

Quotations

1. "Liberty depends in comparably moves upon administration than upon constitution." - Reinhold Niebuhr
2. "Everything in a great society, including the great society itself, depends on government and effective discharge of the government's functions." -Charles A. Beard
3. "There has never been, nor ever will be, people who are ignorant and free." -Thomas Jefferson
4. "A foolish faith in authority is the enemy of the truth." -Albert Einstein

Functions of Government

Ancient World: to foster human excellence -Olympics

Medieval Christendom: to foster Christian life

Modern World: to establish and maintain order and prosperity

John Locke and the state of nature

Locke is considered the father of American Democracy- People had the right to revolt in government which became tyrannical
-lead to the American Revolution against the King.

"No representation, no taxation"

1. Each person was a judge, no central authority (no one to tell you what todo).
2. People were not completely selfish.
3. Liberty was not license to hurt others.
4. everything in state of nature was shared (belonged to everyone). Property was obtained through labor so long as there was enough left for others.
5. State of nature changed when people began to accumulate property
-Haves and have nots
6. Breaches of the peace (people began to fight)
-people no longer felt secure/safe
7. Therefore people contracted to form a state
-beginning of civil government
8. Locke said the contract does not establish an absolute monarchy but rather established a representative government

"two sides of citizenship: rights and responsibility"

Political culture is based on Locke's writings

-These include:

- a. liberty
- b. self-government
- c. equality
- d. individualism (self-sufficiency)
- e. diversity
- f. unity (one people indivisible) (nationalism)

The above values do conflict (ex: unity and individualism)

Conflicts are resolved through politics

Harold Laswell (1938) defines politics as "who gets what, when, and how"

Who governs America?

- a. Majoritarianism- majority prevails
- b. Pluralism- policies based on power willed by diverse interests.
- "no one goes home empty handed"
- c. Elitism- a few people govern the masses
- d. Hyper Pluralism: too many groups getting too much of what they want
- results in contradictory policies

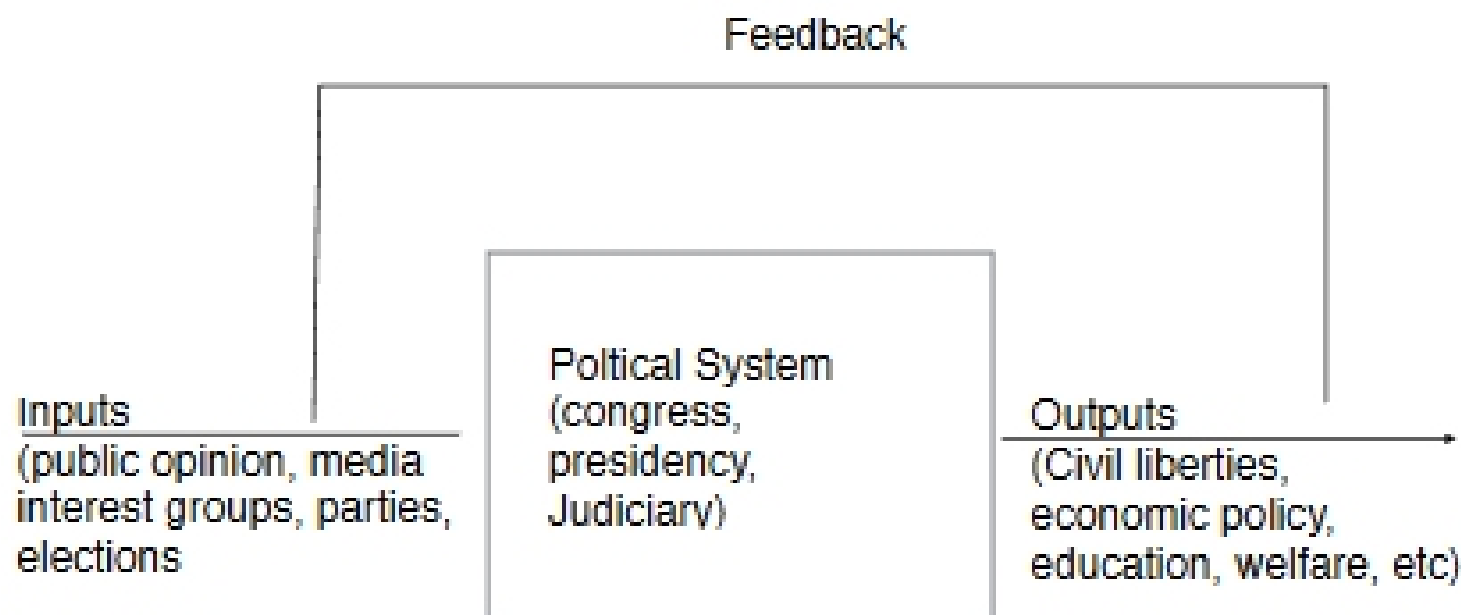
Definitions

Monarchy: governing authority conferred on a single individual (King/Queen)
-upper chamber

Oligarchy: governing authority conferred by a few people of their descendants (the ruling class)
-lower chamber

Democracy: governing authority on the people through representatives
-Direct democracy: when people rule directly (no reps)- referendums (govt writes the law and citizens vote on it) and initiatives (citizens write the law and it gets put on the ballot)
-Representative democracy

The US Political System



Constitutional framework (federalism, constitution, intergovernmental relations)

Federalism — — National to states

IGR (intergovernmental relations) — — National to states to local units (cities, townships, municipalities, counties, etc.)

Government is in the Business of Producing Public (collective) goods; Business is in the business of producing private goods.

Public goods: Two distinguishing features- non-excludability (its for everyone) and inexhaustibility (non-rivalry in consumption)

