

## Key Terms

### Chapter 1

- **government:** the institution through which a society makes and enforces public policies
- **public policies:** all the things a government decides to do
- **legislative power:** the power to make laws
- **executive power:** the power to enforce and administer laws
- **judicial power:** the power to interpret laws
- **dictatorship:** a government in which all power rests with an individual or small group
- **democracy:** a government in which supreme authority rests with the people
- **state:** a body of people, living in a defined territory, with a government that can make and enforce law without the consent of any higher authority
- **sovereign:** to have supreme and absolute power within a territory
- **divine right:** the theory that governments gain their authority from the will of God
- **autocracy:** government in which a single person holds all political power
- **oligarchy:** government in which a small, usually self-appointed group has the sole power to rule
- **unitary government:** a government in which all power belongs to one central agency
- **federal government:** a government in which power is divided between one central and several local governments
- **division of powers:** the split of power between central and local governments
- **confederation:** an alliance of independent states
- **presidential government:** a government with separate executive and legislative branches
- **parliamentary government:** a government in which the executive branch is part of the legislative branch and subject to its control
- **majority rule:** the principle that the will of the majority controls the actions of government
- **compromise:** the process of blending and adjusting competing views and interests
- **citizen:** one who holds certain rights and responsibilities within a state
- **free enterprise system:** an economic system characterized by the private ownership of capital goods, private investment, and a competitive marketplace that determines success or failure

### Chapter 2

- **limited government:** the idea that government is restricted in what it may do and that every individual has certain rights that government cannot remove
- **representative government:** the idea that government should both serve and be guided by the will of the people
- **Magna Carta:** the Great Charter signed in 1215 that limited the powers of the English king and guaranteed certain fundamental rights
- **due process:** protection against the unjust taking of life, liberty, or property
- **Petition of Right:** a document signed in 1628 that required the English king to obey the law of the land and increased the influence of Parliament
- **English Bill of Rights:** a document signed in 1689 that required free elections and guaranteed many basic rights, such as due process and trial by jury, to all English citizens
- **charter:** a written grant of authority from the king
- **bicameral:** having two houses, as in a two-house legislature
- **proprietary:** the name given to colonies organized and governed according to the will of a proprietor, a person granted land and authority by the king
- **unicameral:** having only one house, as in a one house legislature
- **confederation:** a joining of several different groups for a common purpose
- **Albany Plan of Union:** Benjamin Franklin's proposal that the 13 colonies form a congress to raise armed forces, regulate trade, and deal jointly with Native Americans
- **delegate:** a representative
- **popular sovereignty:** the principle that government exists only with the consent of the governed
- **Articles of Confederation:** the agreement, effective in 1781, that established the first central government of the United States
- **ratification:** formal approval of a proposal
- **Framers:** the individuals who attended the Philadelphia Convention
- **Virginia Plan:** a plan offered at the Convention that called for a central government with three branches, with each state's representation in a bicameral legislature based mainly on population
- **New Jersey Plan:** a plan calling for a central government with a unicameral legislature and equal representation of all the states.
- **Connecticut Compromise:** an agreement to divide Congress into two houses, one with representation based on state population and one with equal representation for all states
- **Three-Fifths Compromise:** an agreement to count each slave as three fifths of a person when determining state population
- **Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise:** an agreement forbidding Congress from taxing state exports or interfering with the slave trade for at least 20 years
- **Federalist:** a person *favoring* ratification of the proposed U.S. Constitution
- **Anti-Federalist:** a person *opposing* ratification of the proposed U.S. Constitution

