

Glossary

Number(s) after each definition refer to page(s) where the term is defined.

- Absentee voting** Provisions made for those unable to get to their regular polling places on election day. p. 189
- Acquit** Find not guilty of a charge. p. 311
- Act of admission** A congressional act admitting a new State to the Union. p. 100
- Adjourn** Suspend, as in a session of Congress. p. 264
- Administration** The officials in the executive branch of a government and their policies and principles. p. 416
- Affirmative action** A policy that requires most employers take positive steps to remedy the effects of past discriminations. p. 609
- Albany Plan of Union** Plan proposed by Benjamin Franklin in 1754 that aimed to unite the 13 colonies for trade, military, and other purposes; the plan was turned down by the colonies and the Crown. pp. 35–36
- Alien** Foreign-born resident, or noncitizen. pp. 534, 614
- Ambassador** An official representative of the United States appointed by the President to represent the nation in matters of diplomacy. p. 471
- Amendment** A change in, or addition to, a constitution or law. p. 72
- Amnesty** A blanket pardon offered to a group of law violators. p. 408
- Anti-Federalists** Those persons who opposed the ratification of the Constitution in 1787–1788. p. 56
- Appellate jurisdiction** The authority of a court to review decisions of inferior (lower) courts; *see* original jurisdiction. pp. 509, 709
- Apportion** Distribute, as in seats in a legislative body. p. 267
- Appropriate** Assign to a particular use. p. 305
- Articles** Numbered sections of a document. The unamended Constitution is divided into seven articles. p. 65
- Articles of Confederation** Plan of government adopted by the Continental Congress after the American Revolution; established “a firm league of friendship” among the States, but allowed few important powers to the central government. p. 44
- Assemble** To gather with one another in order to express views on public matters. p. 555
- Assessment** The process of determining the value of property to be taxed. p. 742
- Assimilation** The process by which people of one culture merge into, and become part of, another culture. p. 597
- At-large election** Election of an officeholder by the voters of an entire governmental unit (e.g. a State or country) rather than by the voters of a district or subdivision. p. 270
- Attorney General** The head of the Department of Justice. p. 424
- Authoritarian** A form of government in which those in power hold absolute and unchallengeable authority over the people. All dictatorships are authoritarian. p. 13
- Autocracy** A form of government in which a single person holds unlimited political power. p. 13
- Autonomous** Independent. p. 652
- Bail** A sum of money that the accused may be required to post (deposit with the court) as a guarantee that he or she will appear in court at the proper time. p. 585
- Balance the ticket** When a presidential candidate chooses a running mate who can strengthen his chance of being elected by virtue of certain ideological, geographic, racial, ethnic, gender, or other characteristics. p. 362
- Ballot** The device voters use to register a choice in an election. p. 190
- Bankruptcy** The legal proceeding by which a bankrupt person’s assets are distributed among those to whom he or she owes debts. p. 300
- Bench trial** A trial in which the judge alone hears the case. pp. 580, 705
- Bicameral** An adjective describing a legislative body composed of two chambers. p. 31
- Bill** A proposed law presented to a legislative body for consideration. p. 334
- Bill of Attainder** A legislative act that inflicts punishment without a court trial. p. 577
- Bill of Rights** The first ten amendments to the Constitution. pp. 76, 532
- Bipartisan** Supported by two parties. pp. 120, 440
- Blanket primary** A voting process in which voters receive a long ballot containing the names of all contenders, regardless of party, and can vote however they choose. p. 183
- Block grant** One type of federal grants-in-aid for some particular but broadly defined area of public policy; *see* grants-in-aid. p. 103
- Bourgeoisie** The social class between the aristocracy and the proletariat class; the middle class. p. 667
- Boycott** Refusal to buy or sell certain products or services. p. 36
- Budget** A financial plan for the use of money, personnel, and property. p. 744
- Bureaucracy** A large, complex administrative structure that handles the everyday business of an organization. p. 414
- Bureaucrat** A person who works for a bureaucratic organization; *see* bureaucracy. p. 415
- By-election** A special election held to choose a replacement for a member of parliament, in the event of a death. p. 628
- Cabinet** Presidential advisory body, traditionally made up of the heads of the executive departments and other officers. p. 81
- Capital** All the human-made resources that are used to produce goods and services. p. 659
- Capitalist** Someone who owns capital and puts it to productive use; often applied to people who own large businesses. p. 659
- Capital punishment** The death penalty. p. 587
- Categorical grant** One type of federal grants-in-aid; made for some specific, closely defined, purpose; *see* grants-in-aid. p. 102
- Caucus** As a nominating device, a group of like-minded people who meet to select the candidates they will support in an upcoming election. p. 180
- Censure** Issue a formal condemnation. p. 312
- Centrally planned economy** A system in which government bureaucrats plan how an economy will develop over a period of years. p. 669
- Certificate** A method of putting a case before the Supreme Court; used when a lower court is not clear about the procedure or rule of law that should apply in a case and asks the Supreme Court to certify the answer to a specific question. p. 521
- Charter** A city’s basic law, its constitution; a written grant of authority from the king. pp. 31, 726
- Checks and balances** System of overlapping the powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches to permit each branch to check the actions of the others; *see* separation of powers. p. 67
- Chief administrator** Term for the President as head of the administration of the Federal Government. p. 355
- Chief citizen** Term for the President as the representative of the people, working for the public interest. p. 355
- Chief diplomat** Term for the President as the main architect of foreign policy and spokesperson to other countries. p. 355
- Chief executive** Term for the President as vested with the executive power of the United States. p. 354
- Chief legislator** Term for the President as architect of public policy and the one who sets the agenda for Congress. p. 355
- Chief of party** Term for the President as the leader of his or her political party. p. 355

