

The Public Policy Process

Public Policy



Simply, what government does (or decides *not* to do); When government takes actions or makes decisions (or doesn't), it creates policy with two certain outcomes...

Public Policy

1. Tradeoffs – all government decisions carries with it costs of one kind or another, just as it confers some benefit.



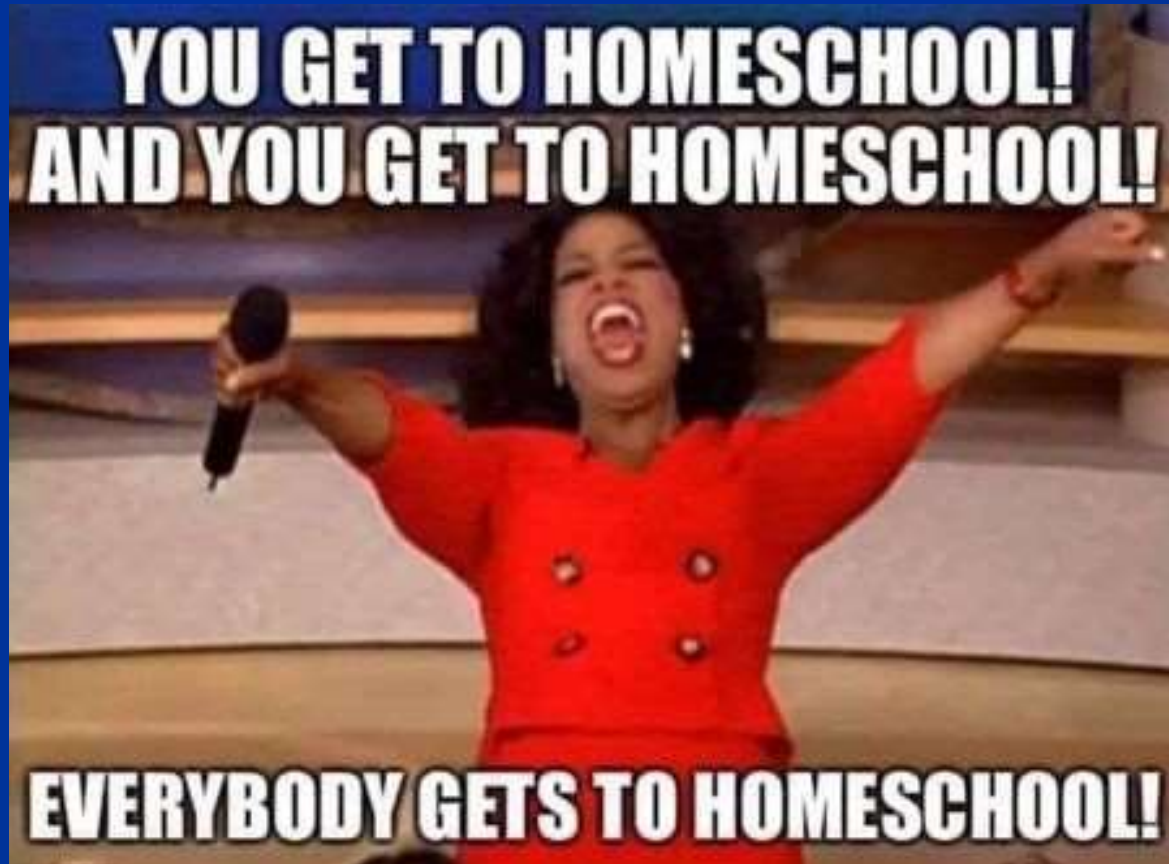
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2. Unintended Consequences –
when results of a
certain policy are
not expected.