### Chapter 3

- **popular sovereignty:** the political principle that people are the source of all governmental power and that government requires the consent of the governed
- **limited government:** the idea that government may only do those things that the people have given it the power to do
- **constitutionalism:** the idea that government must be conducted according to constitutional principles
- **rule of law:** the principle that government and its officers must always obey the laws of the land
- **separation of powers:** the principle that each of the basic powers of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—should be wielded by an independent branch of government
- **checks and balances:** the system under which each branch of government can check, or limit, the actions of the other branches
- **veto:** to reject an act of Congress
- **judicial review:** the power of a court to determine whether a government action is constitutional or not
- **unconstitutional:** in violation of a provision of the Constitution, and therefore illegal and of no effect
- **federalism:** the principle that political power should be divided between a central government and a number of regional governments
- **amendment:** a change to the written words of the Constitution
- **ratification:** the act of approving a proposed amendment
- **formal amendment:** one of four ways to change or add to the written language of the Constitution
- **Bill of Rights:** the name given to the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which guarantee many basic freedoms; all ten amendments were ratified in 1791
- **executive agreement:** a pact made by the President directly with the head of a foreign state
- **treaty:** a formal agreement between two or more independent states
- **electoral college:** the body of electors that makes the formal selection of the President
- **Cabinet:** a body made up of the heads of the 15 executive departments that advises the President
- **senatorial courtesy:** the Senate custom of refusing to approve any presidential appointee unless that person has the support of all Senators from the appointee's home state who belong to the same party as the President

### Chapter 4

- **federalism:** a system of government in which a written constitution divides power between a central government and several regional governments
- **division of powers:** assigning some powers to the federal government and others to the States
- **delegated powers:** powers granted by the Constitution

- **expressed powers:** powers specified clearly in the Constitution
- **implied powers:** powers not specifically mentioned, but suggested by the expressed powers
- **inherent powers:** powers that belong to all independent national governments
- **reserved powers:** powers not given to the national government or denied to the States
- **exclusive powers:** powers that can only be used by the national government
- **concurrent powers:** powers shared by the national and State governments
- **Supremacy Clause:** the provision declaring the Constitution to be the supreme law of the land
- **enabling act:** an act directing the people of a U.S. territory to frame a proposed State constitution
- **act of admission:** an act creating a new State
- **grants-in-aid program:** grants of federal money or other resources to the States and their cities, counties, and other local government units
- **categorical grant:** a grant made for a specific, well-defined purpose
- **block grant:** a grant given for a broadly defined purpose
- **project grant:** a grant made to States, local governments, or private agencies that apply for funds to carry out a project or provide training
- **interstate compact:** an agreement made between two States or between a State and a foreign government
- **Full Faith and Credit Clause:** the clause of the Constitution that says that each State will respect the laws, records, and court decisions of other States
- **extradition:** the legal process of returning a fugitive to a State
- **Privileges and Immunities Clause:** the clause in the Constitution that says that no State can make unreasonable distinctions between its own residents and those persons who live in another State

## Chapter 5

- **political party:** a group of persons who seek to control government by winning elections and holding public office
- **political spectrum:** the range of political views, from the so-called left to the right
- **partisanship:** strong support for a specific political party and its policies
- **single-member districts:** a voting district in which only one candidate is elected to each office on the ballot
- **plurality:** the largest number of votes cast for an elected office; this number does not have to be a majority of *all* votes cast
- **bipartisan:** an approach to policy making in which the two major parties find common ground on an issue
- **consensus:** general agreement among different groups on an issue
- **coalition:** a temporary alliance of several groups who join to form a working majority in a multiparty system
- **incumbent:** the current officeholder
- **faction:** one of two or more competing groups

- **spoils system:** the practice of awarding public offices, contracts, and other governmental favors to those who supported the party in power
- **electorate:** the people eligible to vote
- **sectionalism:** a devotion to the interests of a particular region
- **ideological parties:** parties based on a particular set of social, economic, and political beliefs
- **single-issue parties:** parties focused on only one public-policy issue
- **economic protest parties:** parties whose members are united by anger over economic hard times and dislike for the major parties
- **splinter parties:** parties that have split off from one of the major parties; often focused on a single popular leader
- **ward:** one of several voting districts into which cities are often divided for the election of city council members
- **precinct:** the smallest unit of election administration; voters in a precinct cast their ballots at a single polling place located in that precinct

