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#### ABSTRACT

GRADES OR AGES: Grades 10 and 11. SUPJECT MATIFA: Social studies, United States political development. ORGANIZATION AND PHYSICAL APPHARANCE: The major portion of the guide is divided into three subunits, each of which is laid out in three columns, one each for topics, activities, and materials. Other sections are in list form. The guide is mimeographed and staple-bound with a paper cover. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES: General objectives for the unit are listed on the first page of each subunit. Each group of activities in the section column is related to a topic in the first column. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: Each group of materials listed in the third column is related to one or more activities. In addition six appendixes contain curriculum materials—charts and graphs. STUDENT ASSESSMENT: No provision. OPTIONS: The guide is prescriptive as to course content and timing. Activities and materials listed are optional. (PT)



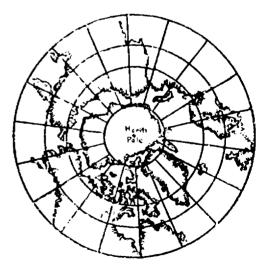
# PROVIDENCE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM PROJECT

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U.S. POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT

AMERICAN CIVILIZATION
RESOURCE UNIT IV

GRADE II



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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# RESOURCE FUNIT IV UNITED STATES POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

(Suggested Time 15-20 weeks)

#### A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Unit I7 is to portray in historical perspective the development of a political system in the United States. Since no political entity exists in a vacuum, a companison of various political systems that exist or have existed through history is utilized to initiate the section. The section is concluded with a section or the functional operation of "American Democracy".

#### B. MAJOR UNDERSTANDINGS

The unit is divided into three sections. The first compares and contrasts democracy and totalitarianism. The second section examines the United States political system in view of these contrasting ideologies traces historically the developing political ideology of the United States. The last section deals with the practical processes of government and the problems and conflicts which have arisen within this "American Democracy".

#### C. AIMS

- a) To gain an understanding of contemporary United States political institutions and of the various factors that have contributed to their formation.
- b) To understand, in historical perspective, the various political systems and theories that underlie our present political structure.
- c) To make the students know the everyday workings of government and of the machinations of the political arena.
- d) To develop the ability to gather and evaluate current political events.

### D. GENERALIZATIONS

- a) The American political tradition is an outgrowth of several interrelated theories about government and of their adaptation on the land base of continental North America.
- b) A fundamental strength of the American political system is the constant shift and reinterpretation afforded through our system of checks and balances.
- A. 7,8,9; E. 6,10; G. 6,8,10,14,19; H. 9,10; P.S. 1,2,3, 4,5,6,7,8; S. 1,2,3, 7,9, 10.
- P.S. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.



c) Throughout United States history P.S. 6,7,8. the political scene has been dominated by two political parties. At times "third parties have appeared, but their ideas with public appeal have consistently been absorbed by the larger two parties.

d) The evolution of a body of custom and practice is directly related to the way in which political institutions actually function.

A. 1,2,3,4,5,6; E. 3, 8,9,10, H. 9,10,11, 12; P.S. 1,4,5,6,7,8; S. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

### Note to Teacher;

This entire unit is written in a developmental manner. Teacher should feel free to reorder, add, and delete questions and activities as pertain to his specific situation.



## Motivation Question for Political Science Unit

QUESTION	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
What functions should and do any given government perform?	Throughout this section the students should be engaged in daily assignments of news gathering and interpretation. Some sources the students might use are:  Weekly News Magazine T.V. Radio Newspaper Periodicals	Scriptograph: About Government  Holt; Rinehart & Winston Comparative Political Systems pp. 1-28  Merrill: American Government in Action pp. 1-8  McMillan: Democracy in the U.S. pp. 32-33



# SECTION I COMPARISON OF

# CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORIES

#### A. INTRODUCTION

This section will attempt to give the teacher and the students the tools they will need in order to analyze the political system in the United States. The section will compare and analyze the effectiveness of various political systems. It is hoped that the utilization of comparison and analysis will aid the students in understanding the United States political system.

#### B. AIMS

- a) To compare and contrast the ideological foundations and operation of contemporary political systems.
- b) To develop a mode of analysis for measuring the power scructure of various political systems.
- c) To illustrate that all political systems perform similar essential functions, although they may perform them in different ways.

#### C. GENERALIZATIONS

- Throughout the world man has established systems of government.
- b) All political systems perform similar essential functions.
- c) Successful systems of government may sometimes act as prototypes for emerging nations.
- d) All governments have, as an ultimate weapon, the power to enforce their values through coercion.



