

## American Government and Media

### 2.1 Presidents and Politics

“A Walk Through the Twentieth Century with Bill Moyers” series  
DVD-PAL, 58 minutes (1983) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Newsman Richard Strout has covered the White House and national politics from President Harding to President Reagan for the Christian Science Monitor and the New Republic. His reflections show the changes in politics and the growth of Washington from a small town to the center of the free world.

### 2.2 The Reel World of News

“A Walk Through the Twentieth Century with Bill Moyers” series  
DVD-PAL, 58 minutes (1982) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The newsreels informed and entertained American audiences from 1911 till 1967. They were originally made by movie studios as a ten-minute warm-up for the main feature. They showed a variety of items. Bill Moyers interviews journalists and camera men and shows a sample of the highlights, until television made this medium redundant. In the newsreels the camera men were all powerful, sound was added later by specially composed pieces, the reporter was not shown on the screen. Apart from the official news, which did usually not show labor unrest or economic misery, a journalist called Leo Seltzer made alternative reports for the labor class. The documentary also shows the discovery of a collection of eight hundred reels in Canada and the ways of preservation.

### 2.3 The Thirty Second President

“A Walk Through the Twentieth Century with Bill Moyers” series  
DVD-PAL, 58 minutes (1984) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Rosser Reeves and Tony Schwartz explain the start of the role television played in U.S. presidential elections from Eisenhower in 1952 till the Carter-Ford campaign in 1976. It shows a number of campaign commercials.

### 2.4 Congress: What it is and How it Affects You

DVD-PAL, 64 minutes (1992) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Examines the history, duties and internal workings of the U.S. Congress.

### 2.5 The Making of Justice, part 1 of 7

“The Presidency and the Constitution” series  
DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The program focuses on the selection of justices and judges for the Federal Courts. Moderator Charles Nesson, professor at Harvard Law School, discusses what criteria the President of the United States should take into account in making his selection. Participants include: former President Jimmy Carter, Senators Orrin Hatch and Paul Simon, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Markman, former Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, and journalists Bill Moyers and Nino Totenberg.

## 2.6 Foreign Alliances and Misalliances, part 2 of 7

"The Presidency and the Constitution" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Average Quality

Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., president of Yale University, leads a discussion concerning what is the proper division of power between the President and Congress in formulating foreign policy. The participants include: former President Gerald Ford, former C.I.A Director Stansfield Turner, Senators Alan Cranston and Orrin Hatch, Attorney General Edwin Meese, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis, and CBS news anchor Dan Rather.

## 2.7 Foreign Alliances and Misalliances, part 3 of 7

"The Presidency and the Constitution" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The program focuses on covert activity and appropriate oversight, leaks to the press, dis-information, and war powers.

## 2.8 The Budget Crunch, part 4 of 7

"The Presidency and the Constitution" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Harvard Law School Professor Arthur R. Miller leads a discussion on the problem of congressional leaders' split interest (between State and National Affairs) and whether or not a Constitutional Convention should be held to pass a Balanced Budget Amendment. Guests include: former President Gerald Ford, Attorney General Edwin Meese, Senators Alan Cranston, Orrin Hatch, Nancy Kassebaum, and Warren Rudman, Rep. Charles Rangel, economist Alan Greenspan, and ABC news reporter Sam Donaldson.

## 2.9 The Nuclear Balance of Terror, part 5 of 7

"The Presidency and the Constitution" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Average Quality

The first part of this program covers such topics as: which congressional leaders must a president consult before deciding on a course of action? Is our intelligence gathering mechanism adequate for verification? To what extent can a democratic government withhold information from the public when the world destruction is only fifteen minutes away?

## 2.10 The Nuclear Balance of Terror, part 6 of 7

"The Presidency and the Constitution" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Average Quality

The second part of this program discusses the steps a president must take to prepare for an arms control summit with the Soviets. Once he has a treaty in his hand, how does he convince sixty-seven senators to ratify it? It also examines how important Human Rights Issues are in our negotiations with the Soviets.

