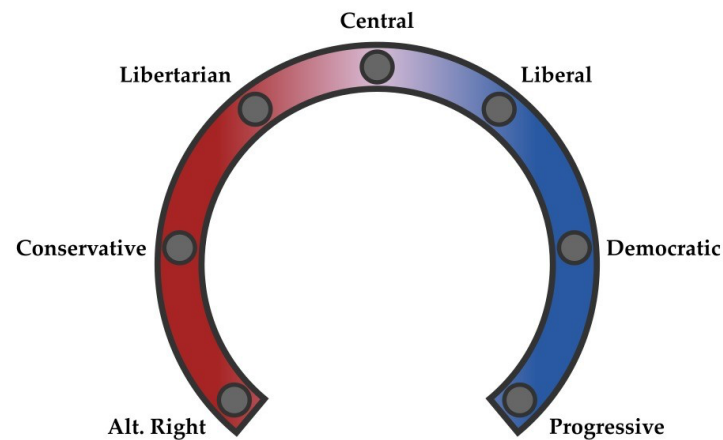
The Scope of Government in America

- Comparatively, the U.S. devotes a smaller percentage of its resources to government services than other developed countries
- The tax burden on Americans is smaller than many other democracies

Liberals v. Conservatives

- In general, most Americans are moderate (somewhere between liberal and conservative)

Political Ideologies



What do LIBERALS Believe?

- Favor equality for all
- Advocate for change in social, economic & political spheres to protect equality for all.
- Value civil liberties (free speech, etc) protected in Bill of Rights
- Believe role of government is to ensure fairness for all. = bigger gov't.

What do CONSERVATIVES Believe?

- Government should not be overly involved in citizens' lives; = smaller gov't
- Keep all taxes low;
- Keep federal spending low
- Favor free-market solutions rather than government intervention

Theories of Democracy

Graphic Organizer

- Create a graphic organizer that compares the THREE theories of American democracy by listing
 - Who has access?
 - How is the US Government affected?
 - Provide examples of this theory in work