A class discussion to show the difference between the bureaucratic structure and the art of gaining and of holding power.  Have students read excerpts from Machiavelli The Prince and report to class on his philosophy.  A class discussion:  Does the Ability to get Elected Mean that one will be a Good  Mayor?	P.A.P.: Finding Able Men and Women for City Careers  Merrill: American Government ir. Action pp. 14,112, 126,139,411- 414,425,2-3  Webster: The Problems and Promises of American Democracy pp. 274-275: 27:-279
	Promises of American Democracy pp. 274-275:
	Emention-Hall
	Frentice-Hall American Part System and American Pecp pp. 37-39
	Holt Rinehart  & Winston 1  Comparative  Political  Systems  pp. 1-28  Oxford:  Democracy,  Capitalism and  Communism  p. 88
	Allyn & Bacon Today's Problems p. 186

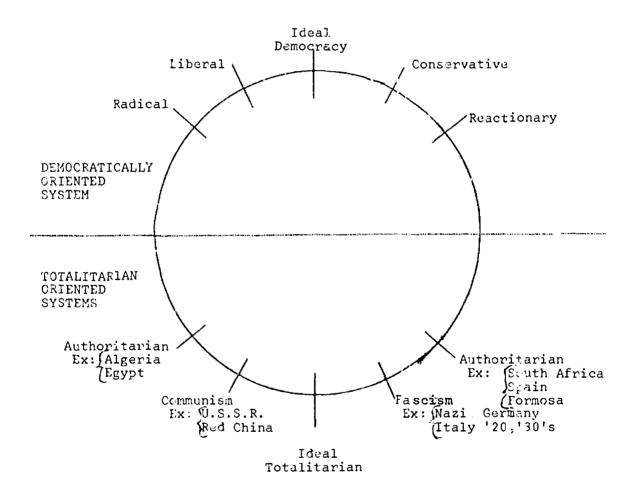


QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 2 What is the distinction between a political and an economic system?	A discussion on the distinction between politics and economics of a state. Ex. Sweden has a socialist economy and is democratic, Cuba is a socialist economy and is totalitarian: The U.S. (modified capitalism and Great Britain (modified socialism are both democracies! Ethiopia has a capitalist economy and a monarchy. Discussion attempting to show the difference between public government and private sector (private enterprise).	American Covernment Action pp.1
		Scriptograph About Man's
Sub-question 2a Are there any correlations between types of government and their economies? (Why does the United States government often support a facist state over a communist one?	Have students draw a chart showing such correlations.  Have the students explore the role the Catholic Church had in the Spanish Civil War (1936). Why did the Church support Franco?	Economic Wants About the Nature of Economics Oxford: Democracy, Capitalism Communism pp. 27-44: 75-85 Webster: Problems and Promises of American Government pp. 186-203 Mehlinger: Totalitarian pp. 23-36





### APPENDIX A. POLITICAL CLASSIFICATIONS



\* Ebenstein, William, et.al. American Democracy in World Perspective. (Inside cover, Harper Row, 1967).



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 4 What are the characteristics of a "democratic system"? What are they for any "totalitarian" system? What are the functional differences between democratic and totalitarian states? Where does	A discussion to arrive at a series of characteristics on "the nature of democracy, and to separate (clearly) the term democracy from the term republic.  ibid. for totalitarian, and to differentiate this term from terms such as socialism, communism, dictatorship etc.  Students might contrast a totalitarian system such as communism, to a democratic system as found in the U.S.A. or France or other Western country on such topics as consent, elections, individual liberties, foreign policy, etc.  A group report on U.S.S.R. Is it a Socialist Republic?	Democratic W
power reside in each?	Skit - Mehlenger: <u>Totali-</u> tarianism pp. 40-48	Macmillan: Democracy in the U.S. pp. 1-34
Sub-question 4a How are demo- cratic and totalitarian political systems distributed on the face of the globe?	Have a group of students prepare world outline maps showing democratic countries vs Totalitarian countries, socialist economic vs capitalist economic systems, - Is there any aerial pattern to political and economic systems?	Transparenci TRSS-64-r,s, u,v,w,x,y Democracy vs Communism Filmstrips SS-C-44 Challenge of
Are any aerial patterns discernable concerning political systems?		Communism SS-0-24 (h&r "Democracy"  Coode's His- torical Atla  Hammond's Classroom At
		Films Communism (state film at R.I.C.)



