

*Essentials of*

# *American Government*

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

**ELECTION  
UPDATE**



KAREN O'CONNOR  
LARRY J. SABATO

2000 Edition

# THE ESSENTIALS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

**Continuity and Change**

**2000 ELECTION UPDATE EDITION**

*Karen O'Connor*

*American University*

*Larry J. Sabato*

*University of Virginia*



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*To Meghan, who has grown up  
with this book*

**KAREN O'CONNOR**

*To my Government 101 students  
over the years, who all know that  
"politics is a good thing"*

**LARRY SABATO**

---

# PREFACE

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This is the 2000 Election Update Edition of *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change*. This edition includes the results of the 2000 presidential and Congressional elections, as well as complete coverage of the primaries and general campaign.

Teaching introductory American government presents special challenges and rewards. It is a challenge to introduce a new discipline to students. It is a challenge to jump from topic to topic each week. Above all, it is a challenge to motivate large and disparate groups of students to master new material and, one hopes, to enjoy it in the process. The rewards of success, however, are students who pay more attention to their government, who participate in its workings as more informed citizens, and who better understand the workings of democracy as practiced in the United States.

We have witnessed some of these rewards in the classroom. With this book, we hope to offer our experiences in written form. This brief and inexpensive text should work well in classes that are shorter, where policy is not the focus, where a more inexpensive text is desired, or where instructors want to use a basic text supplemented by diverse readings that amplify specific topics. We believe that students need perspective and motivation; they also need to be exposed to information that will withstand the test of time. Our goal with this text is to transmit just this sort of information while creating and fostering student interest in American politics despite growing national skepticism about government and government officials at all levels. We hope that this brief text will explain and put the national mood about politics in better context for students to allow them to understand their role in a changing America.

## APPROACH

We believe that one cannot fully understand the actions, issues, and policy decisions facing the U.S. government, its constituent states, or “the people” unless these issues are examined from the perspective of how they have evolved over time. Consequently, the title of this book is *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change*. In its pages we try to examine how the United States is governed today by looking not just at present behavior but also at the Framers’ intentions and how they have been implemented and adapted over the years. For example, we believe that it is critical to an understanding of the role of political parties in the United States to understand the Framers’ fears of factionalism, how parties evolved, and when and why realignments in party identification occurred.

In addition to questions raised by the Framers, we explore issues that the Framers could never have envisioned, and how the basic institutions of government have changed in responding to these new demands. For instance, two centuries ago no one could have foreseen election campaigns in an age when nearly all American homes contain television sets, and the Internet and fax machines allow instant access to information. Moreover, increasing citizen demands and expectations have routinely forced government reforms, making an understanding of the dynamics of change essential for introductory students.

Our overriding concern is that students understand their government as it exists today. In order to do so, they must understand how it was designed in the Constitution. Each chapter, therefore, approaches its topic from a combination of perspectives that we believe will facilitate this approach. In writing this book, we chose to put the institutions of government (Part Two) before political behavior (Part Three). Both sections, however, were written independently, making them easy to switch for those who prefer to teach about the actors in government and elections before discussing its institutions.

## WHAT'S CHANGED IN THIS EDITION?

In this 2000 Election Update Edition of *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change*, we have retained our basic approach to the study of politics as a constantly changing and often unpredictable enterprise. But, as we went to press, the November 2000 elections had yet to produce a president; the Republican-Democratic composition of the Senate was still in doubt, and several close House seats were being challenged. While most pundits and the polls prepared all of us for a close election, no one predicted the scenario that was to unfold. As we were going to press, the Bush team had gone to court asking a federal court to find a state law unconstitutional, and the hand counting of thousands of votes of Floridians was underway. At the same time, New Mexico's vote total revealed Bush leading by seven votes, moving the state out of the Gore column. We have tried to capture the excitement of this election without being able to provide students or instructors with the final outcome of this historic election that has refocused attention on the constitutional nature of presidential elections and the potential role of the electoral college. This election more than any other in history, also should drive home to all that votes do matter.

Many pre- and post-election highlights are included in this edition; more up to date information can be found on the web site that accompanies this text at [www.awlonline.com/oconnor](http://www.awlonline.com/oconnor).

