1. Interest Groups Protecting Elite Values
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Defenders Of The Status Quo

Interest Groups Protect Established Elite Values.

1. Organized interests favor upper classes.

2. Organized interests favor conservative strategies of influence.

3. Single-issue groups are more representative of their members than traditional interest groups.

Lobbyists are Government Elites.

1. Lobbyists’ greatest success is in campaign contributions.

2. PACs originate one-third of all campaign contributions.
“The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse.”
– James Madison, 1829
THE BUREAUCRATIC ELITE

Bureaucratic Power comes from technological advances, information explosions, societal growth and complexity.

1. The Washington Bureaucratic Elite is a major base of power.
2. Iron Triangles are three major power bases coming together to decide an issue outcome.
3. Revolving Doors are public-private sector power trades of knowledge, experience, and contacts.
4. The Power of Regulatory Commissions derives from independence and oversight responsibilities.
5. Fiscal Responsibility is the power to establish national priorities within the boundaries of available resources.
1. Single Interest Groups (SIGs) are smaller, but more efficient than Public Interest Groups (PIGs).

2. SIGs are effective, because their members are very committed to the cause. They commit themselves to a cause that is very ideological.

3. The majority of American voters cast votes according to security or economic concerns.
The Power of a President lies in their ability to provide means for chosen ends.

1. Presidents facilitate elite interaction with those who seek consensus with each other.

2. Presidents only govern within the boundaries of elite consensus. Their greatest power is the “bull pulpit.”

3. Presidential power is symbolic, attracting mass attention and emotion.

4. Presidential power is multiplied with formal powers.

5. Commander in Chief (war-making) powers can commit the nation to war.
Presidential Decisions

Informal or persuasion powers place the president in the center of decision making.

1. President Bill Clinton’s economic policy gave personalized government and simplified political issues to the masses.

2. President George W. Bush’s war on terrorism and homeland security policies gave the masses protection.

3. President George W. Bush’s directives to Centers of Disease Control pertaining to the “Bird Flu” to prevent widespread catastrophe.

4. President Barack Obama’s Project Constellation Space Directive set our path to interstellar space travel.
Presidential Executive Orders

Method in which an American President issues an order to federal bureaucracies and/or agents of the United States (civil service and political appointees).

- Executive Order
  - Orders given to the Secretary of a federal agency to manage operations within their agency and within the federal government itself.
  - Subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information ACT of 1966.
Presidential Findings

Method in which an American President identifies an issue of national importance and directs orders to federal bureaucracies and/or agents of the United States.

- Presidential Findings
  - Normally issued for matters dealing with threats to the national security of the United States.
  - Orders issued to Executive Series (ES), high level political appointees, and/or clandestine operations.
  - Not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1966.
  - Presidential findings may not be documented.
  - Question of legality.
  - Bay of Pigs, Iran-Contra, IPDC, Assassinations.
“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”
– John Adams, 1770
• The President's Daily Brief (PDB), is a Top Secret document produced each morning for the President of the United States. This is the task of the Director of National Intelligence.

➢ Combines domestic and foreign intelligence agencies using electronic surveillance and clandestine operations (spies).
Some Intelligence Agencies

• Air Force Intelligence
• Army Intelligence
• Alcohol, Tobacco And Firearms (ATF)
• Border Patrol
• Customs
• Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
• Department of Energy
• Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
• Geospatial Intelligence Agency
• Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
• National Security Agency (NSA)
• Navy Intelligence
• Transportation Safety Administration
• United States Postal Inspection
The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of 1966 is a law that gives American citizens the right to access information from the federal government. It is often described as the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government.

- Executive orders are subject to partial or full disclosure under the FOIA.

- Current and future presidential administrations may deny release of executive orders for up to 25 years after issuance. They may also further delay or deny release if doing so poses a risk to national security.
Presidents & Bureaucracies

Presidential Control of the Bureaucracy is a power delegated by the Constitution.

1. Appointments allow the president to manage programs and enforce policy using loyal officials.

2. Reorganization allows the president to prioritize his policy initiatives.

3. The Budget with Congress allows the president to make a policy statement about the role of government.
1. The tradition of the Cabinet dates back to the beginnings of the Presidency itself. Established in Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, the Cabinet's role is to advise the President on any subject he may require relating to the duties of each member's respective office.

President’s Cabinet

1. Vice President of the United States
2. Department of State
3. Department of the Treasury
4. Department of Defense
5. Department of Justice
6. Department of the Interior
7. Department of Agriculture
8. Department of Commerce
9. Department of Labor
10. Department of Health and Human Services
11. Department of Housing and Urban Development
12. Department of Transportation
13. Department of Energy
14. Department of Education
15. Department of Veterans Affairs

Federal Civil Service

• Federal Civil Service Employment

1. Recruiting skilled administrators to carry out increasingly complex government functions.

2. President Woodrow Wilson is regarded as the “Father of Civil Service.”

3. Reduced the impact of a “spoils system” where employment is based solely on political party.

4. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulates federal civil service.

5. All employees enjoy civil service protections except in areas of intelligence.
Presidential Appointment

• Appointments allow presidents to implement their philosophy across the federal government.
• Serve “at the pleasure of the President of the United States.”
• There are three tiers of presidential appointments:
  – **Tier 1: Secretaries**
    • Requires Senate approval
    • No civil service protection
  – **Tier 2: Under Secretaries**
    • Requires Senate approval
    • No civil service protection
  – **Tier 3: Support Services / Executive Staff**
    • Does not require Senate Approval
    • 5000 to 8000 appointments serve at any given time
    • No civil service protection
Congress is a less representative branch than the Founding Fathers intended.

1. Members of Congress are political entrepreneurs recruited from the upper classes of their home constituencies.

2. Members of Congress represent the elites of their districts and responsibly vote on their behalf with strong regularity.

3. Members of Congress have a reputation for using incumbency advantages and consistently raising money to seek reelection.

4. Leadership procedures and structures in Congress appear to form interlocking conglomerates of policy responders, iron triangle members, and status quo protectors.
Congress Vs. The President

The Constitution gives Congress an Invitation to Struggle with the President.

1. Congress responds to policy proposals initiated by the president.
2. Congress and the president have engaged in highly publicized budgetary battles.
3. Congress has used investigations and impeachment in an attempt to control the president’s actions for perhaps purely political reasons.
Government Participation

“Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice, without constraint.”

– Alexander Hamilton, 1829
Revolving Doors

• Learn the value of revolving doors: working in the public and private sector.

• Work in government first and then market yourself to the private sector.

• Multiple local / state / federal career opportunities.
"The mind can never foresee its own advance."
– Friedrich Hayek, 1952
USAJOBS.GOV – Pathways

- Preferential Hiring Program
  - College students
  - Recent graduates

- Internship Listings
  - College students
  - Recent graduates

- 85% Job Retention Rate
  - Lower turnover