Chapter One:
The Democratic Republic
Learning Outcomes

1. Define the terms politics and government.

2. Explain some of the ways in which Americans interact with their government.

3. State what is meant by the words order, liberty, authority, and legitimacy.
4. Distinguish the major features of direct democracy and representative democracy.

5. Describe majoritarianism, elite theory, and pluralism as theories of how democratic systems work.

6. Summarize the conflicts that can occur between the principles of liberty and order, and also those of liberty and equality.
Learning Outcomes

7. Discuss conservatism, liberalism, and other popular American ideological positions.

8. Determine how the basic political principles addressed in this chapter were reflected in the 2012 elections.
Politics: the process of resolving conflicts and deciding who gets what, when and how

Government: institution which resolves conflicts and allocates benefits and privileges
Government is Everywhere

- From Your Birth
  - Records
  - Safety standards
  - Public schools
  - Judicial system
- Throughout Your Life
- To Your Death
Why Is Government Necessary?

- Order
- Liberty
- Authority
- Legitimacy
Democracy and Other Forms of Government

- Types of government
  - Totalitarian
  - Authoritarian
  - Aristocracy
  - Theocracy
  - Oligarchy
  - Anarchy
  - Democracy
Direct Democracy as a Model
- Decisions made by people directly
- Attained most easily in small communities
- Initiative
- Referendum
- Recall
Dangers of Direct Democracy

- Uneducated masses
- Demagogues
- Tyranny of majority
A Democratic Republic
- Popular sovereignty
- People hold ultimate power
- Representative democracy
Democracy and Other Forms of Government

- Principles of Democratic Government
  - Universal suffrage
  - Majority rule
  - Minority rights
- Constitutional Democracy
  - Limited government
What Kind of Democracy Do We Have?

- Democracy for Everyone
  - Majoritarianism
- Democracy for the Few
  - Elite Theory
- Democracy for Groups
  - Pluralism
Fundamental Values

- Political culture & political socialization
  - Family
  - Educational system
- Liberty versus Order
- Equality versus Liberty
  - Economic equality
  - Property rights and capitalism
The Proper Size of Government
- Debate over size and scope
- Fear over “big government”
- Response to terrorism
- The Great Recession
Fundamental Values
Political Ideologies

- Conservatism versus Liberalism
  - Conservative values
    - Order, patriotism, traditional ideals
    - Freedom from government intervention
    - Liberty as freedom from government support of nontraditional ideals
  - Liberal values
    - Social and economic equality
    - Supports government intervention, regulation
    - Liberty as freedom to live one’s own life
Political Ideologies

The Traditional Political Spectrum (continuum from left to right)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much power should the government have over the economy?</th>
<th>Socialism</th>
<th>Liberalism</th>
<th>Conservatism</th>
<th>Libertarianism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active government control over major economic sectors.</td>
<td>Positive government action in the economy.</td>
<td>Positive government action to support capitalism.</td>
<td>Almost no regulation over the economy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What should the government promote?</th>
<th>Socialism</th>
<th>Liberalism</th>
<th>Conservatism</th>
<th>Libertarianism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic equality, community.</td>
<td>Economic security, equal opportunity, social liberty.</td>
<td>Economic liberty, morality, social order.</td>
<td>Total economic and social liberty.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Political Ideologies

- **Socialism (far left)**
  - Strong support for economic/social equality
  - Advocates government ownership of business or employee cooperatives

- **Libertarianism (far right)**
  - Strong support of property rights; opposes regulation, income redistribution
  - Skepticism toward government activities
The Four-Cornered Ideological Grid

- **Economic equality** ↔ **Economic liberty**
- **Cultural liberty**
- **Cultural order**

- **Liberals or Progressives**
- **Libertarians**
- **The Political Center**
- **Economic Liberals, Cultural Conservatives**
- **Conservatives**

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One Nation, Divided

- Political polarization
- Political gridlock
  - Strict party-line voting
  - Tea Party Republicans
- Republican overreach
How do high expectations, unrealistic goals, and campaign promises contribute to the political disillusionment among the electorate?
Questions for Critical Thinking

★ Do you think the American national government should be restricted in its capabilities to expand its size and scope?
Do you think it is necessary to expand the role of the American national government on issues involving fundamental political values?
Do you believe that the Tea Party movement will continue to grow in power and influence? Why or why not?
What are some of the factors that have led to party polarization in the U.S.?
How does party polarization relate to American political culture?