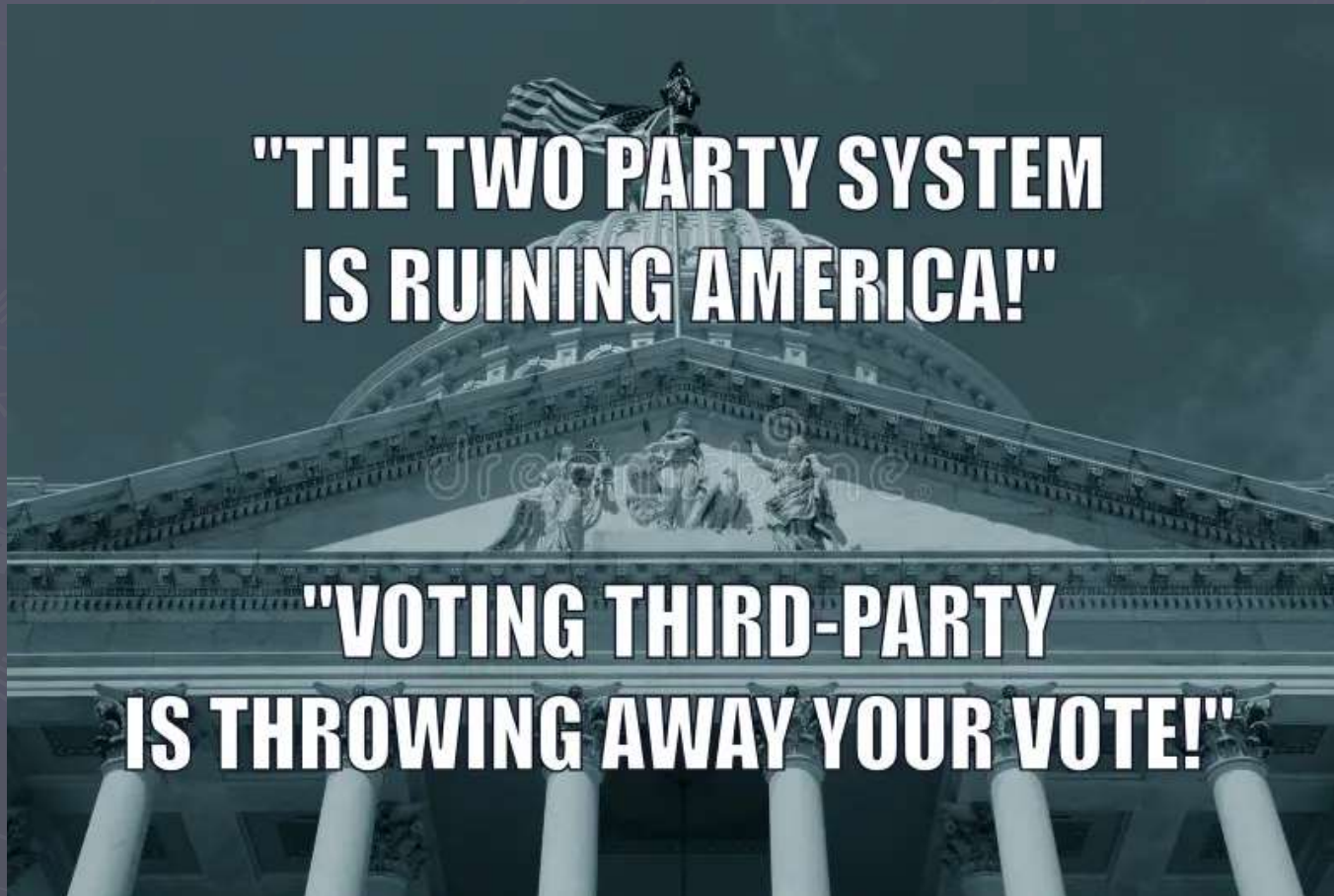


Introduction to United States Government

- ▶ This course is ultimately aimed at answering two important questions:



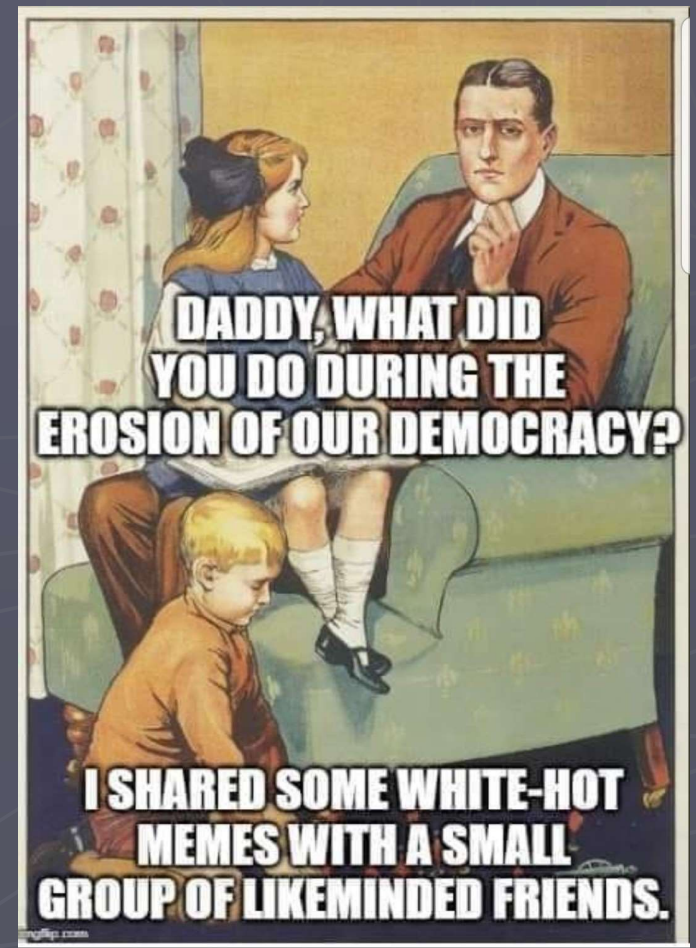
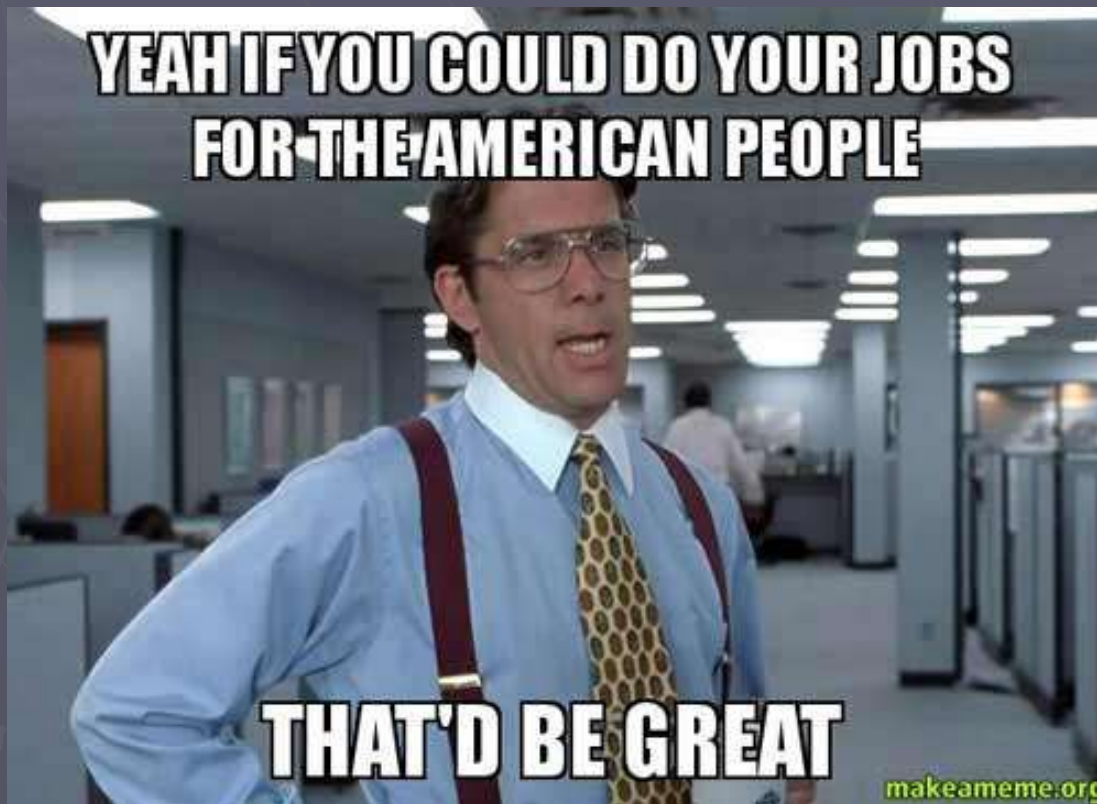
United States Government

