

# TEXAS POLITICS TODAY

T E N T H   E D I T I O N

**William Earl Maxwell  
and Ernest Crain**

*with*

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*Elizabeth N. Flores*

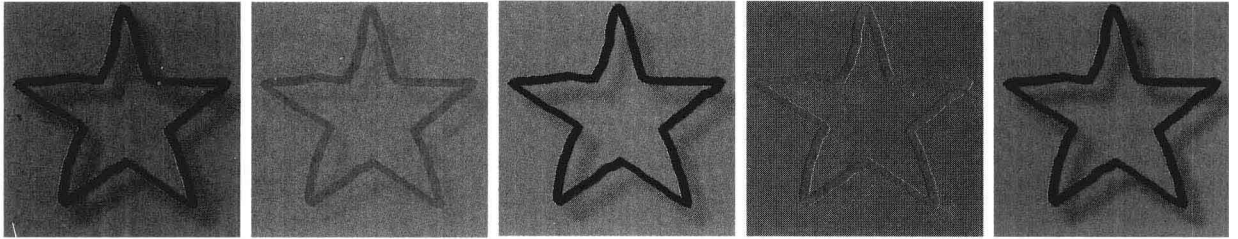
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*Christopher B. Wlezien*

# Texas Politics Today

*Tenth Edition*



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# Preface



Although intelligent, well meaning Texans may strongly disagree public policies, the fact is that these policies of Texas state and local governments dramatically affect each of our lives—every day. The authors contend that knowledge of government is necessary for an intelligent development of a political ideology as well as the acceptance that conflicting ideologies are also legitimate. Political conflict is, after all, only a difference of opinion as to the substance and direction of the rules that govern us. The only real losers in this political game are those who refuse to participate and thereby relinquish their role in our democracy.

The tenth edition of *Texas Politics Today* is designed to meet the needs of both students and instructors for the introductory university level courses. Its easy reading style is, in this edition, augmented with additional teaching and learning aids that further enhance its usefulness as a teaching and learning tool.

The tenth edition of *Texas Politics Today* contains the elements of previous editions but also includes several new features. Along with public policy, the book explains the background, rules of the game, political players, and framework of the political institutions that give birth to public policies. The role of political interest groups is covered throughout the text. Major historical, demographic, political and cultural trends are covered and Texas is contrasted with other states using updated comparative maps and the “Texas: Where We Stand” feature. Vignettes, figures, tables, diagrams, and photos illustrate Texas’ political system. The text is designed both for courses that specialize in Texas government and those that integrate state and national politics together.

Biennial editions make the text as current as possible. Results of the 2000 elections and the 2001 legislative session are included. New guest essays at the end of each chapter offer students the opportunity to examine Texas political scientists diverse viewpoints on major themes and current issues. InfoTrac® College Edition also gives students immediate online access to 900 popular and scholarly periodicals that are indexed and updated daily. The “Logging On” section following each chapter provides additional internet activities, as does the Web Site: <http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com/texas.html>.

Among the learning features a “Get Active!” section suggests ways students can participate in state politics. Key terms and concepts are set in boldface print, listed at the end of each chapter and defined in the glossary. Study questions help students focus on main themes and each chapter includes an outline at the beginning and a conclusion at the end to highlight its most important elements. A useful study guide and a variety of instructional aids are available separately.

The authors hope this package will actively engage students in learning and participating in Texas politics today.

## Introduction to Cyberpolitics in Texas

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This edition of the text provides students with an opportunity to enter into the vast, exciting world of the Internet. Each chapter will have the address of hypertext links listed to allow the student to explore in depth any topic presented in the chapter. The internet can provide dazzling graphics to illustrate dry facts, original source documents of historical

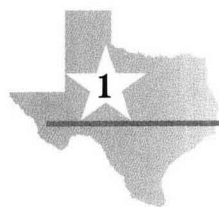


importance, biographies of famous individuals, and the actual spoken words of public officials. Students will have the ability to contact directly their elected government officials at local, state, and national levels. To maximize the use of these resources, the publishers have provided a Web site at <http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com/texas.html>. This site is coordinated with the textbook, and will provide additional Web sites to explore, and supplementary information to assist you to use the text as part of an integrated learning package. If you do not have Internet access in your dorm, or home or apartment, your instructor can inform you about Internet access on your campus. This new feature allows you to study the future of Texas with the technology resources of the future.

