



# Rule By Desks– Bureaucracy

A professional corps of unelected officials organized in a pyramid hierarchy, functioning under impersonal uniform rules and procedures.



#### How are they hired?

 Civil Service Exam <u>https://www.csealearningcenter.org/demo/templates/contentTemp.cfm?TID=</u> <u>1</u>

Foreign Service Exam <u>https://www.csmonitor.com/World/2011/0127/Are-you-smarter-than-a-US-diplomat-Take-our-Foreign-Service-Exam/Economics-101</u>

Meritocracy....

- 4 million employees; 2.8 million are civilians or "civil servants"
- President only appoints 3% (patronage or political appointments)
- 15 cabinet level departments
- 200+ independent agencies with 2,000+ bureaus, divisions, branches, etc.
- Biggest Department of Defense, U.S. Postal Service, Veterans Administration

## Cabinet departments

#### Regulatory Agencies

- Government Corporations
- Independent Executive Agencies

#### **15 Cabinet Departments**

- Each has its own staff & budget
- Each is supervised by a secretary (confirmed by Senate)
- Each is considered "expert" in own area
- Homeland Security is the newest (2002)

Cabinet departments

## Regulatory Agencies

#### Government Corporations

#### **Regulatory Agencies**

- Oversee a specific aspect of the economy
- Intended to operate independently of Congress and the Executive
- Create regulations that protect people
- Can enforce regulations by judging disputes
- Headed by a commission (Confirmed by Congress) rather than a secretary
- Once confirmed, cannot be removed without cause
- Closely involved with interest groups that want to influence regulations
- Federal Communication Commission
- Federal Reserve Board

- Cabinet departments
- Regulatory Agencies

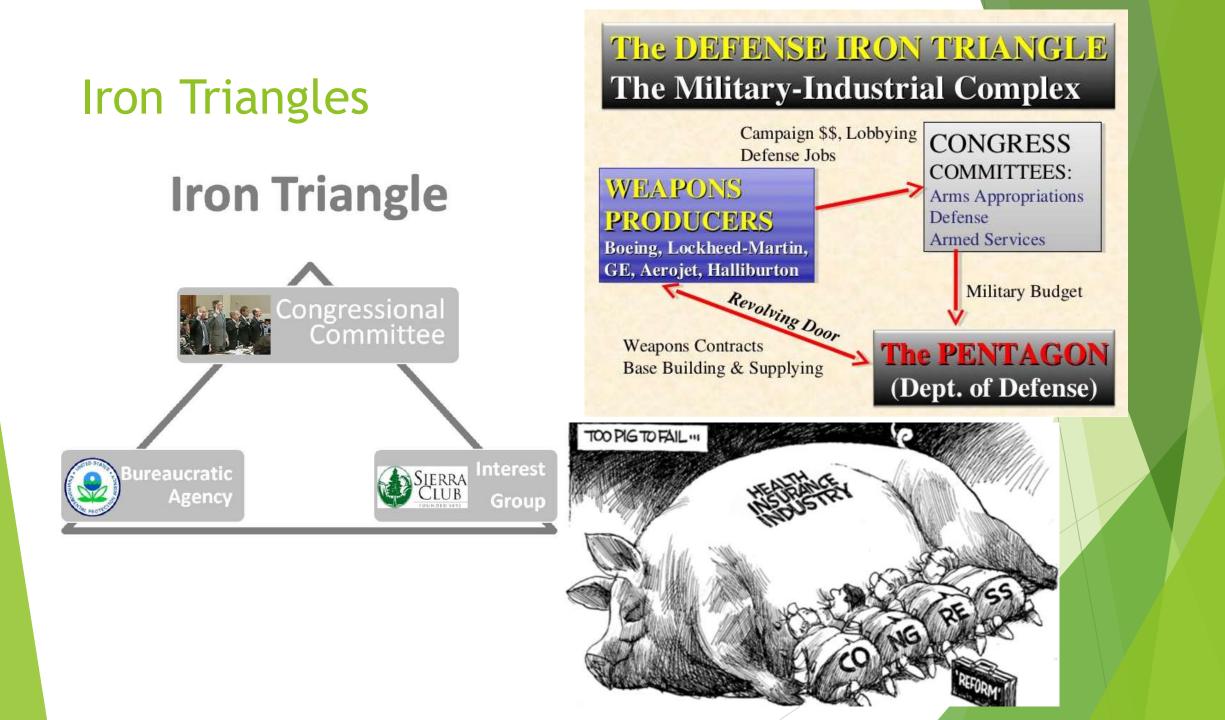
# **Government Corporations**

### **Government Corporations**

- Perform service for a fee, like a private business
- Government owned
- May or may not make a profit, but serve a "public need"
- USPS is the largest
- Amtrak
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting

- Cabinet departments
- Regulatory Agencies
- Government Corporations

- All other executive bodies
- Established by Congress as outside the Executive Branch
- Perform a service function, not a regulatory one
- Heads appointed by president
- NASA
- CIA
- **EPA**



#### Who are the bureaucrats?

> 97% are career government employees or *civil servants* 

Only 10% live in the D.C. area

30% work for the Department of Defense

Less than 15% work for social welfare agencies

Most are white collar workers: secretaries, clerks, lawyers, inspectors & engineers

Civil employees more diverse demographically than Congress

#### **Oversight of the Federal Bureaucracy**

#### **The President can:**

appoint & remove
agency heads
reorganize the bureaucracy
issue executive orders
reduce an agency's budget

#### Congress can: •create or abolish agencies & departments •cut or reduce funding •investigate agency activities •hold committee hearings •pass legislation that alters an agency's functions •influence or even fail to confirm presidential appointments

The Federal Courts can: •through *judicial review* rule on whether the bureaucracy has acted within the law and the U.S. Constitution •provide due process for individuals affected by a bureaucratic action

#### **Thinking Critically**

•Of the tools at his disposal, what is the most effective check the President has on the bureaucracy? Explain. Congress? The Judiciary?

•How does the federal bureaucracy fit with our class definition of "bureaucracy?"

•What generalizations can you make about the federal bureaucracy?

•Why is the federal bureaucracy often referred to as "the fourth branch?"

•Some critics believe that the real power in the federal government lies with the federal bureaucracy. To what extent do you believe this is true?

#### In the news....

- http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2017/02/23/stephen\_bannon\_pillar\_ of\_trumps\_platform\_is\_deconstruction\_of\_the\_administrative\_state.html
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtN4h7giLAw CPB
- https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/24/us/politics/state-departmenttillerson.html