Chief of state Term for the President as the ceremonial head of the United States, the symbol of all the people of the nation. p. 354

Citizen A member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to it by birth or naturalization and is entitled to full civil rights. p. 613

Civil case A case involving a noncriminal matter such as a contract dispute or a claim of patent infringement. p. 513

Civil law The portion of the law relating to human conduct, to disputes between private parties, and to disputes between private parties and government not covered by criminal law. p. 704

Civil liberties The guarantees of the safety of persons, opinions, and property from the arbitrary acts of government, including freedom of speech and freedom of religion. p. 533

Civil rights A term used for those positive acts of government that seek to make constitutional guarantees a reality for all people, e.g., prohibitions of discrimination. p. 533

Civil service Those civilian employees who perform the administrative work of government. p. 437

Civilian tribunal A court operating as part of the judicial branch, entirely separate from the military establishment. p. 525

Clemency Mercy or leniency granted to an offender by a chief executive; *see* pardon and reprieve. pp. 407, 699

Closed primary A party nominating election in which only declared party members can vote. p. 182

Cloture Procedure that may be used to limit or end floor debate in a legislative body. p. 344

Coalition A temporary alliance of several groups who come together to form a working majority and so to control a government. pp. 122, 628

Coattail effect The effect of a strong candidate running for an office at the top of a ballot helping to attract voters to other candidates on the party's ticket. p. 190

Cold war A period of more than 40 years during which relations between the two superpowers were at least tense, and often hostile. A time of threats and military build up. p. 485

Collective security The keeping of international peace and order. p. 485

Collectivization Collective or state ownership of the means of production. p. 674

Commander in chief Term for the President as commander of the nation's armed forces. p. 355

Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise An agreement during the Constitutional Convention protecting slave holders; denied Congress the power to tax the export of goods from any State, and, for 20 years, the power to act on the slave trade. p. 53

Commerce power Exclusive power of Congress to regulate interstate and foreign trade. p. 297

Commission government A government formed by commissioners, heads of different departments of city government, who are popularly elected to form the city council and thus center both legislative and executive powers in one body. p. 728

Committee chairman Member who heads a standing committee in a legislative body. p. 325

Committee of the Whole A committee that consists of an entire legislative body; used for a procedure in which a legislative body expedites its business by resolving itself into a committee of itself. p. 339

Common law An unwritten law made by a judge that has developed over centuries from those generally accepted ideas of right and wrong that have gained judicial recognition. p. 702

Commune A large grouping of several collective farms. p. 675

Communism An ideology which calls for the collective, or state, ownership of land and other productive property. p. 672

Commutation The power to reduce (commute) the length of a sentence or fine for a crime. pp. 408, 699

Compromise An adjustment of opposing principles or systems by modifying some aspect of each. p. 20

Concurrent jurisdiction Power shared by federal and State courts to hear certain cases. p. 508

Concurrent powers Those powers that both the National Government and the States possess and exercise. p. 93

Concurrent resolution A statement of position on an issue used by the House and Senate acting jointly; does not have the force of law and does not require the President's signature. p. 335

Concurring opinion Written explanation of the views of one or more judges who support a decision reached by a majority of the court, but wish to add or emphasize a point that was not made in the majority decision. p. 522

Confederation A joining of several groups for a common purpose. pp. 15, 35

Conference committee Temporary joint committee created to reconcile any differences between the two houses' versions of a bill. p. 333

Connecticut Compromise Agreement during the Constitutional Convention that Congress should be composed of a Senate, in which States would be represented equally, and a House, in which representation would be based on a State's population. p. 52

Consensus General agreement among various groups on fundamental matters; broad agreement on public questions. pp. 121, 292, 636

Constituency The people and interests that an elected official represents. p. 277

Constituent power The non-legislative power of Constitution-making and the constitutional amendment process. p. 692

Constitution The body of fundamental laws setting out the principles, structures, and processes of a government. p. 4

Constitutionalism Basic principle that government and those who govern must obey the law; the rule of law; *see* limited government. p. 65

Containment A policy based in the belief that if communism could be kept within its existing boundaries, it would collapse under the weight of its internal weaknesses. p. 486

Content neutral The government may not regulate assemblies on the basis on what might be said. p. 556

Continuing resolution A measure which allows agencies to continue working based on the previous year's appropriations. p. 462

Continuous body Governing unit (e.g. the United States Senate) whose seats are never all up for election at the same time. p. 277

Controllable spending An amount decided upon by Congress and the President to determine how much will be spent each year on many individual government expenditures, including environment protection programs, aid to education, and so on. p. 459

Copyright The exclusive, legal right of a person to reproduce, publish, and sell his or her own literary, musical, or artistic creations. p. 302

Council-manager government A modification of the mayor-council government, it consists of a strong council of members elected on a non-partisan ballot, a weak mayor, elected by the people, and a manager, named by the council; *see* mayor-council government; *see* also weak mayor government. p. 728

County A major unit of local government in most States. p. 718

Court-martial A court composed of military personnel, for the trial of those accused of violating military law. p. 525

Criminal case A case in which a defendant is tried for committing a crime as defined by the law. p. 513

Criminal law The portion of the law that defines public wrongs and provides for their punishment. p. 704

Cultural Revolution Begun in 1966, Mao Tse Tung's Red Guards attacked, bullied, and "reeducated" teachers, intellectuals, and anyone else who seemed to lack revolutionary fervor. p. 650

Custom duty A tax laid on goods brought into the United States from abroad, also known as tariffs, import duties, or imposts. p. 451

De facto segregation Segregation even if no law requires it, e.g., housing patterns. p. 604