- ▶ **Question 1: What kind of government do we have?**



United States Government

- ▶ Question 2: What kind of government do we want?



United States Government

- ▶ **However, we have a problem right off the bat on how to approach answering these two questions. Unlike the hard sciences (physics, chemistry, biology), politics is a social “science” that does not work in the same way, meaning there is no general agreement on how to approach these two crucial questions.**

Institutional vs. Structural

Institutional

Vs.

Structural

**Approaches in
Political Science**

Institutional vs. Structural

**What's the
Difference?**

3 Main Components

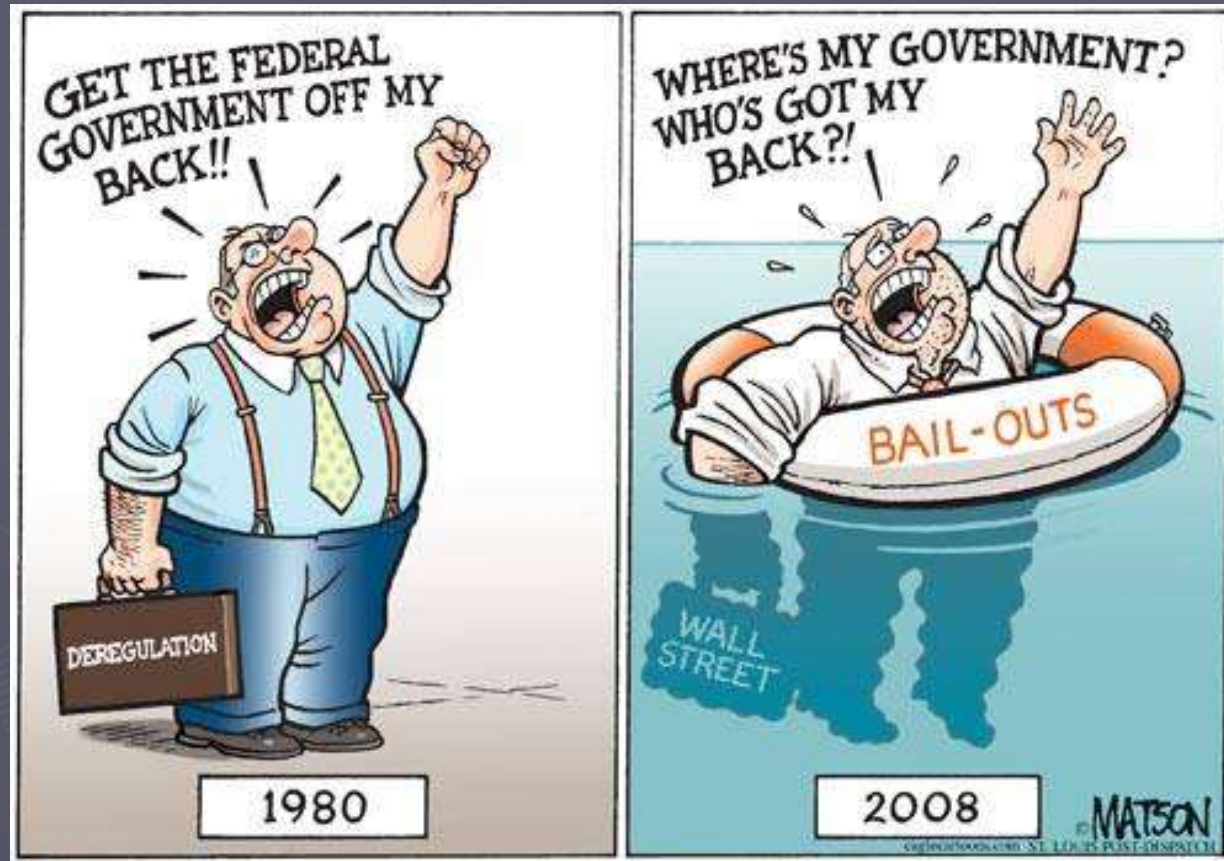
Institutional vs. Structural

1. Political Economy

The importance of understanding the system of *capitalism* if we are to understand politics. However, what are the values that are embedded in capitalism.....?



Institutional vs. Structural



Limited Government

Institutional vs. Structural

Free Markets and Enterprise

"I've abandoned free-market principles to save the free-market system."

