

# AP Government Review

\* Mr. McConnell cannot guarantee that you will ace the exam, but he'll keep his fingers crossed.

# Development of the Federal System



The two-party system became entrenched in the early years of the United States.

- A. Identify the two major approaches to government and one label used to identify both of these groups.
- B. Explain how this early split into two political camps shaped any two of the compromises that were reached during the writing of the Constitution.

# 5 point rubric

- 3 points in part A (how?)
  - A desire for better central government vs. emphasis on states rights
  - Whigs or Tories
  - Nationalists or Localists
  - Federalists or Anti-Federalists
  - Federalists or Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans
- 2 points in part B
  - More central powers to tax
  - More central powers to control interstate trade
  - More central powers over a military
  - More central powers w/ a federal court system
  - Retained local powers of states
  - Retained local control of selecting the Senate
  - Retained local controls over selecting the executive

# 6 things you need to know

1. Dec. of Ind. Identified freedoms and rights that US gov continues to further and protect
2. Many features of Const were designed to correct flaws of the Articles of Confederation
3. Constitutional Convention (1787) was a contest between: - Fed vs State power and large states vs small states
4. Ratification debate created need for federal Bill of Rights and led to Federalist papers, essays explaining our system of government

## 6 things you need to know

5. The two-party system formed quickly after adoption of the Constitution; Hamilton called for strong central government, Jefferson called for more State controls
6. Early parties began history of competing visions of American government



# Federal Constitution and the Amendments



# Federalism is the layering of governmental powers

- A. Identify two ways in which federalism developed in the United States.
- B. Explain how these changes occurred.



# 4 point rubric

- 2 points in part A
  - States and fed gov are separate and relatively equal
  - State rules apply to states; fed rules and Constitution apply to fed are and jurisdiction only
  - National laws come to dominance
  - National rules and rights apply to states
  - Bill of Rights applies to states
- 2 points in part B
  - Sup Ct makes interpretations of federal authority
  - Great Dep changes demand for federal authority
  - WWII changes demand for federal authority
  - Civil Rights movement and Cold War make demands
  - Reagan Revolution

# 6 things you need to know

1. “Federalism” as a political concept has changed dramatically since inception; CW, GD and WW2 led to changes
2. Const is short, mostly focused Cong, designed to guide development of national government. Not intended to describe all possible powers and interpretations.
3. Preamble lists the 6 basic goals of the new government

# 6 things you need to know

4. A1 has most details/descriptions, covers organization and powers of Cong; critical powers are established in Commerce Clause and Elastic Clause sections
5. Most A2 Executive powers are vague and checked by Cong; judicial and state powers are even less detailed.
6. Since ratification in 1791, only 17 additions have been made; most are governmental procedures, only a few civil liberties have been created.

# Federalism and the U.S. Government



Federalism in the U.S. has shifted from a form known as “dual federalism” to a newer “cooperative federalism”.

1. Define these two kinds of federalism.
2. Explain why this newer concept of “cooperative federalism” favors the powers of the central government.

# 4 point rubric

- 2 points (define types)
  - Dual – st. and fed. are independent but interrelated; judicial rights are separate to their own jurisdictions, separate Bills of Rights, separate definitions of citizenship
  - Cooperative – interstate commerce (and issues related to), federal funds come with strings/rules, civil rights from BofR apply to states (incorporation)
- 2 points (explain how)
  - States need money, must rely on help; so federal rules override state choices (ex: Perry and “Obamacare”)
  - States must follow federal civil rights standards
  - “Interstate commerce” can be interpreted widely, thus applying fed regulations on businesses and individuals