De jure segregation Segregation by law, with legal sanction. p. 604

- Defendant** In a civil suit, the person against whom a court action is brought by the plaintiff; in a criminal case, the person charged with the crime. p. 509
- Deficit** The yearly shortfall between revenue and spending. p. 455
- Deficit financing** Practice of funding government by borrowing to make up the difference between government spending and revenue. p. 296
- Delegated powers** Those powers, expressed, implied, or inherent, granted to the National Government by the Constitution. p. 89
- Democracy** A form of government in which the supreme authority rests with the people. p. 5
- Denaturalization** The process through which naturalized citizens may involuntarily lose their citizenship. p. 615
- Deportation** A legal process in which aliens are legally required to leave the United States. p. 617
- Détente** A relaxation of tensions. p. 488
- Deterrence** The policy of making America and its allies so militarily strong that their very strength will discourage, or prevent, any attack. p. 485
- Devolution** The delegation of authority from the central government to regional governments. p. 631
- Dictatorship** A form of government in which the leader has absolute power and authority. p. 5
- Diplomatic immunity** When an ambassador is not subject to the laws of the state to which they are accredited. p. 471
- Direct popular election** Proposal to do away with the electoral college and allow the people to vote directly for President and Vice President. p. 383
- Direct primary** An election held within a party to pick that party's candidates for the general election. p. 182
- Direct tax** A tax that must be paid by the person on whom it is levied; *see* indirect tax. p. 296
- Discharge petition** A procedure enabling members to force a bill that has been pigeonholed in committee onto the floor for consideration. p. 336
- Discrimination** Bias, unfairness. p. 570
- Dissenting opinion** Written explanation of the views of one or more judges who disagree with (dissent from) a decision reached by a majority of the court; *see* majority opinion. p. 522
- Dissolution** The power of the Prime Minister to dissolve the House of Representatives. p. 636
- District plan** Proposal for choosing presidential electors by which two electors would be selected in each State according to the Statewide popular vote and the other electors would be selected separately in each of the State's congressional districts. p. 382
- Division of powers** Basic principle of federalism; the constitutional provisions by which governmental powers are divided on a geographic basis (in the United States, between the National Government and the States). pp. 14, 89
- Docket** A court's list of cases to be heard. p. 513
- Doctrine** Principle or fundamental policy. p. 308
- Domestic affairs** All matters not directly connected to the realm of foreign affairs. pp. 422, 468
- Double jeopardy** Part of the 5th Amendment which says that no person can be put in jeopardy of life or limb twice. Once a person has been tried for a crime, he or she cannot be tried again for the same crime. p. 578
- Draft** Conscription, or compulsory military service. p. 480
- Due process** The government must act fairly and in accord with established rules in all that it does. p. 564
- Due Process Clause** Part of the 14th Amendment which guarantees that no state deny basic rights to its people. p. 535
- Economic protest parties** Parties rooted in poor economic times, lacking a clear ideological base, dissatisfied with current conditions and demanding better times. p. 133
- Electoral college** Group of persons chosen in each State and the District of Columbia every four years who make a formal selection of the President and Vice President. pp. 81, 366
- Electoral votes** Votes cast by electors in the electoral college. p. 365
- Electorate** All of the people entitled to vote in a given election. pp. 129, 148, 383
- Eminent domain** Power of a government to take private property for public use. p. 304
- Enabling act** A congressional act directing the people of a United States territory to frame a proposed State constitution as a step towards admission to the Union. p. 99
- English Bill of Rights** Document written by Parliament and agreed on by William and Mary of England in 1689, designed to prevent abuse of power by English monarchs; forms the basis for much in American government and politics today. p. 30
- Engross** To print a bill in its final form. p. 340
- Entitlement** A benefit that federal law says must be paid to all those who meet the eligibility requirements, e.g., Medicare, food stamps, and veterans' pension. pp. 458, 735
- Entrepreneur** An individual with the drive and ambition to combine land, labor, and capital resources to produce goods or offer services. p. 659
- Espionage** Spying. p. 477
- Establishment Clause** Separates church and state. p. 537
- Estate tax** A levy imposed on the assets of one who dies. pp. 451, 742
- Ex post facto law** A law applied to an act committed before its passage. p. 577
- Excise tax** A tax laid on the manufacture, sale, or consumption of goods and/or the performance of services. p. 451
- Exclusionary rule** Evidence gained as the result of an illegal act by police cannot be used against the person from whom it was seized. p. 573
- Exclusive jurisdiction** Power of the federal courts alone to hear certain cases. p. 508
- Exclusive powers** Those powers that can be exercised by the National Government alone. p. 93
- Executive agreement** A pact made by the President directly with the head of a foreign state; a binding international agreement with the force of law but which (unlike a treaty) does not require Senate consent. pp. 80, 400
- Executive Article** Article II of the Constitution. Establishes the presidency and gives the executive power of the Federal Government to the President. p. 390
- Executive departments** Often called the Cabinet departments, they are the traditional units of federal administration. p. 424
- Executive Office of the President** An organization of several agencies staffed by the President's closest advisors. p. 419
- Executive order** Directive, rule, or regulation issued by a chief executive or subordinates, based upon constitutional or statutory authority and having the force of law. p. 394
- Executive power** The power to execute, enforce, and administer law. p. 4
- Expatriation** The legal process by which a loss of citizenship occurs. p. 614
- Expressed powers** Those delegated powers of the National Government that are spelled out, expressly, in the Constitution; also called the "enumerated powers." pp. 89, 290
- Extradition** The legal process by which a fugitive from justice in one State is returned to that State. p. 107
- Faction** A conflicting group. p. 127
- Factors of production** Basic resources which are used to make all goods and services. p. 658
- Federal budget** A detailed financial document containing estimates of federal income and spending during the coming fiscal year. p. 421
- Federal government** A form of government in which powers are divided between a central government and several local governments. p. 14
- Federalism** A system of government in which a written constitution divides power between a central, or national, government and several regional governments. pp. 70, 88
- Federalists** Those persons who supported the ratification of the Constitution in 1787–1788. p. 56

