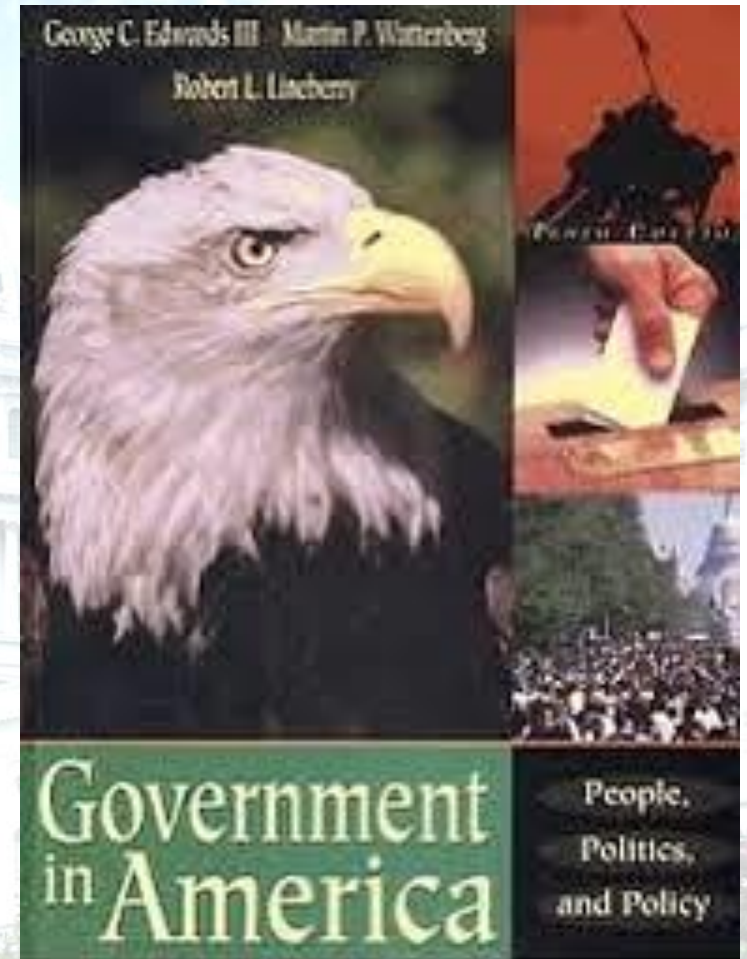


Chapter 1



Introducing Government in America



Chapter 1: Introducing Government in America



BRANCO Americans for Limited
©2014 Government



- Government
- Politics
- The Policymaking System
- Democracy
- The Scope of Government in America
- Summary

Essential Question(s)



- What are the *defining features of democracy*?
- What are the *functions, values & characteristics of American government*?

Chapter 1

Introducing Government in America



Government

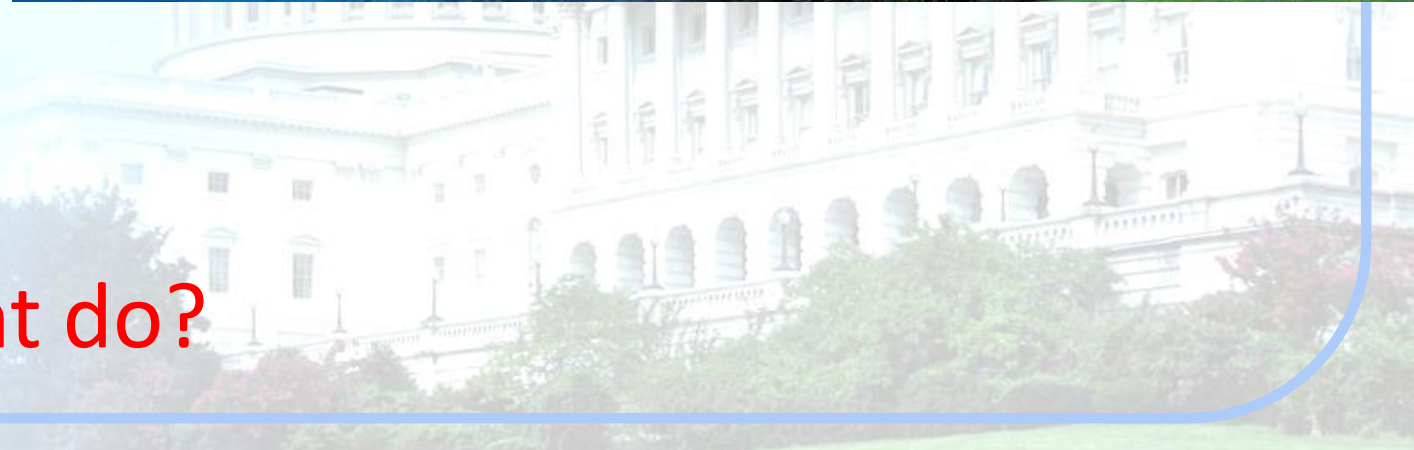


- **Definition:**

- Institutions & processes thru which public policies are made for society

- This def. leads to **two basic questions:**

- How should we govern?
- What should government do?



ALL Government's 5 basic functions

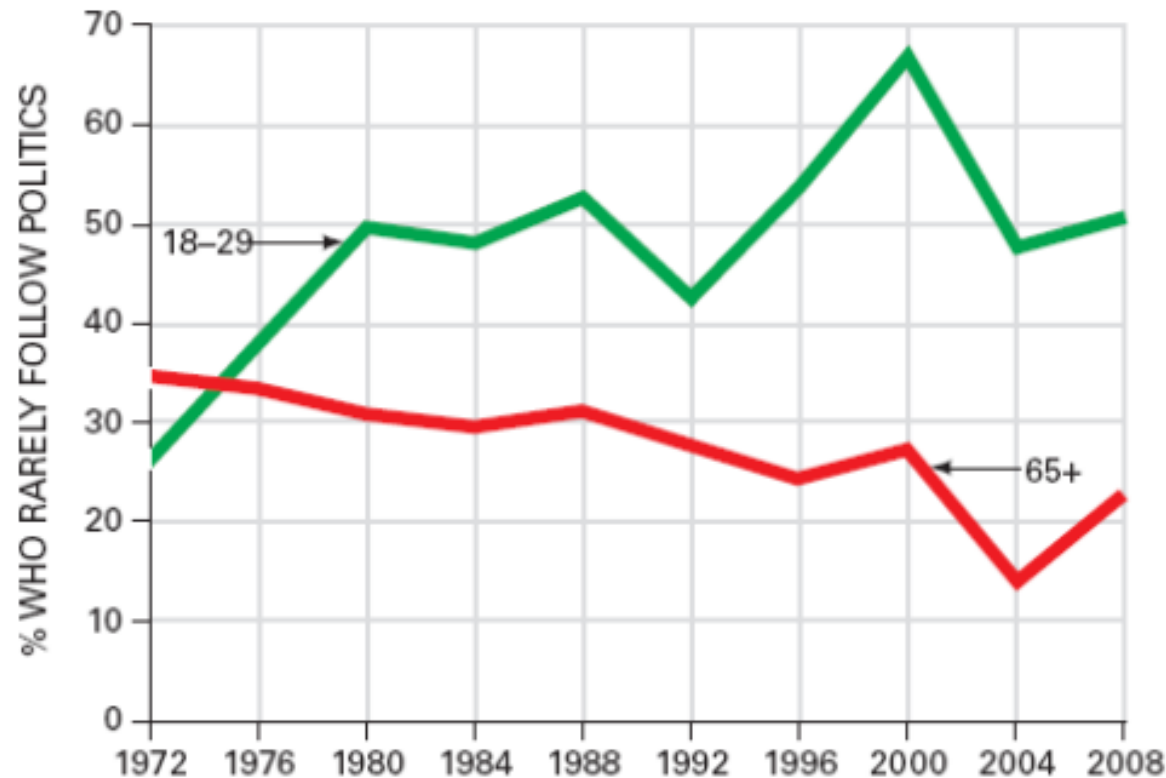


- 1. Maintain a national defense**
- 2. Provide public services**
- 3. Preserve order**
- 4. Socialize the young**
- 5. Collect taxes**

GOVERNMENT

FIGURE 1.1 Political Apathy Among Young and Old Americans, 1972–2008 LO 1.1

In every presidential election from 1972 to 2008, the American National Election Studies has asked a cross-section of the public the following question: “Some people seem to follow what’s going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there’s an election going on or not. Others aren’t that interested. Would you say you follow what’s going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?” Below we have graphed the percentage who said they only followed politics “only now and then” or “hardly at all.” Lack of political interest among young people hit a record high during the 2000 campaign between Bush and Gore, when over two-thirds said they rarely followed public affairs. Since then, political interest among young people has recovered somewhat; however, compared to senior citizens, they are still twice as likely to report low political interest.