# 6 things you need to know...

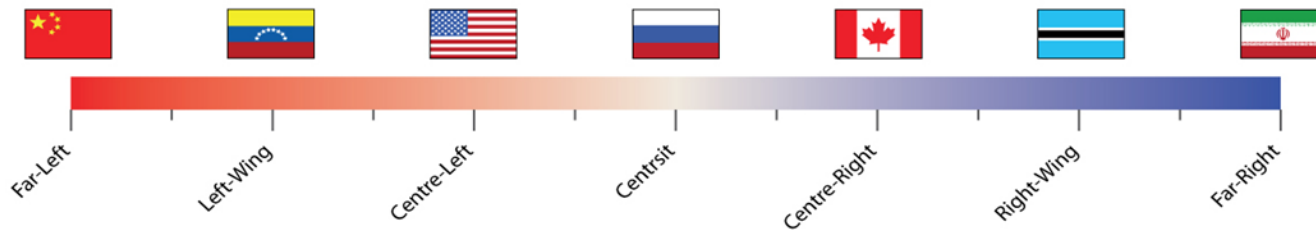
1. Fed powers are listed in the Const or directly implied by Const. All powers not listed, are reserved to the states.
2. Federalism has shifted from a sharing of power to much of the power being in the hands of the feds. Happened b/c of unwillingness by states to protect basic rights.
3. Fed powers limited by separation of powers and checks/balances.

## 6 things you need to know...

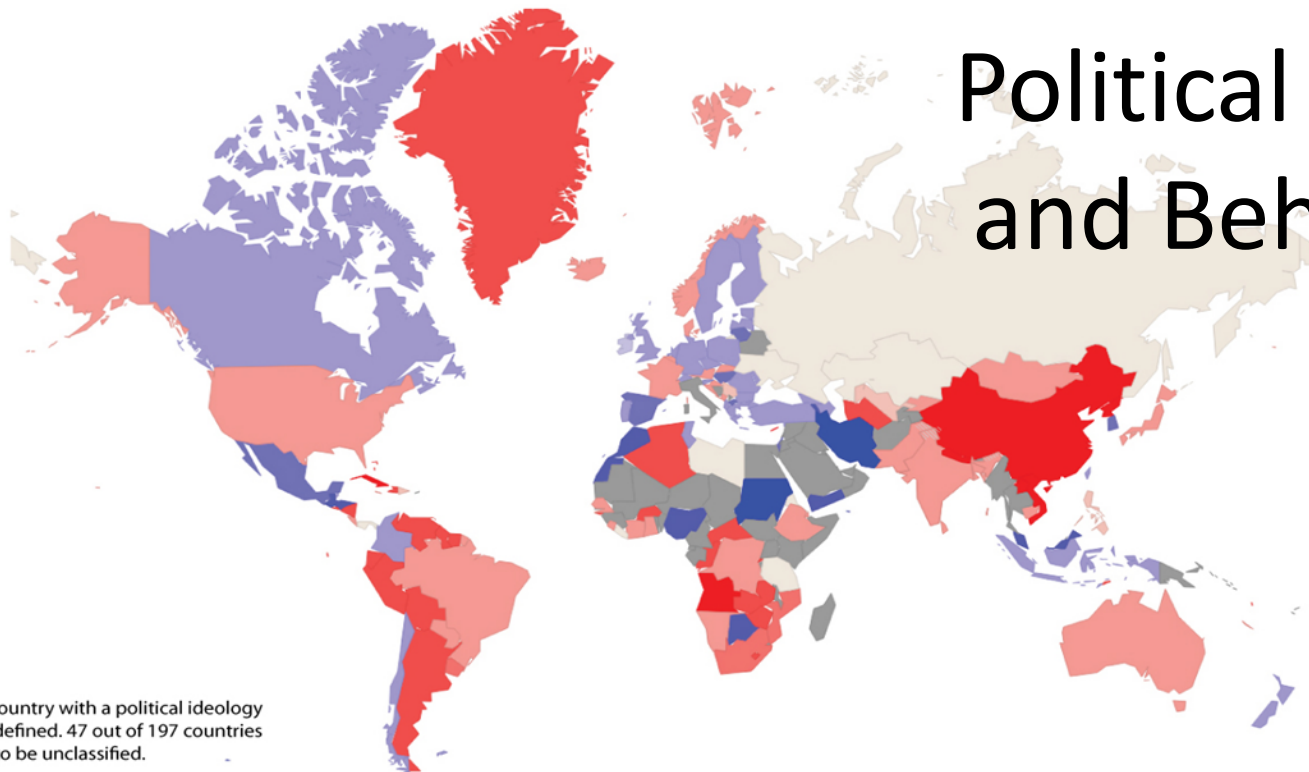
4. Judicial review, not in the Constitution, but established by *Marbury v. Madison*
5. Control of fed funds is the major way fed gov has extended its power.
6. The scope of federal powers has increased and decreased during the history of the U.S.