Felony A serious crime which may be punished by a heavy fine and/or imprisonment or even death. p. 704

Filibuster Various tactics (usually long speeches) aimed at defeating a bill in a legislative body by preventing a final vote; associated with the U.S. Senate; *see* cloture. p. 343

Fiscal year The 12-month period used by a government and the business world for its record-keeping, budgeting, revenue-collecting, and other financial management purposes. p. 421

Five-year plan A plan which projects economic development over the next five years. p. 673

Floor leaders Members of the House and Senate picked by their parties to carry out party decisions and steer legislative action to meet party goals. p. 324

Foreign affairs A nation's relationships with other countries. p. 468

Foreign aid Economic and military aid to other countries. p. 491

Foreign policy A group of policies made up of all the stands and actions that a nation takes in every aspect of its relationships with other countries; everything a nation's government says and does in world affairs. p. 469

Formal amendment Change or addition that becomes part of the written language of the Constitution itself through one of four methods set forth in the Constitution. p. 73

Framers Group of delegates who drafted the United States Constitution at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787. p. 48

Franchise The right to vote. p. 148

Franking privilege Benefit allowing members of Congress to mail letters and other materials postage-free. p. 283

Free enterprise system An economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods; investments that are determined by private decision rather than by state control, and determined in a free market. pp. 20, 659

Free Exercise Clause The second part of the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom, which guarantees to each person the right to believe whatever he or she chooses to believe in matters of religion. p. 542

Full Faith and Credit Clause Constitution's requirement that each State accept the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State. p. 106

Fundamental law Laws of basic and lasting importance which may not easily be changed. p. 686

Gender gap Measurable differences between the partisan choices of men and women today. p. 169

General election The regularly scheduled election at which voters make a final selection of officeholders. p. 179

Gerrymandering The drawing of electoral district lines to the advantage of a party or group. pp. 159, 271

Gift tax A tax on a gift by a living person. p. 451

Glasnost The Soviet policy of openness under which tolerance of dissent and freedom of expression increased. p. 646

Gosplan A large agency in the Soviet Union, introduced by Stalin, to run centralized planning. p. 674

Government The institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies. p. 4

Government corporation Corporations within the executive branch subject to the President's direction and control, set up by Congress to carry out certain business-like activities. p. 434

Grand jury The formal device by which a person can be accused of a serious crime. p. 577

Grants-in-aid program Grants of federal money or other resources to States, cities, counties, and other local units. p. 101

Grass roots Of or from the people, the average voters. p. 253

Great Leap Forward The five-year plan for 1958 which was an attempt to quickly modernize China. p. 675

Hard money Campaign money that is subject to regulations by the FEC. p. 202

Heterogeneous Of another or different race, family or kind; composed of a mix of elements. p. 594

Ideological parties Parties based on a particular set of beliefs, a

comprehensive view of social, economic, and political matters. p. 132

Immigrant Those people legally admitted as permanent residents of a country. p. 594

Impeach To bring formal charges against a public official; the House of Representatives has the sole power to impeach civil officers of the United States. p. 311

Imperial presidency Term used to describe a President as an "emperor" who acts without consulting Congress or acts in secrecy to evade or deceive Congress; often used in reference to Richard Nixon's presidency. p. 392

Implied powers Those delegated powers of the National Government that are suggested by the expressed powers set out in the Constitution; those "necessary and proper" to carry out the expressed powers; *see* delegated powers, expressed powers. pp. 90, 290

Income tax A tax levied on the income of individuals and/or corporations. p. 741

Incorporation The process by which a State establishes a city as a legal body. p. 726

Incumbent The current officeholder. p. 127

Independent agencies Additional agencies created by Congress located outside the Cabinet departments. p. 430

Independent executive agencies Agencies headed by a single administrator with regional subunits, but lacking Cabinet status. p. 431

Independent regulatory commissions Independent agencies created by Congress, designed to regulate important aspects of the nation's economy, largely beyond the reach of presidential control. p. 431

Independents A term used to describe people who have no party affiliation. p. 171

Indictment A formal complaint before a grand jury which charges the accused with one or more crimes. p. 578

Indirect tax A tax levied on one party but passed on to another for payment. p. 296

Inferior courts The lower federal courts, beneath the Supreme Court. p. 507

Information A formal charge filed by a prosecutor without the action of a grand jury. p. 704

Inherent powers Powers the Constitution is presumed to have delegated to the National Government because it is the government of a sovereign state within the world community. pp. 91, 290

Inheritance tax A tax levied on the beneficiary's share of an estate. p. 742

Initiative A process in which a certain number of qualified voters sign petitions in favor of a proposed statute or constitutional amendment, which then goes directly to the ballot. p. 687

Injunction A court order that forces or limits the performance of some act by a private individual or by a public official. p. 161

Integration The process of bringing a group into equal membership in society. p. 603

Interest A charge for borrowed money, generally a percentage of the amount borrowed. p. 454

Interest group Private organizations whose members share certain views and work to shape public policy. p. 216

Interstate compact Formal agreement entered into with the consent of Congress, between or among States, or between a State and a foreign state. p. 105

Involuntary servitude Forced labor. p. 569

Isolationism A purposeful refusal to become generally involved in the affairs of the rest of the world. p. 468