- George Bush, CNN Interview, December 2008



Institutional vs. Structural

Freedom of Choice



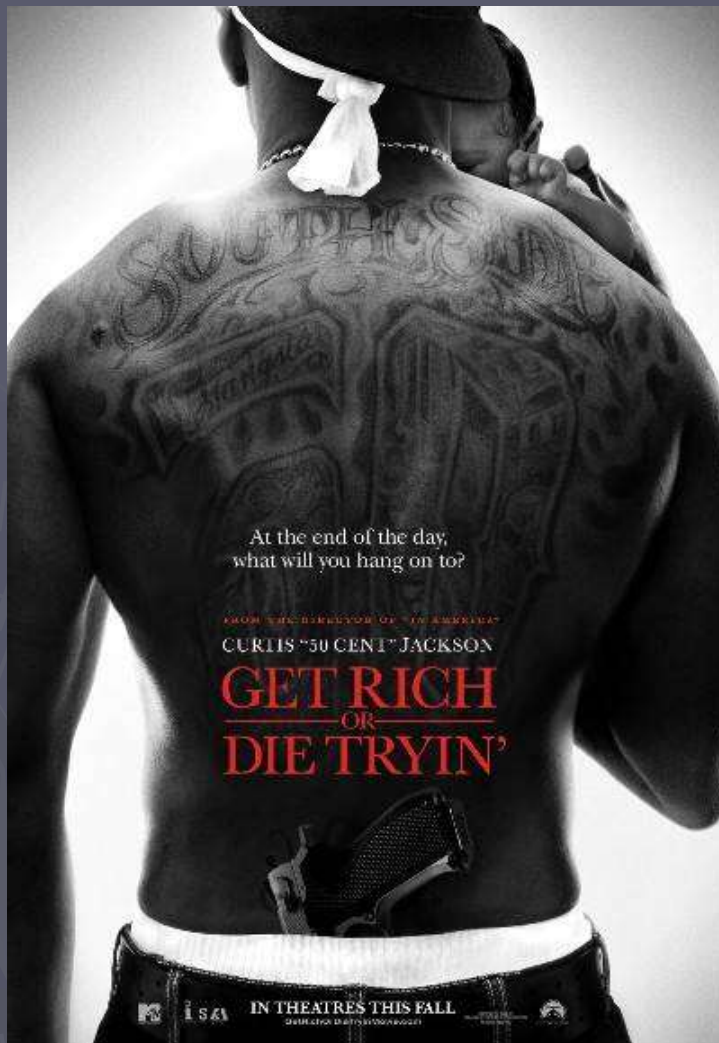
Institutional vs. Structural



Private Property

Institutional vs. Structural

Profit Incentive



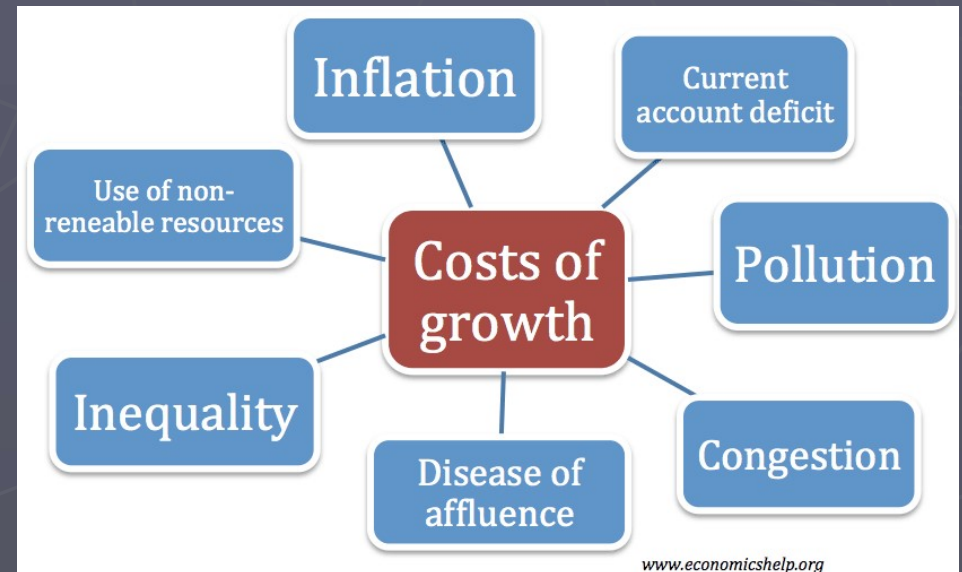
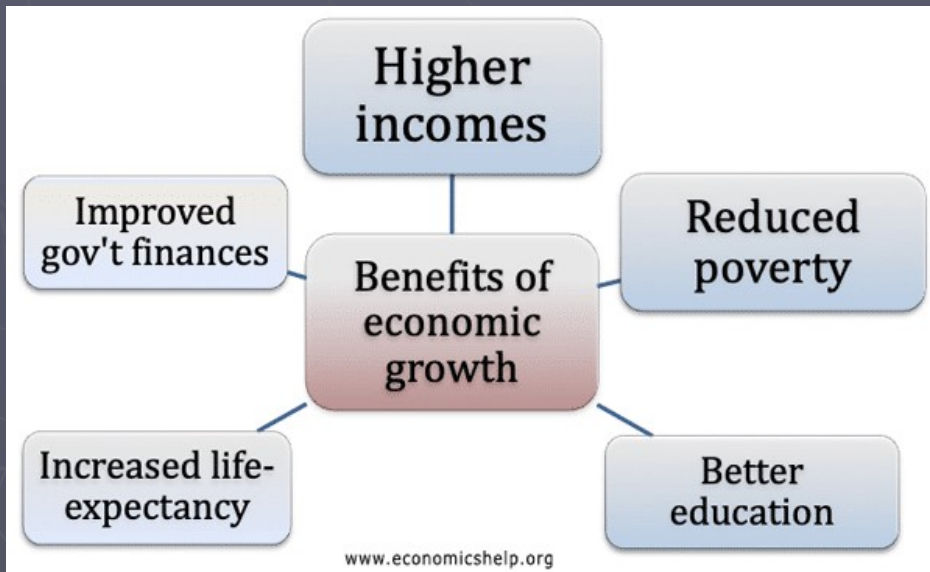
Institutional vs. Structural

Competition



Institutional vs. Structural

Economic Growth



Institutional vs. Structural

2. Ideology and Political Culture

The socially produced and culturally reinforced mental map made up of values, beliefs, and assumptions about why the world is the way it is and what, if anything, should be done about it. What's ours????



Institutional vs. Structural

...ours is *liberalism*.

It is the dominant and unrivaled American ideology (individualism, private property, free market, and limited government). In this classical sense, liberalism is a broad set of ideas that encompasses both “liberal” and “conservative” positions today.



The program of liberalism if condensed into a single word, would have to read: property, that is, private ownership of the means of production.

— Ludwig von Mises —


Institutional vs. Structural

3. Constitutional and State Structures

The documents and philosophies that serve as the bedrock of our political institutions which some scholars suggest are more reflective of the founder's concerns of democratic threats to property rights than liberty.

- a. Separation of powers
- b. Checks and Balances
- c. Federalism



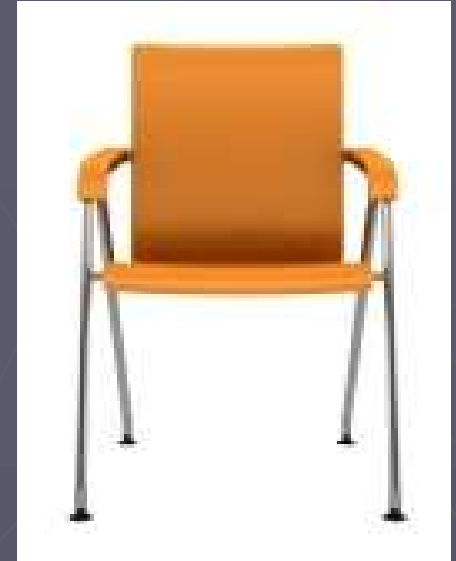
The background is a dark blue-grey color with a faint, light-colored graphic. On the left side, there is a compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left. To the right of the compass, there is a faint outline of the United States map. The text is centered and reads:

The Four Theories Of American Government

The Four Theories

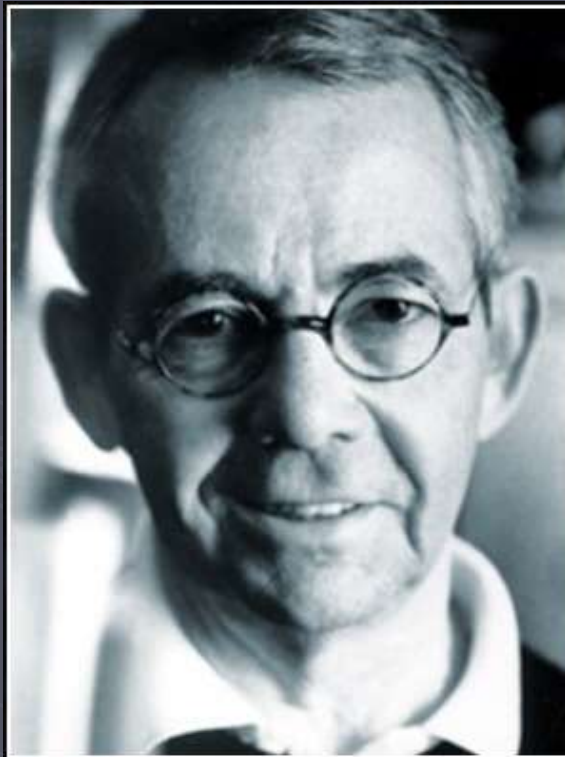
First, some foundation.....

