# GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA

People, Politics, and Policy



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Cover Design: Paula Meyers and Proof Positive/Farrowlyne Associates, Inc.

Cover Photo: Robert Llewellyn Photo Research: Kelly Mountain Production: Michael Weinstein Compositor: Graphic World, Inc.

Printer and Binder: R. R. Donnelley & Sons, Inc.

Cover Printer: The Lehigh Press, Inc.

Government in America People, Politics, and Policy Fifth Edition

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#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lineberry, Robert L.

Government in America : people, politics, and policy/Robert L. Lineberry, George C. Edwards  $\scriptstyle\rm III.$  Martin P. Wattenberg.—5th ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-673-52111-7

1. United States—Politics and government. I. Edwards, George C. II. Wattenberg, Martin P. III. Title.

JK274.L573 1990

320.973—dc20

90-42295 CIP

90 91 92 93 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

#### **Acknowledgments**

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### PREFACE

Since 1980 *Government in America* has been one of the most widely used introductory-level texts in its field. In this fifth edition we have maintained the qualities that have proven themselves in the classroom.

The job of a text is to help the instructor teach well. It should, first, attract the interest of students. Second, it should convey ideas and evidence to support those ideas, to provide a basic structure for the subject on which a good teacher can base a course of instruction. We, the authors, have over a half century of experience teaching American government among us, and we have learned to present this complex subject in an engaging and understandable fashion.

### Continuity and Change

Perhaps the most notable change in the fifth edition is the addition of coauthors George C. Edwards III of Texas A&M University and Martin P. Wattenberg of the University of California at Irvine, two leading scholars of American politics and government. Their participation has created the opportunity for a thorough revision. The fifth edition is completely up to date and incorporates the best recent scholarship on American government.

**Focus** Government in America continues to adopt a "policy approach" to American government. We feel that the principal reason for studying politics is to understand the policies governments produce, and our discussion of politics is tied to the central question, "What difference does it make?" This focus engages students' interest and stimulates consideration of the most important aspects of governing. This approach was fairly unusual when introduced in the early editions, but today many other texts follow our lead.

**Themes** In addition to a policy focus, two important themes run throughout the book: democracy, and the size of government. Each chapter has specific sections relating these themes to the chapter's topic.

The first theme, democracy, deals with the initial great question central to governing—*How should we be governed?*—and evaluates how well the American system lives up to citizens' expectations of democratic government. As with previous editions, we continue to incorporate theoretical issues in our discussions of different models of American government. We try to encourage students to think analytically about the theories and develop independent assessments of the American government's politics and policy.

Our second theme, the size of government, focuses on another great question of governing: What should government do? Here we discuss alternative views concerning the proper role and size for American government and the influence that the workings of government and politics have on the size of government. The government's size is the core question around which politics revolves in contemporary America, and this question pervades many crucial issues, from equality to budgeting.

**Features** Five features appear throughout *Government in America*. Each chapter (after the first) opens with a box entitled "Government in Action," which illustrates the significance of the material in the chapter with a recent example or story from American politics. This feature is designed to draw students into the chapter and preview the major themes.

It is important that students recognize and think critically about the difficult choices faced by citizens and policymakers. A second feature in each chapter is entitled "A Question of Ethics" and focuses on questions of personal or policy ethics, asking the student to evaluate an ethical dilemma—for example, how much money should the government spend to prolong the life of a dying hospital patient? Another feature, "You Are the Policymaker," is also interactive. It asks students to make a policy decision on a question, such as whether the Supreme Court should follow the original intentions of the Constitution's framers or interpret the Constitution according to present-day standards.

Complementing our theme of democracy, each chapter contains one or more boxes, entitled "The People Speak," that provide *up-to-date* opinion poll data regarding a question discussed in the chapter—whether the American people favor abortion or whether they feel that those who contribute large amounts of money to congressional candidates exercise too much power, as examples. Finally, "America in Perspective" boxes look at an aspect of each chapter from the perspective of how the United States compares to other countries, focusing on the tax rates in other nations, for example, or the uniqueness of the American two-party system.

We have retained and substantially updated some well-received features of the first four editions. Each chapter contains extensive material in boxes, either to highlight a case study, to present some specific research on a question, or to provide figures and tables that illustrate important points.

These boxes provide invaluable learning aids for students. Each chapter ends with a contemporary bibliography and a listing of key terms. Additional study aids appear at the back of the book: a glossary of key terms, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and tables on presidents and presidential elections, party control of the presidency and Congress in the twentieth century, and Supreme Court justices serving in this century.