# What is the World's dominant political ideology?

For every country, political ideology has been graduated on a scale from Far-Left to Far-Right.



The resulting GeoMap shows clear concentrations of left-leaning countries in South America and Southern Africa, whereas Europe has a concentration of Centre-Right parties.



## Political Beliefs and Behaviors

Unclassified: a country with a political ideology that cannot be defined. 47 out of 197 countries are considered to be unclassified.

Voter participation can be viewed as a negative for the country but also as a positive piece of evidence about our political system.

1. Identify two negatives of low US voter turnout patterns.
2. Identify two ways the low turnout is possibly a form of positive evidence about our political system.

# 4 point rubric

- 2 points (identify)
  - Less political unity
  - Less support for parties and leaders
  - Less optimism about gov
  - Less belief that things can change
  - Less belief in the overall republic (apathy)
  - Less belief that one vote makes a difference
- 2 points (identify)
  - Trust in the current system
  - Sign of stability (people are content)

# 6 things you should know

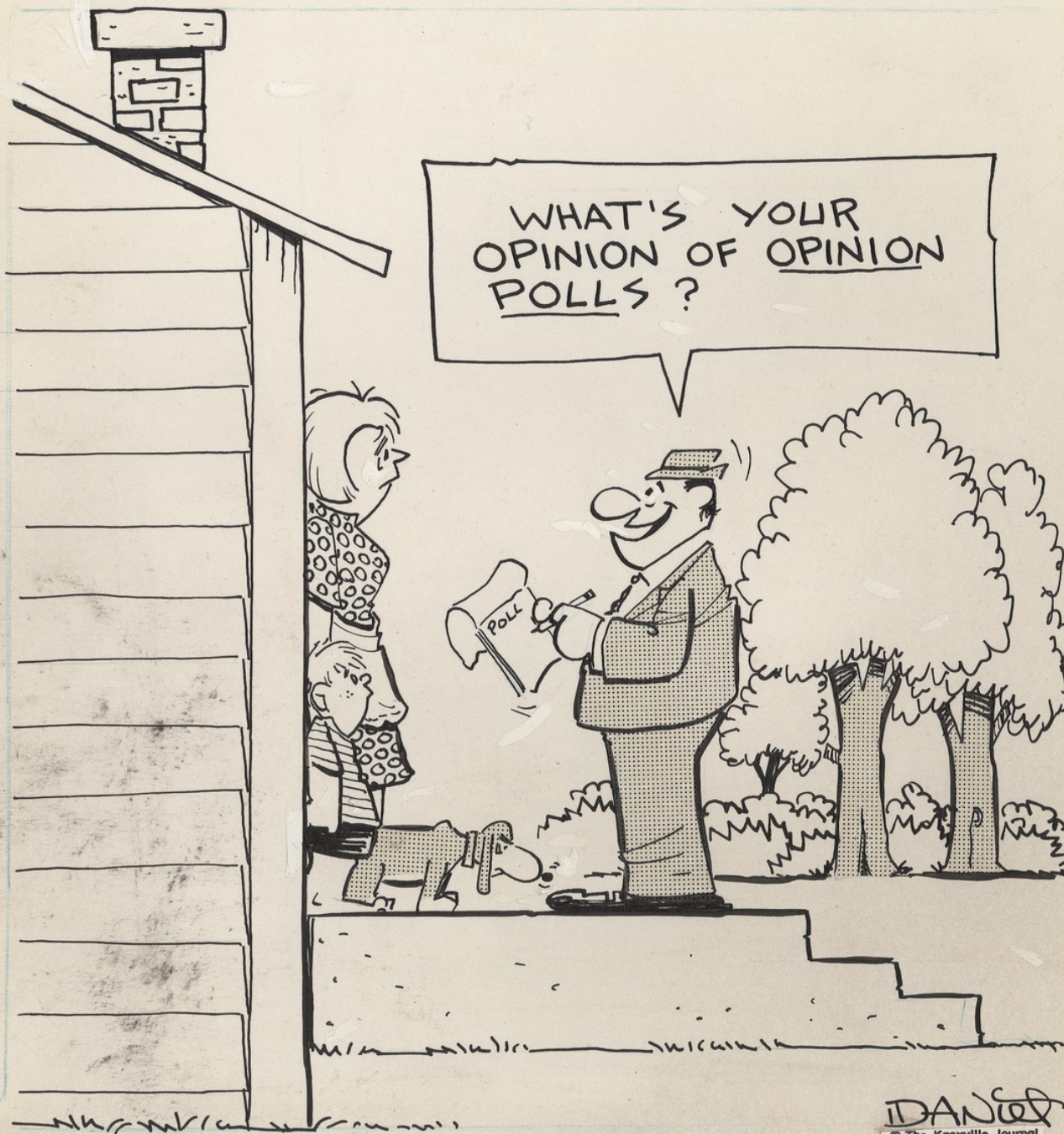
1. Most people in the US agree to fundamental values of freedom, equality of opportunity and individualism
2. Labels of “conservative” and “liberal” have changed throughout history. The constant has been differences between those that want more gov control and those that want more individual choice.
3. Voter turnout in the US is low but stable.