Item veto A governor may veto one or more items in a bill without rejecting the entire measure. p. 699

Jim Crow law A law that separates people on the basis of race, aimed primarily at African Americans. p. 602

Joint committee Legislative committee composed of members of both houses. p. 333

Joint resolution A proposal for action that has the force of law when passed; usually deals with special circumstances or temporary matters. p. 335

Judicial power The power to interpret laws, to determine their meaning, and to settle disputes within the society. p. 4

Judicial review The power of a court to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action. p. 69

Jurisdiction The authority of a court to hear a case. p. 508

Jury A body of persons selected according to law who hear evidence and decide questions of fact in a court case. p. 704

Jus sanguinis The law of blood, which determines citizenship based on one's parents' citizenship. p. 613

Jus soli The law of soil, which determines citizenship based on where a person is born. p. 613

Justice of the Peace A judge who stands on the lowest level of the State judicial system and presides over justice courts. p. 707

Keynote address Speech given at a party convention to set the tone for the convention and the campaign to come. p. 373

Labor union An organization of workers who share the same type of job, or who work in the same industry, and press for government policies that will benefit their members. p. 244

Laissez-faire theory A theory which suggests that government should play a very limited role in society. p. 662

Law of supply and demand A law which states that when supplies of goods and services become plentiful, prices tend to drop. When supplies become scarcer, prices tend to rise. pp. 21, 661

Legal tender Any kind of money that a creditor must, by law, accept in payment for debts. p. 299

Legislative power The power to make a law and to frame public policies. p. 4

Libel False and malicious use of printed words. p. 546

Liberal constructionist One who argues a broad interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution, particularly those granting powers to the Federal Government. p. 291

Limited government Basic principle of American government which states that government is restricted in what it may do, and each individual has rights that government cannot take away; *see* constitutionalism, popular sovereignty. pp. 29, 685

Line agency An agency which performs the tasks for which the organization exists. p. 418

Line-item veto A President's cancellation of specific dollar amounts (line items) from a congressional spending bill; instituted by a 1996 congressional act, but struck down by a 1998 Supreme Court decision. p. 406

Literacy A person's ability to read or write. p. 156

Lobbying Activities by which group pressures are brought to bear on legislators, the legislative process, and all aspects of the public-policy-making process. p. 251

Magistrate A justice who handles minor civil complaints and misdemeanor cases that arise in an urban setting. p. 708

Magna Carta Great Charter forced upon King John of England by his barons in 1215; established that the power of the monarchy was not absolute and guaranteed trial by jury and due process of law to the nobility. p. 29

Major parties In American politics, the Republican and the Democratic parties. p. 116

Majority opinion Officially called the Opinion of the Court; announces the Court's decision in a case and sets out the reasoning upon which it is based. p. 522

Mandate The instructions or commands a constituency gives to its elected officials. p. 216

Market economy Economic system in which decisions on production and consumption of goods and services are based on voluntary exchange of markets. p. 669

Mass media Those means of communication that reach large audiences, especially television, radio, printed publications, and the Internet. pp. 211, 391

Mayor-council government The oldest and most widely used type of city government—an elected mayor as the chief execu-

tive and an elected council as its legislative body. p. 726

Medicaid A program administered by the State to provide medical insurance to low-income families. p. 735

Medium A means of communication; something which transmits information. p. 223

Mestizo A person with both Spanish or Portuguese and Native American ancestry. p. 639

Metropolitan area A city and the area around it. p. 731

Minister Cabinet members, most commonly of the House of Commons. p. 629

Minor party One of the political parties not widely supported. p. 119

Miranda Rule The constitutional rights which police must read to a suspect before questioning can occur. p. 582

Misdemeanor A lesser offense, punishable by a small fine and/or a short jail term. p. 704

Mixed economy An economy in which private enterprise exists in combination with a considerable amount of government regulation and promotion. p. 21

Monarchy A government lead by a hereditary ruler. p. 627

Monopoly A firm that is the only source of a product or service. p. 661

Multiparty A system in which several major and many lesser parties exist, seriously compete for, and actually win, public offices. p. 122

National bonus plan Proposal for electing a President by which the winner of the popular vote would receive a bonus of 102 electoral votes in addition to his or her State-based electoral college votes. If no one received at least 321 electoral votes, a run-off election would be held. p. 384

National convention Meeting at which a party's delegates vote to pick their presidential and vice-presidential candidates. p. 372

Nationalization The governmental acquisition of private industry for public use. p. 642

Naturalization The legal process by which citizens of one country become citizens of another. pp. 302, 614

Necessary and Proper Clause Constitutional clause that gives Congress the power to make all laws "necessary and proper" for executing its powers; *see* implied powers. p. 305

New Jersey Plan Plan presented as an alternative to the Virginia Plan at the Constitutional Convention; called for a unicameral legislature in which each State would be equally represented. p. 51

Nomination The process of candidate selection in an electoral system. p. 178

Nonpartisan election Elections in which candidates are not identified by party labels. p. 184

North American Free Trade Agreement An agreement which removed trade restrictions among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, thus increasing cross-border trade. p. 642

Oath of office Oath taken by the President on the day he takes office, pledging to "faithfully execute" the office and "preserve, protect, and defend" the Constitution. p. 393

Off-year election Congressional election that occurs between presidential election years. pp. 164, 269

Oligarchy A form of government in which the power to rule is held by a small, usually self-appointed elite. p. 13

One-party system A political system in which only one party exists. p. 123

Open primary A party-nominating election in which any qualified voter can take part. p. 183

Opinion leader Any person who, for any reason, has an unusually strong influence on the views of others. p. 212

