

# American Government and Politics Today 2001-2002 edition

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Publisher: Clark Baxter

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Print Buyer: Barbara Britton Permissions Editor: Joohee Lee Production: Bill Stryker

Text Designer: Doug Abbott Art Editor: Bill Stryker

Photo Researcher: Bill Stryker and Megan Ryan

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Printed in the United States of America 2 3 4 5 6 7 05 04 03 02 01

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Schmidt, Steffen W.

American government and politics today / Steffen W. Schmidt,

Mack C. Shelley II, Barbara A. Bardes. 2001–2002 ed. Includes index.

ISBN: 0-534-57152-2 ISSN: 1079-0071 2001-2002 EDITION

1. United States-Politics and government. I. Shelley, Mack

C. 1950- II. Bardes, Barbara A. III. Title

JK274.S428 2000 320.973-dc20 Copy Editor: Pat Lewis Illustrator: Bill Stryker Cover Designer: Doug Abbott

Cover Images: Man with flag © Dick Spahr, Liaison Agency;

"Vote Aqui" <sup>®</sup> Bob Daemmrich, Corbis Sygma; "Let your vote be heard" <sup>®</sup> Bob Daemmrich, Corbis Sygma.

Text and Cover Printer: Von Hoffmann, Inc. Compositor: Parkwood Composition Service

Wadsworth/Thomson Learning 10 Davis Drive Belmont, CA 94002-3098 USA

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Canada

Nelson Thomson Learning 1120 Birchmount Road Toronto, Ontario M1K 5G4 Canada

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On January 20, 2001, when George W. Bush was sworn in as the forty-third president of the United States, he became the second president in this nation's history to ascend to that office without having won the most popular votes. Indeed, for thirty-five days following the elections, it was not clear whether Bush or his opponent, Al Gore, had won the most popular votes in Florida—and thus the election. Ultimately, the United States Supreme Court decided the issue by ruling that votes cast in Florida could not be manually recounted. As a result of the confusing aftermath of the 2000 elections, a major issue facing the nation today is how to bring consistency and credibility to the election process in all of the states.

In addition, many other political issues continue to face this country today. Campaign-financing reform is still pending. New demands are being heard about solving the present and future problems related to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and health care in general. While the 1990s were a period of relative prosperity for Americans, that decade left the nation with a plethora of political issues that must now be faced.

# 2000 Election Results Included and Analyzed

Our combined teaching experience has been that students respond to up-to-date information about political events. Consequently, we have included all relevant results of the November 2000 presidential elections. In addition, we have analyzed these results in terms of how they will affect our political processes at the national level in the following four years. While we have updated all of the text to be consistent with these election results, in particular we have added the features listed below. Throughout the text, all materials referring to the 2000 elections are accompanied by a special logo.

- More Divided Government (Chapter 1).
- Trends in Federalism (Chapter 3).
- Political Leadership by Women (Chapter 5).
- The Accuracy of the 2000 Polls (Chapter 7).
- Interest Groups: The Candidates of Choice (Chapter 8).
- Partisan Trends in the 2000 Elections (Chapter 9).
- Why Voters Voted as They Did in 2000 (Chapter 10).
- The Role of the Media in the 2000 Elections (Chapter 11).
- Congressional Characteristics after the 2000 Elections (Chapter 12).
- Party Control of Congress after the 2000 Elections (Chapter 12).
- The 2000 Elections and the Supreme Court (Chapter 15).

### The Interactive Focus of this Text

Whether it be the problems that face the new president, voter participation, or terrorism, we constantly strive to involve the student reader in the analysis. We make sure that the reader comes to understand that politics is not an abstract process but a very human enterprise, one involving interaction among individuals from

all walks of life. We emphasize how different outcomes can affect students' civil rights and liberties, employment opportunities, and economic welfare.

Throughout the text, we encourage the reader to think critically. Virtually all of the features included in this text end with serious questions designed to pique the student's interest. A feature new to this edition—titled *Which Side Are You On?*—directly challenges the reader to find a connection between a controversial issue facing the nation and the reader's personal life. We further encourage interacting with the political system by ending each chapter with a feature titled *Making a Difference* and online exercises (to be discussed shortly) that students can perform to access and analyze political information. In addition, we offer a free, student-oriented supplement called *Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*. This supplement is designed to help students get involved and become active citizens.