## 2.11 A Call For Repairs, part 7 of 7

"The Presidency and the Constitution" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1980s) (No Region Code), Average Quality

The program is a fast-paced discussion about the shape of the government, how the constitution forms the basis for our laws, and whether changes are needed in the governmental structure provided for by the document. The discussion is led by Professor Charles Nassin of Harvard Law School. The main questions addressed are: Does the constitution work? Could and should changes be made? Guests include: Lloyd N. Cutler (Co-chair of the Committee on the Constitutional System), and several other committee members, Sam Donaldson (White House correspondent for ABC News), Rep. Charles Schumer (New York), Anthony Lewis (columnist for the New York Times), Walter Dellinger III (Professor of Law at Duke University), Senator. Orrin Hatch (Utah), and Edwin Meese III (U.S. Attorney General).

## 2.12 A Republic if You Can Keep It: The Making of the U.S. Constitution

DVD-PAL, 90 minutes (1976) (No Region Code), Good Quality

This documentary tells the history of the constitution, as told by Senator Dennis Deconcini of Arizona and Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah. The building of the new government and the Philadelphia convention are depicted. The voting and the debates on the abolition of slavery and the separation of power are re-enacted, which offers an authentic peek into the proceedings of the time. The documentary was produced by The American Studies Center Bicentennial Program.

## 2.13 The Democratic Process

"The Heroes of Democracy" series

DVD-PAL, 58 minutes (19??) (No Region Code), Good Quality

This program discusses the importance of voting, and examines the democratic process and citizenship. Through discussions and interviews, students will understand why in U.S. society every vote counts.

## 2.14 Think Tanks

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1986) (No Region Code), Good Quality

In this discussion program Dr. Edwin Feulner, Jr., president of the Heritage Foundation and Lester R. Brown, president of the Worldwatch Institute, to important Washington think tanks, discuss the impact of think tanks on public policy. Taking questions from panels in both The Hague and Oslo, they discuss the role of think tanks both in the United States and in other countries.

## 2.15 Among Brothers: Politics in New Orleans

DVD-PAL, 58 minutes (1986) (No Region Code), Good Quality

This documentary is made for the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, Hyde Park, in order to give visitors of the FDR Presidential Library and FDR National Historic Site an introduction to the lives of Franklin Delano and Eleanor Roosevelt. The film alternates between historic footage and period music, and personal reflections on the lives of FDR and ER by two of their grandchildren, Curtis Roosevelt and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.

## 2.16 Black Americans: Mainstream Politics and Coalitionbuilding

DVD-PAL, 28 minutes (1990) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The discussion featuring Dr. Ronald Walters, professor of political science at Howard University, and Richard Scammon, electoral behavior expert and director of Elections Research Center, reviews recent political achievements by black Americans. Examines how electoral gains were made through coalitions, discusses the impact on public policy of elected black Americans, and concludes with a look at possible electoral winners in the twenty-first century.

## 2.17a American Political Parties: Power and Principle – The Democrats

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1992) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The Democrats 1960-1992. Showing much original campaign and news footage Ben J. Wattenberg of the American Enterprise Institute describes the history of American Democrats and the development of liberalism.

## 2.17b American Political Parties: Power and Principle – The Republicans

DVD-NTSC, 60 minutes (1992) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The Republicans 1960-1992. Showing much original campaign and news footage.

## 2.18 Campaigning for the Presidency

DVD-PAL, 118 minutes (1992) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Past presidential campaign managers discuss campaign issues, strategies and ethics in a lively forum. The program tells a great deal about the electoral process, the nature of media campaign tactics, and the importance of campaign managers and advisers in winning the presidency.

## 2.19 Media in Politics

DVD-PAL, 90 minutes (1991) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Campaign advertising professional Tony Schwartz illustrates the concepts he has employed successfully on behalf of countless candidates. This film focuses especially on Schwartz' use of commercials for television and radio.