Ordinance power Power of the President to issue executive orders; originates from the Constitution and acts of Congress. p. 394

Original jurisdiction The power of a court to hear a case first, before any other court. p. 509

Oversight function Review by legislative committees of the policies and programs of the executive branch. p. 281

Pardon Release from the punishment or legal consequences of



a crime, by the President (in a federal case) or a governor (in a State case). pp. 407, 699

Parliamentary government A form of government in which the executive branch is made up of the prime minister, or premier, and that official's cabinet. p. 16

Parochial Church-related, as in a parochial school. p. 538

Parole The release of a prisoner short of the complete term of the original sentence. p. 699

Partisan Lawmaker who owes his/her first allegiance to his/her political party and votes according to the party line. p. 281

Partisanship Government action based on firm allegiance to a political party. p. 117

Party caucus A closed meeting of a party's House or Senate members; also called a party conference. p. 324

Party identification Loyalty of people to a political party. p. 171

Party in power In American politics, the party in power is the party that controls the executive branch of government—i.e., the presidency at the national level, or the governorship at the State level. p. 118

Patent A license issued to an inventor granting the exclusive right to manufacture, use, or sell his or her invention for a limited period of time. p. 303

Patronage The practice of giving jobs to supporters and friends. p. 438

Payroll tax A tax imposed on nearly all employers and their employees, and on self-employed persons—the amounts owed by employees withheld from their paychecks. p. 450

Peer group People with whom one regularly associates, including friends, classmates, neighbors, and co-workers. p. 212

Perestroika The restructuring of political and economic life under the rule of Mikhail Gorbachev. p. 646

Perjury The act of lying under oath. p. 311

Persona non grata An unwelcome person; used to describe recalled diplomatic officials. p. 401

Petition of Right Document prepared by Parliament and signed by King Charles I of England in 1628; challenged the idea of the divine right of kings and declared that even the monarch was subject to the laws of the land. p. 30

Picketing Patrolling of a business site by workers who are on strike. p. 551

Plaintiff In civil law, the party who brings a suit or some other legal action against another (the defendant) in court. p. 509

Platform A political party's formal statement of basic principles, stands on major issues, and objectives. p. 373

Pluralistic society A society which consists of several distinct cultures and groups. p. 121

Plurality In an election, the number of votes that the leading candidate obtains over the next highest candidate. p. 120

Pocket veto Type of veto a chief executive may use after a legislature has adjourned; when the chief executive does not sign or reject a bill within the time allowed to do so; *see* veto. p. 346

Police power The authority of each State to act to protect and promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of its people. pp. 566, 691

Political Action Committee The political extension of special-interest groups which have a major stake in public policy. p. 197

Political efficacy One's own influence or effectiveness on politics. p. 166

Political party A group of persons who seek to control government through the winning of elections and the holding of public office. p. 116

Political socialization The process by which people gain their political attitudes and opinions. p. 168

Politico Lawmaker who attempts to balance the basic elements of the trustee, delegate, and partisan roles; *see* trustee, delegate, partisan. p. 281

Poll book List of all registered voters in each precinct. p. 155

Poll tax A special tax, demanded by States, as a condition of voting. p. 157

Polling place The place where the voters who live in a certain precinct go to vote. p. 190

Popular sovereignty Basic principle of the American system of

government which asserts that the people are the source of any and all governmental power, and government can exist only with the consent of the governed. pp. 39, 685

Preamble Introduction. p. 65

Precedent Court decision that stands as an example to be followed in future, similar cases. pp. 522, 703

Precinct The smallest unit of election administration; a voting district. pp. 140, 190

Preclearance Mandated by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the prior approval by the Justice Department of changes to or new election laws by certain States. p. 162

Prefecture The 47 political subdivisions into which Japan is divided. p. 637

Preliminary hearing The first step in a major criminal prosecution where the judge decides if the evidence is enough to hold the person for action by the grand jury or the prosecutor. p. 708

President of the Senate The presiding officer of a senate; in Congress, the Vice President of the United States; in a State's legislature, either the lieutenant governor or a senator. p. 323

President *pro tempore* The member of the United States Senate, or of the upper house of a State's legislature, chosen to preside in the absence of the president of the Senate. p. 323

Presidential elector A person elected by the voters to represent them in making a formal selection of the Vice President and President. p. 365

Presidential government A form of government in which the executive and legislative branches of the government are separate, independent, and coequal. p. 15

Presidential primary An election in which a party's voters (1) choose State party organization's delegates to their party's national convention, and/or (2) express a preference for their party's presidential nomination. p. 369

Presidential succession Scheme by which a presidential vacancy is filled. p. 359

Presidential Succession Act of 1947 Law specifying the order of presidential succession following the Vice President. p. 360

Presiding officer Chair. p. 45

Preventive detention A law which allows federal judges to order that an accused felon be held, without bail, when there is good reason to believe that he or she will commit yet another serious crime before trial. p. 586

Prior restraint The government cannot curb ideas before they are expressed. p. 549

Privatization The process of returning national enterprises to private ownership. p. 675

Privileges and Immunities Clause Constitution's stipulation (Article IV, Section 2) that all citizens are entitled to certain "privileges and immunities," regardless of their State of residence; no State can draw unreasonable distinctions between its own residents and those persons who happen to live in other States. p. 107

Probable Cause Reasonable grounds, a reasonable suspicion of crime. p. 571

Procedural due process The government must employ fair procedures and methods. p. 565

Process of incorporation The process of incorporating, or including, most of the guarantees in the Bill of Rights into the 14th Amendment's Due Process Clause. p. 535

Progressive tax A type of tax proportionate to income. pp. 449, 742

Project grant One type of federal grants-in-aid; made for specific projects to States, localities, and private agencies who apply for them. p. 103