Other changes are reflected in this 2000 Election Update Edition, including **Chapter 1's** new section on voter apathy; **Chapter 3's** revised section on new federalism and the Reagan revolution; **Chapter 4's** new coverage of the Child Online Protection Act, the revised section on



Congress and obscenity, and the updated section on drug testing and DNA sampling; **Chapter 6's** expanded discussion of filibusters and legislative oversight and congressional review; **Chapter 7's** updated section on the president and public opinion; **Chapter 8's** expanded coverage of judicial control of governmental agencies; **Chapter 11's** expanded coverage of minor and independent candidates; and **Chapter 12's** new coverage of crossover voting and raiding, the effects of frontloading, new sections on Internet and campaign finance, soft money and independent expenditures.

We have also made a major effort to make certain that this edition contains the most up-to-date scholarship by political scientists, not only on how government works, but what they have said on contemporary debates.

In addition to chapter-by-chapter changes, we have developed several new features designed to enhance student understanding of the political processes, institutions, and policies of American government.


### **Global Politics Boxes**


To put American government in perspective, these boxes compare and contrast some aspect of American politics to that of other industrial democracies, including Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Great Britain. These boxes appear once per chapter on topics ranging from civil liberties in industrial democracies in Chapter 4, and the power of the courts in Chapter 9.

### **Continuity and Change Sections**

To reinforce the text approach, each chapter concludes with a section that looks at the evolution of a particular foundation, institution, behavior, or policy from three points in time: yesterday, today, and the future. Chapter 3, for example, examines the power of the state while Chapter 12 addresses the changing nature of voting. These sections conclude with a series of questions that ask students to apply what they learned in the chapter to the issues presented here. To further encourage student involvement, each section is accompanied by a "Cast Your Vote" question, which prompts students to log onto the book-specific web site ([www.awlonline.com/oconnor](http://www.awlonline.com/oconnor)) and offer their opinion on a particular issue—and to see how their opinions compare with fellow students from around the country.

### **Web Explorations and Try It Activities**

Each chapter contains several links to the World Wide Web that prompt students to either explore or experience a particular process, topic, or issue in politics on our book-specific web site. These links are of two types. Web Explorations, identified in the margins with a  icon, encourage the reader to learn more about a specific issue or concept (i.e., "For more about local gun initiatives, go to [www.awlonline.com/oconnor](http://www.awlonline.com/oconnor)") or guide them to primary sources. Try It activities,

identified in the margins with a  icon, direct the reader to an interactive exercise or online simulation (i.e., “To try your hand at balancing the budget, go to [www.awlonline.com/oconnor](http://www.awlonline.com/oconnor)”) where they can experience political processes and actions firsthand.

## FEATURES

The 2000 Election Update Edition has retained the best features and pedagogy from the previous edition and added exciting new ones.

### Historical Perspective

Every chapter uses history to serve three purposes: first, to show how institutions and processes have evolved to their present states; second, to provide some of the color that makes information memorable; and third, to provide students with a more thorough appreciation of the fact that government was born amid burning issues of representation and power, issues that continue to smolder today. A richer historical texture helps to explain the present.

### Comparative Perspective

Changes in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, North America, and Asia all remind us of the preeminence of democracy, in theory if not always in fact. As new democratic experiments spring up around the globe, it becomes increasingly important for students to understand the rudiments of presidential versus parliamentary government, of multiparty versus two-party systems, and so on. As mentioned earlier, we have also developed new Global Politics boxes that compare U.S. politics and institutions with other industrialized democracies.

### Enhanced Pedagogy

This “essentials” version of our longer text contains many pedagogical features to help students become stronger political thinkers as they explore politics through our theme of evolving change.

### Preview and Review

To pique student interest and draw them into each chapter, we begin each chapter with a contemporary vignette. These vignettes, including how 18-year-olds acquired the vote, how special interests are lobbying Congress for laws to allow them to go after student debtors, and congressional efforts to deal with violence in public schools in the aftermath of the Littleton, Colorado, shooting, frequently deal with issues of high interest to students, which we hope will whet their appetites to read the rest of the chapter. Each vignette is followed by a bridge paragraph linking the vignette with the chapter’s topics and a roadmap previewing the chapter’s major headings. Chapter Summaries restate the major points made under each of these same major headings.