## 2.20 The Presidency, the Press and the People

DVD-PAL, 117 minutes (199?) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Large panel discussion between ten presidential press secretaries from Kennedy to Reagan on the relationship between presidents and the press.

## 2.21 Political Advertising of the '60s

DVD-PAL, 51 minutes (1993) (No Region Code), Good Quality

A retrospective of fifty-six U.S. television commercials covering the presidential campaigns of Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey, Nelson Rockefeller and John F. Kennedy. The video also covers the senatorial campaigns of Robert Kennedy, Bob Packwood, Birch Bayh, Alan Cranston and Jacob Javits. Early political spots by Ted Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Mark Hatfield are also included.

## 2.22 Government by Consent: The Constitution in Crisis

DVD-PAL, 30 minutes (1989) (No Region Code), Good Quality

During presidential and constitutional crisis, do Democratic leaders always adhere to the words of the Constitution? Answers are presented in this video from Dallas Community College.

## 2.23 Interpreting the Law: The Role of the Supreme Court

DVD-PAL, 58 minutes (1990) (No Region Code), Good Quality

This program recounts the contributions of the Chief Justices to American life and describes what goes on in the Supreme Court, how it operates, what kinds of cases it hears, what kinds of cases it will not hear, and how a case gets on the Court's docket. The program traces how the Court developed, how its powers and processes evolved, and demonstrates how a landmark case moves through the Court. The program is divided in three parts: Establishing the Court; Interpreting the Law; and How the Court Works.

## 2.24 The Truth about Lies, part 1 of 4

"The Public Mind: Image and Reality in America" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1991) (No Region Code), Good Quality

In this four-part series Bill Moyers examines the impact on democracy of a mass culture, much of whose basic information comes from the media, public opinion polls, public relations and image-making. The focus of this part is on American media as an entertainment business rather than a news business. It is seen as a profit making organization in the service of American politicians. The focus is on how realistic descriptions are neglected and how the media is dominated by images people want to see. The Reagan and Bush campaigns serve as representative examples of American media spectacles.

## 2.25 Illusions of News, part 2 of 4

"The Public Mind: Image and Reality in America" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1991) (No Region Code), Good Quality

The focus of this film is on the power of deception and its influence on some main events in American history. The question is if the American people are so used to political lies that they can no longer do without. Bill Moyers concludes that harsh realities are too often covered up by comfortable lies and illusions.

## 2.26 Leading Questions, part 3 of 4

"The Public Mind: Image and Reality in America" series

DVD-PAL, 60 minutes (1991) (No Region Code), Good Quality

Bill Moyers discusses how advertisement influences the public mind and behavior in America. Surveys are often used to find out how the American public feels and thinks. This film deals with the power of both surveys, advertisement and political campaigns. Bill Moyers concludes that the public mind is often manipulated and misguided, especially where presidential campaigns are concerned. Part 4 of this series is missing.

## 2.27 Electing a President: The Process

DVD-PAL, 27 minutes (2004) (No Region Code), Good Quality

This program examines the historical origins of the American presidential elections. First, it takes a closer look at the Constitution and explains the background and working of the Electoral College, the rise political parties and conventions, and the changing process of campaigning. Subsequently, it reviews several famous presidential elections and shows how technology has substantially altered the race for the highest office in the country.

## 2.28 The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara

DVD-PAL, 107 minutes (2004) (Region Code 2), Good Quality

A 2004 Academy Award winning documentary about the political life of U.S. secretary of defense in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and the various difficult lessons he learned about the nature and conduct of modern warfare. The film alternates an interview with Mr McNamara, conducted by Errol Morris, with archival footage and documents.

## 2.29 An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning

DVD-PAL, 93 minutes (2006) (Region Code 2), Good Quality

With this Academy Award winning documentary, former Vice President and Democratic Presidential candidate in 2000, Mr Al Gore, tries to convince the world that it is now time to change our acties, otherwise Global Warming will cause great despair all around the globe. Mixing presentations with personal narrative, Gore made and attractive and persuasive document on how CO2 pollution will affect our environment, and what should be done to reverse this trend.