William Earl Maxwell  
Ernest Crain

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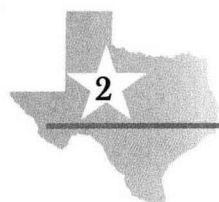
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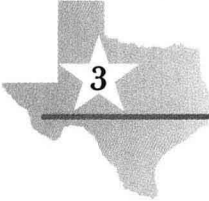


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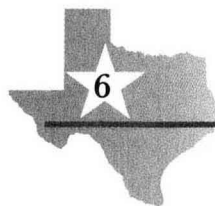
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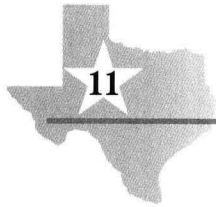
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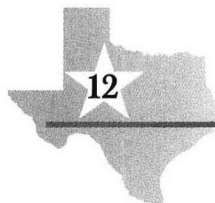
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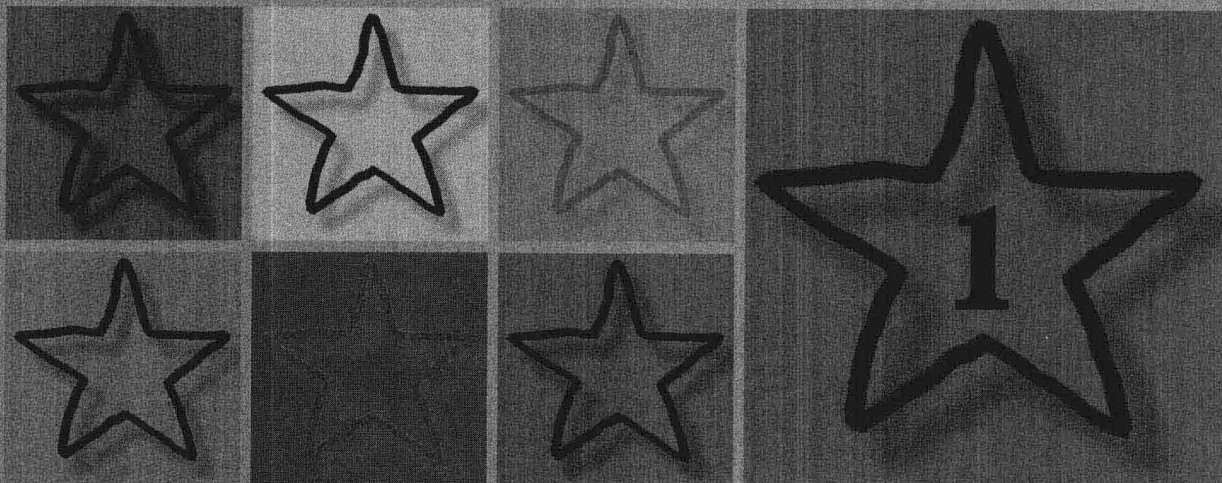
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# Texas Culture, People, and History

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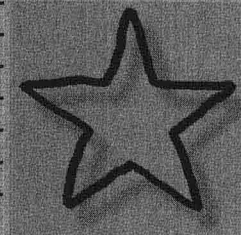
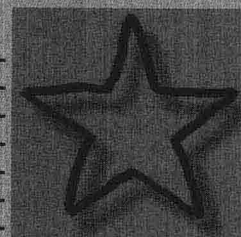
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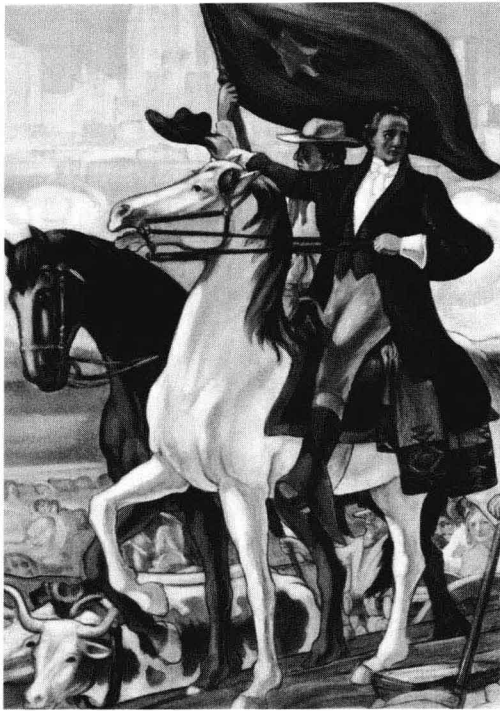
### ★ **Get Active!**

- ★ **Essay:** Where’s May’s Cafe? The McDonaldization of Texas’s Political Culture by Terry Spurlock

### ★ **Appendix to Chapter One**

*Texas: Where We Stand*





General Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas enters the newly founded city of Houston in August 1837.

Almost one hundred years before the *Mayflower* dropped anchor off Plymouth Rock, Núñez Cabeza de Vaca first set foot on what was to become Texas. During the next three centuries, land-hungry settlers pushed the Cherokees and the Caddos from the eastern pine forests, the Karankawas from the sands of the coast, and the Comanches, Apaches, and Kiowas from the western plains. Texas cultural history was made under thirty-seven Spanish governors, fifteen Mexican governors, five presidents of the Republic of Texas, and forty-eight state governors.

No single Texas culture has emerged from the various ethnic and cultural groups that settled it. The “typical Texan,” like the “average American,” is an oversimplification used to broadly generalize the more distinctive social, religious, economic, and political characteristics of Texans. Actually, the cultural diversity of Texas is more apparent than its homogeneity. One approach to studying this diversity is to examine the cultural regions that developed from the state’s various geographic characteristics and migrational patterns. Modern Texas has evolved into nine fairly distinct cultural regions as shown in Figure 1.1.<sup>1</sup> Unlike political boundaries, the effect of the mass media and the mobility of modern Texans often blur cultural boundaries. These regions, however, continue to serve as a useful guide to contemporary Texas culture, attitudes, and beliefs.