1. Concept – a universal descriptive word. A *concept* is a characteristic that refers to a class, not an individual.



The Four Theories

2. Generalization – a statement that states a relationship between two or more concepts.



Generalization, especially risky generalization, is one of the chief methods by which knowledge proceeds... Safe generalizations are usually rather boring. Delete that "usually rather." Safe generalizations are quite boring.

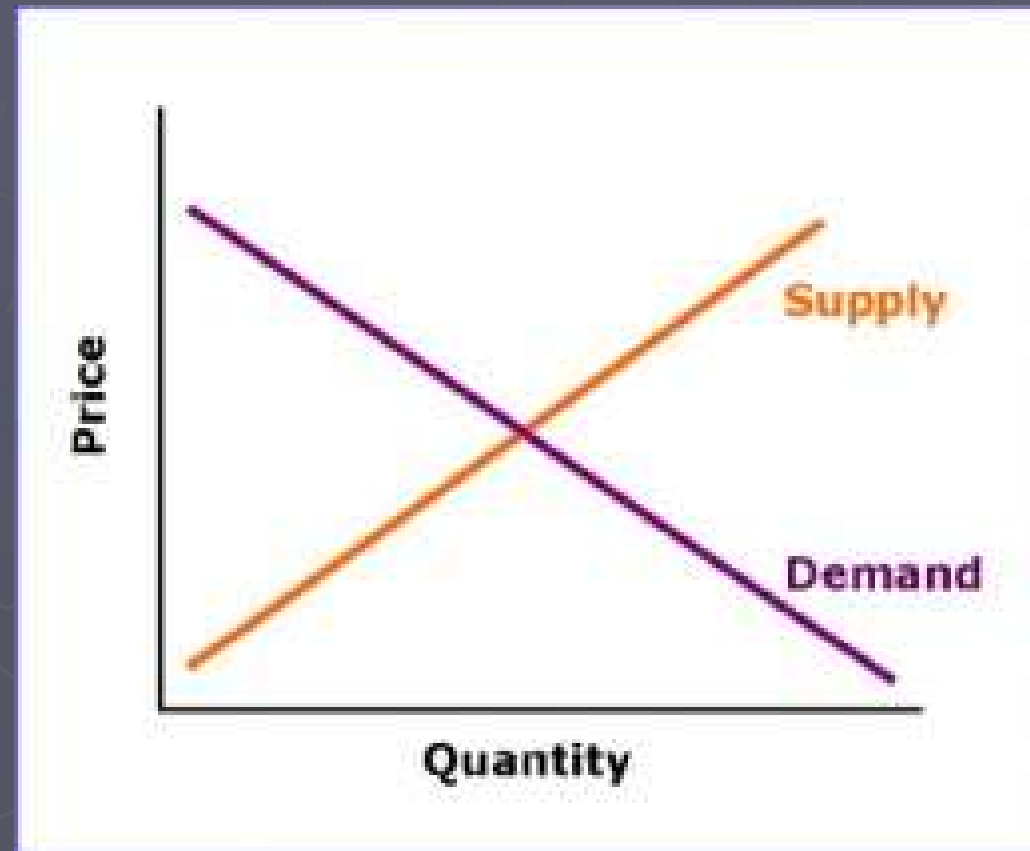
— *Joseph Epstein* —

AZ QUOTES

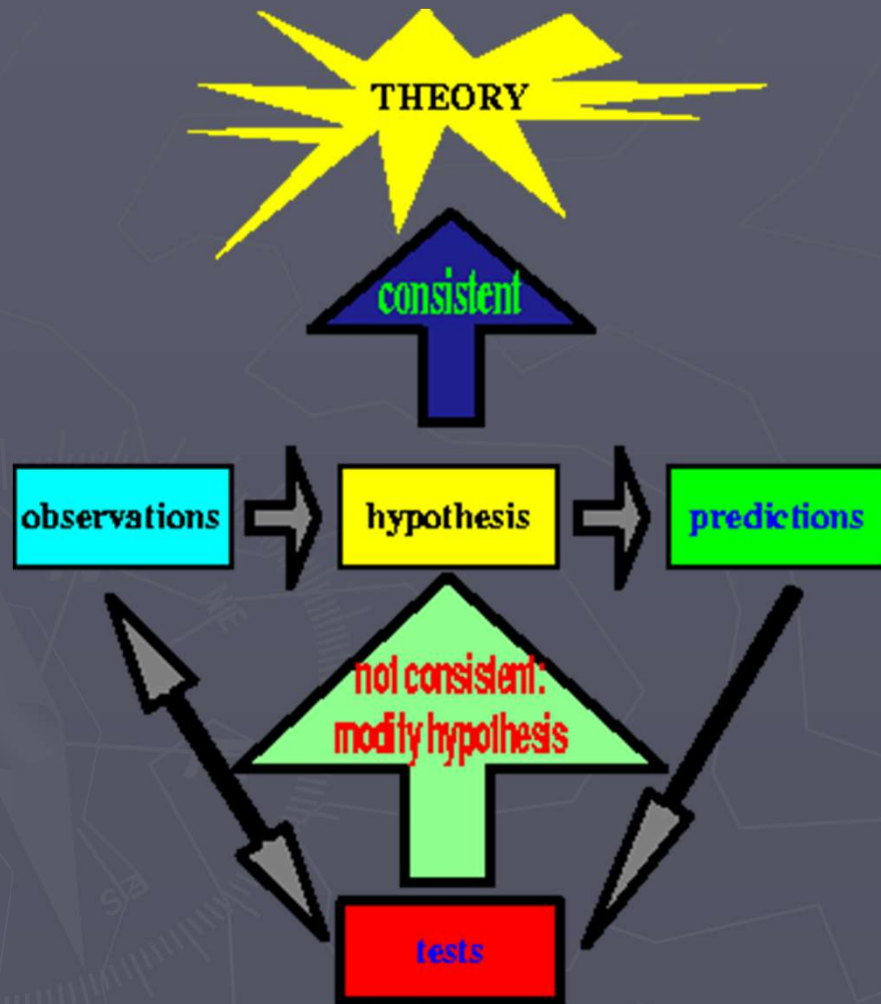
The Four Theories

3. Law – a generalization that has been tested and confirmed.

because circular reasoning works



The Four Theories



4. Theory – a set of generalizations that are related.

The Four Theories

Next, we should
examine two types
of *philosophical*
approaches...

