



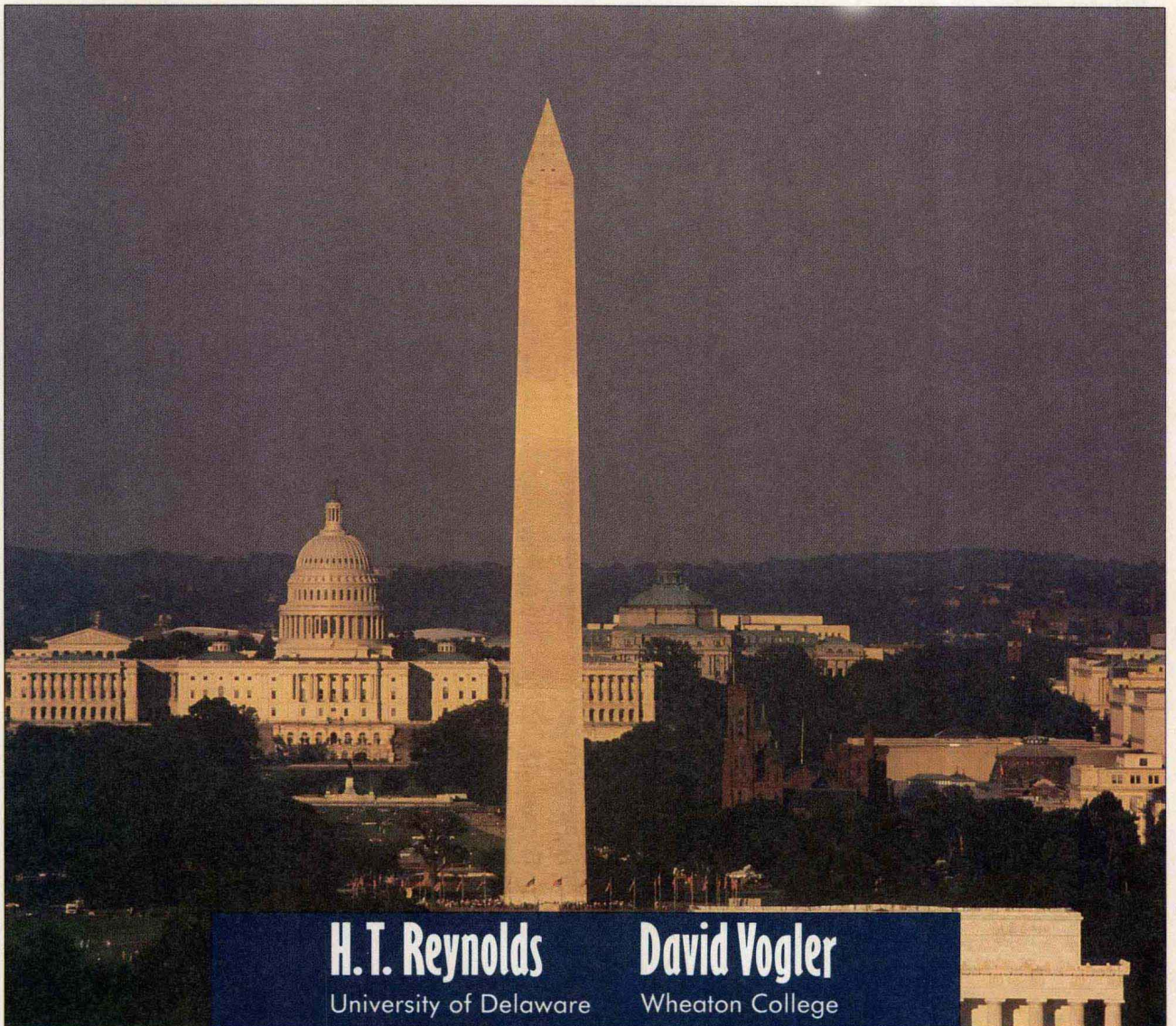
Governing

America

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America



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GOVERNING AMERICA

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Preface

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Walt Whitman penned several lines that could introduce a book about American politics at any time in this country's history:

Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)

We believe that America's contradictions are the lifeblood of its political system. Our own experience in the classroom and in politics has convinced us that the best way to teach politics is to recognize that clashing interpretations are what make the study of government so fascinating and exciting. We also think that students in an introductory course should not simply accumulate disembodied facts but should attempt to integrate, interpret, and evaluate this information. Whether they ultimately become activists, legislators, executives, judges, administrators, campaign workers, or simply constituents, students of American politics need to learn how to reconcile competing explanations and principles. It is these beliefs and experiences that both led us to write *Governing America* and dictated its main theme.

THE CENTRAL THEME: WHO GOVERNS?

F. Scott Fitzgerald once said that the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still function. We are convinced that students can not only manage but actually prefer works that promote critical thinking to those that simply present a nuts and bolts catalogue of facts. As its central theme our book raises the fundamental question of who governs and describes three different and often contradictory answers—the democratic, pluralist, and power elite models of government. This theoretical approach, we believe, facilitates the study of American govern-

ment while at the same time it triggers the critical analysis needed to understand and participate in its governance.

One author is an elected official in town government and has worked in Congress and in congressional campaigns; the other has been actively involved in political campaigns at the state and local levels and has served on a task force on county government reform. These experiences in politics have persuaded us that the models analyzed in *Governing America* are not abstractions created by political theorists and forced to fit the real world of American politics. Rather, they reflect such fundamental values as accountability, competition, freedom, equality, compromise, and fair play, which lie at the heart of politics in the United States and which are recognized and used by citizens and political leaders at all levels of government.