## Texas Cultural Regions

### EAST TEXAS

East Texas is a social and cultural extension of the old South. It is basically rural and biracial. In spite of the changes brought about by civil rights legislation, African-American “towns” still exist alongside white “towns,” and there are many segregated social and economic institutions such as churches, lodges, and chambers of commerce.

East Texas counties or towns are often dominated by old families whose wealth is usually based on real estate, banking, construction, and retail merchandising. Cotton, no longer “king” of agriculture, has been replaced by beef cattle, poultry, and timber. Due to a general lack of economic opportunity, young East Texans migrate to metropolitan areas, primarily Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston. The region is dominated spiritually by fundamentalist Protestantism, which permeates its political, social, and cultural activities.

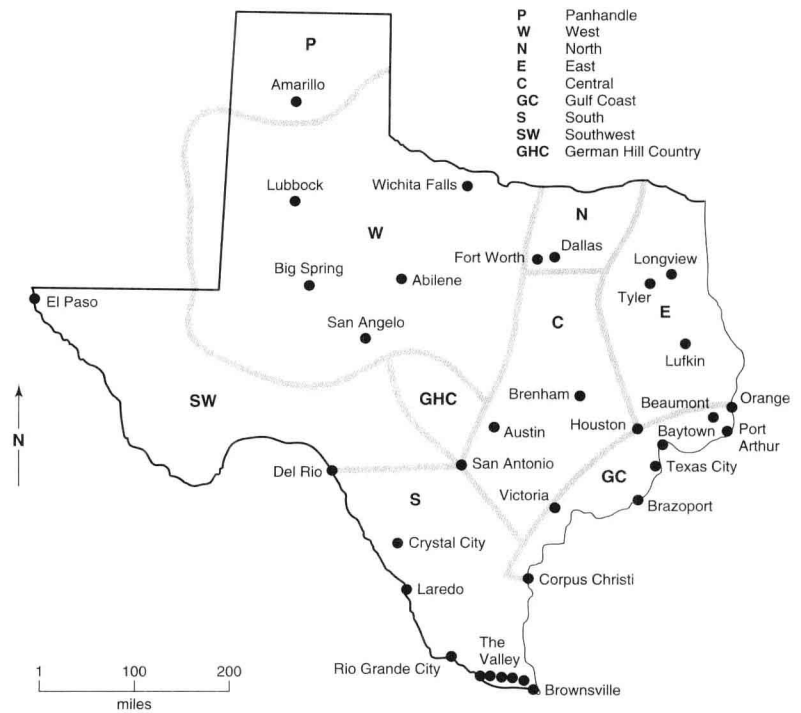
### GULF COAST

Prior to 1900 Texas was an economic colony; it sold raw materials to the industrialized North and bought northern manufactured products. In 1901, however, an oil well named **Spindletop** was drilled near Beaumont, and the Texas economy began to change. Since

1. Information for this section is adapted from D. W. Meinig, *Imperial Texas: An Interpretive Essay in Cultural Geography* (Austin and London: University of Texas Press, 1969).

**Figure 1.1**  
Cultural Areas of  
Modern Texas

SOURCE: Adapted from  
D. W. Meinig, *Imperial  
Texas: An Interpretive Essay  
in Cultural Geography*  
(Austin and London:  
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Spindletop, the Gulf Coast has experienced almost continuous growth, especially during World War II, the “Cold War” defense buildup, and the energy crises of the 1970s and 1980s. In addition to being an industrial and petrochemical center, it is one of the most important shipping centers in the nation. Spindletop was backed by eastern money, and its success stimulated increased eastern investment in the state—a significant amount of Gulf Coast industry is still owned by investors from outside the state. Local wealth was also generated and largely reinvested in Texas to promote long-range development, but much of the economy is still supported by the sale of raw materials.

With the energy crisis of the 1970s, the petrochemical industry, which is concentrated on the Gulf Coast, boomed, and a boomtown psychology developed. Rapid growth fed real estate development and speculation for the entire region. The Houston area especially flourished, and despite the turndown in the oil industry, Harris County (Houston) remains the third most populous county in the United States.

In the 1970s and 1980s, there was extensive migration to Texas from the Frost Belt (Great Lake and Mid-Atlantic states), which at the time was undergoing an economic depression due to the metamorphosis of the U.S. economy from an industrial to a service base. This migration included large numbers of well-educated young executives and professionals as well as skilled and unskilled laborers. The Gulf Coast economy continues to attract heavy immigration from Mexico and Asia.

The continuing influx of job seekers from East Texas and other rural areas of the state gives the Gulf Coast the flavor of rural Texas in an urban setting. This rural flavor is diminishing, however, as much of the Coast’s population is now second- or third-generation urban and somewhat removed from its rural roots.

The social and economic elite is generally comprised of second- and third-generation rich, whose wealth comes from oil, insurance, construction, land development, or banking. The executives and professional support personnel of international corporations now headquartered in Houston also contribute fresh blood to the elite pool. There are still many large