## 6 things you should know

4. Political ideology of US electorate has always been relatively centrist.
5. Influences on political beliefs are family background, gender, and level of education.
6. Voting access has historically been restricted in the US, but recent efforts have opened the process.

# Public Opinion and Polling



Political socialization is the way voters create their beliefs and attitudes toward government.

- A. Identify three forms of political socialization.
- B. Explain these three forms.
- C. Identify the most important form of political socialization.

# 7 point rubric

- 3 points (identify)
  - Family
  - Gender
  - Media
  - Education
  - Age
  - Wealth
  - Race and Ethnicity
  - Religion
- 4 points (explain three, identify the most important)
  - Parents are most important
  - More ed. leads to more liberal views
  - \$\$\$ residents vote more and are more conservative
  - Union/nonunion influences voting and liberalism
  - More religious tend to be more involved and conservative

# 4 things you should know

1. U.S. citizens are only moderately more interested in politics and are more focused on job and money concerns.
2. Collecting data about public opinions is important to executive and legislative leaders when they pursue their agendas.
3. The public values opinion polls, but leaders are often wary of public moods and public's mastery of the facts.
4. Polls are based on statistical samples and carefully developed questioning techniques.

# Political Parties





Political parties play an important role in American politics.

- A. Identify two key roles that political parties play in the politics of the United States.
- B. Explain how the two roles you identified influence or control the agenda of the nation.

# 4 point rubric

- 2 points (identify)
  - Recruit and label candidates
  - Influence the public
  - Gather money
  - Run the government
  - Provide for opposition to the party in power
  - Develop political agendas
- 2 points (explain the two roles you chose)
  - Parties look for qualified candidates who can get elected, then support them
  - Get the party message out
  - Raise funds for advertisement
  - Control operation of leg. branch, when in power
  - Band together against opposition to force compromises
  - Canvas members for future issues and seek solutions

# 6 things you should know

1. The two party system has dominated the American political system, major parties adopted new goals over the years.
2. Dem party started out supporting states' rights, but now supports more federal power. Rep party started off supporting fed power, and now emphasizes states' rights.
3. Straight ticket has fallen over the years

# 6 things you should know

4. The parties have switched dominance geographically. Dems used to control South and rural areas; Reps controlled NE and West Coast.
5. Financial and grassroots support has increased
6. The major parties are diverging and becoming more polarized on the issues.



