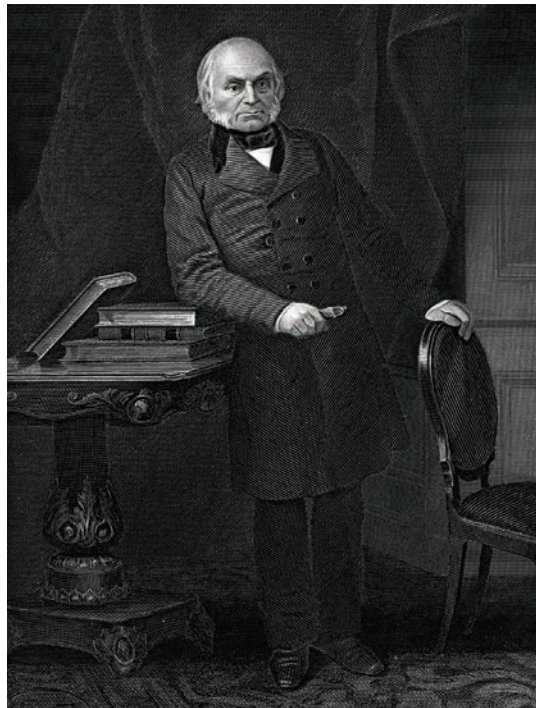




(Shutterstock)

Preface

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 nearly two hundred years ago, and things certainly haven’t become less complicated since then. In the early 2000s, we experienced a number of political complications, including several 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. We began to recognize the need for significant changes to deal with persistent and systemic racial injustices. We faced a deadly pandemic that forced us to restructure many aspects of our lives. How do we make sense of all 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.



(Getty Images)

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.” *John Quincy Adams*

Economics, Ideology, and 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 government. 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) found throughout 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 and internet news, and conversation both at the dinner table and via social media. 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 later) 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.

New to the Eleventh Edition

American politics is a constantly changing montage of people and events, of facts and opinions. To keep up with our changing environment, and to make sure students have the most up-to-date information available, each new edition of *Introduction to American Government* undergoes a vigorous process of fact-checking and updating. In this edition, for example, readers will find revised weblinks and readings for further study; more critical thinking questions; and discussions of the latest events in American government, such as the 2020 presidential election, the Trump presidency and impeachments, the recent racial justice movements, the Barrett Supreme Court nomination and important recent Court decisions, the government's response to wildfires and other disasters, and numerous discussions of the relationship between the US government and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, each chapter contains important new material and the most current available facts and figures.

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 Objectives

Each chapter begins with a brief overview of topics to be covered. Reading the information provided in the chapter objectives cues students' critical thinking and analytical thought processes before they dig into the chapter itself.

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 students an opportunity to further explore topics from the text to gain an even more comprehensive experience.

Figures and Tables

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.

Special Boxed Features

Politics and Ideas

These 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?
- Changing State Constitutions
- Millennials, Gen Z, and Political Ideology
- Textbooks and Children's Ideas About American Politics
- Confidentiality of News Sources and Information
- Pluralism and Elitism
- Campaign and Electoral Reform: A Comparative Perspective
- Midterm Elections: Reflection and Change
- Two Ideologues Leave the House
- A Six-Year Term for Presidents?
- A "New Kind of War"—The Ongoing War on Terrorism
- Immigration Reform: Laws and Executive Orders
- The Politics of Judicial Vacancies
- Gun Violence: The Search for Solutions
- Political Ideologies and the Welfare State
- Contrasting Approaches to Foreign Policy: Idealism, Realism, and Isolationism
- Can Presidents Take the Country to War on Their Own Authority?

Politics and Economics

These 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 Wildfire: Federalism and Disaster Relief
- Economic Status and Ideology
- Media Monopolies?
- Economic Status and Party Identification
- Regulation and Cost-Benefit Analysis
- The Supreme Court and Economic Policy
- The Road to a New Cabinet Department
- The President and Economic Policy Making
- The Ideology of Economic Policy
- Corporations and the Economy

Political Controversies

These 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 Political Controversies boxes:

- America Responds: Government Action and COVID-19
- How Much Affirmative Action?
- Race and (In)Justice: Law Enforcement, Homicide, and Change
- Public Opinion and Terrorism: American Government in the Eyes of the World
- Can Political News Be Entertaining, Social, and Informative?
- Turnout, Choice, and Economic Status
- An Election Gone Wrong?
- Low Voter Turnout: A Comparative Perspective
- Congress Shows Several Members the Door
- Election 2020: A Presidential Election Breaks New Ground
- Donald Trump: An Unconventional President
- The Supreme Court and “Obamacare”
- Nuclear Power and the Environment
- The US vs. ISIS: A New Direction in the War on Terror?

Study Questions

Each special boxed feature includes study questions to encourage critical thinking and further inquiry.

End-of-Chapter Material

Each chapter concludes with a chapter review, a list of key terms, readings for further study, a list of sources used in the chapter, and a pop quiz.

- The chapter review contains, in numbered form, the main points presented in the chapter.
- Key terms are in boldface and are defined in the margins at the point at which they are introduced in the chapter.
- Readings for further study are widely available primary and secondary sources that students may consult in pursuing topics in the chapter.
- The pop quiz offers students an opportunity to do a quick check of their knowledge retention. Similar to questions found on a test, these quiz questions can help students see if they are on the right track or if there are elements of a chapter’s content they need to review further.

Supplements and Resources

Instructor Supplements

A complete teaching package is available for instructors who adopt this book. This package includes an **online lab**, **instructor's manual**, **exam bank**, **PowerPoint™ slides**, **LMS Integration**, and **LMS exam bank files**.