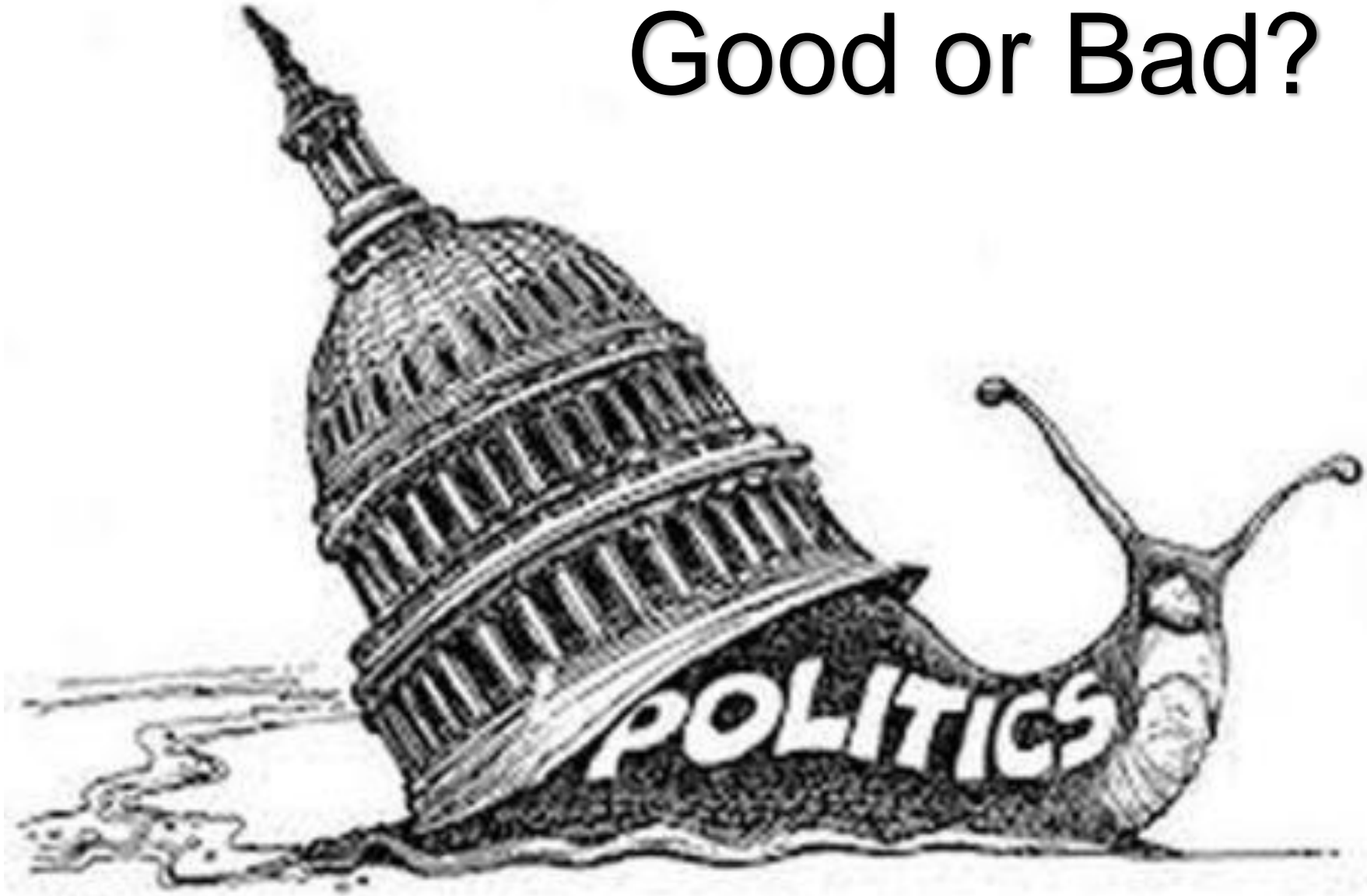
Source: Authors' analysis of 1972–2008 American National Election Studies data.

Politics (def)

- Process selecting our governmental leaders & policies leaders produce.
 - Politics produces authoritative decisions about public issues.
 - Also consider Lasswell's definition:
 - *Who gets what, when & how*

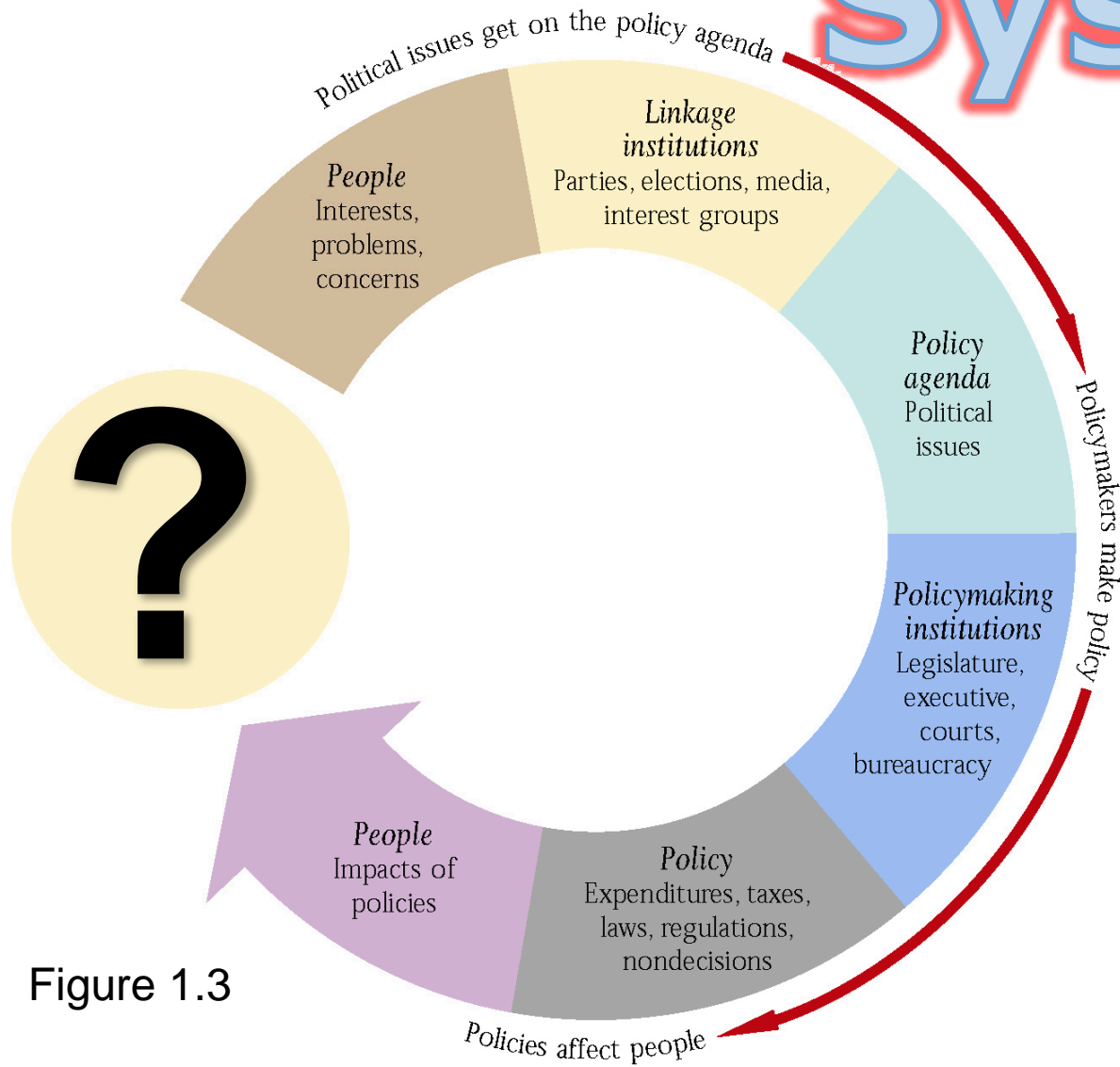


Good or Bad?



Billings
Copyright 1965

The Policymaking System



- Process by which policy comes into being & evolves over time

Figure 1.3

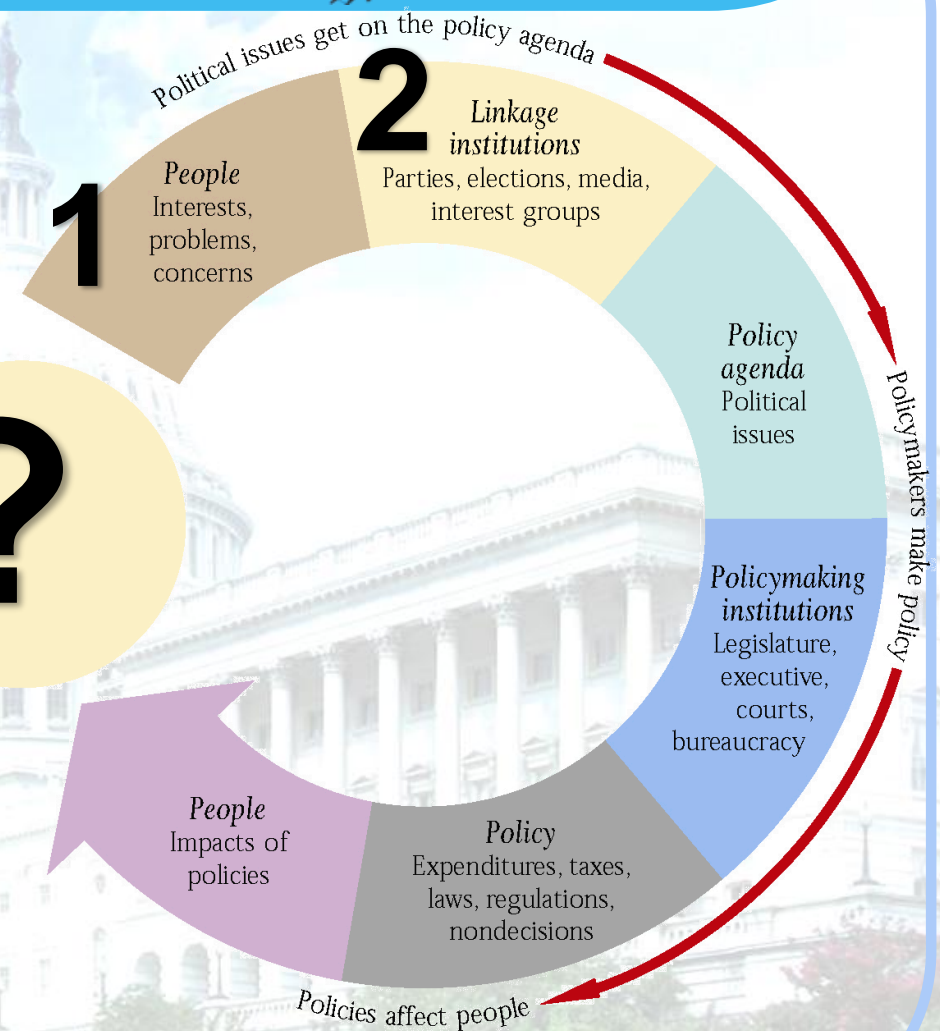
The Policymaking System



• People Shape Policy

1. People have interests, problems, & concerns.
2. 4 linkage institutions that get the word out are:

- Political parties
- Elections
- Mass media
- Interest groups



The Policymaking System

3. Policy agenda

3. Issues that attract serious attention of public officials (i.e...?)

4. 4 policymaking institutions:

- Legislative branch
 - Executive branch
 - Judicial branch
 - Bureaucracy (?)
- System of gov → most of important decisions made by **state officials rather than by elected representatives**