The Four Theories



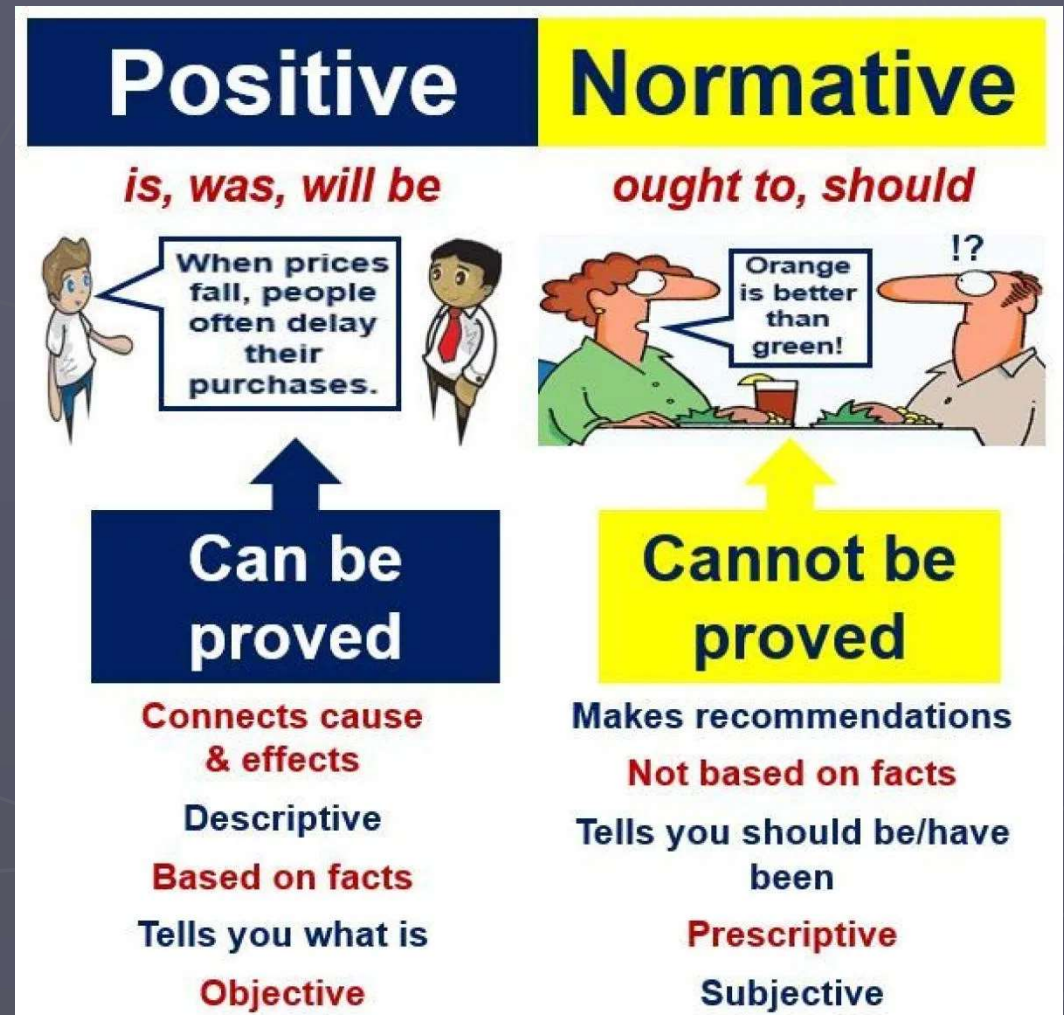
1. Empirical Approach – rests on observations relative to nature that can be verified with data, proof, and evidence (DPE). “**What is ...**”

Example: “The Executive Branch has become bigger and more powerful than it was originally...”

The Four Theories

2. Normative Approach – evaluates rather than merely explains. It labels things good or bad. “**What ought to be...**”

Example: “The American president has become too powerful for the nation’s own good...”



The Four Theories

...and now, the four
theories of
American
Government

The Four Theories

1. Traditional Democratic Theory

In a democratic government, the country is governed by the influence of citizens on policymakers. Because most Americans have a *normative* preference for democratic theory, it is easy (but perhaps not fully accurate) to conclude that the American system is an *empirically* democratic one.

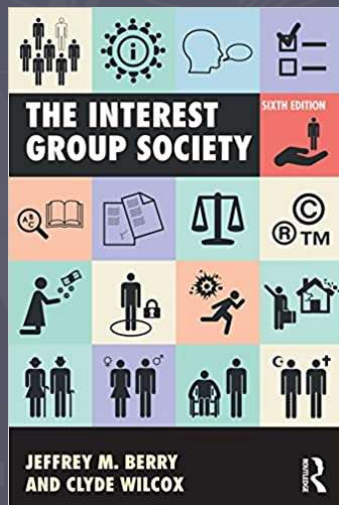


The Four Theories



2. Pluralism

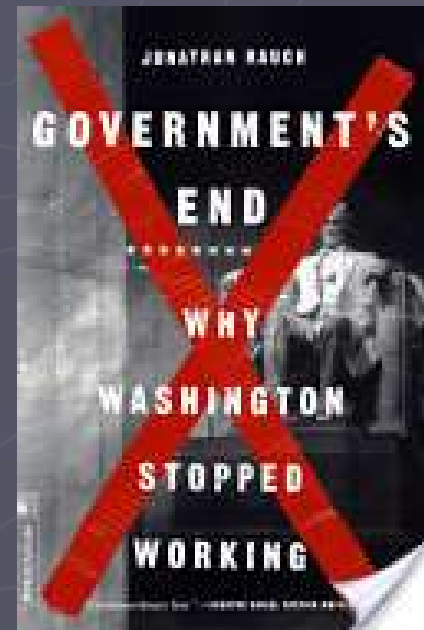
This theory contends that many centers of influence vie for power and control. **Groups** compete with one another for control over public policy. Bargaining, compromise, and trading are important ingredients in a pluralist system.



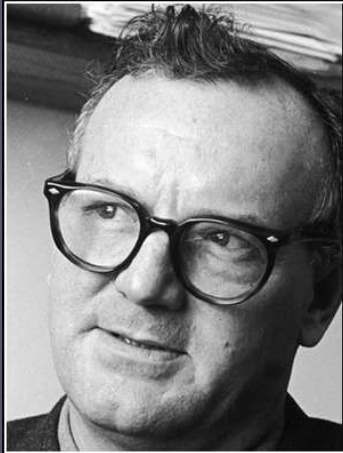
The Four Theories

3. Hyperpluralism

This is pluralism which has “gone sour.” Just as it is said that “too many cooks spoil the broth,” too many competing groups spoil the government’s ability to govern. Fragmentation threatens the effectiveness of government and produces “rigidification.”