Other textbooks also raise the question of who governs. Yet it is surprising how many of them lose sight of the topic after the initial discussion. We have endeavored to keep this question constantly in mind and to use information about the political system to help answer it. Needless to say, we do not mention the theme on every page or in every section. Still, the matter of who governs is never far from view, and we try to relate each chapter to this higher question. In this respect we also differ from those books that take for granted the inherent importance of each discrete piece of information about American politics without integrating these pieces into the larger picture of who does and should participate in governing.

CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

Governing America is a mainstream text in content and organization. It includes chapters on the major topics covered in most introductory courses in American government. One chapter, however, is not found in most other texts: Chap-

ter 2 describes the social and economic conditions of American life, to give the student a feel for the environment in which political events take place. The organization of the book thus traces the theme of who governs from the social, economic, and philosophical underpinnings of American politics to the complex world of policymaking in the 1990s.

Although we pursue a central theme, each chapter is self-contained. This means that instructors can skip around, as they often do, to tailor the book to their particular needs and can continue to use their present course outlines. Furthermore, when an important concept reappears we provide a brief review so that readers can understand the concept within that context, without having to refer back to other sections of the book.

PEDAGOGY

A number of goals have guided our writing of this book. One has been to avoid the cluttered, cut-up appearance that makes many textbooks difficult to follow. We have designed graphs, charts, and tables to present data clearly and have directly linked them to the discussion in the text. In addition, we frequently suggest ways students, on their own, can confirm or challenge assertions made in the text. The boxed features called “A Closer Look” in each chapter raise pertinent questions and provide additional information central to the topics of the chapter rather than cluttering the book with trivia.

The extensive use of examples throughout the book reflects our belief that it is always better to show the impact of ideas than it is to tell the reader about them. Another objective is to *use* concepts after they have been introduced and defined. Readers need to know that what they are learning really does matter for comprehending government and politics.

To help students organize the material, checkpoints throughout the chapter review topics covered in the major sections. Each chapter concludes with a summary of the major ideas. Finally, we have included citations of the most

up-to-date political science research (as well as classic studies) and made suggestions for further reading in each chapter so that students can pursue topics they find of particular interest.

SUPPLEMENTS

A comprehensive selection of teaching and learning resources have been developed to supplement *Governing America*.

Laser Disc

American Government: Issues and Images is an original laser disc, also available on video tape. This two-sided video disc, developed in consultation with American Government professors and a multi-media courseware developer, contains over 100 motion picture excerpts from newsreel collections, network news and cable archives, and state historical societies. The video disc has been specifically designed for classroom use and includes pedagogically focused clips from campaign commercials, convention debates, and both historic and recent footage of domestic and foreign policy issues. An accompanying User's Guide links each excerpt to the *Governing America* text.

Student Resource Handbook

Jett Conner, the Chairman of the Political Science Department at Metropolitan State College in Denver, has authored a Student Resource Handbook which provides an interactive review of text material. Each chapter of the Handbook contains learning objectives, a chapter summary, a list of key terms, and sample essay questions. In addition, a “Thinking Critically” section raises issues or questions which require students to respond using analytical reasoning. Another special chapter feature, a “Debating the Issues” section, rephrases a central theme from each text chapter as a debate topic, asking students to resolve the issue by formulating arguments and drawing upon chapter materials in support or rebuttal of their positions.

Instructor's Resource Manual

Larry Elowitz, the Chairman of the Political Science Department of Georgia College, has written an Instructor's Resource Manual which is provided free of charge to instructors. Each of the manual's chapters contain learning objectives, chapter outlines, and lists of key terms, personalities, and concepts. Special features of the manual include suggested classroom activities, research assignments, and "Issue Sketches" intended to promote class debates. Each chapter contains a composite chapter quiz composed of multiple-choice, completion, true/false, and short-essay questions. An answer key to the quizzes completes the Manual.

Test Bank

The test item file, written by Keith Nicholls of Arizona State University, consists of 2,000 multiple-choice, true/false, and completion test questions. Each question is coded with the correct response and referenced to the page in *Governing America* on which the correct answer is indicated. The Test Bank is provided free of charge to instructors.

Testmaster

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

Supershell Student Tutorial Software

A computerized Student Tutorial Guide, written by Robert E. England, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Oklahoma State University, is also provided free of charge to instructors. *Supershell* 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 may 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 which 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 which 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.

Writing a Research Paper in Political Science

Daniel E. Farlow, of Southwest Texas State, has authored an informative, practical student guide discussing how to write research papers for political science courses. This supplement is available free to adopters.

The 1988 Elections in America

Written by Larry J. Sabato, of the University of Virginia, this popular supplement provides an in-depth analysis of the events surrounding our most recent national election. Copies are provided free of charge to instructors.

Grades

Grade-keeping and class-management software, free to instructors, maintains data sets for up to 200 students. It is suitable for the IBM-PC and most compatibles.

Transparencies

Transparency acetates of figures in the text are free to instructors who are interested in helping students interpret the presentation of important visual data. These transparencies facilitate the integration of student assignments with classroom lectures.

Media Program

A comprehensive 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 the text and their teaching plans, outlines various audio-visual options and suggests follow-up discussion questions.

Instructors may choose from many excellent programs. *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 award-winning six-part series on the civil rights movement, are both available through the HarperCollins media policy. Also available is "The Thirty-Second President," Bill Moyers' examination of the office 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 Reagan, Carter, Ford, and Nixon. Adopters of *Governing 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.

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