New to this edition are four photo essays on the development of Washington, D.C., and its political institutions. These essays provide historical background about the Washington community and introduce each of the four parts of *Government in America*.

### Supplements to the Text

A comprehensive selection of teaching and learning resources has been developed to supplement the fifth edition of *Government in America*.

**Laser Disc** American Government: Issues and Images is an original laser disc, also available on videotape. This two-sided videodisc, developed in consultation with American government professors and a multimedia courseware developer, contains nearly one hundred excerpts from newsreel collections, network news and cable TV archives, and state historical societies. The videodisc has been specifically designed for classroom use and includes pedagogically useful clips from campaign commercials and convention debates, as well as historic and

recent footage about domestic and foreign policy issues. An accompanying user's guide links each excerpt to *Government in America*.

**Study Guide** This comprehensive study guide, written by David Billeaux of Corpus Christi State University, helps students not only to remember the essential text material but also to examine and discover further perspectives on American government. Each chapter of the study guide contains learning objectives, a chapter synopsis/overview, a pretest, "reading for content" guides designed to focus students' reading of the text chapter, a glossary, posttest (review) questions, discussion questions, classroom exercises, and a section on research and resources.

**Instructor's Manual** Professor Billeaux has also written a complete resource manual for the instructor. Each chapter of the instructor's manual includes learning objectives, a synopsis, glossary terms, highlight boxes, tables, profiles, lecture outlines, and sources for other lecture material. The manual offers two special features: complete mini-lectures, which augment the text material, and suggested projects and activities. The instructor's manual also provides a sample course syllabus and a guide to films that can enhance lectures and discussions.

**Test Bank** The test item file, also prepared by Professor Billeaux, consists of two thousand multiple choice, true/false, and completion test questions. Each question is coded with the correct response and referenced to the page in *Government in America* on which the correct answer is indicated. The test bank is provided free of charge to instructors.

**Test Master** In addition to the traditional printed format, the complete test bank is also available free of charge on *Test Master*, HarperCollins' computerized test-generating system. *Test Master* is flexible and easy to use. It may be obtained for use with the IBM-PC and most compatibles and with the Apple IIe and IIc.

**State and Local Government** Rickert R. Althaus of South Missouri State has devised a state and local government supplement to be used exclusively with this edition of *Government in America*.

**Writing a Research Paper in Political Science** This hands-on supplement, authored by Daniel E. Farlow of Southwest Texas State, is available to all adopters of the text.

**The 1988 Elections in America** Larry J. Sabato of the University of Virginia provides a thorough analysis of the most recent elections in this thought-provoking ancillary.

**Super Shell Student Tutorial Software** Super Shell, a computerized student tutorial guide written by David Billeaux, is also provided free of charge to instructors. Super Shell was developed to help students retain the key concepts and ideas they have read. This versatile drill-and-practice software contains multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions for each chapter in the text. Diagnostic graphics provide immediate student reinforcement and make

recommendations about areas in which further study might prove beneficial. Students can print out narrative chapter outlines or consult an easy-to-use tutorial guide. In addition, a flash card program is included to drill students on the terms in the text's glossary.

**Harper Data-Analysis Package** William Parle of Oklahoma State University has prepared a student data-analysis package for the IBM-PC. The program performs several basic statistical functions, including univariate frequency distributions, bivariate frequency distributions, and bivariate frequency distributions controlling for the effects of a third variable. Free to instructors, the package comes with a "real world" data set that allows for a realistic program demonstration, a complete Help menu and Help files, a data dictionary feature, a set of screen instructions, and a user's manual.

**Transparencies** Transparency acetates of figures in the text are available free to instructors who want to help students interpret visual data. These transparencies facilitate the integration of student reading with classroom lectures.

**Media Program** A complete media program includes a wide selection of well-regarded films and videos for classroom use. The Media Handbook, designed to help instructors integrate the films and videos with their text and teaching plans, outlines various audiovisual options and suggests follow-up discussion questions.

Instructors may choose from among many excellent productions. The Power Game, Hedrick Smith's popular four-part PBS documentary on the elected and unelected—government in Washington, and Eyes on the Prize, the awardwinning six-part series on the civil rights movement, are both available through the HarperCollins media program. Also available is "The Thirty-Second President," Bill Moyers's examination of the presidency in an age of soundbites, from his PBS series A Walk Through the Twentieth Century. The Challenge of the Presidency, a one-hour videotape, combines David Frost's thoughtful interviews of former presidents. Adopters of Government in America may also receive a unique newsreel video, a selection of authentic newsreel footage that captures the key American political events of the past six decades.