The Policymaking System



5. Policy created?

- Public Policy is a choice that govt makes in response to a political issue.
- Taxes, laws, regs, no decisions

6. Impact of those policies

- Effects a policy has on people & problems

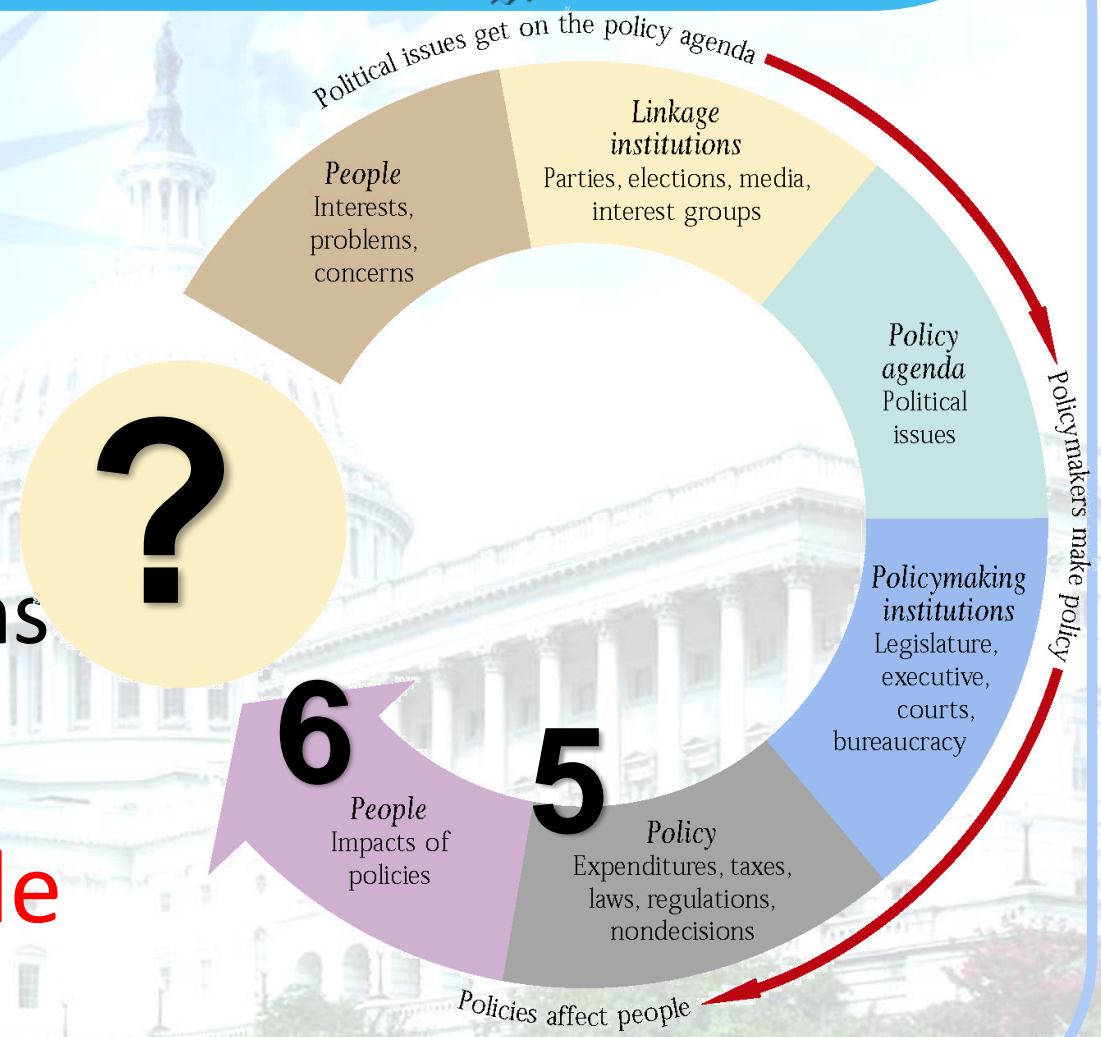


TABLE 1.1 Types of Public Policies

TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Congressional statute	Law passed by Congress	The \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is enacted.
Presidential action	Decision by president	An additional 30,000 troops are ordered to deploy to Afghanistan.
Court decision	Opinion by Supreme Court or other court	Supreme Court rules that individuals have a constitutional right to own a gun.
Budgetary choices	Legislative enactment of taxes and expenditures	The federal budget resolution is enacted.
Regulation	Agency adoption of regulation	The Department of Education issues guidelines for qualifying for the federal student loan forgiveness program.

GO



Lasswell's Model



- **Harold D. Lasswell's definition of POLITICS:**
"Who gets what, when, & how"

- **Who** – voters, candidates, groups, & parties
- **What** – substance of politics & gov't (benefits, such as Medicare, new taxes)
- **How** – people participation (voting, supporting, compromising, lobbying, & so forth)

- **Political participation**

- The ways in which people get involved in politics
 - Elderly vote more than others.
 - Single issue groups
 - groups so concerned with 1 issue that members cast votes on basis of 1 issue



The Lasswell Model: What Is Politics?

“WHO”
Participants

gets

“WHAT”
Values

and

“HOW”
Methods

INDIVIDUALS

- Candidates
- Officeholders
- Supporters
- Voters

GROUPS (DEMOGRAPHICS)

- Affluent/Poor
- Whites/Blacks/Hispanics/Asian
- Elderly/Young
- Working Class/Labor/Business
- Blue Collar/White Collar
- Men/Women
- Farmers/Bankers/Real Estate/Construction/Sales
- Catholics/Protestants/Jews
- Northerners/Southerners
- Liberals/Conservatives

ORGANIZATIONS (FACTIONS)

- AFL-CIO
- AARP
- ACLU
- NRA
- RNC/DNC
- NOW

BROADLY: ADVANTAGES FOR ONESELF OR FOR ONE'S GROUP AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND/OR GROUPS (WINNERS AND LOSERS)

- Deference
- Prestige
- Recognition
- Influence
- Access
- Jobs
- Public Office
- Contracts
- Acceptance
- Justice
- Fair play
- Public policy
- Status quo
- “Public interest”

WHEN

- Immediately
- Later

- Platforms
- Campaigns
- Speeches
- Rallies
- Public Relations
- Media exposure
- Registration
- Voting
- Campaign contributions
- Lobbying
- Coalition building
- Bargaining
- Compromise
- Logrolling
- Intimidation
- Bribery
- Violence
- Expanding the conflict

G

American Political Culture & Democracy



- **Political culture**

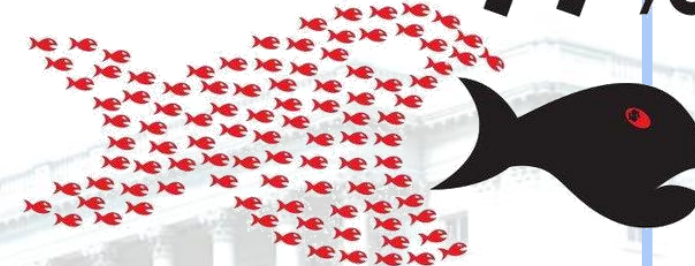
- Overall set of values widely shared w/in society

- 5 elements are:

- Liberty (freedoms)
- Egalitarianism (equality)
- Individualism
- Laissez-faire (hands off)
- Populism (power to the people)



WE ARE THE 99%



AND WE ARE HUNGRY

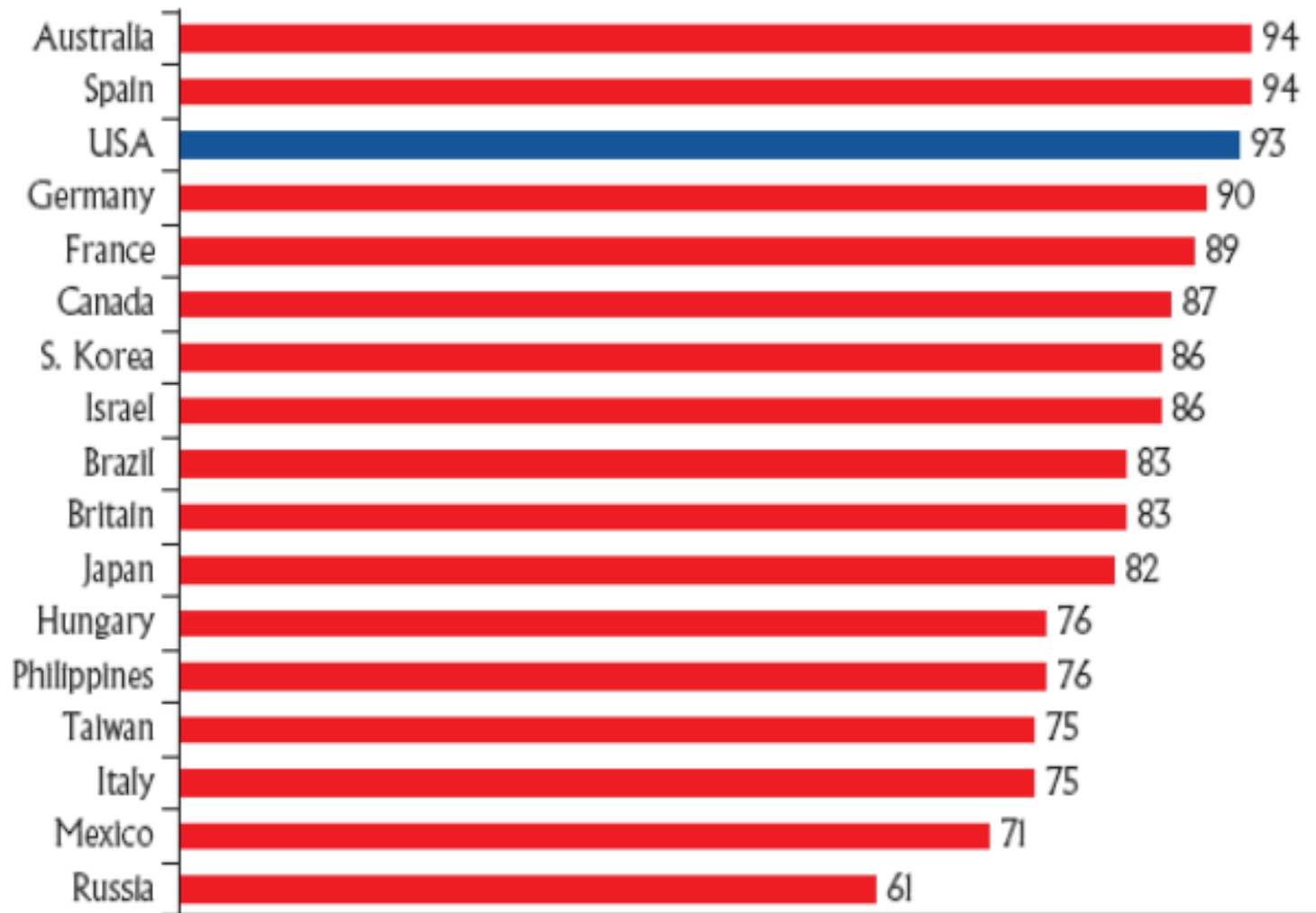
ELITE

**THE
POLITICAL
SPACE OF
POPULISM**

PEOPLE

LEADERS

FIGURE 1.5 Assessment of Democracy by Citizens in Various Countries



Percent who believe democracy is the best form of government

Most citizens in most democracies believe that democracy is the best form of government. This figure shows the percentages in various democracies who said "strongly agree" or "agree" in response to the following: "Please tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Democracy may have problems but it's better than any other form of government.' Do you agree strongly, agree, disagree, or disagree strongly with this statement?"