#### MATERIALS OUESTIONS SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES Question 5 Holt, Rinehart What are the Student reports on each of the & Winston: various forms countries listed. How do their Comparative of democracy governmental systems differ? Why at present? Political are they each classified as demo-Systems Great Britain cracies and yet are so different? pp. 100-274 Sweden Two students or groups might Holland contrast and compare political and About France governmental decision making in the Bete: Communism U.S.A. United States with the U.S.S.R. or Canada another totalitarian state. ibid - the role of the citizen Oxford: India Democracy, in the United States with U.S.S.R. Capitalism and or another totalitarian state. ٧s Communism What are the various forms of Totalitarianiam? Spain Portugal Rep. of China U.S.S.R. Cuba Yugoslavia Brazil S. Vietnam Sub-question 5a Is it possible Best concluded by a discussion to classify any on what has proceeded. Obviously from the four previous questions state as falling there are no "pure' systems found in a nation - state level. Howentirely into one category of even, the students might discover division? (do "pure" demothat certain communities are comcracies or pletely one or the other. "pure" totalii.e. religious communities tarian states monks exist) nuns Amish or social groups What are the projections New Harmony for government Amana

Brook Farm Voluntown



in the future?

(possibility
of world
government)

# SECTION II THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GOVERNMENTAL AND - POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Section II will attempt to portray the evolving political patterns of the United States from the 16th century to the present. The dominant idea to develop is the constant expansion of the rights of the common man. A major objective is to analyze our present political situation and then to develop both chronologically and topically how we got to be this wav.

#### 2. AIMS

a) To help students gain insights into the ideology of the

United States political system.

b) To develop an understanding of the relationships between the United States political system and the various combinations of Anglo-European factors and the unique environment in 16th through 18th century America which brought it about.

c) To understand the two party system that has evolved; its

legal and historical background.

d) To gain insights into the reasons for the constantly expanding franchise throughout United States History.

e) To understand the ever expanding role of government in

such areas as welfare, education and retirement.

f) To help students appreciate the strengths and weaknesses

of state and national governments.

g) To understand the relationships between the executive, and legislative and judicial branches of government.

b) To examine the historical background for the United

States political experiment.

#### GENERALIZATIONS 3.

Committee of the committee of

- a) The United States constitutional system is based upon 16th, 17th, and 18th century British and French political theory, the British constitutional tradition, and the experience of the colonies.
- b) An aspect of American ideology is belief in the value of the common man. The franchise has been expanded to accommodate this ideology.



c) The two party system developed at the very beginning of the republic. It was not included in the constitution, but was a remnant of the English tradition of the "loyal opposition."

d) Through the use of the power to tax, war power, and the interstate commerce clause the federal government has continually and inevitably been involved in an increasing number of programs.

e) The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government have been involved in an intermit out struggle under our constitution.

f) The United States two party system has continued to evolve and has taken its shape within a changing American society.

g) There is continuous struggle between the forces of a cen-

tralized and decentralized government structure.
h) Throughout history man has consistently developed systems of government.



QUEST10NS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 1 What patterns of political organization existed in colonial America? What political characteristics were common to all of the colonies?	Group activities to determine how each of the early colonies was governed a) Who was the executive? How did he gain office? b) What was the legislative body in each? How did the legislators gain office? c) What judicial system was prevalent in each colony? How were the judges appointed? To whom were they responsible? Have students define and explain the three types of colonies i.e. Royal, Proprietorship, Self-governing. Using the above definitions have students develop a script depicting a typical legislative day in each of the colonies. Have students select at random fellow students to act out the script Contact Sturbridge Village for slides on New England Town Meeting. Have students draw a political cartoon satirizing a particular colonial form of government.	Holt; Rinehart, & Winston Comparative Political Systems p.30-32 Scott Foresmsn: U.S. History pp. 32 ff  Laid!aw: U.S. History pp. 50 ff  Films L-202 Land of Liberty Part I  Transparencies TRSS-52-a Early Settle- ment and the 13 Colonies  Oxford: Problems of American Democracy pp. 1-5  Grossier: Mastering
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		American History  Current, DeConc Dante: U.S. History  Scholastic Bool Periodical: The U.S. Constitution p. 17  Sadlier: Government pp. 1-11



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 2 What are some philosophical foundations for the American Political System?		Holt; Rinehart & Winston Comparative Political Systemsp. 33-3 46-50 Merrill: The Declaration of
Sub-question 2a What political premises were established prior to the Age of Explora- tion?	Students should investigate and report on the political contribution of: Democracy, Hammurabi Code Greeks (Flato, Aristotle) Romans (Institution of Law, Caesars Christianity (Brotherhood Justice, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas) Federalism (Contract System)	Scott Foresmar U.S. History
		Films
political activists of the 16th and 17th centuries? What influence did they have on the coming of the American Revolution? What Political	An interested student or group of students might read excerpts from the writings of Locke, Hobbes, or Rousseau. From these the students should try to find ideas and concepts that have become integral parts of the U.S. political system. John Locke - Concerning Human Understanding  Jean Jacques Rousseau - The Social Contract  Thomas Hobbes - Leviathan Several students might do biographies on Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau Hontesquieu and other political philosophers who in some way affected England and her colonies in political development. Student reports on political activists in 18th century North American colonies. How did they help bring about the American Revolution? What political philosophy did they advocate?	Family Title II(67) A-224 America Foundations of Liberty D-202 Declaration of Independence Filmstrips