## Chapter 6

- **suffrage:** the right to vote
- **franchise:** a synonym for the right to vote
- **electorate:** the potential voting population
- **disenfranchised:** denied the right to vote
- **poll tax:** a fee charged before allowing someone to vote
- **alien:** foreign-born residents who have not become citizens
- **transients:** people who plan to live in a State for only a short time
- **registration:** a method of voter identification intended to prevent fraud
- **purging:** the process of removing the names of voters who are no longer eligible to vote
- **poll books:** the official lists of qualified voters in each precinct
- **literacy:** a person's ability to read and write
- **gerrymandering:** the practice of drawing electoral district lines in order to limit the voting strength of a particular group or political party
- **injunction:** a court order that compels or restrains the performance of some act by a private individual or a public official
- **preclearance:** the requirement that all changes to State election laws be approved by the Department of Justice before going into effect
- **off-year election:** a congressional election held in the even years between presidential elections
- **ballot fatigue:** a phenomenon that results in fewer votes being cast for offices at the end of an election ballot
- **political efficacy:** having an influence on politics
- **political socialization:** the process by which people gain their political attitudes and opinions
- **gender gap:** the difference between the political choices of men and women
- **party identification:** the loyalty of people to a specific party
- **straight-ticket voting:** the practice of voting for candidates from only one party

- **split-ticket voting:** the practice of voting for candidates of more than one party
- **independent:** a person with no party affiliation

## Chapter 7

- **nomination:** the naming of those who seek office
- **general election:** regularly scheduled elections for public office
- **caucus:** a group of people who meet to select candidates for election
- **direct primary:** an election held in a party to pick the party's candidates
- **closed primary:** a party's nominating election in which only party members can vote
- **open primary:** a party's nominating election in which any qualified voter can vote
- **blanket primary:** an election in which all voters can vote for candidates from every party
- **runoff primary:** an election held if no one wins a majority in the main primary
- **nonpartisan elections:** an election in which candidates are not identified by party labels
- **ballot:** the medium by which a voter registers a choice in an election
- **absentee voting:** the process of voting without going to polling places on election day
- **coattail effect:** when a strong candidate at the top of a ballot attracts support for lesser candidates in his or her party
- **precinct:** a voting district
- **polling place:** the place where voters in a precinct vote
- **political action committee (PAC):** the political arms of special interest groups
- **subsidy:** a grant of money, usually from the government
- **hard money:** campaign contributions given directly to candidates and subject to legal limits
- **soft money:** campaign contributions given to parties and other political organizations in unlimited amounts

## Chapter 8

- **public affairs:** events and issues that concern the people at large, such as politics and the making of public policies
- **public opinion:** those attitudes held by a significant number of people on matters of government and politics
- **mass media:** those means of communication that reach large, widely dispersed audiences simultaneously
- **peer group:** those people with whom one regularly associates, including friends, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors
- **opinion leader:** any person who has an unusually strong influence on the views of others
- **mandate:** the instructions a constituency gives its elected officials

- **interest group:** a private group that works to shape the making of public policy
- **public opinion poll:** a tool used to collect information by asking people questions
- **straw vote:** a nonscientific poll that asks many people the same question
- **universe:** the whole population that a poll aims to measure
- **sample:** a representative slice of the total universe
- **random sample:** a polling group of randomly selected people
- **quota sample:** a polling group constructed to reflect the major characteristics of a given universe
- **medium:** a means of communication
- **weblog:** Web site postings usually devoted to a specific subject, like politics
- **public agenda:** the societal problems that the nation's political leaders and the general public agree need government attention
- **sound bite:** short, focused reports that can be aired in about 30-45 seconds

## Chapter 9

- **interest group:** a collection of people who share certain views on public matters and work to shape public policy to their benefit
- **public policy:** all the goals that a government pursues in the many areas of human affairs in which it is involved
- **public affairs:** those issues and events that concern the people at large
- **trade association:** an interest group formed by a segment of the business community and focused on a particular trade
- **labor union:** an organization of workers who share the same type of job or who work in the same industry
- **public-interest group:** an organization that works for the best interests of the overall community, rather than the narrower interests of a specific segment
- **lobbying:** the process by which organized interests try to affect the decisions and actions of public officials
- **lobbyist:** someone who tries to persuade public officials on behalf of an interest group
- **amicus curiae brief:** "friend of the court" brief; written arguments presented to a court in support of one side in a legal case that an interest group is not directly involved in, but whose outcome it has a stake in
- **grass-roots pressures:** influence brought to bear upon public officials by members of an interest group or the public at large, often using very basic measures such as letters, phone calls, or emails