Source: Authors' analysis of the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, module 2 (2001–2006).



Contending Theories of Democracy

**Who really has
the Power?**

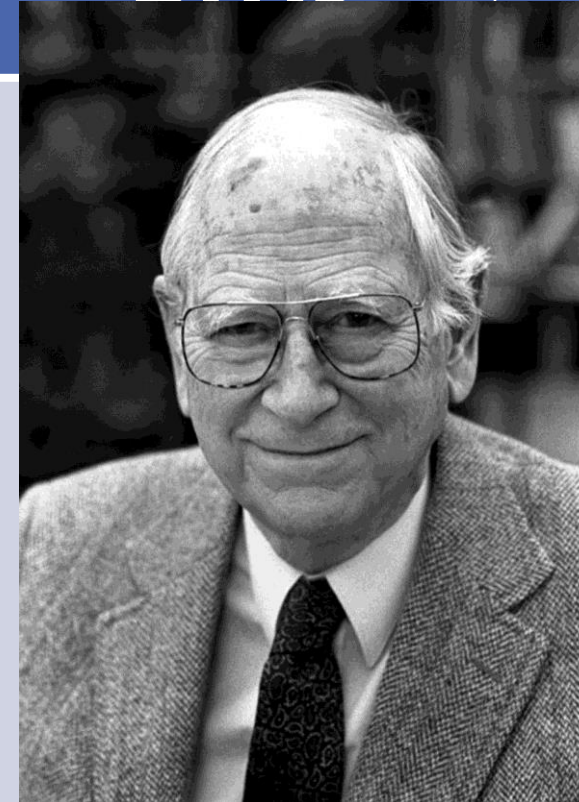
Traditional Democratic Theory



- TD → system in which policy represents & responds to the public's preferences
 - **Five components of TD Theory: (Robert Dahl)**
 - Equality in voting
 - Effective participation
 - Enlightened understanding
 - Citizen control of the agenda
 - Inclusion
- Majority Rule / Minority rights
- Representation

Pros

Cons



10?

TD examples



- Ancient Athens
- Britain (Magna Carta & Parliament)
- US 1776
- France 1789 (kind of)
- Foundation of modern democracy

GOVERNMENT

Elite/Class Theory



- **Explanation:** Majority of political power & influence is held by a small number of individuals, groups, & industries
- **Characteristics:** Government policies disproportionately favor the elite over everyone else

Pros	Cons

Elite/Class Theory



ExxonMobil



THE RULING CLASS



Pluralist Theory



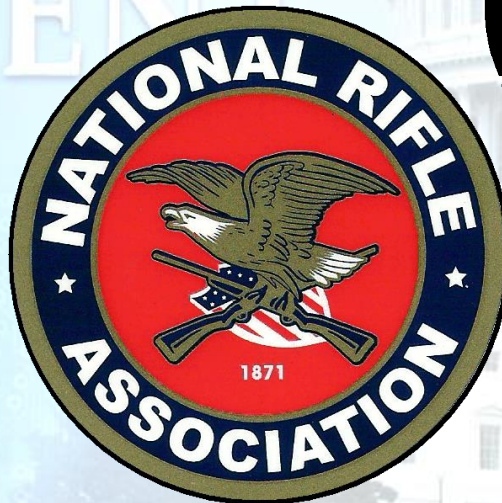
- **Explanation:** People with common interests form organized groups to promote their causes & influence the political agenda.
- **Characteristics:** No single group, individual, or industry dominates politics. Healthy competition exists between all.

Pros	Cons

Pluralist Theory



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



Hyperpluralist Theory



- **Explanation:** same as Elite, but some groups wield too much power & influence
- **Characteristics:** result is **total gridlock** in government where too many groups are competing & refuse to compromise with each other

Pros	Cons

Hyperpluralist Theory



Bureaucratic Theory



- **Explanation: NON-ELECTED Officials** or members of the government have control over public policy & make decisions they think best.
- **Characteristics:** often result of turf battle or budget battles between agencies.
 - Often based on the **special interests of the agency**

Pros	Cons

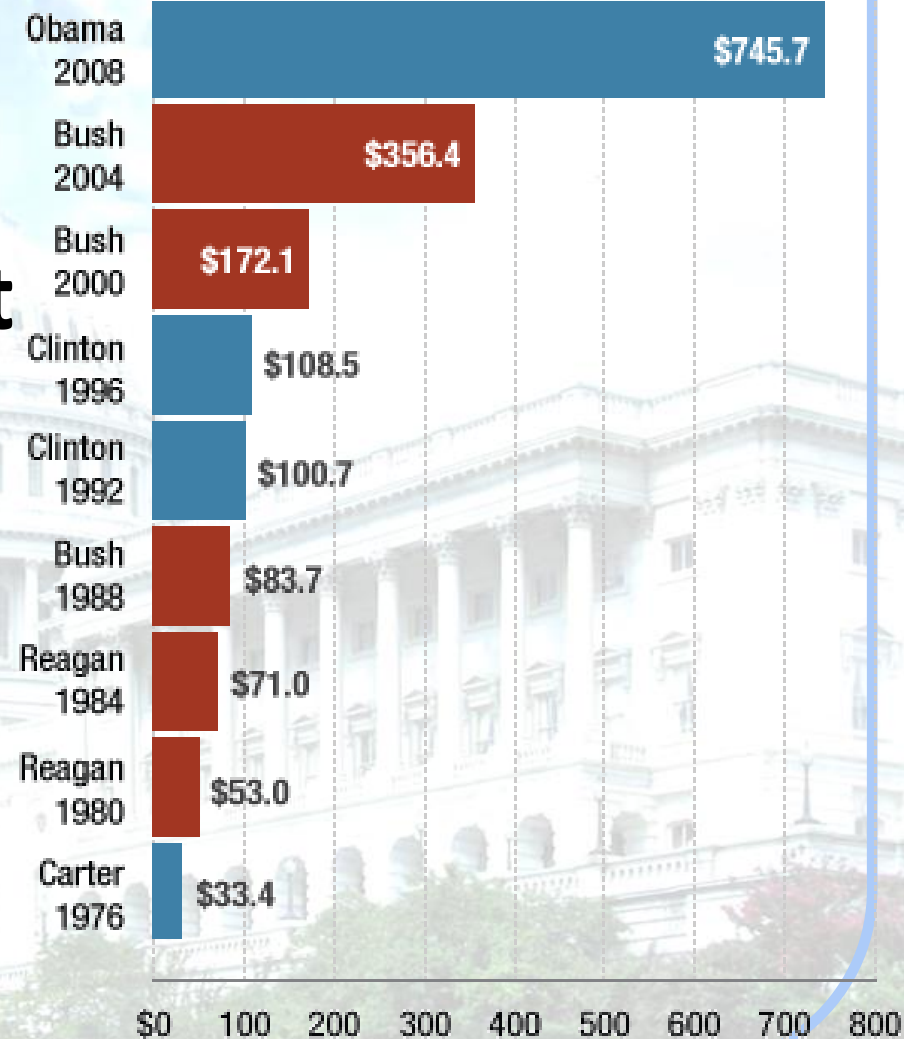
Bureaucratic Theory



Challenges to Democracy



- **Increased Technical Expertise**
 - Politicians **STILL** know more than average citizen
- **Limited Participation in Government**
 - **APATHY** is getting worse
- **Escalating Campaign Costs**
 - **Obama** spent record **\$1 billion**
 - House run costs at least \$500,000
- **Diverse Political Interests**
 - **Policy gridlock**



Escalating Campaign costs

Who spent more on online ads during the 2012 Presidential election?

Obama Campaign

\$52,006,072

Cost to build the Washington Monument

\$28,400,000*

Cost to build the Lincoln Memorial

\$40,500,000*

Romney Campaign

\$26,230,293



* Costs in 2012 dollars

GO



GO



FOR SALE: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

See who donated to the Presidential Elections in 2012.

There's an individual donation limit of \$2500. The money is usually collected by PACs (Political Action Committees), that collect the money on behalf of individuals and then spend or donate in bulk. The corporations themselves can't donate.

