



PREFACE

Economics, Ideology, and Politics

The need persists for widespread mastery of the political system John Quincy Adams once described as “the most complicated on the face of the globe.” Adams was writing about two hundred years ago, and things certainly haven’t gotten less complicated since then. In the early 2000s we experienced a number of political complications, including three close and contentious presidential elections that geographically and ideologically divided our nation into “red” and “blue” states. We suffered a devastating terrorist attack on our own soil, plunging the nation into an open-ended and contentious “war on terror.” We went to war with Iraq for the second time in a dozen years. We saw the national economy reach great heights and disturbing lows, causing unemployment and recession in the private sector and a return of enormous deficit spending in the public sector. How do we make sense of all of these ups and downs of economics, ideology, and politics? We think the best approach is to take seriously our understanding of the political system in which all of these events take place. To that end, we offer today’s students a comprehensive, readable, and balanced study of the context, structure, and process of American politics.

A distinguishing feature of this book is the explicit recognition that economics and ideology significantly influence American politics. No student or instructor in a course on American government is immune to the ideological and economic forces that help shape the perennial pursuit of power in a democracy. Nor is any class or instructor untouched by recurring problems ranging from budget deficits and health care to unemployment and the underclass. Economics and ideology, in one way or another, intersect nearly all of them.

This text highlights, in several ways, the importance of economics and ideology in the context of American. The chapter on public policy and economics explores the relationship between politics and economics, as does a series of “Politics and Economics” boxes (described later) throughout the rest of the book. Students see how economic decisions have political consequences and how political decisions affect the economy. This is essential information in a day when economic topics frequently dominate electoral campaigns, television news, and conversation at the dinner table. However, the text assumes no prior knowledge of economics, and references to economic policy are free of confusing jargon.

Understanding differences among political beliefs is likewise essential at a time when the labels “liberal” and “conservative,” “left” and “right” are hurled about. Such terms can be baffling, particularly because their meanings have not been consistent. Consequently, the text underscores the importance of political ideology—the ideas people have about what government should or should not do and what kind of government they should have. This emphasis is reflected in a series of “Politics and Ideas” boxes (described below) that appear throughout the text. The chapter on political ideologies is nearly

unique among shorter volumes on American government because it draws a road map that guides students through intellectual debates, past and present, in American politics. Additionally, the chapter that deals with civil liberties and civil rights probes ideological distinctions among Americans concerning fundamental freedoms. Such an encompassing survey of the spectrum of political ideas encourages students both to comprehend and to tolerate points of view other than their own, enabling them to gain further insight into political differences that exist nationwide.

Pedagogical Features

This textbook is not a “theme” or point-of-view book. Aside from emphasizing the importance of politics and political involvement, the book embraces no single ideological perspective; it does not attempt to make readers Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives. To ensure a single voice in this presentation, one author has served as general editor.

The goals are knowledge of, and critical thinking about, American politics and government. Accordingly, we have designed the book to encourage students to engage the material. Passive reading is not enough. Understanding so important and complex a subject necessitates active intellectual involvement.

To aid in learning, this textbook incorporates several serviceable pedagogical features.



▶ **Chapter Openers** Each chapter begins with a brief overview of topics to be covered or a relevant story. Reading the information provided in the chapter openers cues your critical thinking and analytical thought processes before you dig into the chapter itself.

▶ **“Politics and Ideas”** boxes appearing throughout the text explore ideological topics in depth. They demonstrate how ideological divisions generate different political consequences. The text includes the following Politics and Ideas boxes:

- Whose Constitution Is It?
- College Students and Political Ideology
- Textbooks and Children’s Ideas about American Politics
- Media Monopolies?
- Pluralism and Elitism
- Two Ideologues Leave the Senate



- A “New Kind of War”—The Ongoing War on Terrorism
- A Six-Year Term for Presidents?
- The Road to a New Cabinet Department
- Political Ideologies and the Welfare State
- Contrasting Approaches to Foreign Policy: Idealism, Realism, and Isolationism

► **“Politics and Economics”** boxes appearing throughout the text highlight special economics topics, illustrating the relationship between economics and politics. The text includes the following Politics and Economics boxes:

- Handling a Hurricane:
- Federalism and Disaster Relief
- Economic Status and Ideology
- Economic Status and Party Identification
- Turnout, Choice, and Economic Status
- The President and Economic Policymaking
- Regulation and Cost-Benefit Analysis
- The Supreme Court and Economic Policy
- The Ideology of Economic Policy



► **“Contemporary Controversies”** boxes are present in several chapters to illustrate how the subject matter covered in the chapter carries over into disputes that divide the nation. The text includes the following Contemporary Controversies boxes:

- America Attacked
- Changing State Constitutions
- How Much Affirmative Action?
- Public Opinion and Terrorism:
 - American Government in the Eyes of the World
- Confidentiality of News Sources and Information
- Can Politics Be Both Entertaining and Informative?
- Campaign and Electoral Reform:
 - A Comparative Perspective
- An Election Gone Wrong?
- Low Voter Turnout: A Comparative Perspective



Congress Shows Several Members the Door
 Election 2008: A Presidential Election Breaks New Ground
 Corporations and the Economy
 Nuclear Power and the Environment
 Can Presidents Take the Country to War on Their Own Authority?

- ▶ Study questions conclude the special boxed features to encourage critical thinking and further inquiry.
- ▶ Tables, graphs, and maps appear throughout the text to display both quantitative and conceptual data. Some illustrations present new data, while others summarize information covered in the body of the chapter.
- ▶ Each chapter concludes with a summary, key terms, and a description of suggested readings. The summary contains, in numbered form, the main points presented in the chapter. Key terms, in boldface, are defined in the margins at the point at which they are introduced in the chapter. Suggested readings are widely available primary and secondary sources that students may consult in pursuing topics in the chapter.
- ▶ **“Pop Quiz”** Appearing at the end of each chapter, the pop quizzes offer an opportunity to do a quick check of your knowledge retention. Similar to questions you might find on a test, these quiz questions can help you see if you are on the right track or if there are elements of a chapter’s content you need to review further.