## Chapter 10

- **bicameral:** a legislature made up of two houses
- **term:** the two-year period during which the U.S. Congress meets, starting on noon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January of each odd-numbered year
- **session:** for the U.S. Congress, the period of time during which Congress assembles and conducts business; there are two sessions in each term
- **convene:** to begin

- **adjourn:** to suspend operations until the start of the next Congressional session
- **recess:** to temporarily suspend business, such as a session of Congress
- **prorogue:** to end or discontinue; the President has the power to prorogue a session of Congress
- **special session:** a Congressional meeting called to deal with some emergency situation
- **apportion:** to distribute seats in the House of Representatives among the States on the basis of their populations
- **reapportion:** to redistribute the seats in the House every ten years, after each census
- **off-year election:** a Congressional election that takes place in-between presidential elections
- **single-member district:** an election district from which voters elect a single state representative to the House of Representatives
- **at-large:** an election system in which all candidates are elected from the state as a whole, rather than from a single district
- **gerrymander:** drawing the boundaries of an election district so that it gives an advantage to the political party that controls the state legislature
- **incumbent:** the person who currently holds a political office
- **continuous body:** a political body in which all of the seats are never up for election at the same time
- **constituency:** the people and interests represented by a politician
- **delegate:** a lawmaker who acts as the agent of the people who elected him or her, even if it means going against his or her own views
- **trustee:** a lawmaker who acts based on their personal convictions and judgment
- **partisan:** a lawmaker who acts in accordance with their party platform and party leaders
- **politico:** a lawmaker who tries to combine the approaches of the delegate, trustee, and partisan
- **bills:** laws proposed in Congress
- **floor consideration:** the process of considering and acting upon a proposed measure or bill on the floor of the House or the Senate
- **oversight function:** the process by which Congress, through its executive committees, ensures that executive branch agencies are carrying out the policies that Congress has set by law
- **franking privilege:** benefit that allows Senate and House members to mail letters and other materials postage-free

#### Chapter 11

- **expressed powers:** those powers given to Congress expressly in the Constitution
- **implied powers:** those powers considered necessary for Congress to have in order to carry out its expressed powers
- **inherent powers:** those powers gained by Congress as the result of its status as part of the national government



- **commerce power:** the power of Congress to regulate interstate and foreign trade
- **tax:** a charge levied by government on persons or property to raise money to meet public needs
- **public debt:** all of the money borrowed by the Federal Government over the years and not yet repaid
- **deficit financing:** the act of spending more than is taken in during a year and borrowing money to make up the difference
- **bankruptcy:** the distribution of a bankrupt individual or company's assets among those to whom a debt is owed
- **legal tender:** any kind of money that must be accepted by law in payment for debts
- **copyright:** the exclusive right of an author to reproduce, publish, and sell his or her creative work
- **patent:** a grant of the sole right to manufacture, use, or sell any new and useful process or machine for up to 20 years
- **territory:** a part of the United States that is not a state and has its own system of government
- **eminent domain:** the government's inherent power to take private property for public use
- **naturalization:** the process by which citizens of one country become citizens of another country
- **Necessary and Proper Clause:** the final clause of Article I, Section 8 in the Constitution, which gives Congress the power to make all laws "necessary and proper" for carrying out its expressed powers; also called the Elastic Clause
- **strict constructionist:** someone who argues that Congress can use only those implied powers *absolutely necessary* to carry out its expressed powers
- **liberal constructionist:** someone who argues that the Constitution gives Congress very broad implied powers
- **consensus:** a general agreement among the majority
- **appropriate:** to assign to a particular use; Congress appropriates billions of dollars to programs such as education, unemployment compensation, and Social Security
- **successor:** a replacement chosen to fill a vacancy
- **impeach:** to accuse, or bring charges against
- **acquit:** to find not guilty
- **perjury:** lying under oath
- **censure:** a formal condemnation of a person's behavior
- **subpoena:** a legal order directing someone to appear before a committee or court

## Chapter 12

- **Speaker of the House:** the elected presiding officer of the House and the leader of its majority party
- **President of the Senate:** the Senate's presiding officer