Public Policy

Types of Social Policy



Public Policy



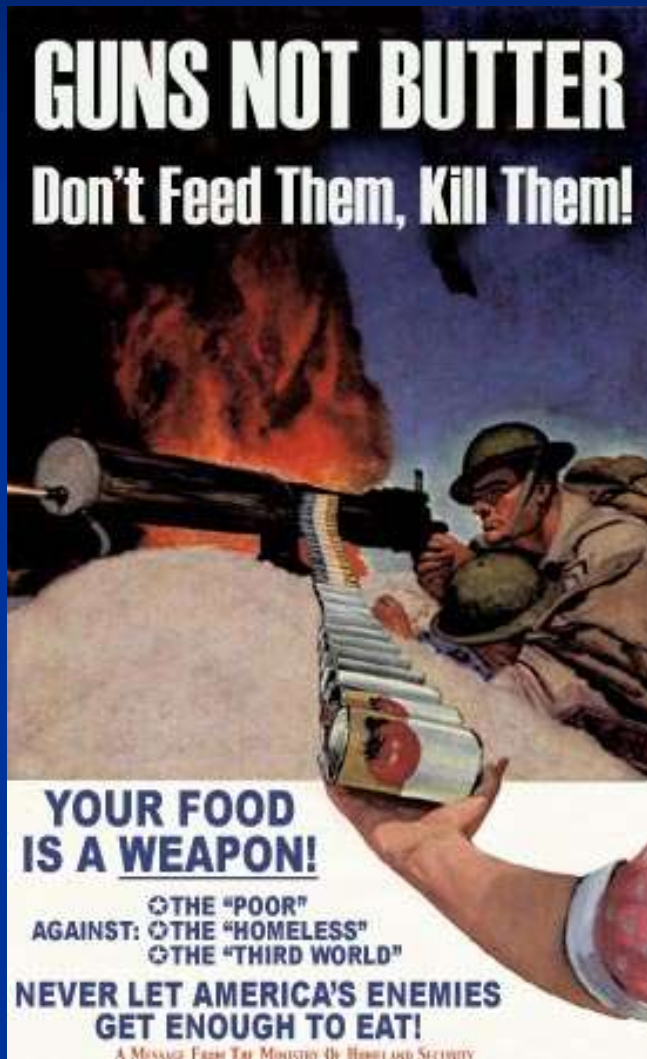
1. Development Policy – designed to enhance government's economic position, strengthen the economy, and enlarge the tax base.

Public Policy

2. Redistributive Policy – here, money is shifted, ideally from the better off to the less well-off (welfare). The most controversial.



Public Policy



3. Allocation Policy – involves basic services that affect all taxpayers (police, fire, garbage, at local level; national defense at national level).

Public Policy

Stages in the Policy Process



Public Policy

Problem Recognition

1. Social Indicators

- a. poverty levels
- b. GDP/GNP
- c. crime rates
- d. employment statistics



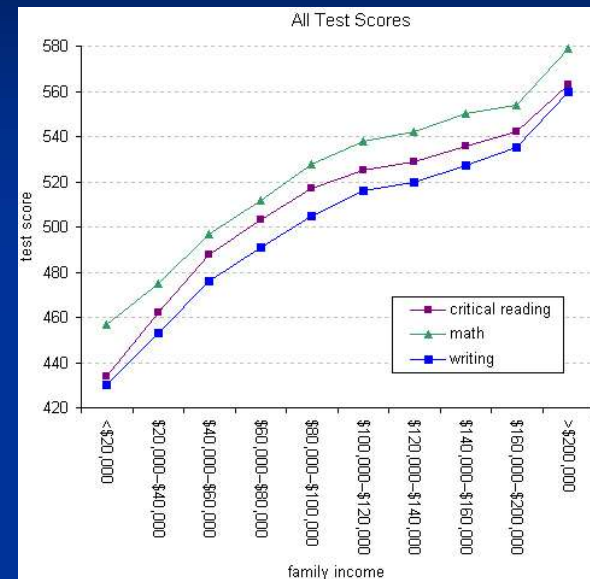
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2. Events

- a. a building collapse
- b. the 9/11 attack

Public Policy



3. Feedback

- how well some program is performing
- monitoring BART riders
- government reports

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**Actors in
Problem
Recognition**