- ▶ **E-Resources** Beyond the pages of this textbook lies a wealth of information about the American government concepts described here. Each chapter identifies online resources specific to the subject matter being presented. These resources offer you an opportunity to further explore topics from the text for an even more comprehensive experience.

Supplements

The following supplements are available from the publisher: Instructor’s Manual, Test Bank, PowerPoint files, and Study Guide.

Supplements for Instructors

1. Instructor's Manual The Instructor's Manual can be used by the first-time instructor for structuring the course or by the seasoned instructor who simply wants to have another perspective on the materials. Each section of the Instructor's Manual coincides with a chapter in the textbook. The user-friendly format begins by providing a section on the overall purpose of the chapter. Then, a detailed outline of the chapter is presented, including a summary of the principal cases presented in the text. Following the outline, sample answers to the end-of-chapter questions are provided, along with citations to the section or sections of the chapter that provide the rationale for the sample answer. Finally, Internet addresses for additional resources are suggested where appropriate.

2. Test Bank A test bank is available to instructors in both hard copy and electronic forms. Each chapter consists of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions.

3. Distance Learning Solutions BVT Publishing is committed to providing the ability to administer tests and quizzes over the Internet. We have a strong relationship with Respondus, whose Course Management Software allows for the creation of randomly-generated tests and quizzes that can be downloaded directly into a wide variety of course management environments, such as Blackboard, Web CT, Desire 2 Learn, Angel, E Learning and others.

4. PowerPoints These slides, developed by one of the authors, provide an outline of learning objectives/topics for the chapter, a comprehensive framework for each of the legal doctrines addressed in the chapter, and definitions of salient terms employed in the materials. We have crafted the slides to avoid being "busy" with an overabundance of information; instead, they provide a template for lectures and discussions in an "eye-pleasing" format.

5. Customize This Book If you have additional material you'd like to add (handouts, lecture notes, syllabus, etc) or if you would like to simply rearrange and delete content, BVT Publishing's custom publishing division can help you modify this book's content to produce a book that satisfies your specific instructional needs. BVT Publishing has the only custom publishing division that puts your material exactly where you want it to go, easily and seamlessly. Please visit www.bvtpublishing.com or call us at 1-800-646-7782 for more information on BVT Publishing's Custom Publishing Program.

Supplements for Students

BVT Publishing is pleased to provide students with a free, comprehensive online tutorial that can be found at www.bvtstudents.com. This website offers the following:

1. eBook editions Save time, money, and paper by purchasing an eBook version of this text directly from our convenient online store, located on our student website.

2. Shop Online For the student's convenience and pocketbook, students have the added option of purchasing the traditional paper textbook directly from the publisher if preferred.

3. Self Tests Students can test their knowledge of this book's content using the Self Tests on the student website as well. The Self Test questions are designed to help improve students' mastery of the information in the book.



4. Chapter Outlines Chapter outlines are available for students to use on our website, or they can be downloaded directly from our website. They are designed to serve as a helpful outline approach to getting an overview of each chapter's content.

5. Flashcards We also feature Flashcards on our student website. The Flashcards are an easy way for students to spot-check their understanding of common and important American Government terms, as well as effectively retain the information



6. Chapter Summaries The Chapter Summaries are another tool designed to give the students an overview of each chapter's content, further aiding the students in content comprehension and retention.

About the Authors

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Charles C. Turner is professor and chair of political science at California State University, Chico. His Ph.D. is from Claremont Graduate University. He has taught at Chico State since 2000 and served as department chair since 2008. Turner's published research focuses on the political behavior of Congress and the Supreme Court, as well as on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

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Robert J. Bresler received his A.B. degree from Earlham College and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, the University of Delaware and Penn State University—Harrisburg, where he completed a thirty-two-year career. During his time at Penn State, Professor Bresler served for some years as the director of the School of Public Affairs. He has been a visiting professor at the U.S. Army War College, Franklin & Marshall College, and a Senior Fulbright Fellow at the National University of Singapore. He was the recipient of the James A. Jordan Award for Teaching Excellence and the Outstanding Civilian Award from the Department of the Army.

Professor Bresler is the National Affairs Editor of *USA Today: the Magazine of the American Scene*, where he writes a regular column on American politics. His recent books include *Us vs. Them: American Political and Cultural Conflict from WWII to Watergate* and *Freedom of Association: Civil Rights and Liberties under the Law*. His articles have appeared in *Political Science Quarterly*, *Politics and Society*, *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, *Commonweal*, *Inquiry*, *the Nation*, *Intellect*, and *Telos*.

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Robert Friedrich is an associate professor in the Department of Government at Franklin & Marshall College, where he teaches courses in American government, public opinion and mass political behavior, political ideology, and research methods. His research interests are in electoral politics and electoral institutions, particularly the relationship between seats and votes in legislative elections, and in political values and ideology. He has reviewed manuscripts for the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, and the *Journal of Politics*, for which he also served on the editorial board. Dr. Friedrich received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and his Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Michigan.

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He is co-author of *The State of Academic Science: The Universities in the Nation's Research Effort* and co-author of *American Government*, an American government textbook. He has also authored the monograph, "Thinking About Environmental Policy."

He has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. and has served as a consultant for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on home rule for municipalities and on academic science policy for the State of Montana. He has served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Franklin & Marshall and as co-director of the University of Pennsylvania Master of Governmental Administration Program in Harrisburg.

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