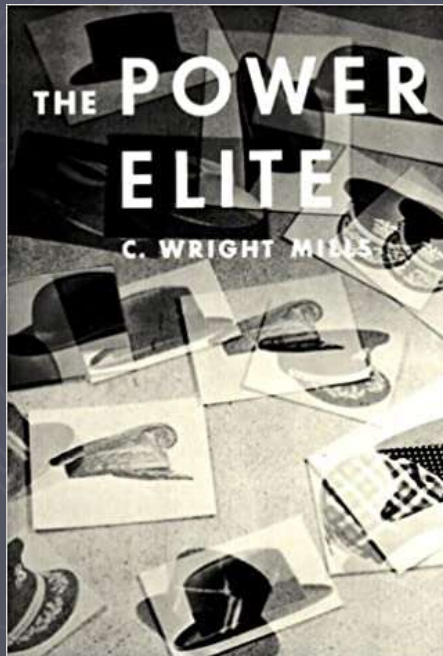
The Four Theories



By the power elite, we refer to those political, economic, and military circles which as an intricate set of overlapping cliques share decisions having at least national consequences. In so far as national events are decided, the power elite are those who decide them.

— C. Wright Mills —

AZ QUOTES



4. Elite Class Theory

All societies, including ours, are divided into socioeconomic classes. When the upper wealthy classes have vast power and the people have little, an upper class elite rules. Then, of course, little *democracy* can exist.

Major Types Of Government

The background is a dark blue-grey color with a subtle, light-colored pattern. On the left side, there is a faint compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left. To the right of the compass, there is a faint line graph with several peaks and valleys, suggesting a data series or a map's contour lines.

Types of Government

1. Autocracy (Rule by One)

Absolute power or authority of one person over others; supreme, uncontrolled, unlimited authority or right of governing, held by one person; dictatorship; despotism.

- a. Monarchy
- b. Dictatorship



Types of Government

2. Oligarchy (Rule by a Few)

A form of government in which the supreme power is placed in the hands of a small executive class.




Types of Government



3. Democracy (Rule by the Many)

A system of government in which rule is by the people, either through elected representatives or directly; rule by the ruled.

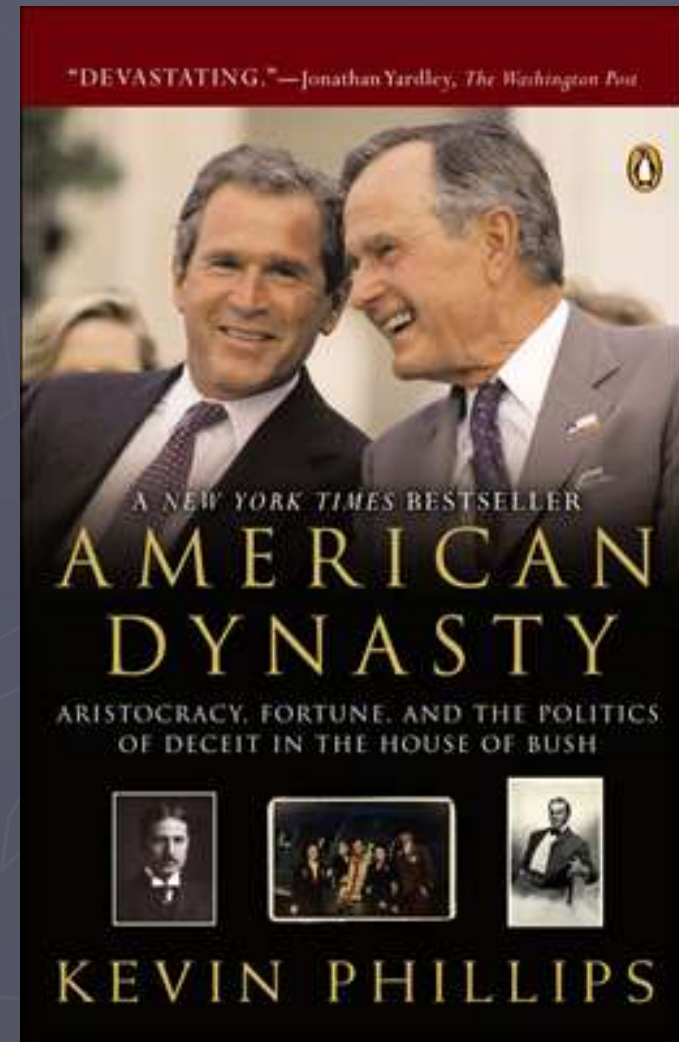
Other Types Of Governing

The background of the slide is a dark blue-grey color. It features a faint, light-colored graphic on the left side that includes a compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left, and a line graph with several data points connected by lines. The text 'Other Types Of Governing' is centered in a large, bold, white sans-serif font.

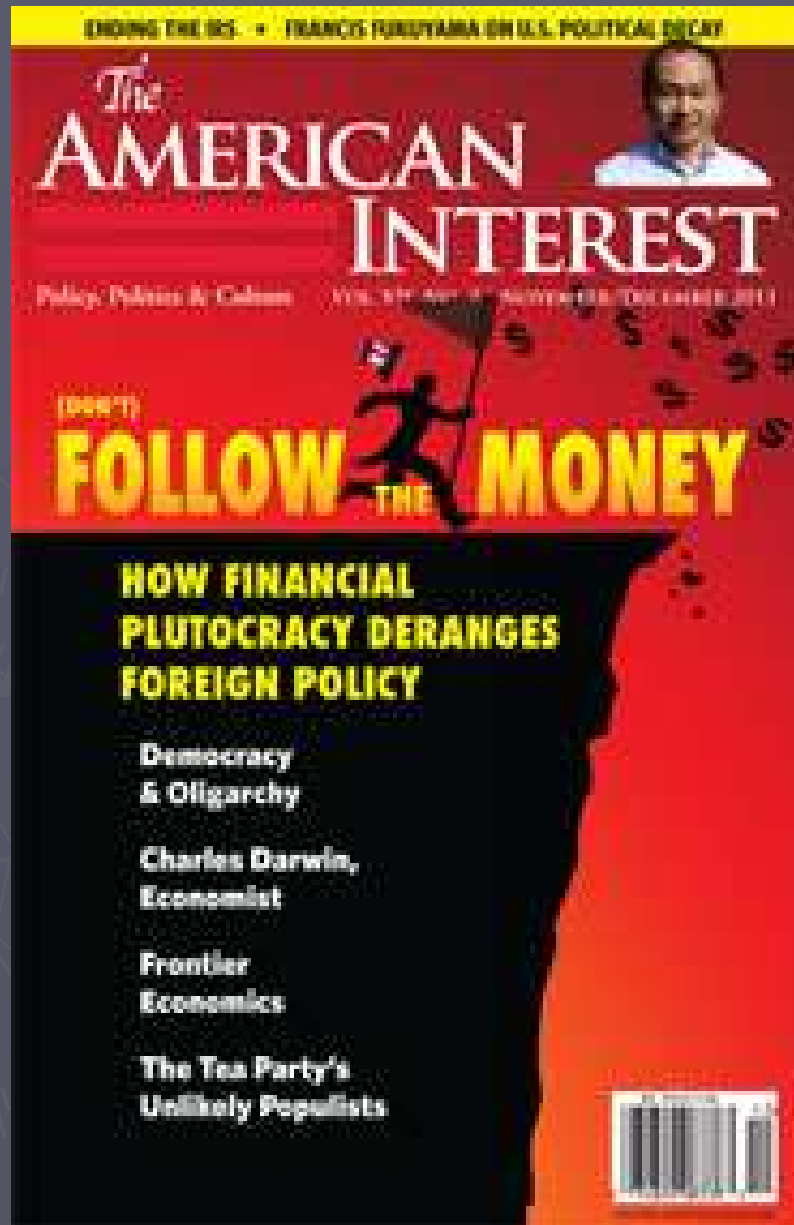
Other Types of Governing

1. Aristocracy

The rule of the best born, or nobles; government by the best citizens, usually a privileged minority or upper class of inherited wealth or social position.