# Campaigns and Elections





The Electoral College is an anti-democratic anachronism.

- A. Explain two reasons the Electoral College is opposed.
- B. Explain two reasons the Electoral College is still in place.



# 4 point rubric

- 2 points (2 reasons to oppose)
  - Too biased toward large states
  - Too biased towards states dominated by one party
  - Biased against small parties
  - Is anti-democratic
- 2 points (2 reasons it remains)
  - Large, politically powerful states benefit
  - Reduces costs of campaigning everywhere
  - Difficult to replace

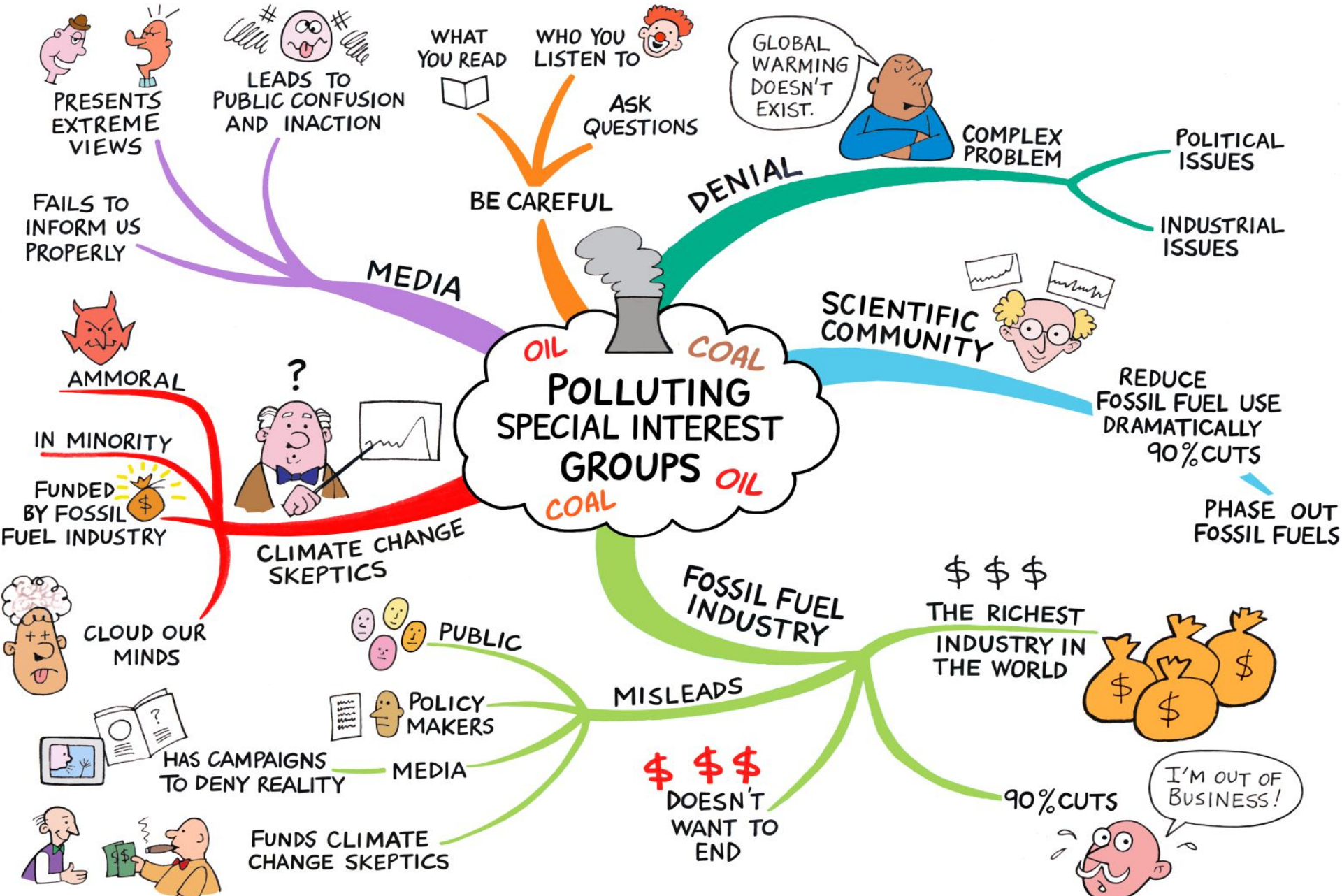
# 6 things you should know

1. Elections and campaigns in the US are fairly frequent, time consuming, and expensive
2. From the CW to the ND, Reps dominated American politics. From the ND to the 1960s, 2<sup>nd</sup> era of Democratic dominance occurred (first was 1828-1860). Period from 1968 to present day is referred to as the era of “divided government”. Why?
3. Role of \$\$\$ in campaigns is a major point of controversy, leading to attempts at reform and restrictions, but few have been made or have been effective.

# 6 things you should know

4. Public awareness is heightened during pres elections, and is really the only time divisions in political support are exposed and you might see shifts in affiliation.
5. Large states can heavily impact presidential elections because of the EC system. How?
6. Campaign finance reform efforts have not had much success.