# VersaBook—An Electronic Version of American Government and Politics Today

VersaBook, an electronic version of the 2001–2002 Edition of *American Government and Politics Today* provided by VersaWare, provides students with powerful search functions and multimedia features. VersaBook, which is available at no cost with every copy of the text, allows students to navigate through the text in the standard manner or use the advanced search function to locate topics quickly. Various types of media—including video, animations, and audio—are integrated for a truly unique learning experience. Using the annotation features, students can take notes and highlight material. Links to the Web allow students to access additional material quickly. Web pages and links can be stored in a binder for quick and easy access. Material will be updated by the authors to provide students with the latest information. This e-book version of *American Government and Politics Today* will be available in CD format or online.

# The Most Complete Web Connection

Not only has the political world been changing rapidly, but so, too, has the way in which information throughout the world is disseminated. We continue to make sure that our text leads the industry in terms of its integration with the Web. For this edition, you will find the following Web-based resources:

#### The Wadsworth Political Science Resource Center—at

http://politicalscience.wadsworth.com. Here, your students will find information on how to better surf the Web, links to general political Web sites, a career center, news issues, a discussion forum, and more—including the following materials:

- A Citizen's Survival Guide.
- *Election Central*, which contains updates and information on elections and links to the hottest election Web sites.
- Spanish Equivalents for Important Terms in American Government.
- A link to the interactive Web site for the America at Odds CD-ROM.
- A text-specific site for this book—accessible through the Wadsworth Political Science Resource Center's site or directly at <a href="http://www.wadsworth.com/politics/schmidt01/index.html">http://www.wadsworth.com/politics/schmidt01/index.html</a>. The text-specific Web site includes:

- A link to VersaBook.
- Online Instructor's Manual (password protected).
- Chapter outlines and objectives for the student to use.
- *Interactive quizzes* for which the students can submit responses to their professors via e-mail.
- Links to relevant Web sites.
- *Internet activities*, which ask students to surf the Web to obtain answers to thought-provoking questions.
- *InfoTrac exercises*, which introduce students to related topics to explore and cite specific articles.
- InfoTrac College Edition—an online search engine that will take the student to exactly where he or she needs to go to find relevant information, including full-text articles in important political science journals and other sources. A special icon in the margin indicates that InfoTrac will provide information and links relating to the particular topic being discussed in the text.
- Logging on—a section at the end of each chapter that lists and briefly describes important Web sites relating to topics covered in the chapter.
- Using the Internet for Political Analysis—a feature concluding each chapter that takes the student through specific exercises on how to use Web resources for a better understanding of American government.
- American Government Internet Activities—a free booklet that takes the student on a grand tour of numerous Web sites, each related to a specific major topic in American government studies. The student is asked to perform exercises on the Web for each topic covered.
- Online testing—which allows instructors to provide and grade examinations online, using *ExamView*.
- WebTutor on WebCT—a content-rich, easy-to-use, Web-based study aid for students that includes presentations of concepts, flashcards with audio clips, Web links, tutorials, discussion questions, and more.

# Special Pedagogical Aids and High-Interest Features

The 2001–2002 Edition of *American Government and Politics Today* contains numerous pedagogical aids and high-interest features to assist both students and instructors in the learning/teaching process. The following list summarizes the special elements that can be found in each chapter.

- Chapter Outline—a preview of the contents of the chapter.
- What If . . . —a discussion of a hypothetical situation that begins with a "Background" section and concludes with a "For Critical Analysis" question.
- Margin Definitions—for all important terms.
- Did You Know . . . ?—a margin feature presenting various facts and figures that add relevance, humor, and some fun to the learning process.
- E-mocracy—a new feature about politics and the Internet.
- Critical Perspective—a critical examination of a current issue or theory relating to a topic covered in the chapter.
- Which Side Are You On?—a special new feature designed to elicit student responses to controversial issues.

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- Making Waves—a new feature focusing on individuals or small groups of Americans who are "making waves" in today's political arena.
- *Global View*—a feature that looks at specific developments, events, or government structures in other nations of the world.
- An Ethical Issue—a special feature addressing the ethical aspects and implications of selected political events, behavior, and issues.
- Politics and Economics—a feature showing the connection between economic interests and political trends or outcomes.
- Issues for the Twenty-First Century—a concluding section on issues in American politics that are yet to be resolved.
- Making a Difference—a chapter-ending feature showing the student some specific ways in which he or she can become actively involved in American politics.
- *Key Terms*—a chapter-ending list, with page numbers, of all terms in the chapter that were boldfaced and defined in the margins.
- Chapter Summary—a point-by-point summary of the chapter text.
- Selected Print and Electronic Resources—including suggested readings as well as media resources.
- Logging on—a list and brief description of relevant and important Web sites.
- Using the Internet for Political Analysis—a specific Internet exercise.