See more of this infographic at Demonocracy.info



Total Money Raised by Candidates

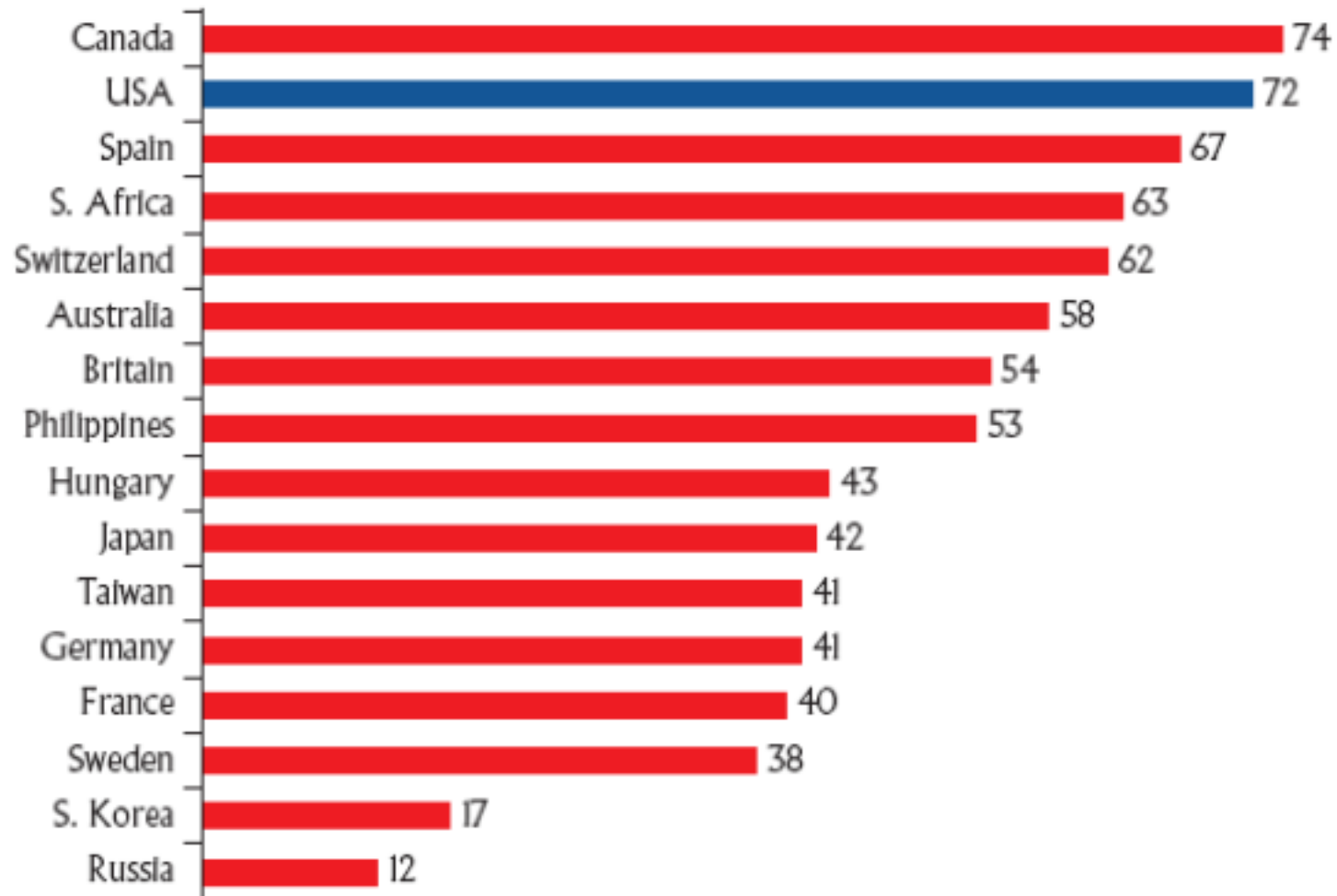
Largest donors to Presidential Candidates



FOR HIGHER RESOLUTION VISIT DEMONOCRACY.INFO

DEMON • OCRACY INFO

FIGURE 1.6 Pride in Various Countries Regarding Equal Treatment of Groups



Percent proud of equal treatment of all groups in their country

Americans rank very high in terms of being proud of their country's fair and equal treatment of all groups. This figure shows the percentages who said "very proud" or "somewhat proud" in response to the question, "How proud are you of [country] in . . . its fair and equal treatment of all groups—very proud, somewhat proud, not very proud, not proud at all?"

Source: Authors' analysis of 2003 International Social Survey Program surveys.

Democracy debate



- A Culture War?

- Wilson believes America is a more polarized nation today than EVER

- Other scholars → relatively little evidence



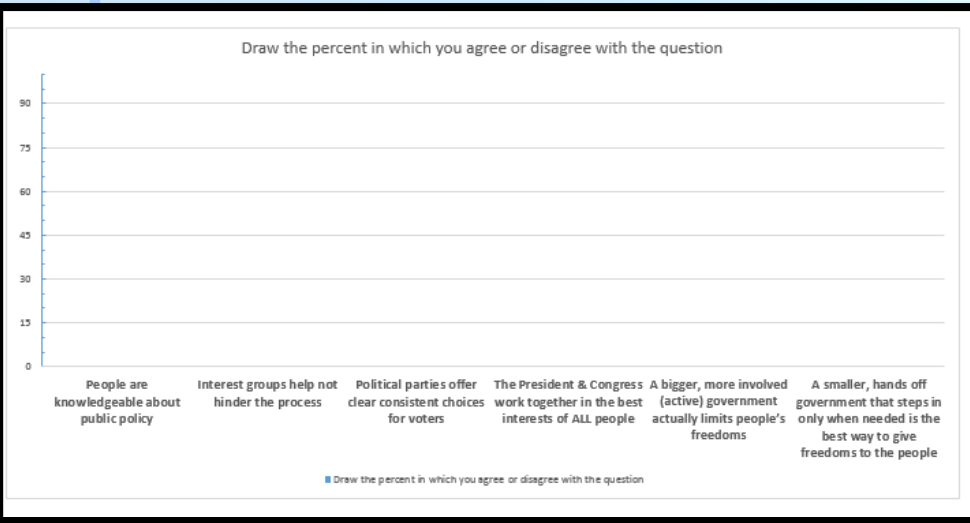
James Q. Wilson



Questions About Democracy



- Are **people knowledgeable** about public policy?
 - Do they apply what they know to voting?
- Do **interest groups help or hinder the process?**
- Do **political parties offer clear consistent choices** for voters?
- Does the **President & Congress work together** in the best interests of ALL people?



The Scope of Government in America



6/30/2015

Feds wildly disagree on number of agencies, range is 60-430 | Washington Examiner

WASHINGTON Examiner

Feds wildly disagree on number of agencies, range is 60-430

By PAUL BEDARD • 8/26/15 3:35 PM

How big is the federal government? So big, it has lost count of just how many department and agencies it has, according to a federal watchdog group.

Quoting federal officials, the Competitive Enterprise Institute said the number given ranges from a mere 60 to a whopping 430.

In face, Clyde Wayne Crews, vice president of policy for CEI, found this gem of a quote inside the Administrative Conference of the United States source book. It lists 115 agencies in the appendix but adds:

- How Active Is American Government?
 - Spends \$3.8 (3.455) trillion yearly.
 - Employs 2.8 (4.1) million civilians & 1.4 million in the military.
 - It owns one-third of the land in the United States
 - It occupies 2.6 billion square feet of office space

Federal Government Employees

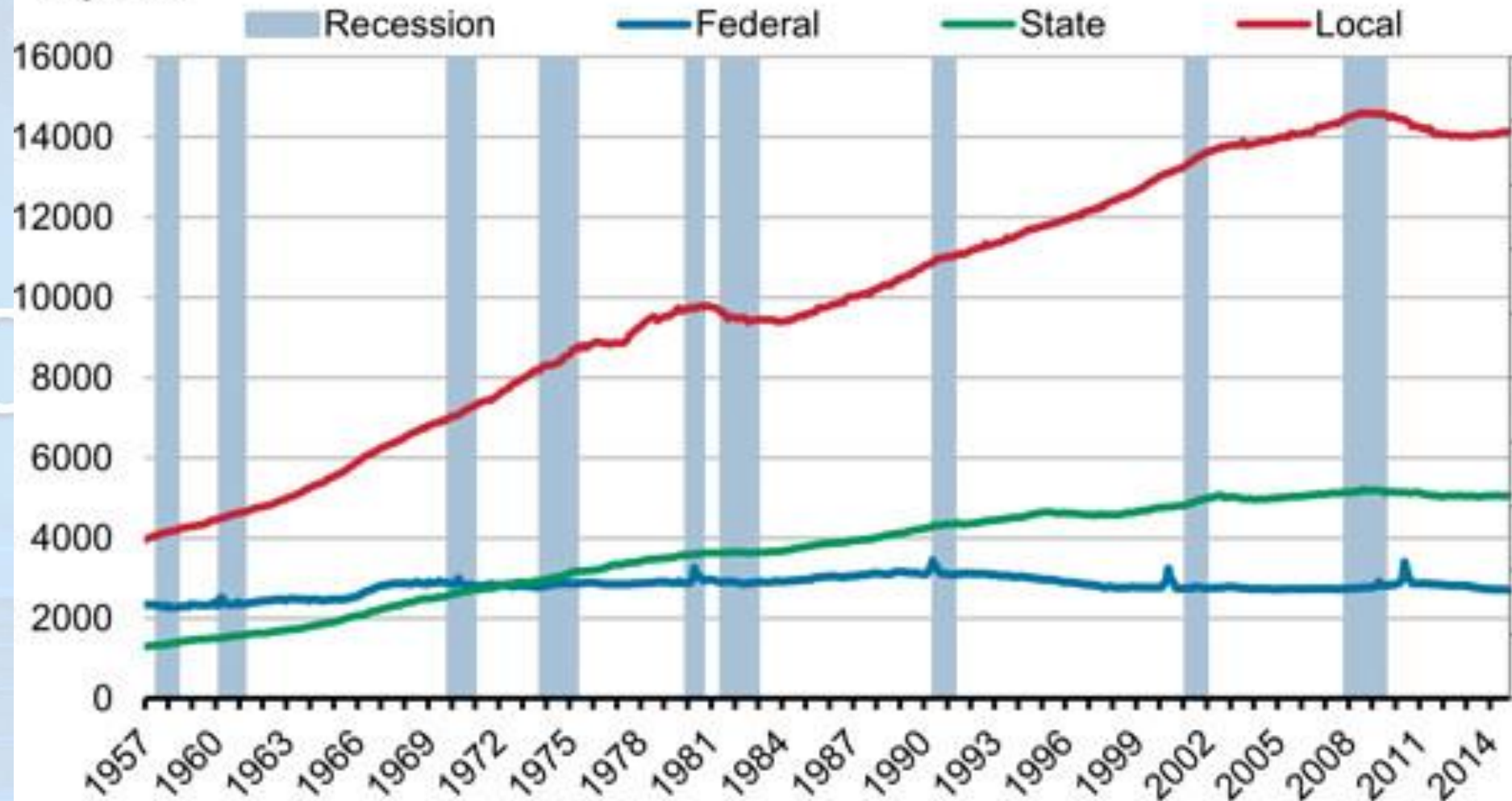
Employees of the federal government, in thousands, seasonally adjusted. Now at the lowest level since July 1966.