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
	Activists: Samuel Adams John Dickenson John Hancock James Otis Patrick Henry Richard Henry Lee James Wilson Daniel Dulany Thomas Paine Thomas Jefferson A class discussion on the traditional rights of Englishmen (review of question in Overview). Were these "traditional rights" recognized universally in the English colonial possessions? Review the philosophical implications of the Declaration of Independence.	Oxford: The Constitution of the United States pp. 24-28  ABC: Viewpo pp. 1-15  Merrill: The Declaration Independence Oxford: Democracy, Capitalism Communism
Sub-question 2c To what extent has government been influenced by 20th century political thought? To what extent has current political thought affected the American :Revolution of 1965-1968"?	A group report on how the United States political ideals have affected other states.	pp. 55, 85,



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 3 How did the U.S. political system function immediately following the Revolution?	A group of students to analyze the Articles of Confederation. Students should evaluate the inportance of The Northwest Ordinance, 1787. Students should compare their own previously developed definition of a good government with that of the Articles of Confederation. Discuss the evaluation.	Ginn: Proble of Democracy pp. 430-432  Lell: A Dangerous Freedom p.74  Merrill: The Articles of Confederatio
Sub-question 3a What were the inherent weak- nesses of the Articles of Confederation? Why were the states dis- satisfied with the conditions that existed under the Articles?	A debate concerning the relative strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. Resolved: the Articles of Confederation had great strengths which would have become apparent if allowed to function longer.  A panel discussion on whether the U.S. was one nation or 13 separate nations during the period of the Articles of Confederation.  Students should investigate the treaty with France in which French treated the U.S. as 13 separate nations.	Part II Transparence TROS-52-b Beginning of the American Revolution TRSS-62-25 The Articles of Confedera tion vs the Constitution Filmstrips SS-0-7-a
Sub-question 3b To what extent in 1780 should the various levels of government be responsible for the well ordered operation of society. (Should the banks run the economy, social condi- tions controlled by law, etc)?	Compare and contrast Johnson vs Nixon with regard to their methods of equalizing the social, political and economic conditions in America. (Public vs Private Effort)	Declaration Independence SS-0-7-f Articles of Confederatio  Merrill: American Government i Action pp. 20-23  Oxford: Problems of Democracy pp. 3-5





QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 4 In 1787 what methods were available to the citizens to change their governmental structure?	the Articles of Confederation.  Have a student investigate the significance of the Mount Vernon Convention and the Annapolis Convention.  Have a group of students research and report on the format and procedures used at the Philadelphia Convention.  Have a student discuss the prosend consof a "closed door" convention. (Research "ilsons: "Open Covenants Openly Arrived at" (14 points)  Have a group of students investigate the present move for a Constitutional Convention and its significance.  Student reports on various compromise settlements of the constitution and operation of the national government due to our federal structure.  Senate-House relationship  3/5 rule for S. slaves	of the U.S. p. 7  Grossier: Mastering American History  ibid. ques. 3  Scholastic: The U.S. Constitution



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 5 How did the Constitution alter and strengthen the former articles?  Sub-question 5a What is federalism? How does the J.S. federal system operate? What other federal systems are there in the world? How do they compare to the J.S.?	A discussion on the meaning of the word federal.  Have students list the enumerated powers, implied powers, and the elastic clause.  What controls do states have in federal system? Investigate and report.  Based on information gained on the Articles of Confederation, have students debate the value of a centralized vs decentralized government.  A student to have a research project to contrast federalism in U.S.A. to federalism in Canada. Student should understand that federalism can exist in any of several different forms.	Sadlier: Government pp. 1-185 Transparenci Title II (67
Sub-question 5b What was the role of the legislative branch?	Divide the class into two parts. One part, the Senate, the other the House. The senate part inves- tigates the requirements and powers of the Senate and the House part does the same for the House Have students write a letter expressing their opinions to the Senators and Representatives from R.I. Have a discussion on the value of a bicameral legislature. Students might want to invite former Governor D.J.Roberts to dis- cuss the unicameral legislature and why it would work in R.I.	Cov trnment and Congress the 8 (a-d) National Covernment Series Sinc: Proble of Lamocracy ap. 432-433 Webster: The Problems and Promises of American Democracy pp. 307-310