- **President *pro tempore*:** the elected Senate officer who presides in the Vice President's absence
- **party caucus:** a closed meeting of the members of each party in each house
- **floor leaders:** unofficial party officers who serve in each house
- **majority leader:** the floor leader of the majority party in either house
- **minority leader:** the floor leader of the minority party in either house
- **whip:** assistant floor leaders
- **committee chairmen:** the heads of the standing committees in Congress
- **seniority rule:** the unwritten custom that the party members with the longest records of service should hold the most important posts in Congress
- **standing committee:** permanent panels in each house of Congress
- **subcommittee:** divisions of standing committees that do most of the committee's work
- **select committee:** a committee set up for a special purpose and often for a limited time
- **joint committee:** a committee made up of members of both houses
- **conference committee:** a temporary joint committee created to settle differences in versions of a bill passed by each house of Congress
- **bill:** a proposed law presented to the House or Senate for consideration
- **joint resolution:** measure similar to bills that have the force of law
- **concurrent resolution:** measure addressed by the House and Senate that lack the force of law
- **resolution:** measure having to do with a matter dealt with by only one house
- **rider:** a provision attached to an important measure likely to pass
- **pigeonhole:** to bury a bill in committee
- **discharge petition:** a petition that lets members force a bill onto the floor
- **quorum:** a majority of the full membership
- **engrossed:** printed in its final form
- **filibuster:** a tactic by which a minority of Senators seeks to delay or block Senate action on a measure
- **cloture:** a Senate rule limiting debate
- **veto:** to refuse to sign
- **pocket veto:** if Congress adjourns its session within 10 days of submitting a bill to the President that the President does not sign, the bill dies

#### Chapter 13

- **chief of state:** the ceremonial head of government
- **chief executive:** the leader of the executive branch and holder of executive power under the Constitution
- **chief administrator:** the director of the executive branch
- **chief diplomat:** the main architect of the nation's foreign policy and its chief spokesperson to the world
- **commander in chief:** the leader of the nation's armed forces
- **chief legislator:** the main author of the nation's public policies
- **chief of party:** the leader of the political party controlling the executive branch

- **chief citizen:** the representative of all the people and the champion of public interest
- **presidential succession:** the scheme by which a presidential vacancy is filled
- **Presidential Succession Act of 1947:** the current law fixing the order of succession to the presidency after the Vice President
- **balance the ticket:** the practice of choosing a vice presidential running mate who can strengthen the presidential candidate's chance of being elected
- **presidential elector:** one of a group of individuals who cast the formal votes that choose the President
- **electoral vote:** one of two votes cast by an elector, one for President and one for Vice President
- **electoral college:** the group of people chosen from each State and the District of Columbia to formally select the President and Vice President
- **presidential primary:** an election in which a party's voters choose state delegates to the national convention and/or express a preference for their party's presidential nomination
- **winner-take-all:** contest where the candidate who wins gets all the delegates chosen at the primary
- **proportional representation:** a system that gives a primary candidate a proportion of delegates equal to their percentage of the vote
- **caucus:** a closed meeting of party members who select delegates to a national convention
- **national convention:** a quadrennial meeting where major parties select their presidential ticket
- **platform:** a party's formal statement of principles
- **keynote address:** the speech opening a national convention
- **swing voter:** a voter who has not made up his or her mind at the start of a campaign
- **battleground State:** a State in which either candidate could win
- **district plan:** a plan in which each State chooses electors as it chooses members of Congress
- **proportional plan:** a plan that gives each presidential candidate a share of the State electoral vote equal to his or her share of the State popular vote
- **direct popular election:** a plan that would abolish the electoral college and replace it with a direct popular vote for president
- **national popular vote plan:** a plan to reform the electoral system to accomplish a direct popular vote

#### Chapter 14

- **Executive Article:** the name given to Article II of the U.S. Constitution, which establishes the office of the President
- **imperial presidency:** a critical view of the presidency that argues that Presidents have become too powerful, isolated from Congress, and unaccountable for their actions