Public Policy

1. Bureaucrats

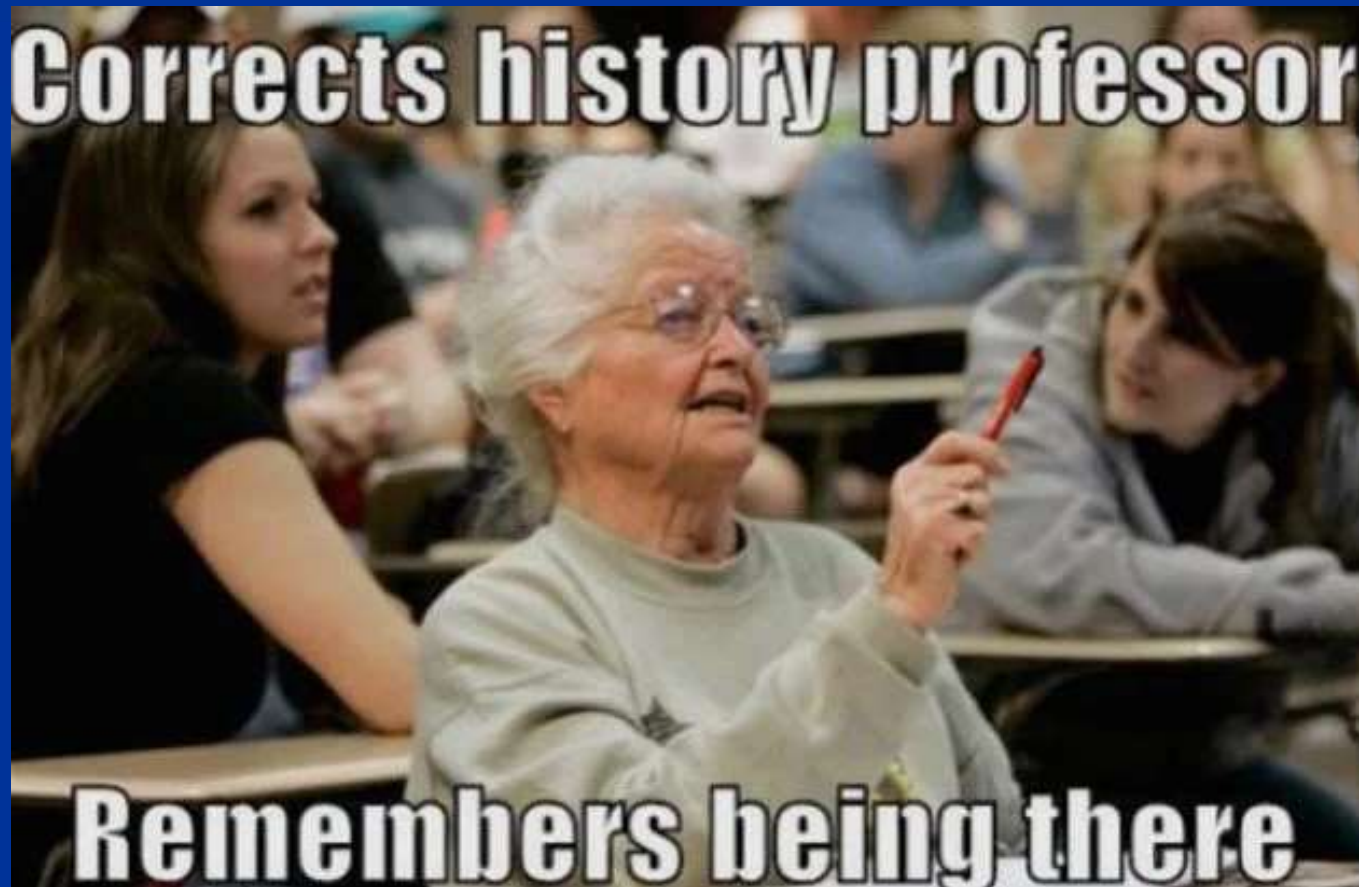
BUREAUCRATS



**YOU CAN RUN, BUT THEY WILL
FIND AND REGULATE YOU**

Public Policy

2. The Public