# **Appendices**

Because we know that this book serves as a reference, we have included important documents for the student of American government to have close at hand. A fully annotated copy of the U.S. Constitution appears at the end of Chapter 2, as an appendix to that chapter. In addition, we have included the following appendices:

- The Declaration of Independence.
- How to Read Case Citations and Find Court Decisions.
- The Presidents of the United States.
- Federalist Papers No. 10, No. 51, and No. 78.
- Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court since 1900.
- Party Control of Congress since 1900.
- Spanish Equivalents for Important Terms in American Government.

## A Complete Supplements Package

We are proud to be the authors of a text that has the most complete, accessible, and fully integrated supplements package on the market. The text, along with the supplements listed below, constitute a total learning/teaching package for you and your students. For further information on any of these supplements, contact your West/Wadsworth/Thomson Learning sales representative.

## Supplements for Instructors

- Instructor's Manual.
- Online Instructors Manual (password protected).
- 2001 Political Science-Link.
- Test Bank.
- ExamView.

- American Government Transparency Acetates Package, 2001 Edition.
- Political Science Video Library.
- CNN Today: American Government, Volumes I and II (VHS videos).

#### Supplements for Students

- Study Guide.
- WebTutor on WebCT.
- American Government: An Introduction Using MicroCase ExplorIT, Sixth Edition.
- America at Odds CD-ROM.
- American Government Internet Activities, Third Edition.
- Readings in American Government, Third Edition.
- Supplemental government texts for California and Texas.
- An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Writing in American Politics.
- Handbook of Selected Court Cases.
- Thinking Globally, Acting Locally.
- Handbook of Selected Legislation and Other Documents.
- College Survival Guide: Hints and References to Aid College Students, Fourth Edition.
- InfoTrac College Edition.

#### For Users of the Previous Edition

As usual, we thank you for your past support of our work. We have made numerous changes to this text for the 2001–2002 Edition, many of which we list below. We have rewritten much of the text, added numerous new features, and updated it to reflect the results of the 2000 elections.

## **New Special Features**

- E-mocracy.
- Which Side Are You On?
- Making Waves.
- Global View.
- An Ethical Issue.
- Elections 2000.
- Making a Difference.

#### New What If . . . Features

- "What If . . . Americans Had to Pass a Test to Vote?" (Chapter 1).
- "What If . . . The States Controlled the Internet?" (Chapter 3).
- "What If . . . Your Personal Records Were Public?" (Chapter 4).
- "What If . . . Medical Care Was a Civil Right?" (Chapter 5).
- "What If . . . Only the Top 10 Percent of Students Could Go to a Public College?" (Chapter 6).
- "What If . . . Every Lobbying Contact Had to Be Reported?" (Chapter 8).
- "What If . . . Everyone Had to Join a Political Party?" (Chapter 9).
- "What If . . . Candidates Received Free Television Time?" (Chapter 10).
- "What If . . . The Internet Replaced Broadcast News?" Chapter 11).

- "What If . . . We Could Recall the President?" (Chapter 13).
- "What If . . . We Had a "Virtual" Bureaucracy?" (Chapter 14).
- "What If . . . Supreme Court Justices Had to Campaign?" (Chapter 15).
- "What If . . . There Were No Social Security?" (Chapter 16).
- "What If . . . The United States Defended Only Itself?" (Chapter 17).

#### New Critical Perspectives

- Chapter 1: "What Do Americans See for the Twenty-First Century?"
- Chapter 3: "Should States Make Foreign Policy?"
- Chapter 5: "Should the Immigration Door Be Shut?"
- Chapter 6: "What Has Affirmative Action Really Accomplished?"
- Chapter 7: "Is Technology Destroying Opinion Polling?"
- Chapter 8: "How Powerful Is Silicon Valley?"
- Chapter 9: "Is the Time Right for a Third Party?"
- Chapter 10: "The Vanishing Voter."
- Chapter 11: "Is There a Media Monopoly?"
- Chapter 13: "Is the President Becoming Too Powerful?"
- Chapter 14: "Has the Bureaucracy Exceeded Its Lawmaking Mandate?"
- Chapter 16: "Does E-Commerce Threaten National Sovereignty?"
- Chapter 17: "Is the Nuclear Threat Increasing?"