Proletariat The working class. p. 667

Propaganda A technique of persuasion aimed at influencing individual or group behaviors to create a particular belief, regardless of its validity. p. 249

Property tax A tax levied on real and personal property. p. 742

Proportional plan Proposal by which each presidential candidate would receive the same share of a State's electoral vote as he or she received in the State's popular vote. p. 382

Proportional representation rule Rule applied in Democratic primaries whereby any candidate who wins at least 15 percent of the votes gets the number of State Democratic convention delegates based on his or her share of that primary vote. p. 371

Proprietary Organized by a proprietor (a person to whom the king had made a grant of land). p. 32

Prorogue Adjourn, as in a legislative session. p. 265

Public affairs Those events and issues that concern the people at large, e.g., politics, public issues, and the making of public policies. pp. 208, 239

Public agenda The public issues on which the people's attention is focused. p. 228

Public debt All of the money borrowed by the government and not yet repaid, plus the accrued interest on that money; also called the national debt or federal debt. pp. 296, 455

Public-interest group An interest group that seeks to institute certain public policies of benefit to all or most people in this country, whether or not they belong to or support that organization. p. 247

Public opinion The complex collection of the opinions of many different people; the sum of all their views. p. 209

Public opinion poll Devices that attempt to collect information by asking people questions. p. 217

Public policy All of the many goals that a government pursues in all of the many areas of human affairs in which it is involved. pp. 4, 236

Purge The process of reviewing lists of registered voters and removing the names of those no longer eligible to vote; a purification. pp. 155, 645

Quasi-judicial Having to do with powers that are to some extent judicial. p. 433

Quasi-legislative Having to do with powers that are to some extent legislative. p. 433

Quorum Least number of members who must be present for a legislative body to conduct business; majority. pp. 58, 339

Quota A rule requiring certain numbers of jobs or promotions for members of certain groups. p. 610

Quota sample A sample deliberately constructed to reflect several of the major characteristics of a given population. p. 219

Random sample A certain number of randomly selected people who live in a certain number of randomly selected places. p. 218

Ratification Formal approval, final consent to the effectiveness of a constitution, constitutional amendment, or treaty. p. 44

Reapportionment Redistribute, as in seats in a legislative body. p. 267

Recall A petition procedure by which voters may remove an elected official from office before the completion of his or her regular term. p. 696

Recognition The exclusive power of a President to recognize (establish formal diplomatic relations with) foreign states. p. 400

Redress Satisfaction of a claim payment. p. 524

Referendum A process by which a legislative measure is referred to the State's voters for final approval or rejection. p. 693

Refugee One who leaves his or her home to seek protection from war, persecution, or some other danger. p. 597

Regional security alliances Treaties in which the U.S. and other countries involved have agreed to take collective action to meet aggression in a particular part of the world. p. 492

Register A record or list of names, often kept by an official appointed to do so. p. 439

Registration A procedure of voter identification intended to prevent fraudulent voting. p. 154

Regressive tax A tax levied at a flat rate, without regard to the level of a taxpayer's income or ability to pay them. pp. 451, 741

Repeal Recall. p. 37

Representative government System of government in which public policies are made by officials selected by the voters and held accountable in periodic elections; *see* democracy. p. 29

Reprieve An official postponement of the execution of a sentence; *see* pardon. pp. 407, 699

Reservation Public land set aside by a government for use by

Native American tribes. p. 596

Reserved powers Those powers that the Constitution does not grant to the National Government and does not, at the same time, deny to the States. p. 92

Resolution A measure relating to the business of either house, or expressing an opinion; does not have the force of law and does not require the President's signature. p. 335

Revenue sharing Form of federal monetary aid under which Congress gave a share of federal tax revenue, with virtually no restrictions, to the States, cities, counties, and townships. p. 102

Reverse discrimination Discrimination against the majority group. p. 610

Right of association The right to associate with others to promote political, economic, and other social causes. p. 558

Right of legation The right to send and receive diplomatic representatives. p. 470

Rider Unpopular provision added to an important bill certain to pass so that it will "ride" through the legislative process. p. 335

Rule of law Concept that holds that government and its officers are always subject to the law. p. 66

Runoff primary A primary in which the top two vote-getters in the first direct primary face one another. p. 184

Sales tax A tax placed on the sale of various commodities, paid by the purchaser. p. 741

Sample A representative slice of the public. p. 218

Search warrant A court order authorizing a search. p. 566

Secretary An official in charge of a department of government. p. 424

Sectionalism A narrow-minded concern for, or devotion to, the interests of one section of a country. p. 129

Sedition The crime of attempting to overthrow the government by force, or to disrupt its lawful activities by violent acts. p. 547

Seditious speech The advocating, or urging, of an attempt to overthrow the government by force, or to disrupt its lawful activities with violence. p. 547

Segregation The separation of one group from another. p. 602

Select committee Legislative committee created for a limited time and for some specific purpose; also known as a special committee. p. 331

Senatorial courtesy Custom that the Senate will not approve a presidential appointment opposed by a majority party senator from the State in which the appointee would serve. p. 81

Seniority rule Unwritten rule in both houses of Congress reserving the top posts in each chamber, particularly committee chairmanships, for members with the longest records of service. p. 326

Separate-but-equal doctrine A constitutional basis for laws that separate one group from another on the basis of race. (*Jim Crow Laws*.) p. 602

Separation of powers Basic principle of American system of government, that the executive, legislative, and judicial powers are divided among three independent and coequal branches of government; *see* checks and balances. p. 66

Session Period of time during which, each year, Congress assembles and conducts business. p. 264