Source: Department of Labor | WSJ.com

Government Growth

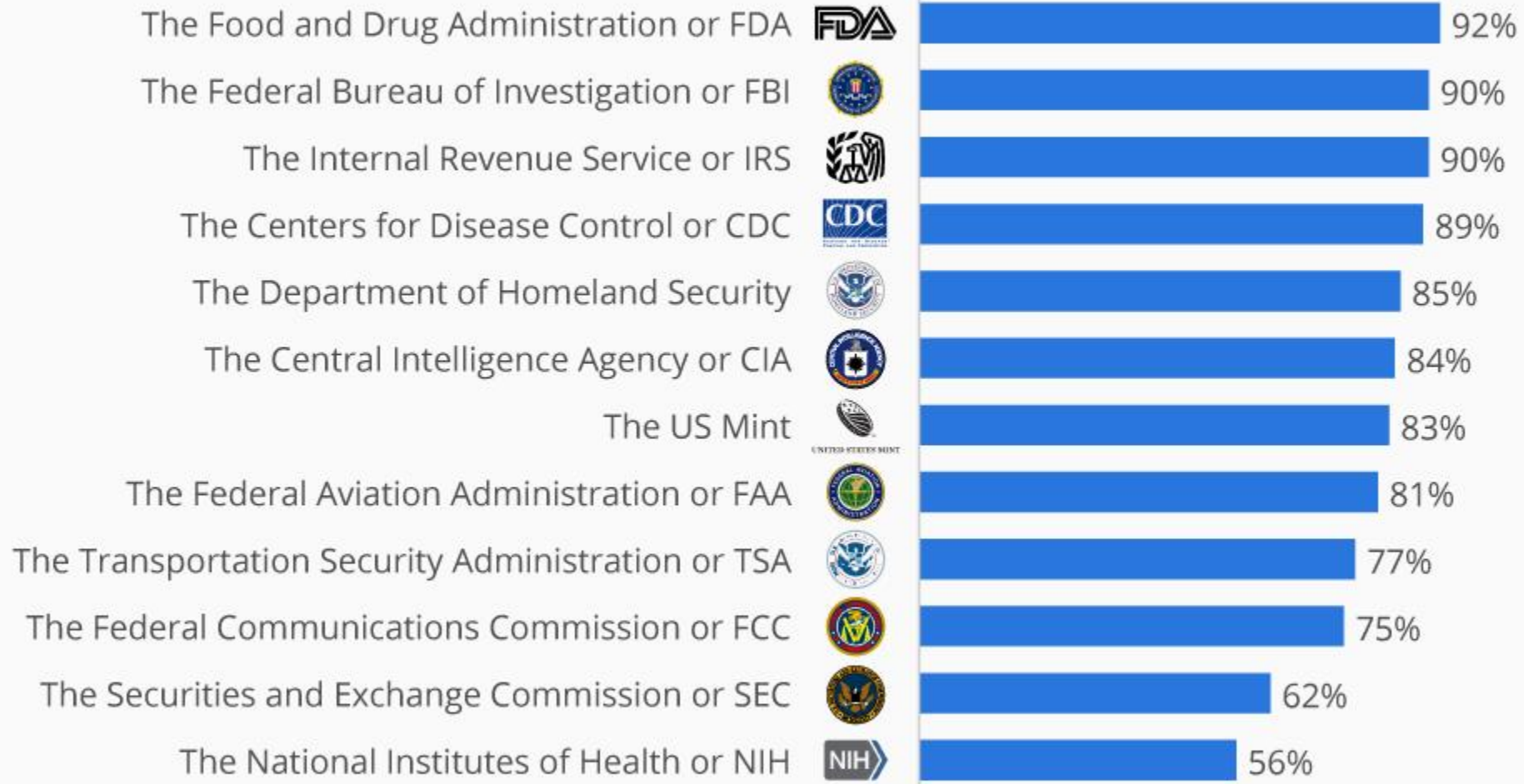
Government employees at the federal, state and local level (in thousands) seasonally adjusted



Source: Department of Labor | WSJ.com

The Most And Least Understood U.S. Government Agencies

% of Americans who understand what these selected government agencies do

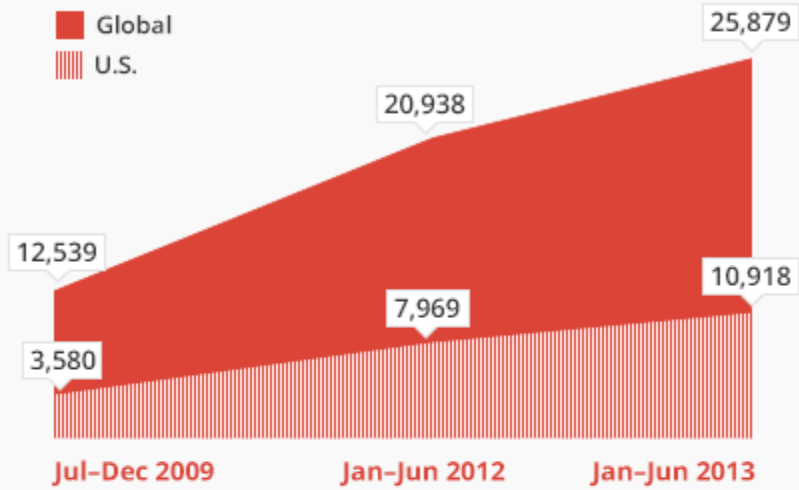


GO

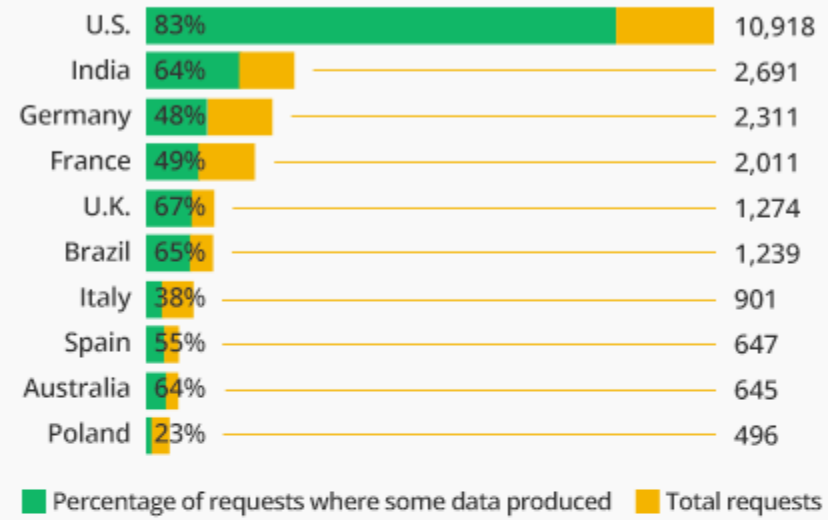


Source: Harris Interactive n=2,232 U.S. adults

Since July 2009, government requests for Google users' information have more than doubled

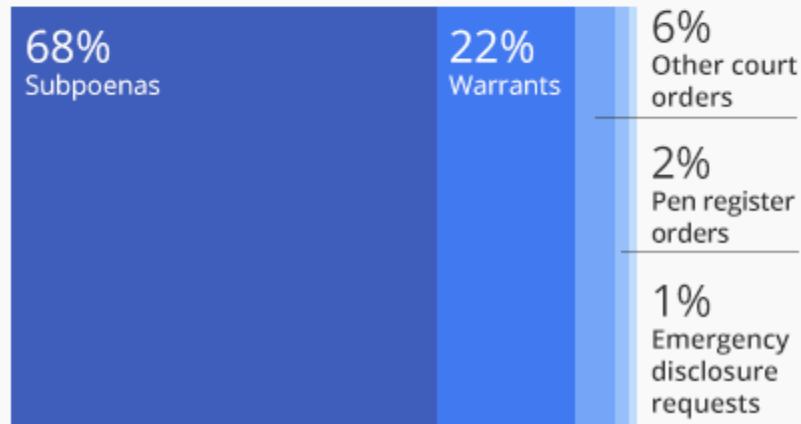


The top 10 countries requesting user information from January to June 2013 span the globe

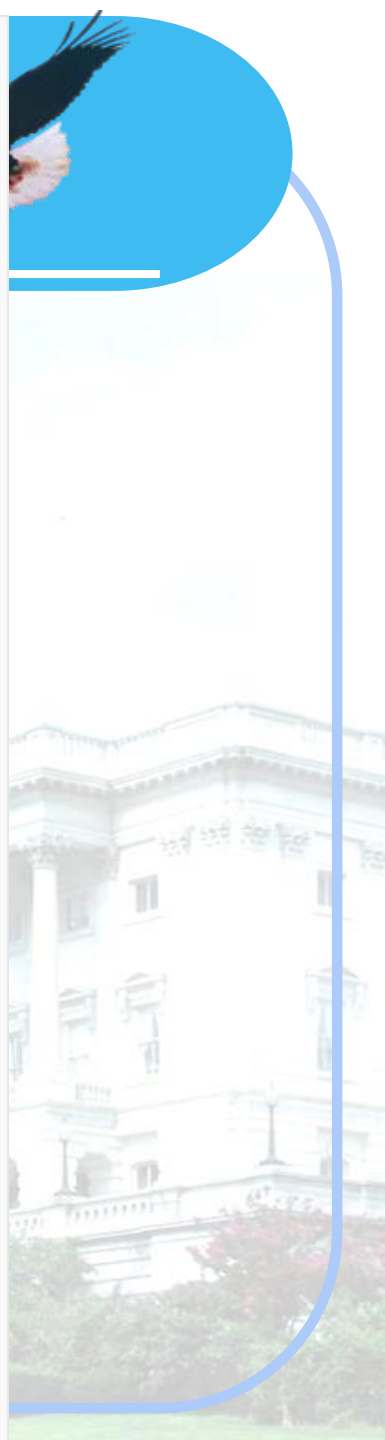
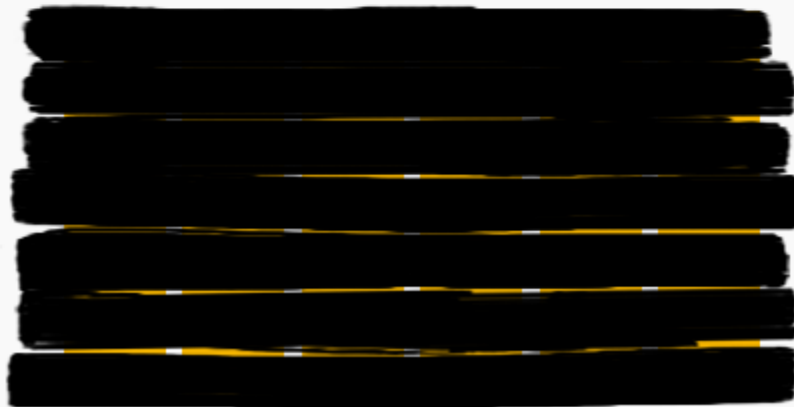


