

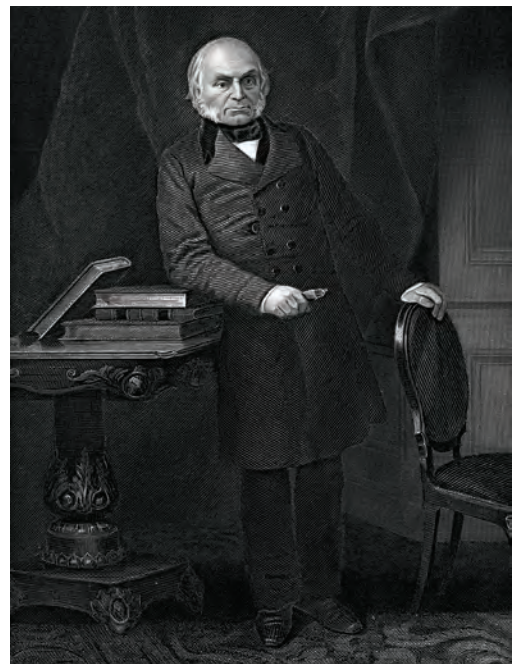




(Adobe Stock)

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 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 Twelfth 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 2024 presidential election, the Biden and Trump presidencies, the recent racial justice movements, the Jackson Supreme Court nomination and important recent Court decisions, President Trump’s legal battles, and the challenges of American foreign policy at a time of conflict in both Ukraine and the Middle East. 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 in 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
- 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 Giants Leave the Senate
- 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 Policymaking
- 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 2024: 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 a customizable interactive eBook (LAB BOOK™), online lab, instructor's manual, test bank, PowerPoint™ slides, LMS integration, and LMS test bank files. Instructors can also take advantage of Inclusive Access and Instant Access to save students money and make sure every student has easy access to the required materials.

LAB BOOK (eBook with online lab)

An interactive eBook is available for this textbook on our LAB BOOK platform (at www.BVTLabBook.com). This platform offers a full teaching lab at no extra cost. The lab allows instructors to set up auto-graded homework and quizzes, and export the gradebook to their LMS. It also provides an attendance feature, communications tools, and a student engagement report that indicates how much each student is reading the book and using the study resources.

Content Creation & Customization

LAB BOOK allows instructors to add or modify the content in any chapter. Students who use the “join code” provided will see the instructor’s customized version of the textbook (for the same price as the base LAB BOOK). Instructors can also share their curated YouTube videos, as well as in-book notes and highlights with their students.

Instructor's Manual

The instructor’s manual helps first-time instructors develop their course, while also offering seasoned instructors a new perspective on the materials. The user-friendly format begins by providing a chapter summary, learning objectives, key terms, and detailed outline for each chapter, followed by lecture discussion topics, class activities, sample answers to end-of-chapter review questions and multimedia resources.

Test Banks

Separate exam banks, quiz banks, and homework banks are available to instructors in electronic form. Each chapter (for each bank) has approximately fifty 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 and assignment creation quick and easy.

PowerPoint Slides

The available PowerPoint slides typically include about thirty slides per chapter, comprising 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 our LAB BOOK platform. Gradebooks from LAB BOOK can be imported into most LMSs. Some campuses also allow full gradebook integration—your BVT textbook specialist will help you explore this option.

LMS Test Bank Files

The chapter test 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.

Inclusive Access

With Inclusive Access (sometimes called “First Day”), students get automatic access to the LAB BOOK from within the LMS, and can purchase it at a discounted price (or opt out if they prefer). Inclusive Access is available at the campus level (usually involving the bookstore), and not all campuses are yet set up to offer this.

Instant Access

If you are not using Inclusive Access (see above), BVT can provide you with an **Instant Access** code to share with your students, giving free LAB BOOK access for the first two weeks of class, along with a 10%-off coupon good for use on our online student store. Your BVT textbook specialist will help you set this up.

Student Resources

Student resources are available for this textbook on the LAB BOOK platform. LAB BOOK is a web-based eBook platform designed for PCs, MACs, tablets, and smartphones. The various student resources are geared toward students needing additional assistance, as well as those seeking complete mastery of the content. The following resources are available:

LAB BOOK (interactive eBook)	The LAB BOOK platform provides students with an interactive online eBook, incorporating multimedia (videos, etc.), links to vetted websites, and study tools, such as highlighting and margin notes. As an added study resource, comprehension questions are sprinkled throughout each chapter so students can make sure they are on track.
Practice Questions	Students can work through hundreds of practice questions, arranged chapter by chapter within the LAB BOOK. Questions are multiple choice in format and are graded instantly for immediate feedback.
Flashcards	LAB BOOK 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 within the LAB BOOK (without needing PowerPoint software).
Chapter Summaries	Summaries are available for each chapter on the LAB BOOK, so students can easily brush up on the key points for quizzes and exams.

Customization

If you need a customized printed version of this textbook for your course or campus, BVT's Custom Publishing Division can help you modify this book's content to satisfy your specific instructional needs. The following are examples of full 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, and so forth
- Incorporation of student worksheets into the textbook

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

You can also perform your own customizations directly on the LAB BOOK platform, and share those customizations with your students via a "join code"; however, in that case there will be no accompanying print copy.

About the Authors

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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.

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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 was the National Affairs Editor of *USA Today: The Magazine of the American Scene*, where he wrote 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*.

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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 has also conducted research on decision-making models and dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel. He regularly taught courses in American government, understanding public policy, public policy implementation, and a seminar on health policy.

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