Shadow cabinet Members of opposition parties who watch, or shadow, particular Cabinet members, and would be ready to run the government. p. 629

Shield law A law which gives reporters some protection against having to disclose their sources or reveal other confidential information in legal proceedings. p. 550

Single-interest group Political action committees that concentrate their efforts exclusively on one issue. p. 251

Single-issue parties Parties that concentrate on only one public policy matter. p. 132

Single-member district Electoral district from which one person is chosen by the voters for each elected office. pp. 120, 270

Slander False and malicious use of spoken words. p. 547

Socialism A philosophy based on the idea that the benefits of economic activity should be fairly distributed. p. 666

Soft money Money given to State and local party organizations for voting-related activities. p. 201

Sound bite Short, sharply focused reports that can be aired in 30 or 45 seconds. p. 229

Sovereign Having supreme power within its own territory; neither subordinate nor responsible to any other authority. p. 6

Soviets A government council, elected by and representing the people. p. 646

Speaker of the House The presiding officer of the House of Representatives, chosen by and from the majority party in the House. p. 322

Special district An independent unit created to perform one or more related governmental functions at the local level. p. 722

Special session An extraordinary session of a legislative body, called to deal with an emergency situation. p. 265

Splinter parties Parties that have split away from one of the major parties. p. 133

Split-ticket voting Voting for candidates of different parties for different offices at the same election. pp. 141, 171

Spoils system The practice of giving offices and other favors of government to political supporters and friends. p. 438

Staff agency An agency which supports the chief executive and other administrators by offering advice and other assistance in the management of the organization. p. 418

Standing committee Permanent committee in a legislative body to which bills in a specified subject-matter area are referred; *see* select committee. p. 329

State A body of people living in a defined territory who have a government with the power to make and enforce law without the consent of any higher authority. p. 5

Statutory law A law passed by the legislature. p. 688

Straight-ticket voting The practice of voting for candidates of only one party in an election. p. 171

Straw vote Polls that seek to read the public's mind simply by asking the same question of a large number of people. p. 217

Strict constructionist One who argues a narrow interpretation of the Constitution's provisions, in particular those granting powers to the Federal Government. p. 291

Strong-mayor government A type of government in which the mayor heads the city's administration. p. 727

Subcommittee Division of existing committee that is formed to address specific issues. p. 337

Subpoena An order for a person to appear and to produce documents or other requested materials. p. 313

Subsidy A grant of money, usually from a government. p. 197

Substantive due process The government must create fair policies and laws. p. 565

Successor A person who inherits a title or office. p. 311

Suffrage The right to vote. p. 148

Surplus More income than spending. p. 455

Symbolic speech Expression by conduct; communicating ideas through facial expressions, body language, or by carrying a sign or wearing an arm band. p. 551

Tax A charge levied by government on persons or property to meet public needs. p. 295

Tax return A declaration of taxable income and of the exemptions and deductions claimed. p. 449

Term Two-year period of time during which Congress meets.

Terrorism The use of violence to intimidate a government or society. p. 478

Three-Fifths Compromise An agreement at the Constitutional Convention to count a slave as three-fifths of a person when determining the population of a State. p. 52

Township A subdivision of a county. p. 718

Trade association Interest groups within the business community. p. 244

Transient Person living in a State for only a short time, without legal residence. p. 153

Treason Betrayal of one's country; in the Constitution, by levying war against the United States or offering comfort or aid to its enemies. p. 588

Treaty A formal agreement between two or more sovereign states. pp. 80, 399

Trust A device by which several corporations in the same business work to eliminate competition and regulate prices. p. 661

Trustee Lawmaker who votes based on his or her conscience and judgment, not the views of his or her constituents. p. 281

Two-party system A political system dominated by two major parties. p. 119

UN Security Council A 15-member panel which bears the UN's major responsibility for keeping international peace. p. 496

Unconstitutional Contrary to constitutional provision and so illegal, null and void, of no force and effect. p. 69

Uncontrollable spending Spending that Congress and the President have no power to change directly. p. 459

Unicameral An adjective describing a legislative body with one chamber; *see* bicameral. p. 32

Unitary government A centralized government in which all government powers belong to a single, central agency. p. 14

Urbanization The percentage of the population of a State living in cities of more than 250,000 people or in suburbs of cities with more than 50,000. p. 737

Veto Chief executive's power to reject a bill passed by a legislature; literally (Latin) "I forbid"; *see* pocket veto. pp. 67, 346

Virginia Plan Plan presented by delegates from Virginia at the Constitutional Convention; called for a three-branch government with a bicameral legislature in which each State's membership would be determined by its population or its financial support for the central government. p. 51

Ward A unit into which cities are often divided for the election of city council members. p. 140

Warrant A court order authorizing, or making legal, some official action, such as a search warrant or an arrest warrant. p. 708

Weak-mayor government A type of government in which the mayor shares his or her executive duties with other elected officials. p. 727

Welfare Cash assistance to the poor. p. 735

Welfare state Countries that provide extensive social services at little or no cost to the users. p. 668

Whips Assistants to the floor leaders in the House and Senate, responsible for monitoring and marshalling votes. p. 325

Winner-take-all An almost obsolete system whereby a presidential aspirant who won the preference vote in a primary automatically won all the delegates chosen in the primary. p. 371

Writ of assistance Blanket search warrant with which British custom officials had invaded private homes to search for smuggled goods. p. 571

Writ of certiorari An order by a higher court directing a lower court to send up the record in a given case for review; from the Latin meaning "to be more certain." p. 520

Writ of habeas corpus A court order which prevents unjust arrests and imprisonments. p. 576

Zoning The practice of dividing a city into a number of districts and regulating the uses to which property in each of them may be put. p. 730