## 2.30 Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Memorial Service

DVD-NTSC, 85 minutes (2007) (No Region Code), Good Quality

A memorial service for the historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., was held in the Great Hall at Cooper Union, NY and broadcasted April 24, 2007 on C-SPAN2. He was praised by, among others, Ted Sorensen, Henry Kissinger, and Bill Clinton, as a pre-eminent America historian. Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., who served as an adviser to President Kennedy and wrote more than 20 books awarded by two Pulitzer prices, died on February 28, 2007.

## 2.31 Framework for Democracy, disc 1

DVD, 7x30 minutes

This 26-part series demystifies the vagaries of government. Contemporary case studies and historical insights challenge viewers to discuss and debate the changing role of government in the modern age. This dvd series is correlated to the textbook "We the People" (Patterson).

### **American Heritage**

American politics today cannot be understood apart from the Latinos heritage. Government does not begin over again with each generation; it builds on the past. In the case of the United States, the most significant link between past and present lies in the Latinos founding ideals. This episode examines the key principles that have shaped American politics since the countries earliest years.

### **American Experiment**

Narrative story of the settlement and early days of the colonies, culminating in the fight for independence and the evolution of a constitutional framework of government for the new United States. Comments of scholars interwoven with excerpts from writings of those who were on the scene.

### **The Living Constitution**

A look at the Constitution in contemporary terms reveals a short document—7,000 words long—shorter than every state constitution except Vermont's. Only thirty-three of the more than 11,000 amendments that have been proposed have been approved by Congress and submitted to states. Twenty-seven have been ratified. Nevertheless, the Constitution is an

unfinished work that has evolved through less formal methods of change—congressional legislation, presidential actions, judicial review, custom and use.

#### **Question of Sovereignty**

Explores American federalism—the system of relationships among the U.S. government; the fifty state governments; and town, city, and county governments—and compares it to other ways of ordering relations between central governments and local units.

#### **The Most Basic of Rights**

Without government, people live in a state of anarchy. With unbridled government, men and women may live in a state of tyranny. The civil liberties imbedded in the Bill of Rights place specific limitations on governmental power. For example, the basic rights addressed in the first amendment—freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly—cannot be abridged or taken away. But the Bill of Rights, like the rest of the Constitution is relatively brief. Broad guidelines are set forth in the language of the Constitution, but it is the courts that apply this language to specific si

#### **Rights of the Accused**

The United States has one of the highest violent crime rates in the world. It is not surprising, therefore, that many citizens have extremely strong opinions about the rights of those accused of criminal offenses. When an accused person is set free because of an apparent legal technicality, some people feel that the rights of the accused are being given more weight than the rights of society and victims of crime. The courts and the police must constantly engage in a balancing act of competing rights. At the basis of this discussion is the U.S. Bill of Rights. The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments deal specifically with the rights of criminal defendants.

#### **The Struggle for Equality**

When the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776, the term “all men” did not include slaves, Native Americans, men without property, or women. During the last two hundred years, various minority groups have struggled to strengthen and expand constitutional guarantees of equality.

## 2.32 Framework for Democracy, disc 2

DVD, 7x30 minutes

#### **Frames of Reference**

The United States is a country marked by divergent political views. Political attitudes formed early in life seldom change dramatically, however the basic framework is etched and refined by life experiences. The Vietnam War in the sixties, the Watergate scandal in the seventies, reaction to the impeachment of President Clinton reflect the powerful role public opinion plays in the politics of this country. In fact, the scientific measurement of public opinion has become a permanent fixture of the political scene.