Other Types of Governing



2. Plutocracy

Government by the wealthy.

Other Types of Governing



3. Kleptocracy

Government by thieves; rule by persons who loot the government for their own personal financial gain.

Other Types of Governing

4. Kakistocracy

Government by the least suitable or competent citizens of a state.



Other Types of Governing

5. Ochlocracy



Rule by the Mob

Other Types of Governing



Theocracy



**Rule by a
religious
caste or class**

Other Types of Governing

Stratocracy

Rule by a military caste or class



Other Types of Governing

Epistocracy

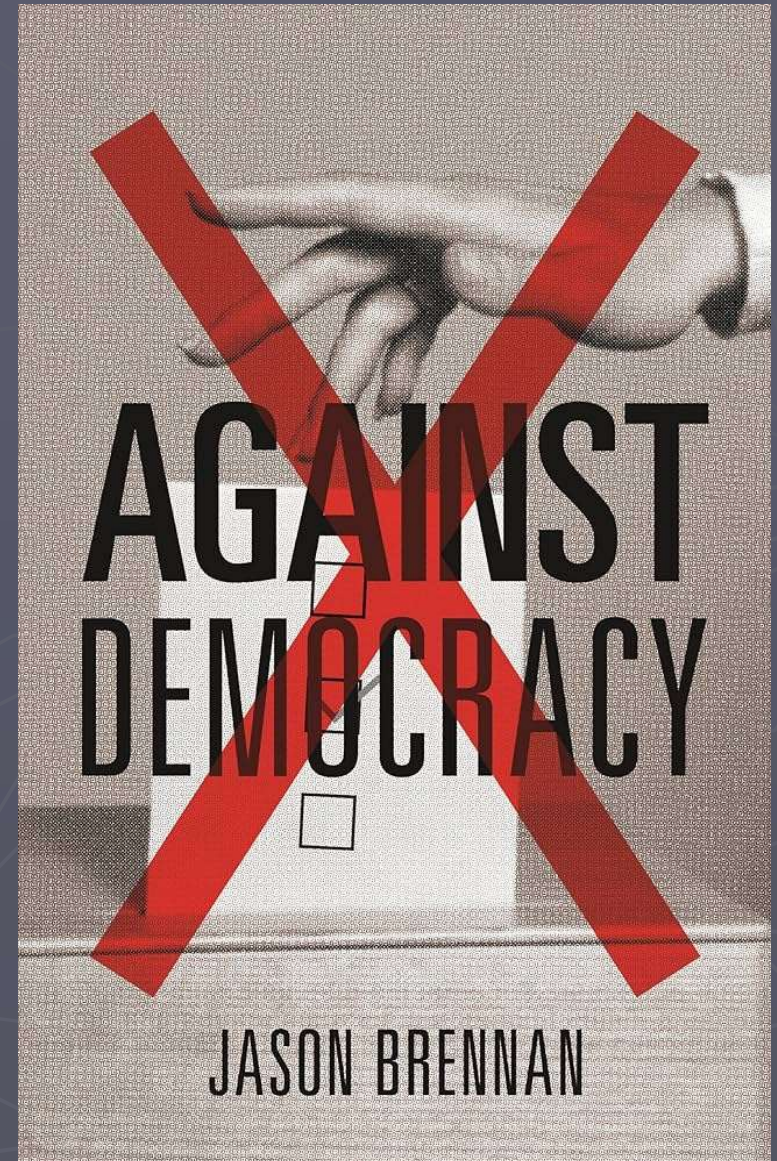
Rule of the knowledgeable



For some reason when it comes to democracy, we seem to think that political knowledge doesn't make any kind of difference or we shouldn't say that it does, like it would hurt people's feelings.

— Jason Brennan —

AZ QUOTES



Other Types of Governing

4. Anarchy

(1st definition)

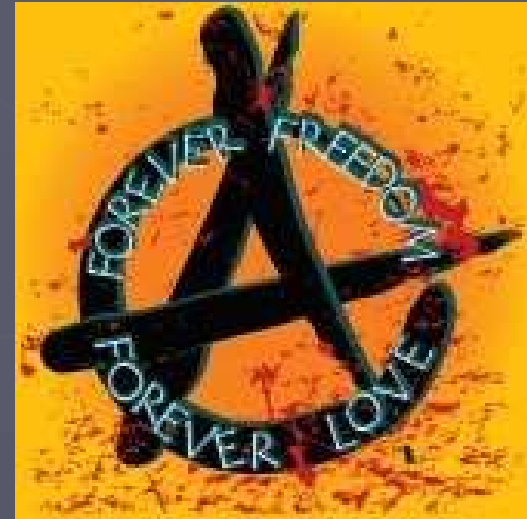
Lack of ruler or
government;
political disorder
and violence;
lawlessness



Other Types of Governing

Anarchy (2nd definition)

A theory that regards the absence of all direct or coercive government as a political ideal and that proposes the cooperative and voluntary association of individuals and groups as the principle mode of organized society.



