

# Principles of Government

## Chapter 1

# Government

- Government – the institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies
- Public policies – all things a government decides to do

# state

- Body of People, living in a defined territory, and having the power to make and enforce law without the consent of any higher authority

- Four Aspects

- 1. Population – must have people

- Smallest state – San Marino (about 30,000)

- Largest population – China (about 1 billion)

- 2. Territory – recognized boundaries

- Smallest territory – San Marino (24 sq miles)

- Largest territory – Russia (7 million sq miles)

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- 3. Sovereignty – having supreme and absolute authority in its own territory
- 4. Government – can take different forms

# Origins of a State

- Force Theory – A group claimed control and forced all other to submit
- Evolutionary Theory – developed out of the early family
- Divine Right Theory – state was created by God and those of royal birth a “divine” right to rule
- Social Contract Theory – developed by John Locke – people gave up their power to promote the well - being of all - it was voluntary – people are the source of power

# Six Purposes of Government

- 1. Form a more perfect union – bring the states and the people together
- 2. Establish justice – the law must be reasonable, fair and impartial
- 3. Insure domestic tranquility – keep peace at home
- 4. Provide for the common defense – protecting from foreign enemies
- 5. Promote the general welfare – act as servants of its citizens (example – public schools)

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- 6. Secure the blessings of liberty – to give us freedom

# Geographic Distribution of Power (where it's located)

- Unitary – all powers belong to a single central agency
  - Britain – Parliament (London)
  - Holds all the power in gov't (no local)
- Federal – Power is divided between a central gov't and several local gov't
  - United States
- Confederate – An alliance of independent states
  - Each state governs itself independently
  - Articles of Confederation / Confederate States



# Relationship Between Legislative and Executive

- Presidential Government – separates power between executive / legislative branches
  - They are independent of one another
  - United States
- Parliamentary Government – executive are members of the legislative branch

# Number Who Can Participate

- Dictatorship – leaders are not subject to the people
  - Most are totalitarian – control all aspects of lives
    - Germany (Nazi) – Hitler
    - Italy – Mussolini
    - Libya – Muammar al –Qaddafi
- Autocracy – controlled by a single person
- Oligarchy – controlled by small elite

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- Democracy – people have power
  - Direct Democracy – people vote directly on issues themselves
  - Representative Democracy – groups of people are chosen by voters to represent the voters views
    - Sometimes called a Republic
- Anarchy – the absence of government

# Origins of American Government/ Other Political Ideologies

## Chapter 2

# Different Political Systems

## Great Britain

- It is Democratic, but they don't have a written constitution
- It is Unitary and Parliamentary
- Monarchy – nothing more than figureheads
  - Elizabeth II is the Queen of England
- Parliament is bicameral – two houses
  - House of Lords (Upper house) more than 1,100 people

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- House of Commons (Lower House) – more powerful, made up of 651 members elected by the people
- The Prime Minister is elected from the House of Commons Majority Party
  - David Cameron is the current Prime Minister
  - His cabinet comes from the House of Commons

# Different Political Systems

## Communism

- Idea was invented by Karl Marx wrote the Communists Manifesto
- Believed in a classless society
- No private property (state owns everything)
- Russia in 1917 created the 1<sup>st</sup> communist state by Lenin
- Russia changed to a free market and democratic country in 1991
- China and Cuba still use the idea of Communism

# Different Political Systems

## Socialism

- The state owns all major sources of revenue
- There can be some private ownership
  - Sweden



# Basic Concepts of Government: How The Constitution Was Created

- Our idea of gov't can be traced back to England
  - Ordered Government – sheriff, coroner, counties
  - Limited Government – created in 1215 when King John signed the Magna Carta– monarchy is not all powerful
    - Started trial by jury
  - Representative Government – gov't should serve the people

# Petition of Rights-1628

- ❑ Limited the King's power
- ❑ Could not imprison political critics without a trial by jury
- ❑ Could not require citizens to house soldiers during peacetime

# English Bill of Rights-1688

- ❑ Guaranteed the right to a fair & speedy trial
- ❑ No cruel or unusual punishment

# Government in the Colonies

- Each colony was established by a charter
  - A written document from the King

# Three Types of Colonies

- Royal – under direct control of the crown
  - Had a bicameral legislature – two houses
- Proprietary Colonies – people were given grants of land by the king
  - MD, PA, DE
  - Pennsylvania had a unicameral legislature – one house
- Charter Colonies – self governing colonies

# Coming of Independence

- Declaration of Independence – broke our ties with England
  - Written by Thomas Jefferson
- America was governed under the Articles of Confederation from 1781-1789
  - Lacked a strong central government
- Delegates met in Philadelphia to discuss ways of improving the A.O.C.

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- 55 men met in Philadelphia they became known as the Framers

# Creating the Constitution

- The Framers met in Philadelphia at Independence Hall in May of 1787
- George Washington was elected President of the Convention
- James Madison was given the title of “Father of the Constitution”
- Delegates met in secrecy, original purpose was to revise the Articles of Confederation



# Decision to Write a New Constitution

- Virginia Plan – called for a gov't with three separate branches
  - Executive, Judicial, and Legislative
  - It would be bicameral
  - Representation would be based on population
- New Jersey Plan – wanted a unicameral legislature, wanted each state to be represented equally

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- Connecticut Compromise – Congress would have two houses
  - House – based on population
  - Senate – based on equality
  - Often called the Great Compromise
- 3/5 Compromise – slaves would count in the census of the population as 3/5 of a person

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- Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise – Congress couldn't tax the export of goods from any state and it couldn't act on the slave trade for 20 years

# Ratifying the Constitution

- Required 9 of 13 states approval
- Federalists – supported the Constitution
- Anti-Federalists – opposed the Constitution
  - They wanted a Bill of Rights added to the Constitution
- Went into effect in 1789-present