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
	Have students investigate and report on the bicameral Legislature in other countries. i.e. England, Canada.	Merrill: American Government in Action pp. 24-25; 37-56
Sub-question 5c What was the cole of the executive branch?	Have a student list the requirements for the Presidency.  Have a student list the enumerated powers of the Presidency.  Have students show how the present President uses and enforces these powers, using current issues.  Have students investigate the provisions made for a cabinet in the Constitution.  Have students check in library or Providence Journal Co. to find out who the present cabinet members are.  (Note to teacher: the expanding powers of the President will be taken up later)  Have a student investigate and report back to the class on the origins, make-up, and procedure of the electoral college.  Have a class discussion on the value of the electoral college and on the pending 26th amendment.  (Also have students investigate the alternatives for the electoral college)  Have a group compare the electical procedure in the Greek City States with that of the British System.  Have the students follow the legislative process for the passage of a bill into law.  Have class role play the passage and the signing of a bill into law.	Government About the Constitution About Congres Mentor: Presidential Power  Oxford: Problems of American Democracy pp. 5-7; 84  Oxford: The President of the U.S.  Allyn & Bacor Presidency: Office of Pow ABC coument: Constitution Constituti



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	he company and
		MATERIALS
judicial branch?	Have a group of students investigate the powers given to the judicial branch in the Constitution and the qualifications of the judges.  Have several students diagram the structure of the Federal Court System.  Have students do biographies of current and past justices: Holmes John Marshall Earl Warren Brandeis Tanly Frankfurter  Have a group investigate and report on the 1968-1969 Supreme Court Justice Controversy.  (Note to Teacher: supreme court case will be taken up under the question of expression of powers. Teacher might desire to use said case here.)  Have students draw and analyze diagrams for the Federal, State and City Government. (See Appendix)  Have the students role play the passage of a law.	Current DeConde Dante U.S. History  Mentor: Living Constitution  Scholastic: The U.S. Constitution  pp. 126-189  Mentor: The U.S. Political Systems pp. 10-18  Heath: Presidential Power in he New Deal  Bantam: President of the U.S.  Heath: Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights  University of Chicago Press: Amore can Supresse Court



Question 6. How has the Constitution been adapted to changing times? (Reinterpretation amendment checks and balances Supreme Court trial cases)  A student report on the role of presidential leadership. Examine expecially what are the constitutional powers given the president and how have they been interpreted.  A student report on the president and how have they been interpreted.  A student report on the role of presidential leadership. Examine expecially what are the constitutional powers given the president and how have they been interpreted.  A student report on the role of presidential leadership. Examine expecially what are the constitutional powers given the president and how have they been interpreted.  A student report on the role of presidential leadership. Examine expecially what are the constitutional powers given the president and how have they been interpreted.  A student report on the role of presidential leadership. Examine expecially what are the constitutional powers given the president and how have they been interpreted.  A student report on the role of presidential leadership. Examine expecially what are the constitutional powers given the president and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy makers receive support.  Have a student report on the constitutional powers given the president and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy makers receive support.  Have a student report on to president and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy makers receive support.  Have a student report on to president and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom, and where and how policy is made, by whom,	MATERIALS
A student report on how the "Bill of Rights' came into being. Groups of students to examine each of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution and report its effect on our everyday life and activities.  Invite a speaker from the A.C.L.U. to discuss with the class the activities of his organization in protecting the civil rights of the individual.  A class discussion on how the Bill of Rights has strengthened and advanced the federal system in the United States.  Have students report on: Why the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments were necessary. Groups of students to examine each amendment and explain its importance and all of its ramifi- cations to the rest of the class.  A student or group report on the phenomenon of States' rights. Where does the basis for this theory lie? What examples prior to the Civil War are there for a state trying to overrule or nullify a federal	McGraw-Hill: Problems and Promise of American Democracy pp. 301-333  Ginn: Problem of Democracy pp. 436-437  , Scriptograph: About Congres  Macmillan: Democracy in the U. S. pp. 93-98  Mentor: The U.S.Political System and Ho It works p. 8  Holt, Rinehar & Winston. Comparative Political Systems pp. 41-44  McGraw-Hill: Problems and Promise of American Democracy pp. 434-462; e 48, 301

QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
	Investigate Marbusy vs Madicon, McCullough vs Maryland, Plessy vs Forguson Brown vs Board of Education, Atkins vs Childrens Hospital vs Westcoast Hospital vs Brisk (re-interpretation of judicial review 1937)  Have a student report on the elastic clause and its importance.  Have a student investigate the President's power to commit troops to an area without a Senatorial declaration of War (Viet Nam).  Have students report on the influence of the Marshall Court and the Warren Court.  Have a group investigate and graphically depict the functions and the importance of the theory of checks and balances.  Have groups of students report on current Supreme Court cases.	Mentor: The Living U.S. Constitution pp. 82-90 Oxford: Problems of American Democracy p.8
Sub-question 6a What new areas has the federal government entered in the 20th century?	A discussion of this question might be the best way of handling the issue. Utilizing what has been discussed for the better part of two years the students should be able to identify large new areas of federal government involvement such as medicare, facets of the Welfare System, funds for education, research, the I.C.C., Pure Food and Drug laws, etc.  Students might divide into groups to examine each of these new areas and to report to the class.  Have a student or group of students write to the U.S. Bureau of Statistics for information on grants in aid from 1900 to the present.  Use these figures to show growth in federal and government activities.  Have students report on commission (F.C.C., I.C.C.)	of Rights Films L-205 Land of Libert Part IV  Oxford: The Constitution of the U.S. pp. 20; 30-37  Scholastic: U.S. Constitution pp. 168-189; 149ff  Allyn & Bacon: Politics - The



		24
QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Sub-question 6b What are some possible courses for the future development of the U.S. political system?	This might prove an exception- ally strong discussion question responding to such questions as: What crises will we face?: where	Current, DeConde, Dan U.S. History University of Cicago Press American Supreme Cour Merrill: Th Bill of Righ Allyn & Bacon Today's Problems Pp. 236-244



# SECTION III SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL SYSTEM

1. INTRODUCTION

Section III should give the teachers direction in presenting selected operational aspects of the United States political system. The major objective is to have the students understand the operations of compaigning, voting, political parties, federal powers, and public opinion.

#### 2. AIMS

a) To help students gain insights into the functional aspects of the United States political system.

b) To develop an understanding of political power and its

various applications.

c) To develop a definition of politics as known in the United States.

d) To understand the United States political system such factors as ethnic background, financial situation, area of habitation, race, religion, occupation, and age must be considered.

### 3. GENERALIZATIONS

a) Voting power in the United States has been directed and controlled by numerous legal devices such as poll taxes, grandfather clauses, literacy tests, and residency requirements.

b) The right to vote has been denied by many extra-legal devices such as fear and inculcated inferiority.

c) The spoils system has existed from the very beginning of the Republic. Although there are continuing attempts at minimizing the scope of the spoils system, it should be clearly understood that the system has many good points as well as bad ones.

d) The evolution of custom and practices is significant in understanding the development of the U.S. political scene. (i.e., seniority patronage, role of the chief justice, majority and minority leaders, the caucus, lobby, etc.)



QUESTION	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
structure in the City of Providence?	Have the students contact a legislator from their home district to come to speak to the class on political power.  Have a group of students prepare a chart and report on the political power hierarchy.	American Democracy pp. 87ff  Allyn & Bacor Politics The American Way pp. 59-73  Merrill: American Government in Action pp. 264-284  Sadilier: Government
Why?		Structure and Interpretation pp. 174-184  Mentor: The U.S. Politica System and Holit Works p.96  Allyn & Bacon Today's Problems pp. 254-283  Holt: Rineha Winston; Probof Democracy pp. 99-121



C

QUESTIONS SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES MATERIALS Question 1 What is a Have a group of students visit 'Heath: political a local party headquarters, inter-American party? Problems Today view the party workers, report to the class what activities and pp. 511-535 How are they functions they noted. organized In an election year encour-Holt, Rinehart & nationally? age students to work for the Winston by states? candidates of parties of their Comparative Reports could be given Political Who is a to the class on the scope and var-Systems pp.86-90 iety of the campaigning they wit-nessed or were involved in. member of a political Holt: party? A student report on how polit-Problems of ical parties help develop policy, Democracy focus majority opinion, resolve pp. 37-51 social conflict, etc. How would these functions occur without McGraw-Hill: political parties? Problems and Promise of A student to prepare a chart showing political party organiz-American ation. Democracy Have a student go down to state pp.348-362 registry office and find out how onebecomes a member of a political Ginn: Problems party. of Democracy pp. 482-487 Ginn: Conflict Sub- question , Politics and a) What Students draw a time line Freedom "Third" naming all political parties in U.S. parties have history. Macmillan: existed in Whar policies and philosophies Democracy in American did these third parties develop? the U.S. history? pp. 84ff Have a student report on the liberal and conservative party of What New York State. Prentice-Hall: difference The American did third Party System parties and the American People Mentor: The U.S.Political Students list current political System and Sub-question b) Why do figures according to their political How it Works liberals and party and according to their pp. 20ff; 78ff; conservatives liberal or conservative tendencies. 15ff join the same



political party?

QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
	This might lead into a class discussion of politics as being the "Art of the Practical" and a definition for political parties: Organization whose members join together for the purpose of winning elections which entitles them to exercise governmental powers.  Have a student investigate the New Democratic Coalition.  Students should investigate what is a coalition government and how does it differ from our two party system?	Oxford: Problems of American Democracy pp. 106-112;26f 128-131  Allyn & Bacon: Folitics the American Way  Sadlier: Government pp. 259: 267ff; 270ff
	Student reports on the Spoils System (did it begin with Andrew Jackson?)  Have a student investigate the number of jobs directly responsible to the mayor and to the governor.  Have a student investigate and report on the Civil Service's ability to limit political power.  Have a student research and report on the origins and existence of Gerrymandering.  Develop an exercise to show how a given ethnic group can lose its political power by Gerrymandering.  (See Appendix)  A discussion on ethnic, religious and neighborhood voting patterns in Rhode Island.  Students might analyze the table provided or other tables from Statistical Abstracts of the U.S. and through discussion arrive at a series of conclusions.  What are the typical voting patterns of various strata of American Society?	"Beginning of Political Parties" Grossier: Mastering American History



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
	What are the implications of these figures? (See Appendix) Student could compare Democratic vote by ward with the ethnic composition of that ward. Student report on Boss Tweed and compare his findings to the political activities and powers of Mayor Richard Daley and on Byrd family of Virginia. One student might report on the origins and outgrowth of Tamany Hall, NYC. Student read and report on the Last Hurrah	<u>Jackson</u>
structure of every day political life?	Have the state representative from the district come in and speak on the Committee System and how it is employed at the State House. Its advantages and disadvantages.  Have group of students investigate and list the major committee and their functions in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.  Students should also investigate how the committee's members are chosen and how it decides on its chairman.  Students investigate and report on the advantages and disadvantage of the Seniority System. Are there any positions not chosen by the seniority system.  To exemplify the above students might report on the Adam Clayton Powell Case and on the Senator Dodd Case.	American Democracy p. 365 (chart)  Merrill: American Government in Action pp. 198-199  s



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Sub-question le How do political parties choose their candidates?	Students report on the Masonic Party and the growth of the Political Convention. To verify the convention systems have class a mock convention. Including all of the activities from the "Call" to the "Acceptance Speeches". Have a representative come in and talk about the State Party Conventions.  Have students report on the origins, functions and purpose as well as the states which hold primaries.  Using current periodicals students could discuss the importance of the: Kennedy-Humphrey Primary, West Virginia, 1960; Romney-Nixon Primary in New Hampshire in 1968; McCarthy-Johnson Primary in New Hampshire in 1968.	



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
ing serve?  How are campaigns financed?  What are the historical antecedents	Reports on how U.S. elections occur and what patterns they follow.  Individual reports on conventions, the nominating process and campaigning.  Group reports on how political parties obtain funds. (Fat Cats, patronage)  Invite a local representative of government to school to discuss how his party functions, obtains funds, and exerts controls over the district.  A group might investigate the allegations made following the last presidential election that the unreported funds of Richard Nixon played a big part in his campaign victory (see especially Providence Sunday Journal, Trend Section, December 15, 1968.)	Promise of American Democracy pp. 363-376; 373ff
		255; 399-400  Oxford: President of the U.S. Dp. 10811  Heath: American Problems Tod Dp. 511-536  Holt,Rinehar Winston Problems of Democracy Democracy Pp. 41, 44-4



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTE ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 3 What are special interest groups? How do they affect the political scena?	A group to identify several special interest groups in U.S. politics, what they are seeking, and how they proceed.  A student written report on the history of Lobbies in U.S. history.  A discussion on how these groups affect legislation and the American Scene in general.  A student report on pressure groups. How do they differ from lobbies?	Holt, Rinehart & Winston; Comparative Political Systems pp91-92 McGraw-Hill: Problems and Promise of American Democracy pp. 377-390 Ginn: Problems of Democracy pp. 487ff Sadlier: Government pp. 2648265 Oxford: Problems of Democracy pp. 27828; 778 78: 1528153 Mentor: U.S. Political System pp. 36; 79: 83; 129 Heath: American Problems Today pp. 537-558 Holt: Problems of Democracy pp. 25-28



QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS
Question 4 Who has the right to vote in the U.S.? How do voting laws differ from state to state? Why are some people dis- enfranchised? By what means. (legal and illigal) What is vote manipulation? What are some of the methods used to manipulate votes?		pp. 491-495