Corrects history professor

Remembers being there

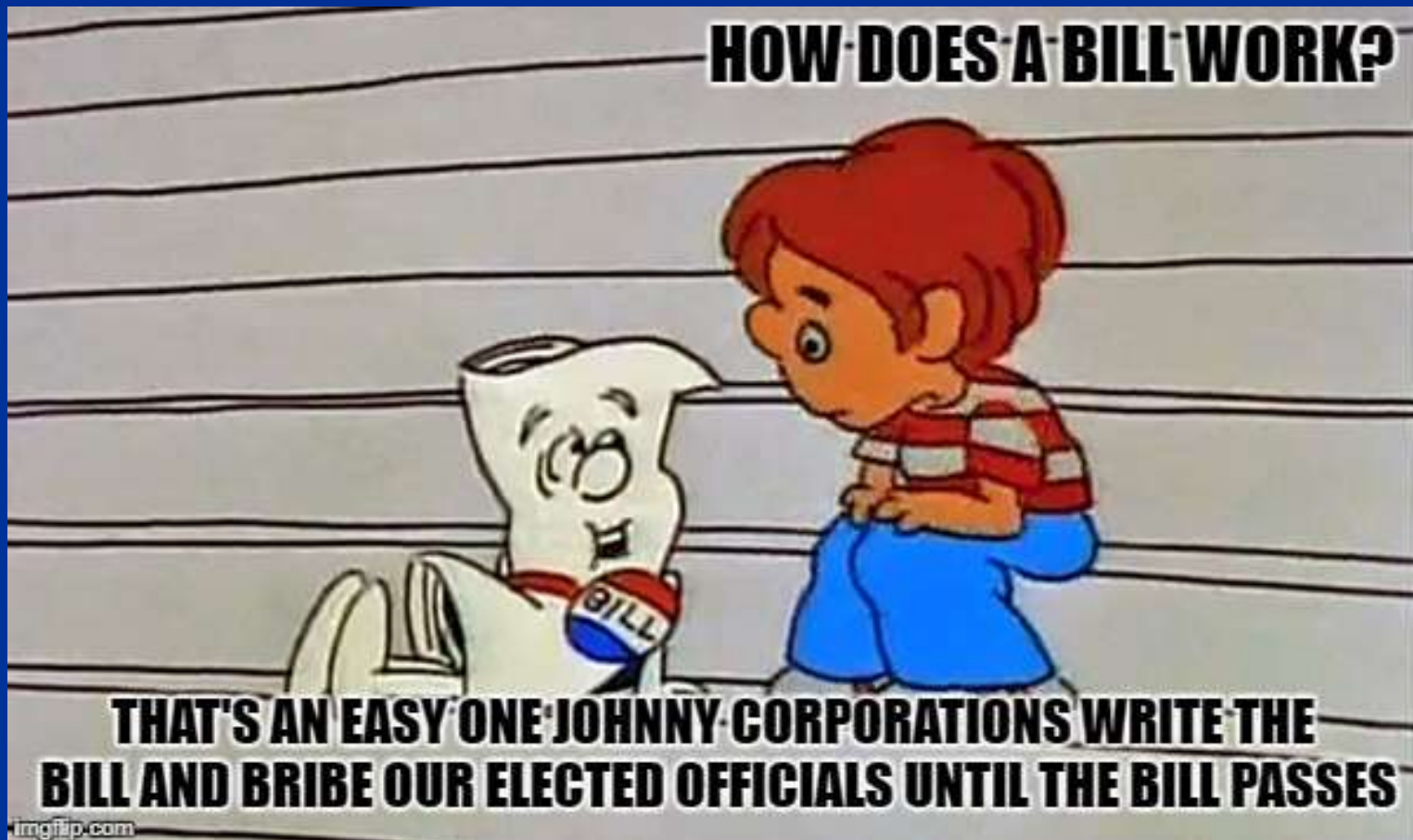
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3. Interest Groups