Online Lab	BVT's online lab is available for this textbook on two different platforms— <i>BVTLab</i> (at www.BVTLab.com), and LAB BOOK™ (at www.BVTLabBook.com). These are described in more detail in the corresponding sections below. Both platforms allow instructors to set up graded homework, quizzes, and exams.
Instructor's Manual	The Instructor's Manual helps first-time instructors develop the course, while also offering seasoned instructors a new 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 chapter summary, learning objectives, and detailed outlines for each chapter. Then, the manual presents lecture discussions, key terms, class activities, and sample answers to the end-of-chapter review questions. Lastly, additional resources—books, articles, websites, and videos—are listed to help instructors review the materials covered in each chapter.
Exam Bank	An extensive exam bank is available to instructors in both hard-copy and electronic form. Each chapter has approximately one hundred multiple-choice, twenty-five true/false, fifteen short-answer, and five essay questions ranked by difficulty and style. Each question is referenced to the appropriate section of the text to make test creation quick and easy.
PowerPoint Slides	A set of PowerPoint slides includes about thirty slides per chapter, including a chapter overview, learning objectives, slides covering all key topics, key figures and charts, and summary and conclusion slides.
LMS Integration	BVT offers basic integration with Learning Management Systems (LMSs), providing single-sign-on links (often called LTI links) from Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle (or any other LMS) directly into <i>BVTLab</i> , eBook ^{Plus} or the LAB BOOK platform. Gradebooks from <i>BVTLab</i> and the LAB BOOK can be imported into most LMSs.
LMS Exam Bank Files	Exam banks are available as Blackboard files, QTI files (for Canvas), and Respondus files (for other LMSs) so they can easily be imported into a wide variety of course management systems.

Student Resources

Student resources are available for this textbook on both the *BVTLab* platform and the LAB BOOK platform, as described below. These resources are geared toward students needing additional assistance, as well as those seeking complete mastery of the content. The following resources are available:

Practice Questions	Students can work through hundreds of practice questions online. Questions are multiple choice or true/false in format and are graded instantly for immediate feedback.
Flashcards	<i>BVTLab</i> includes sets of flashcards that reinforce the key terms and concepts from each chapter.
PowerPoint Slides	For a study recap, students can view all of the instructor PowerPoint slides online.
Additional LAB BOOK Resources	On the LAB BOOK platform, comprehension questions are sprinkled throughout each chapter of the eBook, and detailed section summaries are included in the lab. Study tools such as text highlighting and margin notes are also available. These resources are not available in <i>BVTLab</i> .

LAB BOOK

LAB BOOK is a web-based eBook platform with an integrated lab providing comprehension tools and interactive student resources. Instructors can build homework and quizzes right into the eBook. LAB BOOK is either included with *eBOOK^{Plus}* or offered as a stand-alone product.

Course Setup	LAB BOOK uses the <i>BVTLab</i> interface to allow instructors to set up their courses and grade books and to replicate them from section to section and semester to semester.
Grade Book	Using an assigned passcode, students register into their section's grade book, which automatically grades and records all homework, quizzes, and tests.
Advanced eBook	LAB BOOK is a mobile-friendly, web-based eBook platform designed for PCs, MACs, tablets and smartphones. LAB BOOK allows highlighting, margin notes and a host of other study tools.
Student Resources	All student resources for this textbook are available in the LAB BOOK, as described in the Student Resources section above.
Online Classes	A host of instructor resources and tools to support digital learning environments.

Customization

BVT's Custom Publishing Division can help you modify this book's content to satisfy your specific instructional needs. The following are examples of customization:

- Rearrangement of chapters to follow the order of your syllabus
- Deletion of chapters not covered in your course
- Addition of paragraphs, sections, or chapters you or your colleagues have written for this course
- Editing of the existing content, down to the word level
- Customization of the accompanying student resources and online lab
- Addition of handouts, lecture notes, syllabus, etc.
- Incorporation of student worksheets into the textbook

All of these customizations will be professionally typeset to produce a seamless textbook of the highest quality, with an updated table of contents and index to reflect the customized content.

About the Authors

Charles C. Turner

Charles C. Turner is a professor of political science at California State University, Chico. His PhD is from Claremont Graduate University. He has taught at Chico State since 2000 and has served as department chair and as president of the Chico chapter of the California Faculty Association. 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.

D. Grier Stephenson Jr.

Donald Grier Stephenson Jr. is a Charles A. Dana Professor of Government at Franklin & Marshall College. He is general editor of ABC-CLIO's *America's Freedoms Series*, author of *Campaigns and the Court: The U.S. Supreme Court in Presidential Elections*, and co-author of *American Constitutional Law*, 15th edition.

Robert J. Bresler

Robert J. Bresler received his AB degree from Earlham College and his PhD 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 and the 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 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*.

Robert J. Friedrich

Robert J. 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.

Joseph J. Karlesky

Joseph J. Karlesky is the Honorable and Mrs. John C. Kunkel Professor of Government. He received his Bachelor's degree from La Salle College and his PhD in public law and government from Columbia University. He is co-author of *The State of Academic Science: The Universities in the Nation's Research Effort* and 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, DC, 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 codirector of the University of Pennsylvania Master of Governmental Administration Program in Harrisburg.

His teaching and research interests focus on public policy, particularly the interrelationships between public policy and science and technology and the consequences of these interrelationships for policies in energy and health. He is currently doing research on decision-making models and dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel. He regularly teaches courses in American government, understanding public policy, public policy implementation, and a seminar on health policy.

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Charles C. Turner
D. Grier Stephenson Jr.
Robert J. Bresler
Robert J. Friedrich
Joseph J. Karlesky