# APPENDIX B. PERCENTAGE OF VOTE BY GROUPS IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (by majority party)

	1952	1956	1960	1964
National	R55.4	R57.8	D50.1	D61.3
Men	R53.	R55.0	D52.0	D60.0
Women	R58.	R61.	R51.	D62.
White	R57.	R59.	R51.	D59.
Non-White	D79.	D61.	D68.	D94.
College	R66.	R69.	R61.	D52.
High School	R55.	R58.	D52.	D62.
Grade School	D52.	D50.	D55.	D66.
Prof. & Bus.	R64.	R68.	R58.	D54.
White Collar	R60.	R63.	R52.	D57.
Manual	D55.	D50.	D60.	D71.
Farmers	R67.	R54.	R52.	D53.
21-29 yrs.	D51.	R57.	D54.	D64.
30-49 yrs.	R53.	R55.	D54.	D63.
50 and older	R61.	R61.	R54.	D59.
Protestant	R63.	R63.	R62.	D55.
Catholic	D56.	D51.	D78.	D.=76.
Independents	R65.	R70.	R57.	D.=56.
East	R55.	R60.	D53.	D68.
Midwest	R58.	R59.	R52.	D61.
South	D51.	R51.	D51.	D52.
West	R58.	R57.	R51.	D60

Source: Gallup Polls

PERCENTAGE OF NEW VOTERS, SHIFTERS, AND STANDPATTERS IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Election	New Voters	Standpatters	Shifters	Voting Shifters*
1940	16%	71%	1.3%	16%
1944	13%	77%	10%	11%
1948	16%	73%	11%	13%
1952	20%	C48	16%	20%
1956**	27%	63%	10%	13%
1960	14%	678	19%	22%

<sup>\* %</sup> of voters who shifted party vote from one election to the next.

Source: Adapted from V.O. Key To Responsible Electorate, 1966, pp. 19-20.



<sup>\*\*</sup> Based upon pre-claction preferences.

### APPENDIX C BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

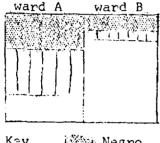
	Federal	State	Local
Executive	President Vice President ose Cabinet	Governor Lieutenant Governor Lieuted Attorney General Treasurer Secretary of State	Mayor chosen chosen comptroller Superintendent of Schools School Board
Legislative	House Senate	Assembly Senate	City Council
Judiciary	Courts	Courts	Courts



### APPENDIX D AN EXERCISE IN POLITICAL INFLUENCES

Have the students obtain the ethnic concentration of several wards of Providence. Then obtain and compare these to figures with the percentage of votes the Democrats received in a given election year. For example:

### Ethnic Density



Key Negro Italian W.A.S.P.

Voting Pattern

ward A	ward B
85%	45%

Vote for the Democratic Candidate - 1964



#### APPENDIX E GERRYMANDERING

Given the following population and ethnic map:
Have the students gerrymander each one of the groups so
that it will lose its political power. (Do this on a "one
man - one vote" basis)

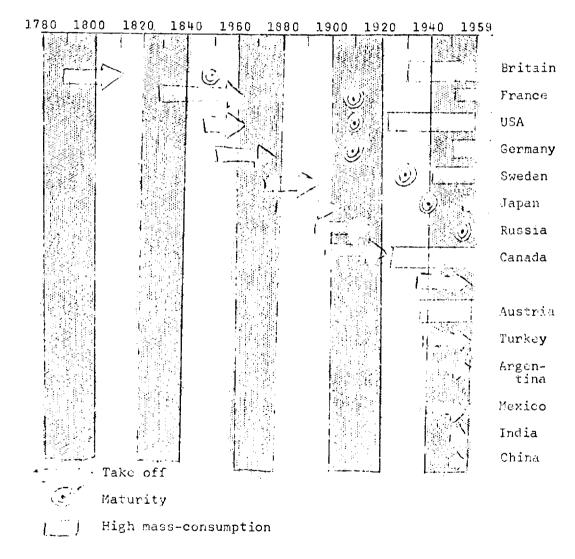
Italians	Negroes
50,000	25,000
Jews	Irish
25,000	35,000

Dem.	85%	Dem.	55%
Rep.	15%	Rep.	45%
Dem.	G C %	Dem.	45%
кар.	40%	Rep.	55% 55%∤
, L			i

How could the Republicans capture more than one district?



CHART OF STAGES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
IN SELECTED COUNTRIES



Source: The Stages of Economic Growth, W.W. Rostou. (Cambridge, 1962)