- **executive order:** directives, rules, or regulations issued by the President that have the force of law
- **ordinance power:** the authority to issue executive orders
- **executive privilege:** a right claimed by some Presidents that allows them to refuse to provide certain information to Congress or the federal courts
- **treaty:** a formal agreement between two or more independent states
- **executive agreement:** a pact between the President and the head of a foreign state or their subordinates; it has the same standing as a treaty but does not require approval by Congress
- **recognition:** the act of acknowledging the legal existence of a country and its government
- ***persona non grata:*** an unwelcome person
- **pocket veto:** a method of killing a bill at the end of a congressional session by not acting on it before Congress adjourns
- **line-item veto:** the power to cancel out specific provisions, or line items, in a bill while approving the rest of the measure
- **reprieve:** the postponement of the carrying out of a criminal sentence
- **pardon:** the legal forgiveness of a crime
- **clemency:** the power of mercy or leniency
- **commutation:** the power to reduce a fine or the length of a sentence imposed by a court
- **amnesty:** a blanket pardon offered to a group of law violators

## Chapter 15

- **bureaucracy:** a large, complex administrative structure that handles the everyday business of an organization
- **bureaucrat:** a person who works for a bureaucracy
- **administration:** the collective name given to the many administrators and agencies within the government
- **staff agency:** a support unit that aids the chief executive and the administrators of the various line agencies by offering advice and management assistance
- **line agency:** a government agency that carries out specific tasks in pursuit of goals set by Congress and the President
- **Executive Office of the President:** a complex organization of several separate agencies staffed by some 900 of the President's closest advisors and assistants
- **federal budget:** a very detailed estimate of receipts and expenditures during the next fiscal year
- **fiscal year:** the 12-month period used by government and business for record-keeping, budgeting, and other financial management purposes
- **domestic affairs:** all matters of a nation that are not connected to the area of foreign affairs
- **executive department:** one of 15 major departments in the executive branch, each of which specializes in a specific area of public policy; together they make up the Cabinet

- **civilian:** nonmilitary
- **secretary:** the title given to the heads of the executive departments
- **attorney general:** the title of the head of the Department of Justice
- **independent agency:** a federal agency that operates independently of the 15 executive departments
- **independent executive agency:** the largest category of independent federal agencies, which include most of the non-Cabinet agencies
- **civil service:** the collective name given to the majority of civilians who work directly for the federal government
- **patronage:** the practice of handing out jobs, contracts, and other government favors to political supporters and friends
- **spoils system:** another name for the patronage system, dating back to the administration of Andrew Jackson
- **draft:** compulsory, or required, military service; also called conscription
- **independent regulatory commission:** one of 11 agencies that monitor and police key aspects of the national economy, with little direction from the President
- **government corporation:** a government agency set up by Congress to carry out specific business activities

## Chapter 16

- **fiscal policy:** the methods used by the government to raise and spend money
- **progressive tax:** a tax whose rate increases with one's income
- **payroll tax:** taxes withheld from employee paychecks
- **regressive tax:** taxes levied at a fixed rate without regard to the taxpayer's ability to pay them
- **excise tax:** a tax on the manufacture, sale, or consumption of goods and services
- **estate tax:** a tax on the assets of someone who dies
- **gift tax:** a tax on gifts from one living person to another
- **customs duty:** taxes on goods brought to the U.S. from abroad
- **interest:** a charge for borrowed money, usually a percentage of the money borrowed
- **deficit:** the shortfall created when income is lower than expenses
- **surplus:** the excess created when income is higher than expenses
- **demand-side economics:** the view that increased government spending will create higher employment, boost the economy, and raise tax revenues
- **supply-side economics:** the view that lower taxes, not greater government spending, will boost the economy
- **public debt:** the total amount of money owed by the federal government
- **entitlement:** benefits that must be paid under federal law to everyone who meets the eligibility requirements
- **controllable spending:** items in the federal budget that the government can increase or decrease spending on each year
- **gross domestic product:** the total value of all goods and services produced in a country each year