## Key Terms

Key terms are boldfaced, listed once more at the end of each chapter, and then defined in the Glossary at the end of the book.

## Special Features

- *Global Politics* As described earlier, these boxes compare American politics with other industrialized democracies. Chapter 11, for example, contains a box on political parties in parliamentary democracies.
- *Politics Now* These boxes act as a counterpoint to the text's traditional focus on "roots." Based on current clippings, editorials, and moments in time, these boxes are designed to encourage students to think about current issues in the context of the continuing evolution of the American political system. Chapter 9, for example, discusses the blurring line between state and federal prosecutions.
- *Highlight* These boxes focus on high student-interest material outside the stream of the text discussion. Chapter 5, for example, looks at professional sports team names coming under attack by ethnic groups. Another describes how one college student's term paper ended up with the ratification of a constitutional amendment.

## THE ANCILLARY PACKAGE

The ancillary package for *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change, 2000 Election Update Edition*, reflects the pedagogical goal of the text: to provide information in a useful context and with colorful examples. We have tried especially hard to provide materials that are useful for instructors and helpful to students.

## Technology Supplements

- *Companion Website (CW+)* Completely integrated with the text, this online course companion provides a wealth of resources for both students and instructors using *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change, 2000 Election Update Edition*. Students will find interactive simulations and exercises tied to text material, "Cast Your Vote"—where students can express their opinions on contemporary political issues—practice tests, links to related American government sites, a complete guide to conducting research on the Internet, and more! Instructors will have access to lecture outlines, website links, and downloadable visuals from the text. Additionally, instructors can take advantage of Syllabus Builder, our comprehensive course management system.
- *NEW! Interactive Edition CD-ROM* This unique CD-ROM takes students beyond the printed page, offering a complete multimedia learning experience. It contains the full edition text on CD-ROM, with contextually placed media icons—audio, video,

web links, activities, practice tests, primary sources, and more—that link students to additional content directly related to key concepts in the text.

- **NEW! American Government Instructor's Resource CD-ROM** This complete presentation tool is certain to enliven your American Government classroom in a variety of ways. It contains extensive video footage and still images (both photographs and line art) that highlight important political concepts, and can be imported into any popular presentation program (e.g. PowerPoint) with ease.
- **PowerPoint Presentation CD-ROM** A separate set of PowerPoint presentation slides provides instructors with ready made lecture outlines and visuals for class presentations that they can adapt to suit their needs.
- **StudyWizard CD-ROM** This computerized student tutorial program, now available on CD-ROM, helps students review and master key concepts in the text. Using chapter and topic summaries, practice test questions, and a comprehensive glossary, *StudyWizard* supplements the text by allowing students the opportunity to explore new topics and test their understanding of terms and ideas already presented in the reading assignments. Students receive immediate feedback on test questions in the form of answer explanations and page references to the text. In addition, the program allows students to print chapter outlines, difficult vocabulary, missed test questions, or a diagnostic report, which includes suggestions for further study.
- **Computerized Testing** The printed Test Bank is also available on a cross-platform CD-ROM through our fully networkable computerized testing system, TestGen-EQ. The program's friendly graphical interface enables instructors to view, edit, and add questions; transfer questions to tests; and print test in a variety of fonts and forms. Search and sort features help instructors locate questions quickly and arrange them in a preferred order. Six question formats are available, including short-answer, true-false, multiple-choice, essay, matching, and bimodal.
- **Politics in Action Video or Laserdisc** Eleven "Lecture Launchers" covering broad topics such as social movements, campaigns, and the passage of a bill, are examined through narrated videos, interviews, edited documentaries and political ads. *Politics in Action* is accompanied by an extensive User's Manual, which provides background, links to topics in our American Government texts, and discussion questions.
- **NEW! Longman American Government Critical Thinking Video** This video includes twenty seven segments dealing with provocative issues in contemporary American politics. Topics include the school prayer amendment, welfare reform, the role of the internet in elections, and many more.
- **Longman American Government Video Archive** Longman offers a variety of videos covering a broad range of topics including famous

debates, speeches, political commercials, and congressional hearings. We also offer acclaimed video series such as “Eyes on the Prize” and “The Power Game.” Ask your local Addison Wesley Longman representative for more information.

