

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS TODAY 2015-2016 EDITION



Chapter 1

One Republic— Two Americas?

Learning Outcomes

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- 1.1 Define the institution of government and the process of politics.
- 1.2 Identify the political philosophers associated with the “social contract” and explain how this theory shapes our understanding of the purpose of government and the role for individuals and communities in the United States.
- 1.3 Describe the U.S. political culture and identify the set of ideas, values, and ways of thinking about government and politics shared by all.
- 1.4 Compare and contrast types of government systems and identify the source of power in each.
- 1.5 Define political ideology and locate socialism, liberalism, conservatism, and libertarianism along the ideological spectrum.
- 1.6 Apply understanding of the purpose of government and the U.S. political culture to evaluate government’s ability to meet new challenges over time.



Hundreds rallied near a Detroit, Michigan McDonald's restaurant in support of a strike by fast food workers who were demanding a raise from their current wages of about \$7.40 an hour to \$15 an hour. Similar strikes for higher wages took place in cities around the country.

Politics and Government

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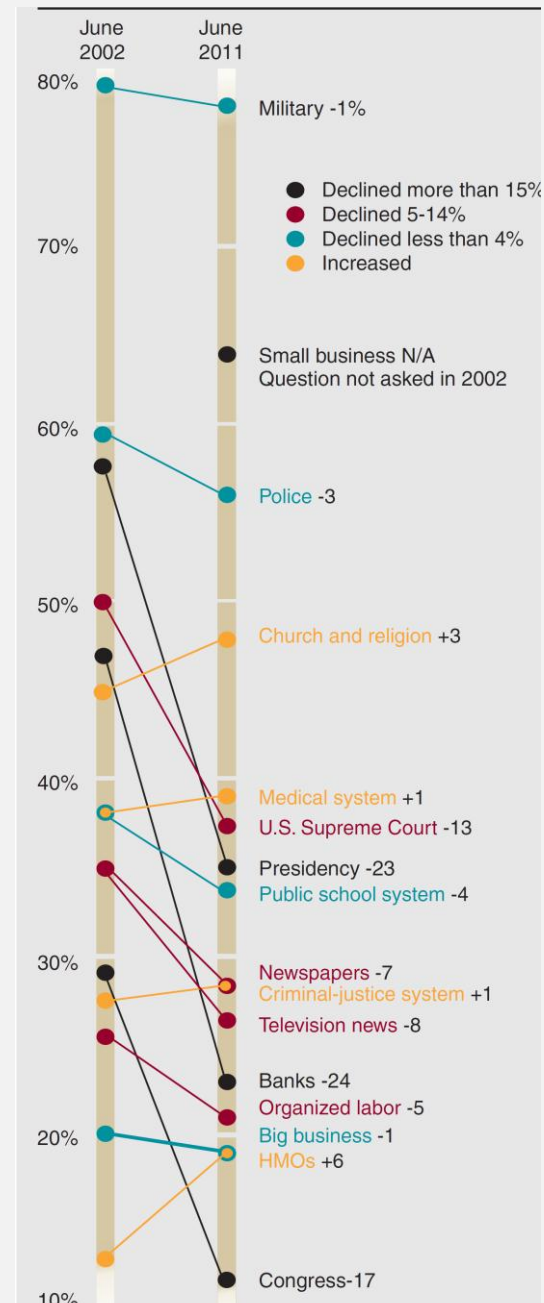
- Why is Government Necessary?
 - Politics
 - Institutions
 - Divine right of kings
 - Social contract

Politics and Government

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- Fundamental Values
 - Liberty
 - Order and the Rule of Law
 - Individualism
 - Equality
 - Property

Confidence in Institutions Declines



Politics and Government

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Allen Brown/dbimages/Alamy

The Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial, located on the national mall in Washington DC, is administered by the National Park Service. The image of Dr. King emerges from a granite “stone of hope” surrounded by a “mountain of despair” reflecting the steadfast resolve of an entire generation to achieve a fair and honest society.

Why Choose Democracy?

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- Forms of Government:
 - Totalitarian regime
 - Authoritarianism
 - Aristocracy
 - Oligarchy
 - Democracy
 - Anarchy

Why Choose Democracy?

9

- Direct Democracy as a Model
 - Initiative
 - Referendum
 - Recall
- The Limits of Direct Democracy



Demonstrators carry placards and hold a Syrian opposition flag during a protest against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad's regime in Kafranbel in Idlib province January 18, 2013.

Why Choose Democracy?

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- A Democratic Republic
 - U.S. is a democratic republic
 - Representative democracy
- Principles of Democratic Government
 - Universal suffrage
 - Majority
 - Majority rule
 - Limited government

Why Choose Democracy?

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Barack Obama ✓
@BarackObama

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Does seeing a more personal side to candidates via their websites or social media accounts make you more likely to vote for them?

Who Really Rules in America?

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- Majoritarianism
- Elitism
- Pluralism

Who Really Rules in America?

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- Political Ideologies
- The Traditional Political Spectrum
 - Socialism (far left)
 - Libertarianism (far right)
- In the Middle: Liberalism and Conservatism

Who Really Rules In America?