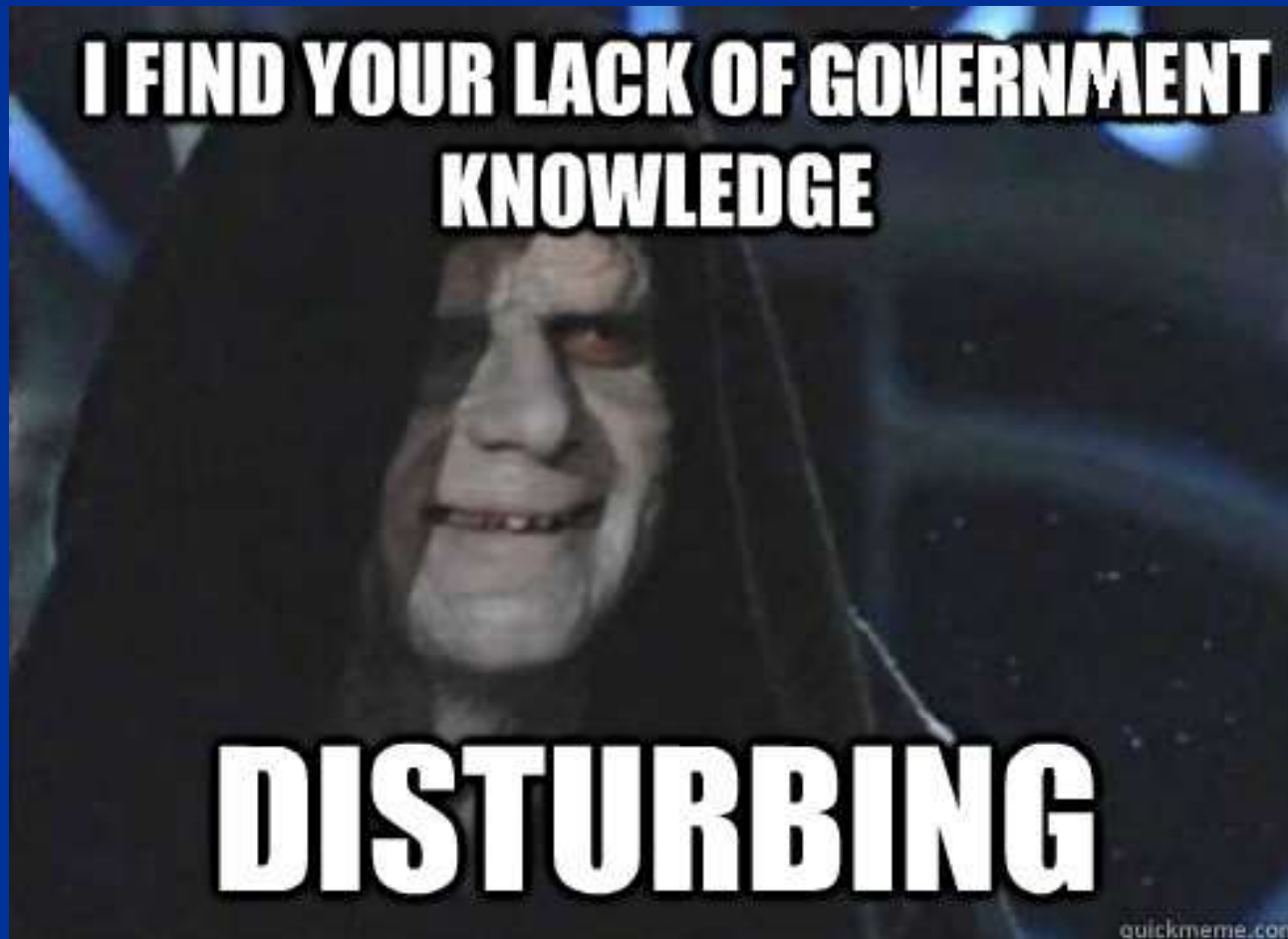
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4. Elected Officials



Public Policy

5. Policy Entrepreneurs



Public Policy

Decision

Making

Models (4)

Public Policy

1. Rational Comprehensive (how model)

This model assumes that rationality best describes how decisions are (or should be) made.



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2. Incrementalism (how model)

This model assumes that a policy continues what has been done before with modest adjustments.



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3. Elitism (who model)

This model assumes that policy does *not* reflect the wishes of the mass of people, but instead is made by the elite to advance their own interests.



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4. Pluralism (who model)

This model assumes that society is composed of many different groups and that the interaction of some of these groups in the political process shapes government decisions.