- **inflation:** a general increase in prices throughout the economy
- **deflation:** a general decrease in prices throughout the economy
- **recession:** an absence of GDP growth and a shrinking economy
- **fiscal policy:** the government's powers to tax and spend to influence the economy
- **monetary policy:** the government's power to influence the economy by regulating the money supply and the availability of credit
- **open market operations:** the process of buying or selling government securities from the nation's banks
- **reserve requirement:** the amount of money that the Federal Reserve Board says banks must keep on reserve
- **discount rate:** the rate of interest a bank must pay when it borrows money from a Federal Reserve bank

## Chapter 17

- **domestic affairs:** events in one's home country
- **foreign affairs:** a nation's relations with other nations
- **isolationism:** a refusal to become involved in the affairs of the rest of the world
- **foreign policy:** everything a nation does and says in world affairs
- **right of legation:** the right to send and receive diplomatic representatives
- **ambassador:** an official representative of a sovereign state in the conduct of its foreign affairs
- **diplomatic immunity:** not being subject to the laws of a state to which one is an accredited ambassador
- **passport:** a legal document that identifies someone as a citizen of a state
- **visa:** a permit to enter another state
- **espionage:** spying
- **terrorism:** the use of violence to intimidate a government or a society, usually for reasons that are political or have to do with the ideas and beliefs of a group
- **collective security:** the idea that nations will act together to protect the peace
- **deterrence:** keeping a strong enough military to discourage any attack by a hostile power
- **cold war:** a period of more than 40 years of hostile U.S.-Soviet relations
- **containment:** the policy of keeping communism from expanding
- **détente:** a relaxing of tensions
- **foreign aid:** economic and military aid given to other countries
- **regional security alliance:** nations united by a mutual defense treaty
- **NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization; a major security alliance including the United States, Canada, and much of Europe
- **United Nations:** a global organization dedicated to maintaining peace, security, and friendship between nations
- **Security Council:** a 15-member UN council responsible for maintaining international peace

## Chapter 18

- **inferior courts:** the lower federal courts beneath the Supreme Court
- **jurisdiction:** the authority of a court to try and decide a case
- **concurrent jurisdiction:** when federal and state courts both have the power to hear a case
- **plaintiff:** the person who files a lawsuit
- **defendant:** the person against whom a legal complaint is made
- **original jurisdiction:** the power held by the first court to hear a case
- **appellate jurisdiction:** the power to hear a case on appeal from the court with original jurisdiction
- **judicial restraint:** the philosophy that judges should decide cases based on the original intent of the lawmakers and on precedent
- **precedent:** prior judicial decisions that guide rulings on similar cases
- **judicial activism:** the philosophy that judges should also take current social conditions into account when deciding cases
- **criminal case:** a court case in which a defendant is tried for committing a federal crime
- **civil case:** a court case dealing with a non criminal dispute
- **docket:** a list of cases to be heard by a court
- **record:** the transcript of the proceedings from a trial court
- **writ of certiorari:** an order by the Supreme Court telling a lower court to send it a specific case to review
- **certificate:** a request by a lower court for the Supreme Court to certify the answer to a question about proper procedure or rule of law in a case
- **brief:** detailed written statements about a case that are filed with the court
- **majority opinion:** the official ruling of the Supreme Court on a case, explaining how the majority decision was reached
- **concurring opinion:** a separate opinion that agrees with the majority opinion but offers a different reason for making that ruling
- **dissenting opinion:** an opinion written by a justice who disagrees with the ruling of the majority in a case
- **courts-martial:** military courts that serve the special needs of the armed forces and are not part of the federal court system
- **civilian tribunal:** a court belonging to the judicial branch, separate from the military courts
- **redress:** satisfaction of a legal claim, such as payment for damages

## Chapter 19

- **Bill of Rights:** the first ten amendments added to the Constitution, ratified in 1791
- **civil liberties:** freedoms protected against any unjust actions taken by the government
- **civil rights:** freedoms protected by positive actions taken by the government
- **aliens:** people who are not citizens of the country in which they live