Characteristics of Democracy

1. Individual liberty

2. Majority rule with minority rights

3. Free elections

Practicing Democracy

aka

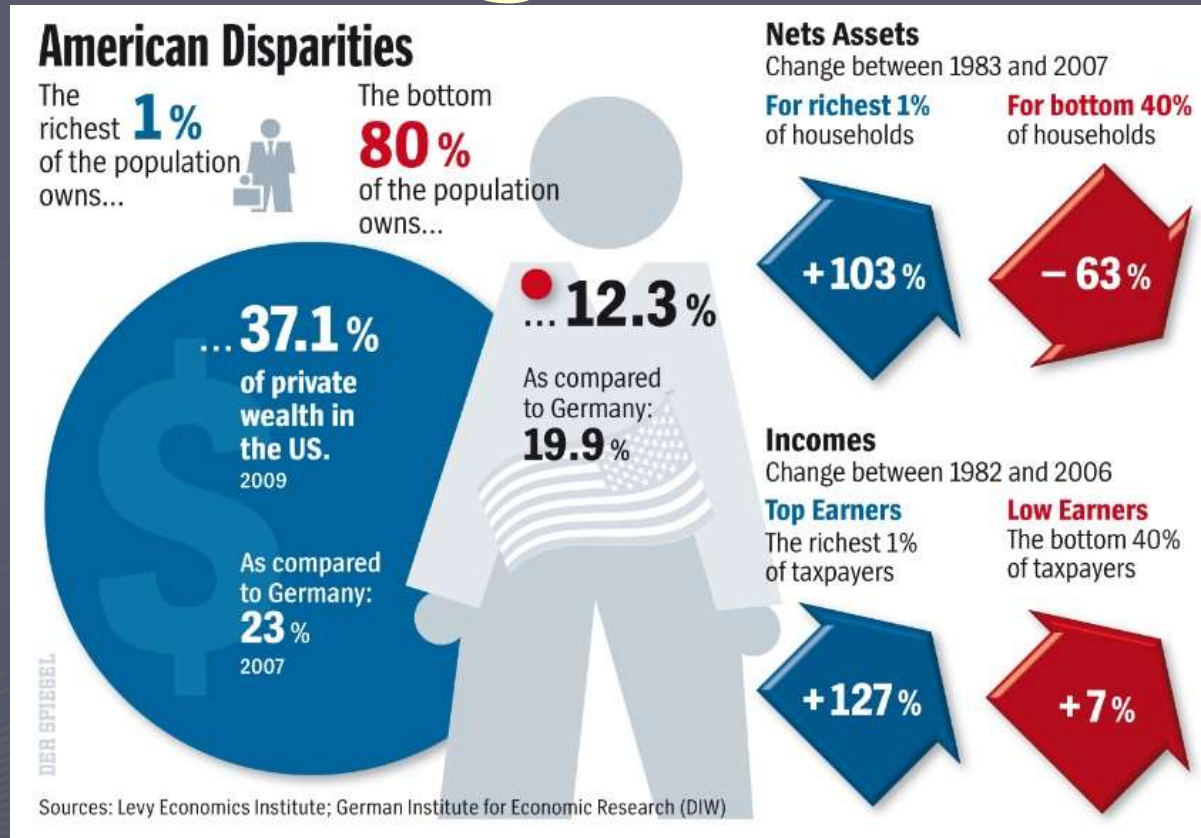
**The “Soil” of
Democracy**

Practicing Democracy

1. Active Citizen Participation



Practicing Democracy



2. A Favorable Economy (Large Middle Class)

Practicing Democracy

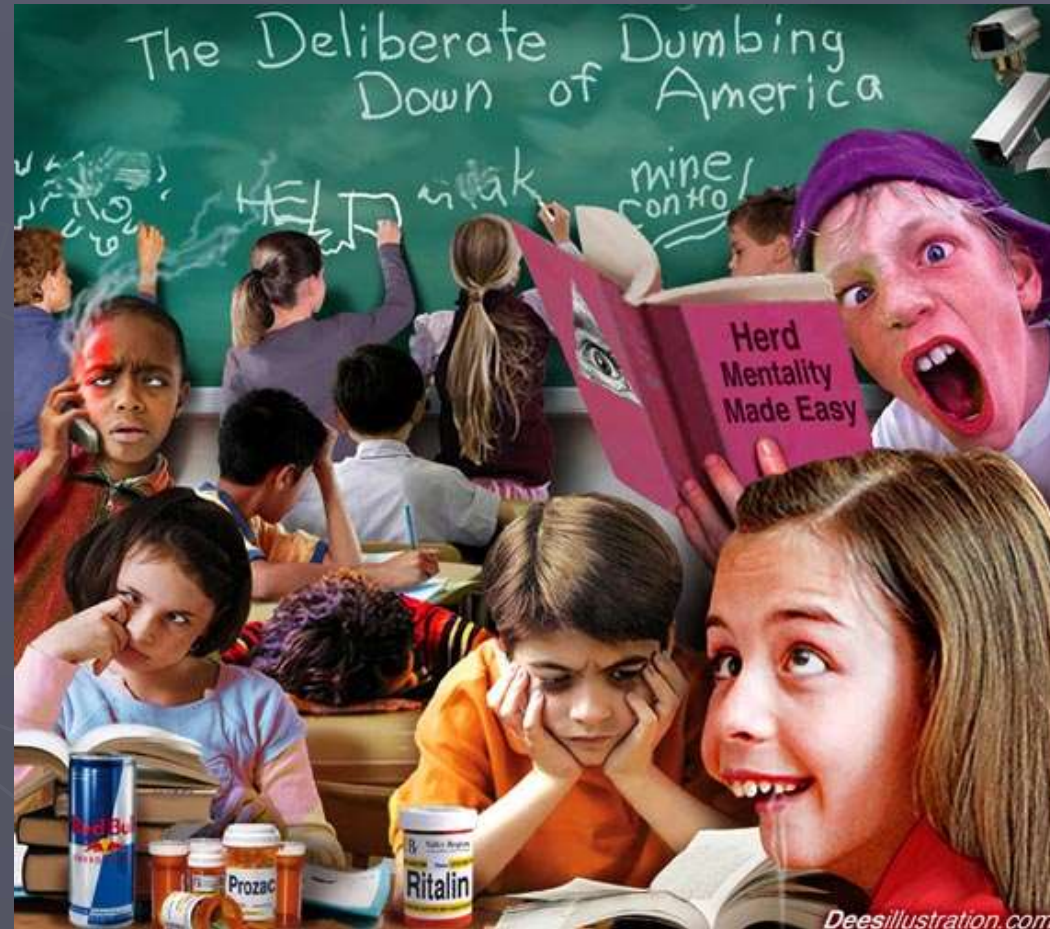
3. Widespread Education



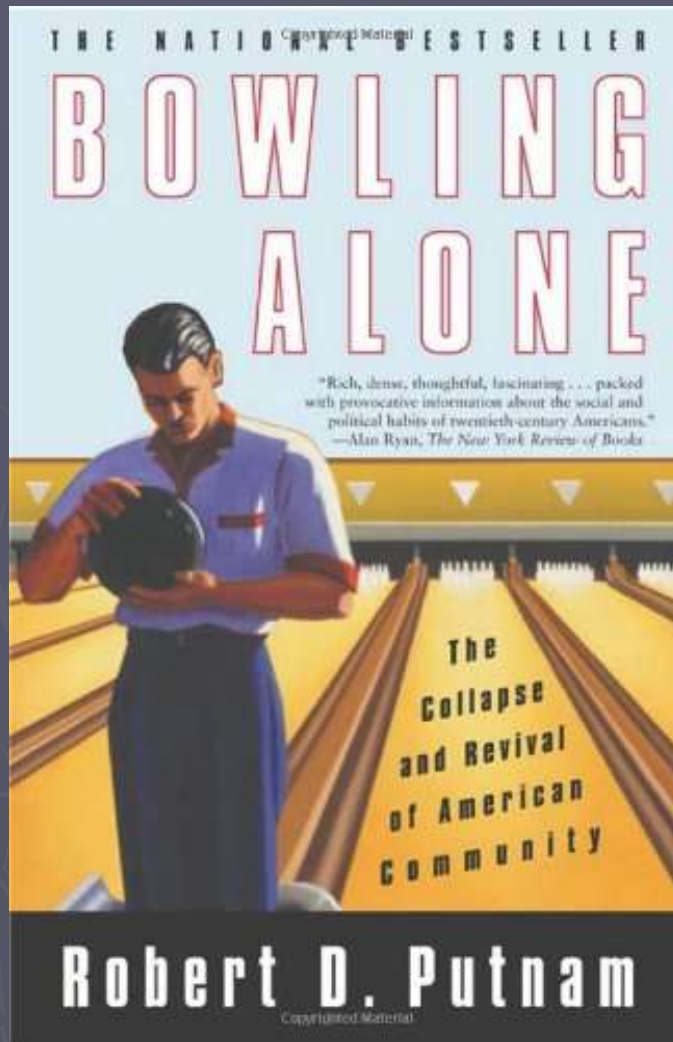
Widespread public access to knowledge, like public education, is one of the pillars of our democracy, a guarantee that we can maintain a well-informed citizenry.

— Scott Turow —

AZ QUOTES



Practicing Democracy



4. Strong Civil Society

Practicing Democracy



5. A Social Consensus