# Interest Groups, Lobbies and PACs

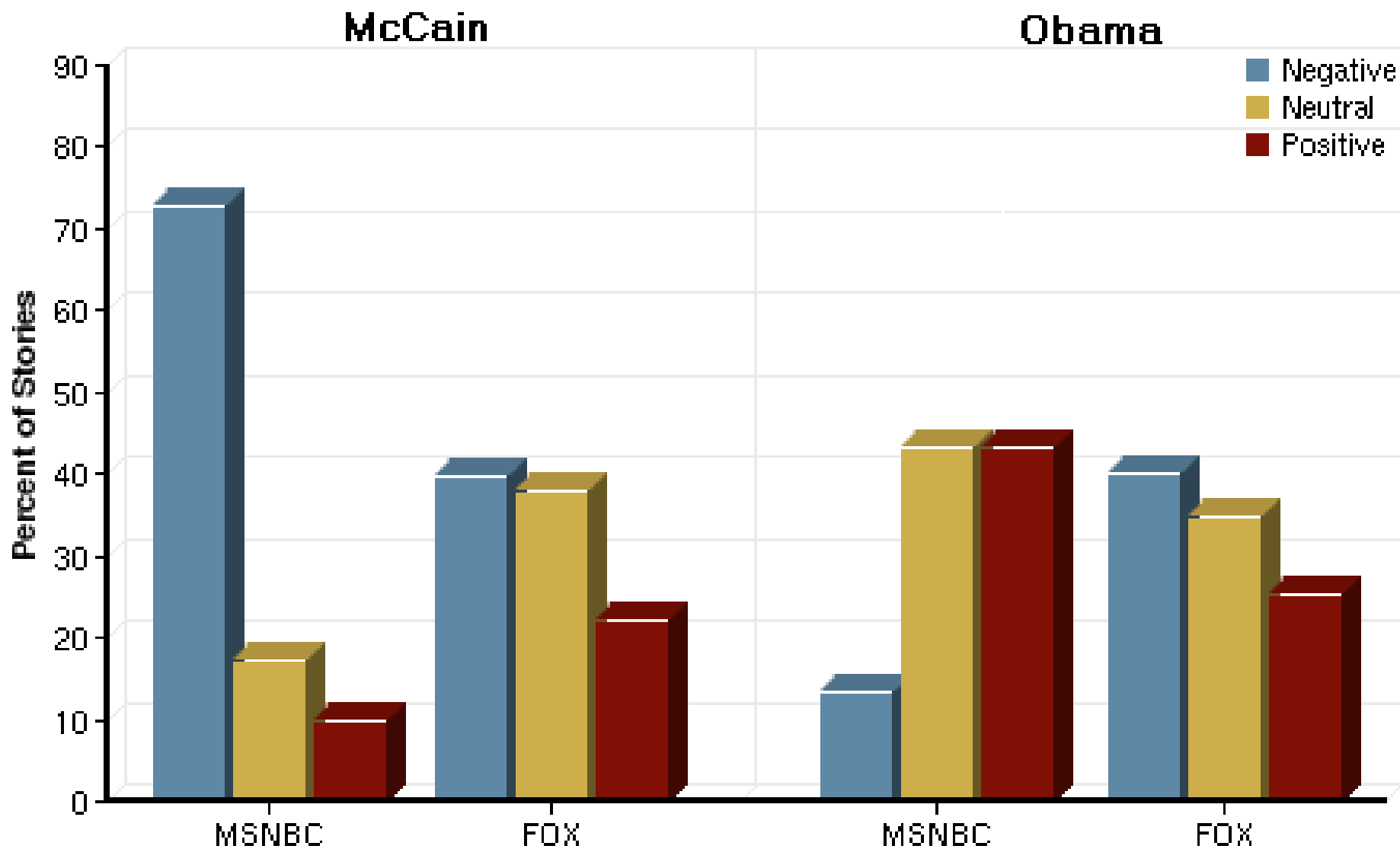


# 4 things you should know

1. Lobbyists and special interest groups are typically viewed as negative, but they serve an important function between the public and the governmental leaders
2. Interest groups are concerned with a wide range of topics, showing support for both parties.
3. They have access to leaders and have many ways of exerting power.
4. They are key players in the development of policies and funding of campaigns

# Media and Its Functions

*Tone of Coverage: MSNBC vs. FOX*



# 5 things you should know

1. Media tends to be biased towards candidates and parties
2. Media plays a major role in public agenda
3. Media has significant influence on campaigns and elections
4. Most media venues are owned by multimillion-dollar corporations that are more concerned about profits than quality news
5. Growth of the internet as major news source is expanding media accessibility

# Legislative Branch

*Christmas*  
**RETURNS  
REFUNDS &  
EXCHANGES**

I'D RE-GIFT HIM,  
BUT I WOULDN'T DO  
TO THAT TO MY WORST  
ENEMY!

# CONGRESS



# 6 things you should know

1. Const focuses on powers and responsibilities of Congress
2. Congress created a complex process for creating laws; tough to pass new laws or amend existing ones
3. One of the biggest duties is creating a federal budget
4. Party leaders control the legislative process
5. Federal laws expanded role of national government in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
6. Incumbents are difficult to remove from office

# Executive Branch



# 5 things you should know

1. Executive authority has expanded throughout history
2. Public opinion shifts depending on recent affairs, or how media represents
3. Despite negative backlash for promoting unpopular ideas, Americans are usually willing to live with it after the fact (basically, the public has a short term memory)
4. Public holds presidents to unreasonably high standard
5. History is full of power shifts between Congress and president