GOV

From January to June 2013, Google received 10,918 requests from the U.S. government

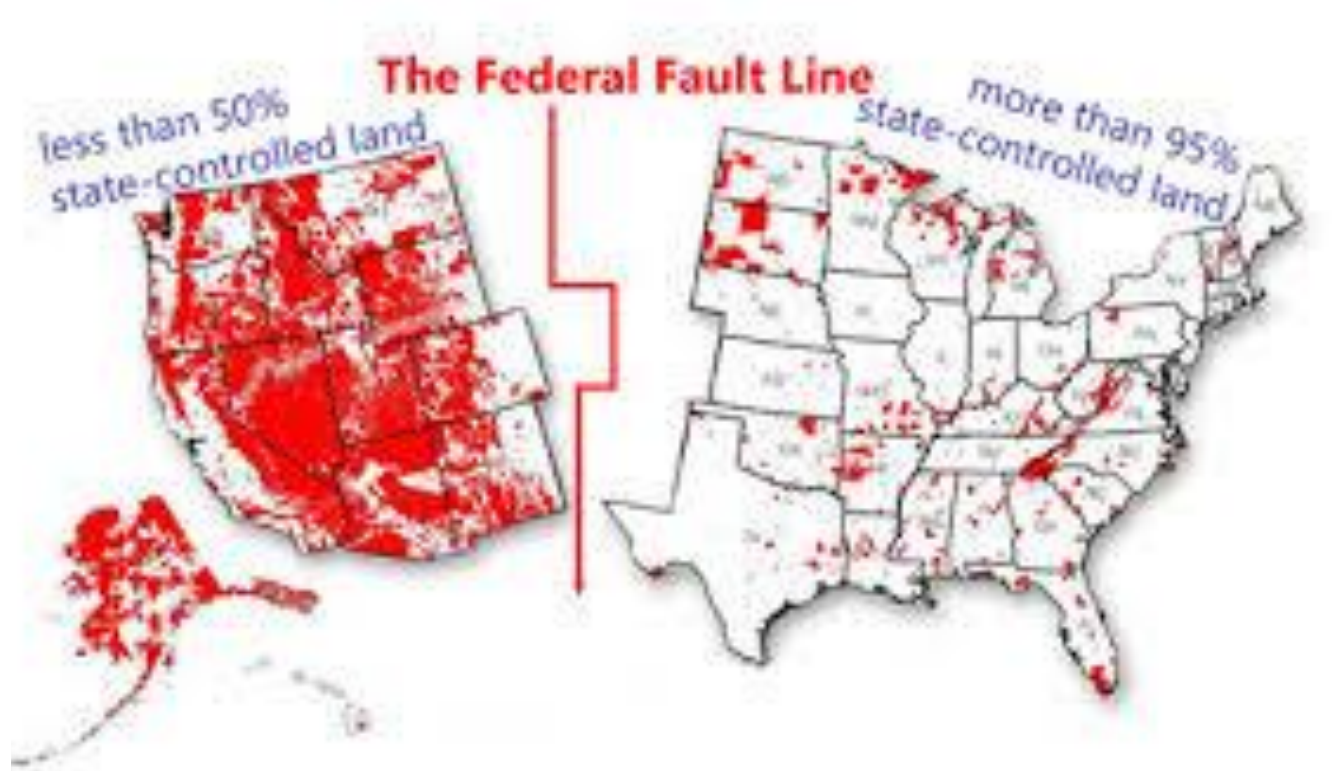
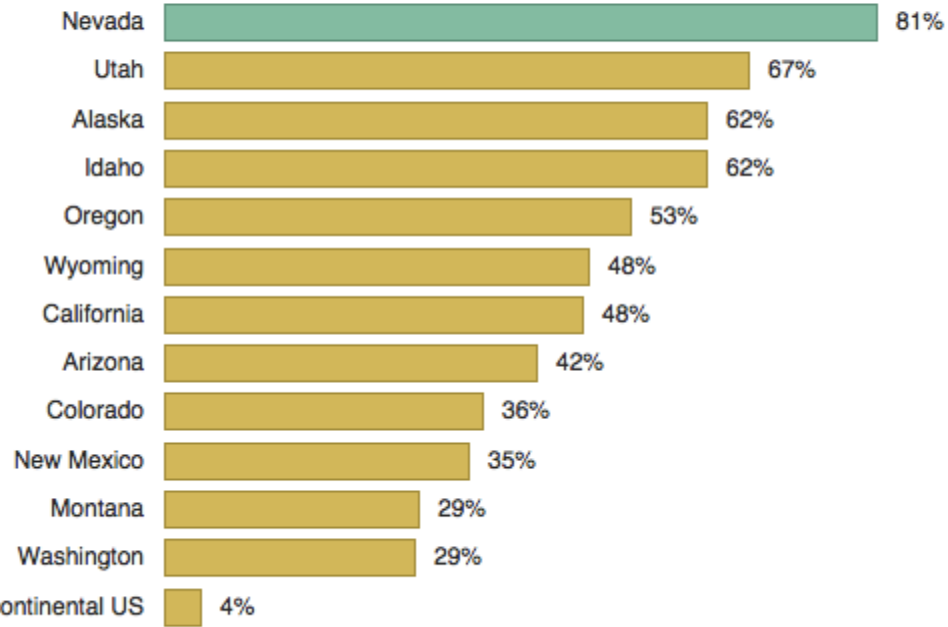


Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) requests (The U.S. government contends that we cannot share this information)



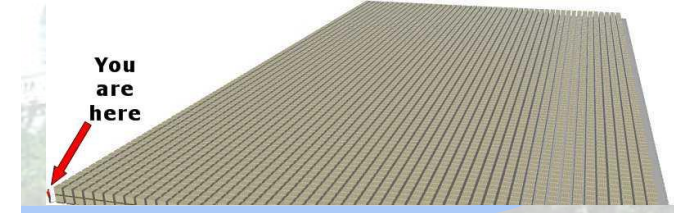
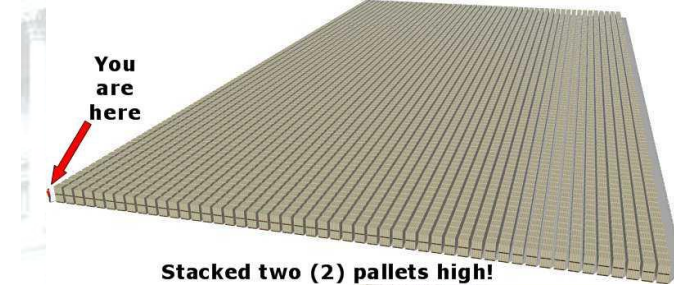
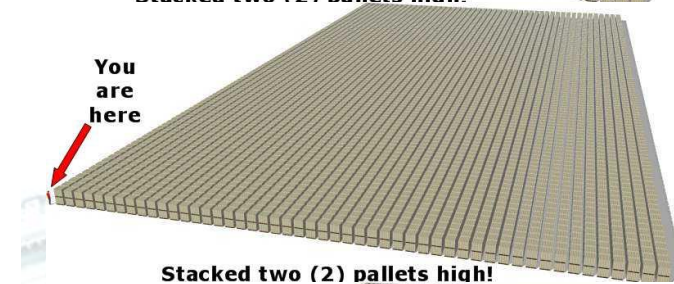
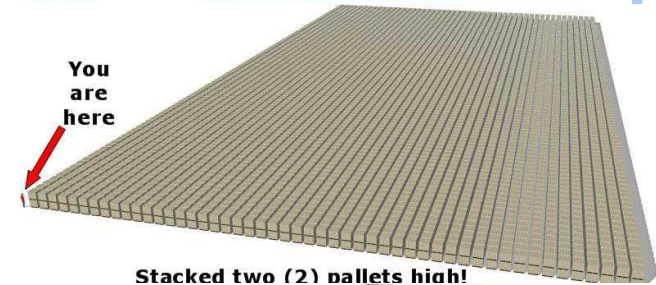
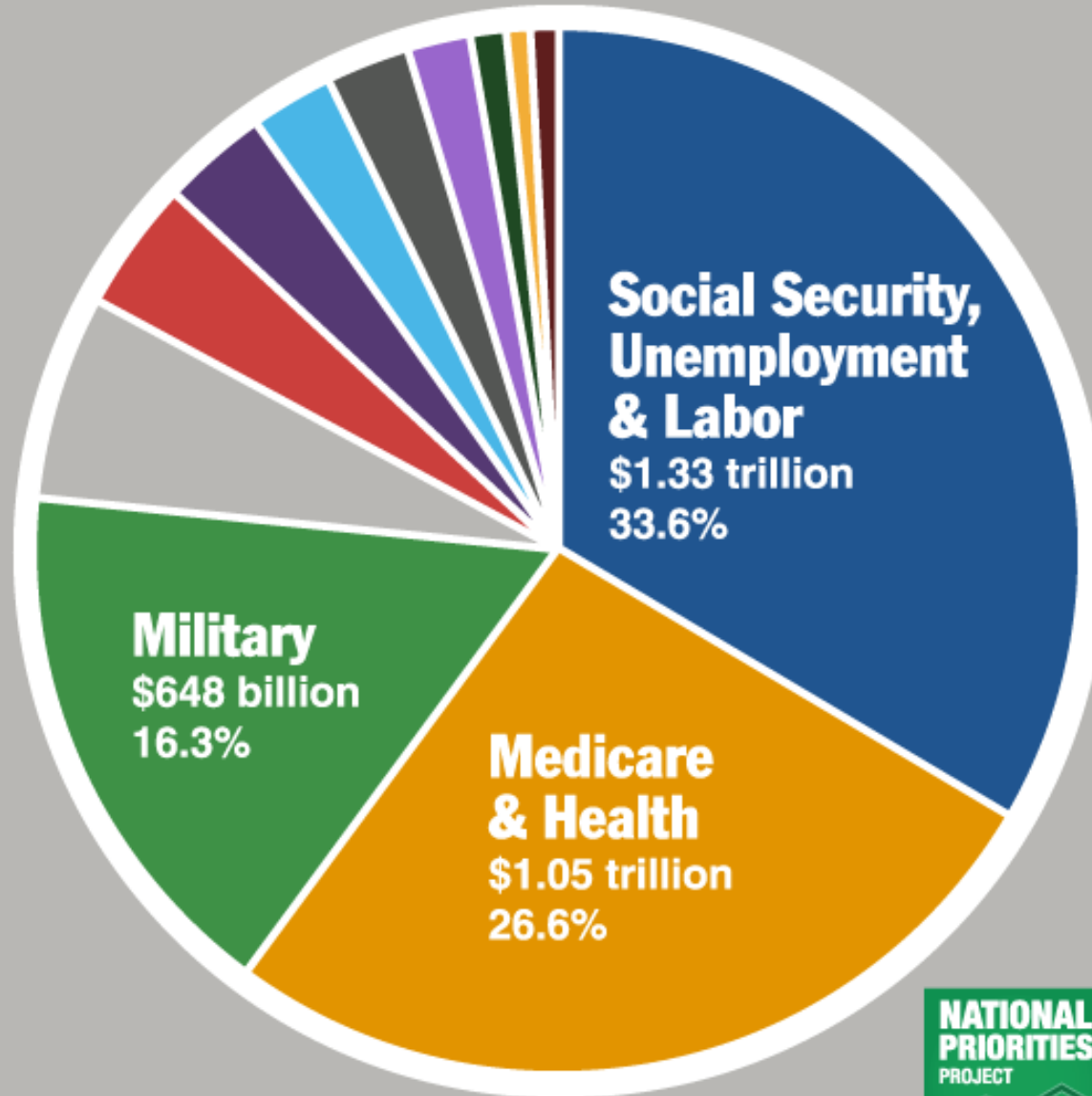
Land owned by federal government in each state