### Printed Supplements for Instructors

- **NEW! Active Learning Guide** This innovative guide provides instructors with a variety of thoughtful active learning projects for their classrooms. The exercises address important concepts in American government and follow the organization of the text. The simulations and group projects encourage students to get actively involved in course material and to evaluate different perspectives on American Government.
- **Instructor's Manual** The Instructor's Manual includes narrative lecture outlines, suggestions for class discussion, web activities, simulations, a list of websites, and an extensive list of sources for further study.
- **Test Bank** The Test Bank has been completely revised and contains hundreds of challenging multiple choice, true-false, short answer, and essay questions along with a page-referenced answer key.
- **Transparencies** A set of four-color acetate transparencies includes figures, graphs, and tables from the text.

### Printed Supplements for Students

- **Study Guide** The Study Guide helps students reinforce themes and concepts they encounter in the text. This edition includes a new section on study skills that helps students become more adept at reading, note-taking, testing, and avoiding common pitfalls when studying. The Study Guide also includes learning objectives, narrative chapter outlines, research ideas, websites of interest, and practice tests for each chapter.
- **NEW! Penguin-Putnam Paperback Titles at a Significant Discount** Longman is now offering 22 Penguin titles discounted more than 60% when packaged with *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change, 2000 Election Update Edition*. It's a unique offer and a wonderful way to enhance students' understanding of concepts in American Government. Ask you local Addison Wesley Longman representative for a full listing of discounted Penguin titles and for information on how to order these books for your classes.
- **NEW! Discount subscription to Newsweek magazine** Available only through Longman, your students can receive 12 issues of *Newsweek* at more than 80% off the regular subscription price! Also included in this offer is an Instructor's Manual prepared by *Newsweek*. The reduced rate subscription cards come shrink-wrapped with *The Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change, 2000*

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- *Guide to the Internet for American Government, Second Edition* FREE when packaged with the text, this guide introduces students and instructors to ways in which the Internet can be used to explore American government. It includes practical information about the Internet, critical thinking exercises to reinforce students' application of Internet-based skills, and a glossary of Internet terms. In addition, the guide offers dozens of relevant web sites that allow students to discover first-hand how the Web can be used as a resource for research.
- *NEW! California State Supplement* FREE when packaged with the text, this 64-page supplement on state and local issues in California was created for use in the American Government course. It introduces students to California's basic governmental structures and explores the political effects of California's Progressive tradition.
- *NEW! Texas State Supplement* FREE when packaged with the text, this brief primer on state and local issues in Texas for use in the American Government course. It includes discussion of the constitution, the major branches of government, public policy, and other aspects of Texas politics.
- *Getting Involved: A Student Guide to Citizenship* FREE when packaged with the text, this practical handbook guides students through political participation with concrete advice and extensive sample material—letters, telephone scripts, student interviews, and real-life anecdotes. The aim of this exciting new guide is to generate student enthusiasm for political involvement and the help students to get connected, set goals and strategies, experiment with tactics, build networks, anticipate obstacles, and make a difference in their lives and communities.
- *10 Things That Every American Government Student Should Read* American Government instructors across the country voted for the ten things beyond the text—essays, documents, articles—that they believed every American Government student should read. The top vote-getters in each of 10 categories were put into this unique and useful reader by Karen O'Connor of American University. FREE when packaged with the text.
- *NEW! Guide to Reading Tables, Graphs, and Charts* FREE when packaged with the text, this supplement was developed as a guide for promoting visual literacy. It helps students understand how tables, charts, and graphs are used to summarize and simplify political data.
- *Writing in Political Science, Second Edition* Writing in political science requires a distinct set of skills, vocabulary, sources, and methods of inquiry. This guide takes students step-by-step through all the aspects of writing for political science courses. With an abundance of samples from actual students, the guide also features a

section on how to address writing problems and a new section on how to evaluate and cite internet sources. Available at a significant discount when packaged with the text.

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