#### **Voice of the People**

Americans attach great significance to the right to vote. But the privilege of voting, so basic to democratic government, is a right that took many Americans centuries to achieve. In comparison to many nations in the world, voter participation in the United States is declining. Studies show a relationship between voting and a person’s age, education, and economic status. In addition to voting, citizens participate in the political process through community and campaign activities, and by participating in social movements and protests

#### **Party Politics**

The patterns of party politics in the United States provide a fascinating platform from which to view American political history. Divergent interests, seeking to strengthen their voice, join with others in creating a common political agenda, often under the Republican or Democrat banner. In recent years, as the two major parties have become more narrowly defined, many political moderates feel they’ve lost their political home. Third party ventures tend to work to only a limited degree because of the electoral system. They can play a major role in influencing the outcome of an election, as was apparent in the 2000 presidential election, but they seldom elect their candidates to public office

#### **Campaign Trail**

Today, party organizations are alive and well in America, but they are no longer the driving force in contemporary campaigns. Much of what transpires is more accurately described as candidate-centered politics in which office seekers raise their own funds, form their own campaign organizations, and choose the issues on which they will run. This episode looks at organizing and financing campaigns through the eyes of candidates, strategists, managers and critics.

#### **Pressure Politics**

Alexis de Tocqueville observed in 1834, “that no country of the world have the principles of association been more successfully used or applied to a greater multitude of objectives than in America.” The French traveler was amazed as the degree to which Americans formed groups to solve civic problems, establish social relations, and speak for their economic or political interests. The structure of the American government invites the participation of interests groups. The system has many points of access or places in the decision-making process where interest groups may make their opinion known.

#### **The Fourth Estate**

On a daily basis, more Americans connect to politics through the news media than through the activities of parties or groups. The press brings events and problems into public view, serves as a channel through which political leaders can address the public, and scrutinizes political behavior for evidence of deceitful, careless, or corrupt acts. The increasing

tendency of the media to probe into all aspects of a politician's life, private as well as public, has made many officials less candid and forthcoming with the American public. However, the press cannot do the job of political institutions, even though increasingly it tries to do so.

#### **The First Branch**

The founders of the American republic believed that the bulk of power exercised by a national government should be in the hands of the legislature. Article I of the Constitution is both highly specific and vague about the powers Congress may exercise. This episode follows three current and past members of Congress through the election process and their early days in office. It examines the differences between the ways the Senate and House of Representatives operate, the every-ten-year redistricting process, and the challenges congressional members face not only in the halls of Congress but in maintaining close ties to their home districts.

## 2.33 Framework for Democracy, disc 3

DVD, 7x30 minutes

#### **Government by Committee**

Most of the actual work of legislating is performed by the committees and subcommittees within Congress. This division of legislative labor has emerged as a means of responding to the profusion of bills introduced each congressional term. Such an approach also allows members to gain expertise in particular aspects of governmental activity. This episode explores the committee structure and formal leadership of Congress, and various routes bills may take before being enacted into law. Members of Congress talk candidly about factors that influence their vote.

#### **The Glorious Burden**

The writers of the Constitution had a basic idea of what they wanted in a president: a national leader who would carry out the law of the land, a statesman who could negotiate with world powers, a commander-in-chief in times of conflict. But they had no models to follow, and the vague words they used to describe the position in Article II, Section I, of the Constitution left a lot of questions unanswered. This episode explores the foundations of the modern presidency, and takes viewers from the campaign for nomination to staffing the executive branch of government. It features political observers as well as those who have occupied positions of authority in recent administrations.

#### **Leader for a Nation**

The president operates within a system of separate institutions that share power. Without congressional authorization and funding, most presidential proposals are nothing but ideas, empty of action. Theodore Roosevelt longed to "be the president and Congress, too" if only for a day, so that he would have the power to adopt as well as propose programs. Whether a president's initiatives are likely to succeed or fail depends on several factors, including the force of circumstance, the stage of the president's term, the president's support in Congress, and the level of public support for the president's leadership.