As of 2014



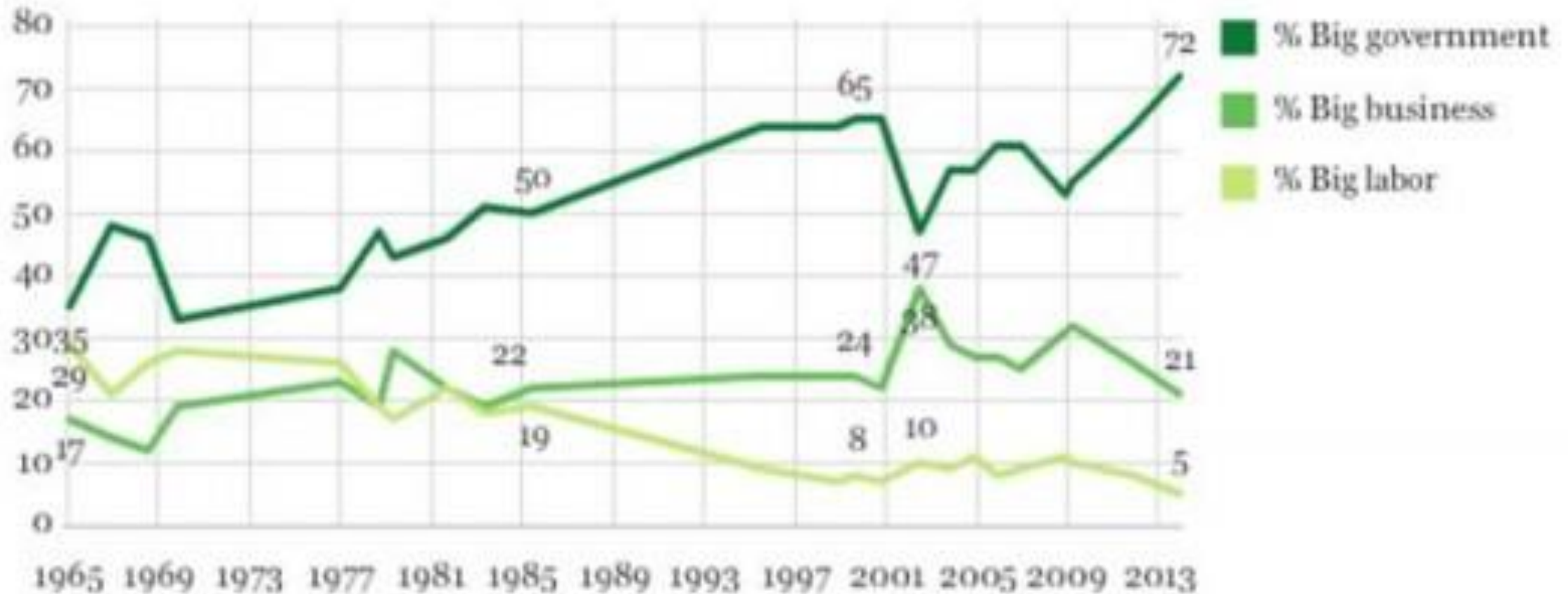
Total Federal Spending 2015: \$3.9 trillion

Interest On Debt \$251 billion / 6.3%
Veterans Benefits \$161 billion / 4.1%
Food & Agriculture \$130 billion / 3.3%
Transportation \$103 billion / 2.6%
Housing & Community \$102 billion / 2.6%
Education \$80.9 billion / 2.0%
Energy & Environment \$44.5 billion / 1.1%
Science \$29.3 billion / 0.7%
International Affairs \$27.2 billion / 0.7%
Government \$2.7 billion / 0.1% * not shown



Views of Biggest Threat to U.S. in Future

In your opinion, which of the following will be the biggest threat to the country in the future -- big business, big labor, or big government?



Examples of Public Goods (Collective)

Pure public goods are **non-excludable** and **non-rival** in consumption



Sanitation infrastructure



Flood defence / tidal barrage



Crime control for a whole community



Reduced risk of disease from vaccinations



Freely available knowledge e.g. online learning

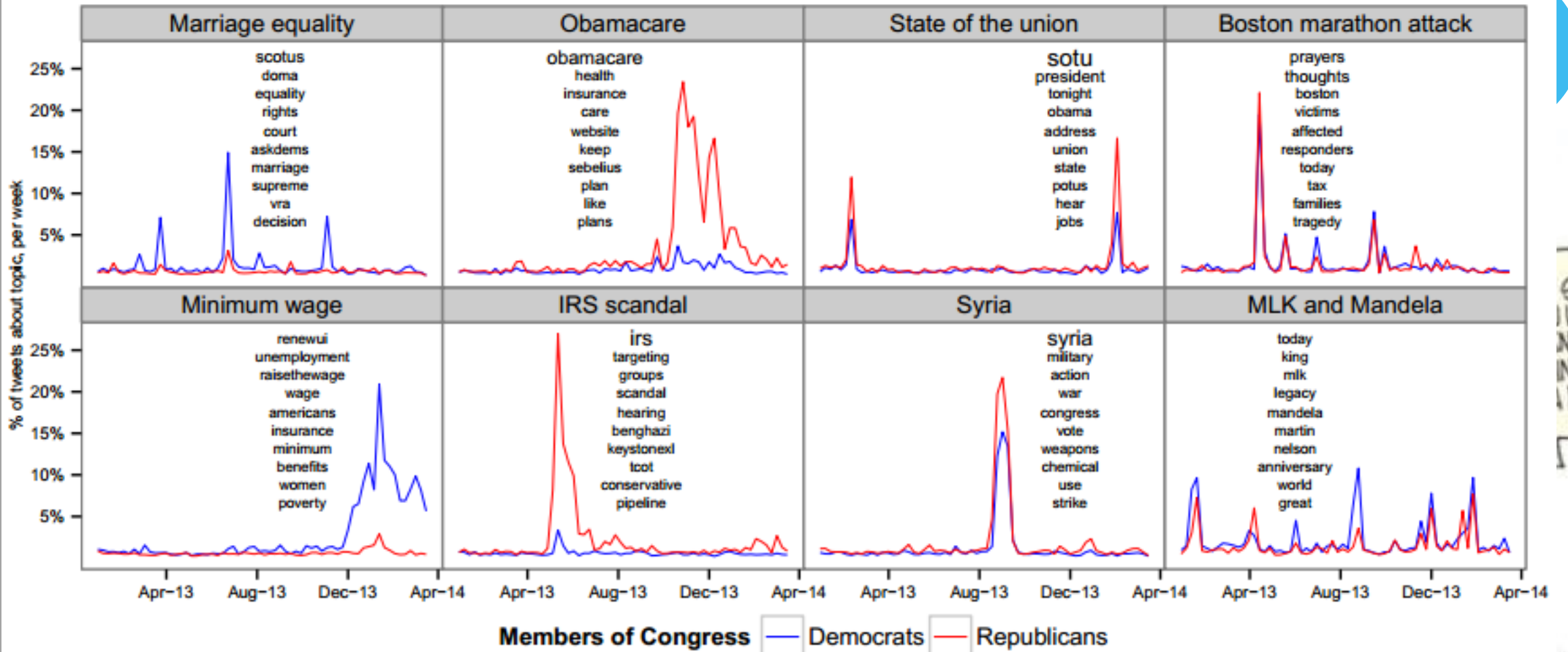


Public service broadcasting



Clean air

Public goods are also known as **collective consumption goods**



GAY,
 I WANT
 END IN
 WASHINGTON,
 A DOG



• Is Congress too responsive to the demands of the public & organized interests?