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- The Difficulty of Defining Liberalism and Conservatism
 - Liberalism
 - Conservatism
 - Libertarianism

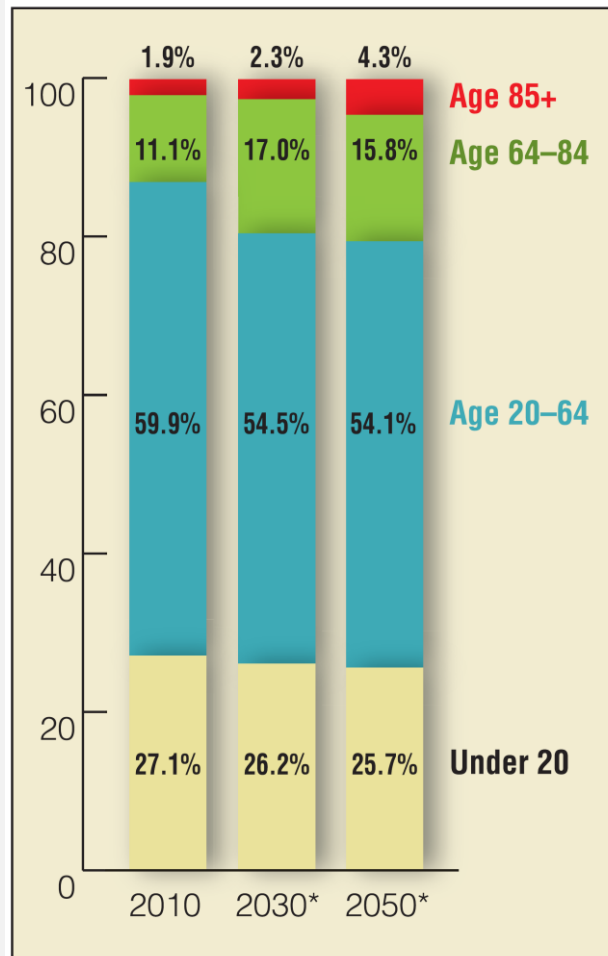
The Challenge of Change

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- Demographic Change in a Democratic Republic
- Ethnic Change
 - Hispanic
 - Latino
- Globalization
- The Technology Revolution
- Environmental Change

The Aging of America

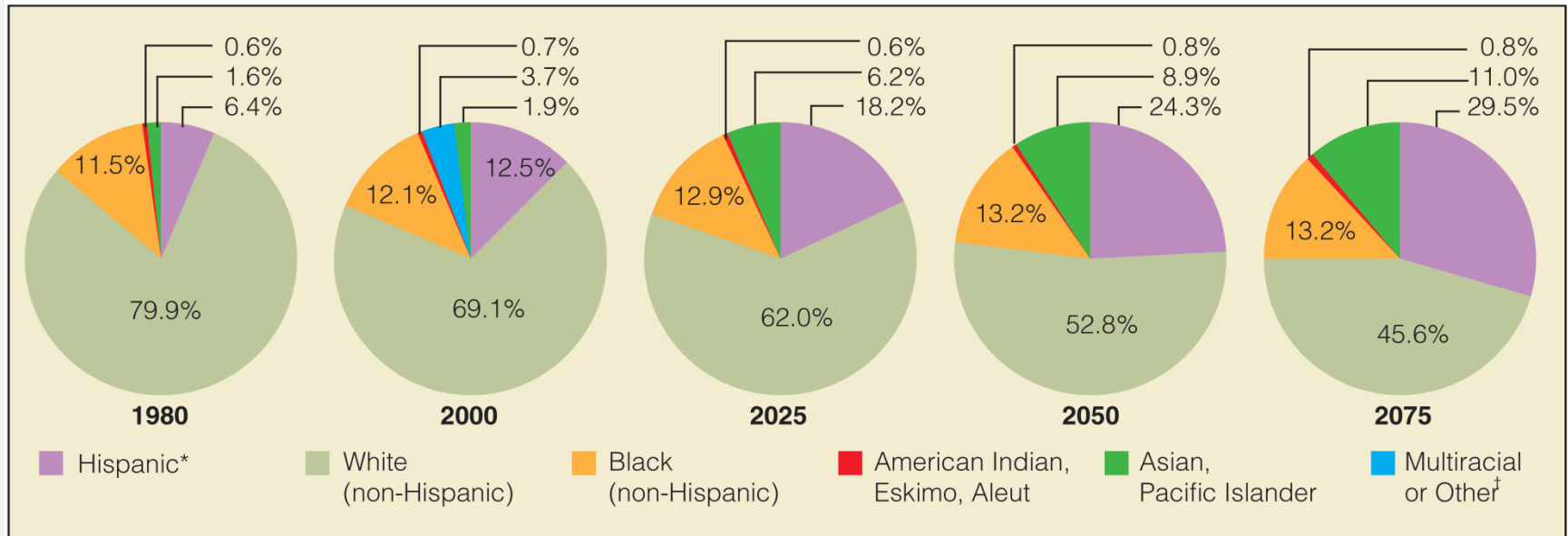
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*Data for 2030 and 2050 are projections.

Distribution of U.S. Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1980-2075

18



Data for 2025, 2050, and 2075 are projections.

The Challenge of Change

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Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call/Newscom

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

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Click picture to view video



Video Discussion Questions

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1. Why did this ruling divide the Court?
2. Does the *Citizens United* decision reinforce or refute fundamental American political values?
3. As a country, are we moving closer to elite rule? Why or why not?