Chapter 1

American Government: Roots, Context, and Culture
Roots of American Government: We the People

Section 1.1
The Earliest Inhabitants of the Americas

- Indigenous peoples
  - 30,000 years
  - Not homogeneous
  - 100 million inhabitants
  - European diseases
  - Warfare
The First Colonists

- Reasons for immigration
- A religious tradition takes root
  - "A city on a hill"
  - Lack of religious tolerance
What did colonial settlement look like before 1700?
Who was Anne Hutchinson?
Types of Government

Section 1.2
Types of Government

- Classification of governments
- Types of governments
  - Monarchy
  - Aristocracy
  - Totalitarianism
  - Oligarchy
  - Democracy
    - Direct democracy
    - Representative democracy
How did Aristotle classify the types of governments?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule by</th>
<th>In Whose Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Few</td>
<td>Aristocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Many</td>
<td>Polity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Aristotle, *Politics* 3, 7.
Devising a National Government in the American Colonies

- Rejected monarchy/aristocracy
- Rejected direct democracy as unworkable
- Chose republic
- Indirect democracy
What does a modern monarchy look like?
Functions of American Government

Section 1.3
We the people . . .

- Establishing Justice
- Ensuring Domestic Tranquility
- Providing for the Common Defense
- Promoting the General Welfare
- Securing the Blessings of Liberty
American Political Culture and the Basic Tenets of American Democracy

Section 1.4
Liberty and Equality

- Which is most important?
- Freedom *from* versus freedom *to*
- Political equality
Popular Consent, Majority Rule, and Popular Sovereignty

- Popular consent
  - Governments derive power by consent of the governed
- Majority rule
  - Bill of Rights protects minority rights
- Popular sovereignty
  - Basis in natural law
Individualism

- Unique to American democracy
- Traced to Puritans
- Linked to unalienable rights
Religious Faith and Religious Freedom

- Religious conflict motivation for immigration
- Colonists sought freedom of religion.
  - Did not want to grant it to others
- Religious freedom enshrined in Constitution
  - Tolerance still more of an ideal
Why is religious freedom a tenet of American democracy?
The Changing American People

Section 1.5
Racial and Ethnic Composition

- Immigration from Western Europe
- Immigration from Eastern Europe
- Growth of Hispanic and Asian populations
- Minorities now the majority
Aging

- Strain on Social Security
  - Thanks, Baby Boomers!
- Impact on working Americans
Religious Beliefs

- No longer mainly Christian
- Different political and social demands
Regional Growth and Expansion

- North versus South
- Anti-government bias of West
- Is rural versus urban more important today?
Family and Family Size

- Gender roles
- Declining marriage rate
- Same-sex marriage (please note: your book was published before the Supreme court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage)
What does the typical American family look like?
Section 1.6

Political ideology
Political Ideology

... the coherent set of values and beliefs people hold about the purpose and scope of government.
Political Ideology

Four functions of ideologies

- **Explanation** (why social and political conditions are the way they are)
- **Evaluation** (social conditions and political institutions and events)
- **Orientation** (toward issues and a position within the world)
- **Political Program** (help people make political choices and guide their political actions)
Finding Your Political Ideology

- Conservatives
  - Social conservatives
- Liberals
- Moderates
What are Americans' political ideologies?  

![Graph showing trends in political ideologies from 1974 to 2012. The graph indicates the percentage of individuals identifying as liberal, conservative, or moderate over time. The data shows a decline in moderate and liberal percentages and an increase in conservative percentages.](image-url)
Problems with Ideological Labels

- Is left-to-right the only direction?
- Economic versus personal liberties
- Statists
- Libertarians
Toward Reform: People and Politics

Section 1.7
Redefining Our Expectations

- Loss of faith in American institutions
  - Frustration
  - Dissatisfaction
Do Americans have confidence in political institutions?

Americans declaring they had a "great deal" of confidence in the institution (percentage)

Year


Congress Presidency The press Business and industry Medicine