# Federal Bureaucracy

## *The Federal Bureaucracy*



# 4 things you should know

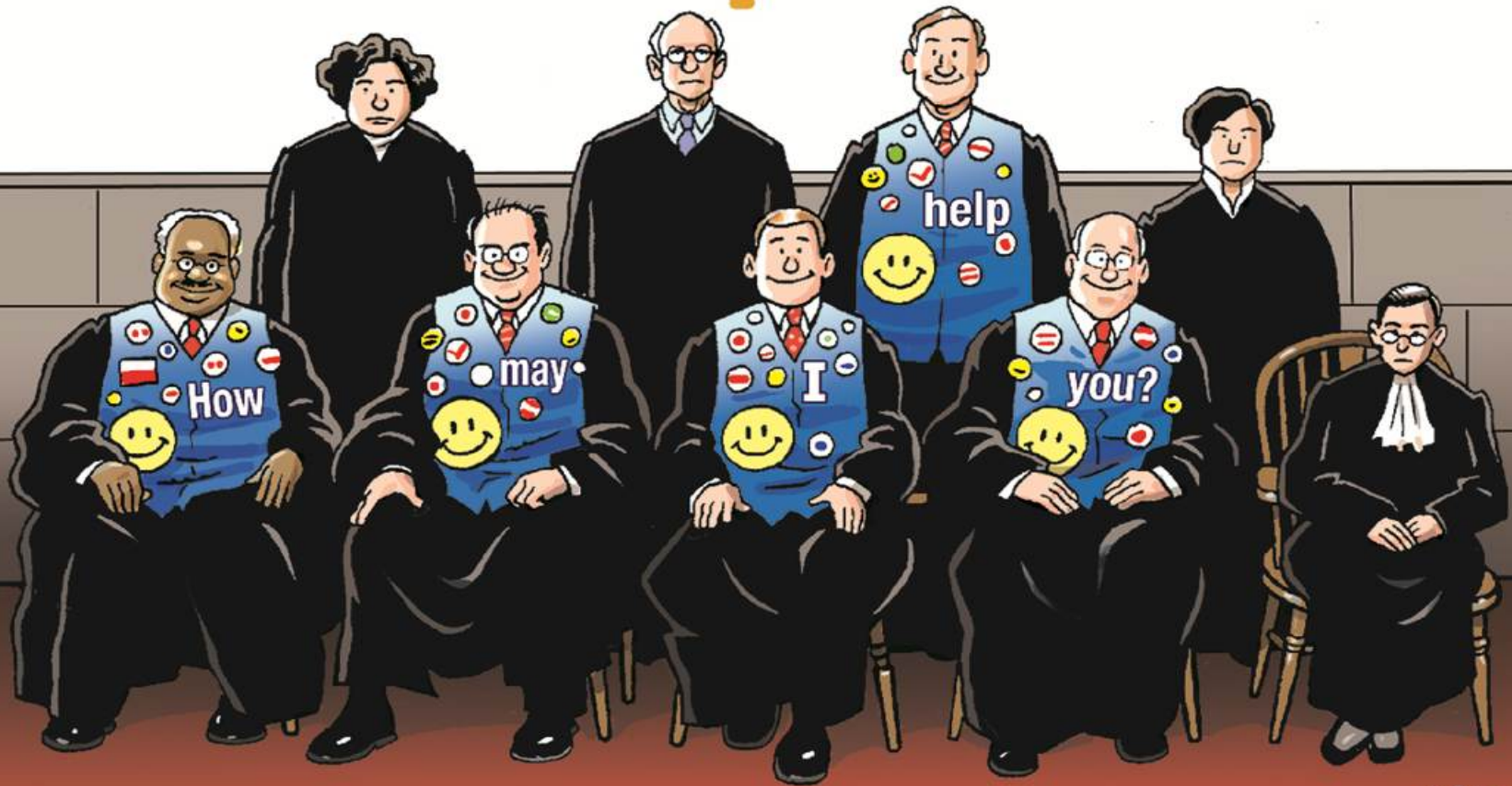
1. One of the most dramatic shifts in the structure of US government is the growth of federal bureaucracy
2. Americans have a vast range of opinions about federal bureaucracy; based on beliefs about role and scope of government
3. Fed agencies have policy making capabilities
4. Powers of federal agencies are controversial, but bureaucracy plays a key role in attempting to meet the needs of the public.



# Judicial System and Civil Liberties

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Walmart  GREETERS



# 5 things you should know

1. Judicial system is divided into state and federal jurisdictions; states control most civil and criminal cases
2. “Incorporation” of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is one of the greatest legal shifts in US history; all states must provide every citizen due process and equal protection
3. Fed court judges and justices have political leanings. They are expressed as liberal and conservative bias, used by judges to try to steer courts in a certain political direction.

# 5 things you should know

4. Supreme Court hears only a small fraction of cases sent on appeal. Only take cases with national legal significance and constitutionality.
5. Courts have structured methods of deciding cases, defining rights, and identifying the groups of citizens who might be affected by cases.