

Examples of Conflict in American Political Culture

Important Elements of American Political Culture:

Liberty- preoccupation with rights, economic freedom

Equality- equal vote, equality under the law, equal opportunity (not equal wealth)

Democracy- politicians accountable to the people

Civic duty- Serve the community

Individual Responsibility- barring some disability, individuals responsible for their own actions.

Read each scenario carefully. Identify the two elements of American political culture in conflict for each statement. Record the conflict on the space provided.

Example: High School students can pay taxes on their incomes but cannot vote.

Conflict: Civic Duty (pay taxes) is in conflict with Equality (equal vote)

Example: You can't yell 'Fire' in a crowded building.

Conflict:

Example: Citizens must pay income tax every April.

Conflict:

Example: Individuals can vote and register for the Selective Service at 18, but cannot legally drink alcohol until they are 21.

Conflict:

Example: The government can confiscate your land to build a highway.

Conflict:

Provide two additional examples of conflicts in the five elements of American political culture.



How would you define or describe the American Political Culture?

How does it differ from other nations you may be familiar with?