#### **The Federal Workplace**

Modern government would be impossible without a bureaucracy. The government's enormous administrative capacity makes it possible for the United States to have such ambitious programs as social security, environmental protection, interstate highways, and the postal service. In fact, it's the only practical way of organizing large-scale government programs. Yet the bureaucracy is also a problem. Even those who work in federal agencies bemoan its rigidity and costliness. Today's civil servants, governed by stringent rules and regulations, are encumbered by regulatory impediments that would appall their private sector counterparts.

#### **The Power Imperative**

Although agencies are subject to scrutiny by the president, Congress, and the judiciary, bureaucrats are able to achieve power in their own right. They often develop an "agency point of view" because of their expert knowledge, support from clientele groups, and backing by Congress or the president. This episode, featuring among others former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich and former Secretary of State James Baker, depicts the nature of the federal bureaucracy and the politics that surrounds it.

#### **Rule Nine**

The writers of the Constitution were determined that the judiciary would be a separate branch of the federal government but, for practical reasons, did not spell out the full structure of the federal court system. Article III establishes the Supreme Court of the United States, and then grants Congress the authority to establish lower federal courts of its choosing. Unlike the executive and legislative branches, there are no age, residency, or citizenship qualifications for federal judicial office, nor are top officials elected by the people. Federal judges are nominated by the president, and if confirmed by the U.S. Senate, appointed by the president to the office.

#### **Legal Precedent**

In recent years the judiciary has become an increasingly powerful policymaking body. Although judicial decisions are constrained by applicable constitutional law, statutory law, and precedent, the courts have considerable discretion in the way they interpret these laws, causing some people to question the judiciary's proper role in a democracy. This episode probes contemporary questions regarding the federal judiciary including the debate surrounding originalism, textualism, judicial review, and judicial activism



## 2.34 Framework for Democracy, disc 4

DVD, 5x30 minutes

### **Balancing Act**

When the Great Depression struck in the 1930s, there were no programs in place to stabilize and stimulate the U.S. economy. Businesses cut back on production, investors fled the stock market, depositors withdrew their bank savings, and consumers slowed their spending responses that only made the situation worse. This episode focuses on the economic role of government focusing on its promotion and regulation of economic interests, its fiscal and monetary policies, the politics of economic decision making and the public debt.

### **The Nation's Welfare**

Poverty is a large and persistent problem in the United States, deeply affecting about one in seven Americans, including many of the country's most vulnerable groups: children, female "head of household" families, and minorities. Just what government's role should be in alleviating this problem is an intensely debated, partisan issue. Social welfare programs are designed to reward and foster self reliance or, when this is not possible, to provide benefits only to those individuals who are truly in need. Public support tends to be higher for social insurance programs, such as social security than for public assistance programs such as TANF. Both education and training are needed to move the working poor beyond mere survival.

### **Health of the Nation—Health of the Planet**

Despite attempts to provide an equitable baseline of healthcare for Americans, an estimated 44 million people in the United States have no health insurance at all, public or private. This episode looks at various governmental attempts to insure a "healthy" America, from the work of various research agencies (NIH and CDC) and regulatory units (EPA and FDA) to specific governmental programs, like Medicare and Medicaid.

### **Global Politics**

In the world of the 21st century, the basic tools of diplomacy are not far different than they were at the country's inception. The primary goal of United States foreign policy is the preservation of the American state. This requires not only military readiness to protect the territorial integrity and international interests of the United States, but also global policies that foster economic growth and preserve the nation's position in the international marketplace. This episode takes a close look at the foreign policy of the United States and shares the first-hand experiences of those who were involved in its formulation.

### **Preserve, Protect and Defend**

It was a sparkling September morning in New York City. The familiar cacophony of taxi horns and street vendors greeted commuters as they emerged from the subway. No one anticipated that in a matter of moments the city—the country—would be under attack. Since 11 September 2001, the protection and defense of the United States has occupied center stage. This episode looks not only the nation's response to the terrorist attacks, but also examines the defense and "peace keeping" policy of the country in the post-Cold War period.