

American Political Culture and Philosophy

Immigration

- Waves of immigration from various regions
- 1920s—laws favored Northern & Western Europeans
- 1965—Quotas relaxed to raise diversity of immigrants

Political Culture

- Vague and somewhat amorphous term
- Usually defined as 'widely shared political beliefs and values'

American PC: Classical liberalism

- Classical liberalism
 1. Individuals have basic rights that government may not violate
 - First Amendment
 2. Equality under law (2 people break it, both should be punished the same way)
 3. Government should be limited to protect individuals
 4. Government exists to serve needs of individuals

Individualism and the Common Good

- Classical liberalism emphasized the individual—but society is important too
- Adam Smith: "invisible hand" of the marketplace lifts the welfare of all

Political Socialization

- Socialization: how children learn about politics and policy
- American socialization: mostly disorganized, unsystematic
- General themes of individualism and personal effort are emphasized in many contexts

Individualism in Folklore

- Daniel Boone was a man, he was a big man (1734-1820)
- Kentucky battles with Shawnee 1774-1787
 - Kidnapped
 - Son, brother killed
 - Led several attacks on Indians
 - Mass marketed legend

Legendary Individuals

- Davy Crockett: Died at the Alamo, 1836

American Individualism

- Survey data does show differences between U.S. and other countries
- U.S.: Lower levels of support for statements about government obligations to citizens.
- Americans are more optimistic about individual chances