## Significant Changes within Chapters

Each chapter contains new features, updated information and tabular data, and, whenever feasible, the most current information available on the problems facing the nation. The effects of emerging technology, including the Internet, are emphasized throughout. Here we list other significant changes made to each chapter.

- Chapter 1—now includes a description of the dominant culture and the pervasive influence of that perspective in data and documents relating to American government and politics.
- Chapter 2—now includes more coverage of John Locke's influence on the founders, as well as greater emphasis on the significance of the federal system established by the Constitution.
- Chapter 3—a subsection on recent Supreme Court rulings on issues relating to state sovereignty and the Eleventh Amendment has been added.
- Chapters 4, 5, and 6—have been extensively revised and rewritten in part to reflect current political, economic, and social trends relating to civil rights issues and the status of minority groups, as well as recent court rulings in significant cases in this area. The discussion of the civil rights movement now discusses the black power movement to show that not all African Americans agreed with Martin Luther King's philosophy of nonviolence. New features in these chapters focus on the most current controversies concerning civil rights and liberties.

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• Chapter 7—now includes a discussion of the increasingly significant role of religious groups in the political socialization process and emphasizes the potential impact of changes in the media on political socialization and public opinion.

- Chapter 14—the coverage of whistleblowing has been expanded to discuss the application of the federal False Claims Act of 1986 in detecting and prosecuting fraud against the government.
- Chapter 15—now includes an expanded discussion of basic judicial requirements and emphasizes the significance of the 2000 elections for the future composition of the Supreme Court.
- Chapter 16—combines Chapters 16 and 17 of the previous edition into one chapter on domestic and economic policy. The content has been extensively revised to stress new policy issues raised by technology, the global economy, and other developments.

#### **New Print Supplements**

- A new edition of Readings in American Government.
- A new edition of transparency acetates.
- A new edition of American Government Internet Activities.
- A new edition of College Survival Guide.

## New Multimedia Supplements

- VersaBook.
- WebTutor on WebCT.
- American Government: An Introduction Using MicroCase ExplorIT, Sixth Edition.
- ExamView.
- Political Science Video Library.
- New Web resources.
- New CNN videos.

# Acknowledgments

Since we started this project a number of years ago, a sizable cadre of individuals has helped us in various phases of the undertaking. The following academic reviewers offered numerous constructive criticisms, comments, and suggestions during the preparation of all previous editions:

Danny M. Adkison
Oklahoma State University
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William Arp III
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Kevin Bailey
North Harris Community College, Texas
Evelyn Ballard
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The 2001–2002 Edition of this text is the result of our working closely with reviewers who each offered us penetrating criticisms, comments, and suggestions for how to improve the text. Although we haven't been able to take account of all requests, each of the reviewers listed below will see many of his or her suggestions taken to heart.

Orlando N. Bama, McLennan Community College, Texas

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In preparing this edition of *American Politics and Government Today*, we were the beneficiaries of the expert guidance of a skilled and dedicated team of publishers and editors. We would like, first of all, to thank Susan Badger, the president of Wadsworth Publishing Company, for the support she has shown for this project. We have benefited greatly from the supervision and encouragement given by Clark Baxter, editorial director. Sharon Adams Poore, our senior developmental editor, also deserves our thanks for her efforts in coordinating reviews and in many other aspects of project development. We are also indebted to Jennifer Ellis, editorial assistant, for her contribution to this project.

We are grateful to Bill Stryker, our production manager, for a remarkable design and for making it possible to get the text out on time. In addition, our gratitude goes to all of those who worked on the various supplements offered with this text and to Steve Wainwright, who coordinates the Web site and other multimedia offerings. We would also like to thank Diane McOscar, executive marketing manager, for her tremendous efforts in marketing the text.

Many other people helped during the research and editorial stages of this edition as well. Lavina Leed Miller skillfully coordinated the authors' efforts and provided editorial and research assistance from the outset of the project through its final stages. Pat Lewis's copyediting and proofreading abilities contributed greatly to the book. We also thank Sherri Downing-Alfonso and Roxie Lee for their proofreading and other assistance, which helped us to meet our ambitious publishing schedule, and Sue Jasin of K&M Consulting for her contributions to the smooth running of the project.

Any errors, of course, remain our own. We welcome comments from instructors and students alike. Suggestions that we have received on previous editions have helped us to improve this text and to adapt it to the changing needs of instructors and students.

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