- **Due Process Clause:** clause in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment that says no state can take away a person's life, liberty, or property without due process of law
- **process of incorporation:** the manner in which the Supreme Court has interpreted the guarantees in the Bill of Rights as being part of the Due Process Clause
- **Establishment Clause:** the clause in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment that prohibits the government from establishing a religion
- **Free Exercise Clause:** the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment clause that bans government from interfering with the free practice of any religion
- **parochial:** church-related
- **libel:** the false and malicious use of printed words
- **slander:** the false and malicious use of spoken words
- **sedition:** the crime of attempting to overthrow the government by force or disrupt it by violent acts
- **sedition speech:** advocating sedition
- **prior restraint:** banning an idea before it is expressed
- **injunction:** a court order
- **shield laws:** laws protecting lawyers from giving up confidential sources
- **symbolic speech:** expressing an idea by one's conduct
- **picketing:** patrolling a workplace while on strike
- **assemble:** to gather with one another
- **civil disobedience:** the act of violating the law in an intentional but nonviolent way to protest a law or public policy
- **content neutral:** a requirement that allows the government to regulate assemblies based on time, place, and manner of assembly but not on the basis of what might be said
- **right of association:** the right to join with others to promote political, economic, and social causes

## Chapter 20

- **due process:** the guarantee that the government will act fairly and according to the law
- **procedural due process:** *how* the government acts in terms of its methods and procedures
- **substantive due process:** *why* the government acts in terms of its policies and the reasons for them
- **police power:** the authority of each state to protect and promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare
- **search warrant:** a court order authorizing a search
- **involuntary servitude:** forced labor
- **discrimination:** prejudice or unfairness
- **writs of assistance:** blanket search warrants used by British customs officials to invade and search private homes
- **probable cause:** reasonable suspicion of a crime
- **exclusionary rule:** rule that states evidence gained illegally by the police cannot be used at the trial of the person from whom it was seized



- **writ of habeas corpus:** a court order demanding that a prisoner be brought before the court and reason given why they should not be released
- **bill of attainder:** a law allowing a person to be punished without a trial
- **ex post facto law:** a law applied to an act committed before the law was passed
- **grand jury:** the formal device by which a person can be accused of a serious crime
- **indictment:** a formal complaint made to a grand jury that charges the accused with one or more crimes
- **presentment:** a formal accusation brought by a grand jury
- **information:** an affidavit in which a prosecutor swears there is enough evidence to justify a trial
- **double jeopardy:** principle that holds that a person cannot be tried twice for the same crime
- **bench trial:** a trial heard only by a judge, with no jury
- **Miranda rule:** the requirement that police officers must inform suspects of their constitutional rights before questioning them
- **bail:** money deposited by an accused person with the court to guarantee that they will appear in court
- **preventive detention:** holding an accused person without bail to prevent them from committing a serious crime before trial
- **capital punishment:** the death penalty
- **treason:** the crime of fighting against the United States or giving aid and comfort to its enemies

## Chapter 21

- **heterogeneous:** a mixture made up of different parts that are unrelated to each other
- **immigrant:** aliens legally admitted as permanent residents of a country
- **reservation:** public lands set aside by government for use by Native American tribes
- **refugee:** one who seeks protection from war, persecution, or some other danger
- **assimilation:** the process by which people of one culture merge into and become part of another culture
- **rational basis test:** a test used to decide if a government classification is discriminatory or not
- **strict scrutiny test:** a stricter test than a rational basis test in which officials must show that they have a strong governmental interest in classifying people
- **segregation:** the separation of one group from another on the basis of race
- **Jim Crow:** discriminatory laws aimed at African Americans
- **separate-but-equal doctrine:** the idea that separate but equal facilities are legal
- **integration:** the process of bringing a segregated group into mainstream society

- **de jure:** by law
- **de facto:** by fact
- **affirmative action:** a policy requiring most employers to take positive steps to remedy the effects of past discrimination
- **quota:** the share of a group needed to satisfy an affirmative action requirement
- **reverse discrimination:** discrimination against the majority group in society
- **citizen:** a person who owes allegiance to the United States and is under the protection of its laws
- **jus soli:** the law of the soil
- **jus sanguinis:** the law of the blood
- **naturalization:** the legal process by which a person can become a citizen of another country after birth
- **alien:** a citizen of a foreign nation who lives in this country
- **expatriation:** the legal process by which a loss of citizenship occurs
- **denaturalization:** the process by which a naturalized citizen loses his or her citizenship involuntarily
- **deportation:** the process by which aliens are legally required to leave the country