Grades Grade-keeping and Class-management Software Free to instructors, *Grades* maintains data sets for up to two hundred students. It is suitable for the IBM-PC and most compatibles.

### Acknowledgments

Many, many colleagues have kindly given us counsel on the drafts of this edition. They include the following:

James E. Anderson, Texas A&M University Judith A. Baer, Texas A&M University David M. Billeaux, Corpus Christi State University Janet K. Boles, Marquette University James M. Carlson, Providence College Richard A. Champagne, University of Wisconsin-Madison Anne N. Costain, *University of Colorado* Patricia Crotty, East Stroudsberg University Joel Diemond, Dutchess Community College Bernard J. Firestone, Hofstra University Elizabeth N. Flores, Del Mar Community College Charles D. Hadley, University of New Orleans Larry N. Gerston, San Jose State University John R. Kayser, University of New Hampshire Kenneth D. Kennedy, College of San Mateo Laurel A. Mayer, Sinclair Community College Wendell L. Mott, Ferris State University Kevin V. Mulcahy, Louisiana State University David J. Olson, University of Washington Richard H. Payne, Sam Houston State University William M. Pearson, Lamar University B. Guy Peters, University of Pittsburgh John K. Price, Louisiana Tech University Harold W. Stanley, University of Rochester Glenn Stockwell, College of the Redwoods Danny G. Sutton, Iowa State University John C. Syer, California State University, Sacramento Robert K. Toburen, Louisiana Tech University John K. White, Catholic University of America Peter Woll, Brandeis University

A number of editors provided valuable assistance in the production of this edition of *Government in America*. Most indispensable was the contribution made by Deborah Samyn, who steadfastly supervised every aspect of the project and especially helped develop the themes and special features. Bob Olander and Dale Beda of Proof Positive/Farrowlyne Associates, Inc., expertly handled project coordination and the text and cover design. Political Science editors Lauren Silverman, Karen Bednarski, and Bruce Nichols provided important guidance, helping keep the project on course and on schedule.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to three of Professor Edwards's colleagues at Texas A&M University—Judith Baer, Frank Baumgartner, and Arnold Vedlitz—all of whom made major substantive contributions to this edition. Russell Gardner assisted in tracking down various odds and ends, and Timothy Lelesi provided valuable research assistance for the photo essays. Frances and Leonard Wattenberg each contributed a lifetime of memories about Washington, thereby helping to outline the photo essays.

Robert L. Lineberry George C. Edwards III Martin P. Wattenberg

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Robert L. Lineberry** currently serves as Senior Vice President at the University of Houston. He served from 1981–88 as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

A native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, he received a B.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1964 and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina in 1968. He taught for seven years at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Dr. Lineberry is currently President, Policy Studies Section, of the American Political Science Association. He is the author or coauthor of five books in political science. Dr. Lineberry has also authored or coauthored eighteen articles in professional journals in his discipline. In addition, he has taught regularly, including twenty years of instruction of freshman American government.

He has been married to Nita Lineberry for twenty-four years. They have two children, Nikki, who works in Kansas City, and Keith, a student at the University of Texas.

**George C. Edwards III** is Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University. From 1985–88 he was Visiting Professor of Social Sciences at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. One of the country's leading scholars of the presidency, he has written over a dozen books on American politics and policy-making, including *At the Margins: Presidential Leadership of Congress, Presidential Approval, Implementing Public Policy,* and *National Security and the U.S. Constitution.* 

Professor Edwards has served as President of the Presidency Research Section of the American Political Science Association and on many editorial boards. In 1988 he went to Brasília to advise those writing the new constitution for Brazil. Professor Edwards was also an issue leader for the National Academy of Public Administration's project on the 1988 Presidential Transition, providing advice to the new president.

When not writing, speaking, or advising, he prefers to spend his time skiing, watching baseball, or attending art auctions.

**Martin P. Wattenberg** is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. His first regular paying job was with the Washington Redskins in 1977, from which he moved on to receive a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 1982.

While at Michigan, Professor Wattenberg authored *The Decline of American Political Parties* (Harvard University Press), currently in its third edition. Most recently, he has written *The Rise of Candidate-Centered Politics: Presidential Elections of the 1980s*, also published by Harvard. In addition, he has contributed many professional articles to such journals as the *American Political Science* 

Review, American Journal of Political Science, American Politics Quarterly, Public Opinion Quarterly, and Public Opinion.

Professor Wattenberg has also lectured abroad about American politics in Germany, France, Spain, and Canada. Presently, he is working with a colleague in Berlin on a project comparing American and German electoral behavior.

When not writing or lecturing, he can most often be found on the beach at Newport or at the local tennis courts.

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