



My Morning Jacket (Sweatbees)

L ** M W 0400-0518 HI 0131 WRIGHT*J

17202-3 R ** F 0730- DB 0030

Todd Makse

17203-9 R ** F 0730- CANCELLED

17204-4 R ** F 0730- CANCELLED

17206-5 R ** F 0830- DE 0238

Carla Jackson

21536-0 R ** F 0830- CANCELLED

17205-0 R ** F 0830- CANCELLED

17207-1 R ** F 0930- DB 0048

Lakeyta Bonnette

17208-6 R ** F 0930- DB 0029

Vanessa Bouche

17209-1 R ** F 0930- DE 0206

Carla Jackson

17210-9 R ** F 1030- DB 0049

Lakeyta Bonnette

17211-4 R ** F 1030- DB 0048

Vanessa Bouche

17212-0 R ** F 1030- DE 0206

Carla Jackson

We the People

Chapter 1

American Political Culture:
Seeking a More Perfect Union

Presentation by Eric Miller, Blinn College, Bryan, Texas.

Government

- **a set of individuals with authority**
 - **to make collective decisions under established rules, and**
 - **to coerce individuals to comply with their decisions.**

Purposes of Government

- Resolve disputes
- Solve collective action problems in order to provide collective benefits

Collective Benefits and Collective Action

- A collective benefit is one that, once provided, is available and free to all, even those who did not contribute to its provision.
- Most individuals will not voluntarily contribute to the provision of collective benefits because they can enjoy them anyway.

The Social Contract

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651)
 - People agree to be governed in order to be protected from one another
- John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government* (1690)
 - People agree to be governed in order to safeguard their natural rights—life, liberty, property.
- Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Social Contract* (1762)
 - submission to the authority of the “general will” of the people as a whole guarantees individuals against being subordinated to the wills of others

Democracy and Self-government

- Authority to govern is vested in the people
- Citizens grant authority to govern through elections.

Politics

- Who gets what, when and how (Lasswell)
- The authoritative allocation of values (Easton)
- The process through which a society settles its conflicts (Patterson)
- Actions by individuals or groups to use the coercive powers of government to advance their interests (Wright)

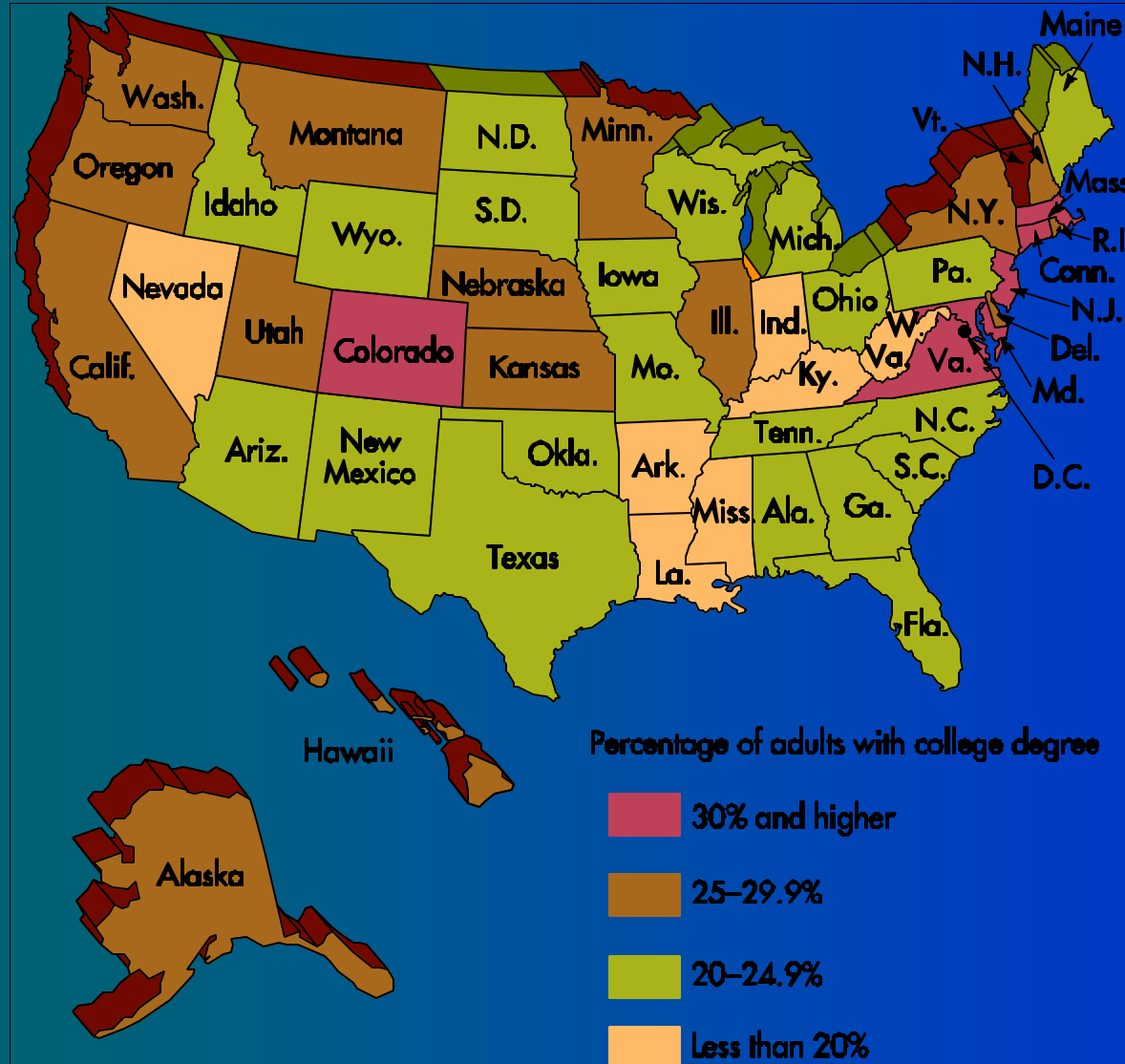
Political Culture

- Political Culture
 - The characteristic and deep-seated beliefs of a particular people about government and politics.
 - Rooted in European heritage of the first white settlers.

Liberty and Equality for All

- Liberty for Whom?
 - abortion
 - environment
- Equality versus Liberty?
 - education
 - homeownership

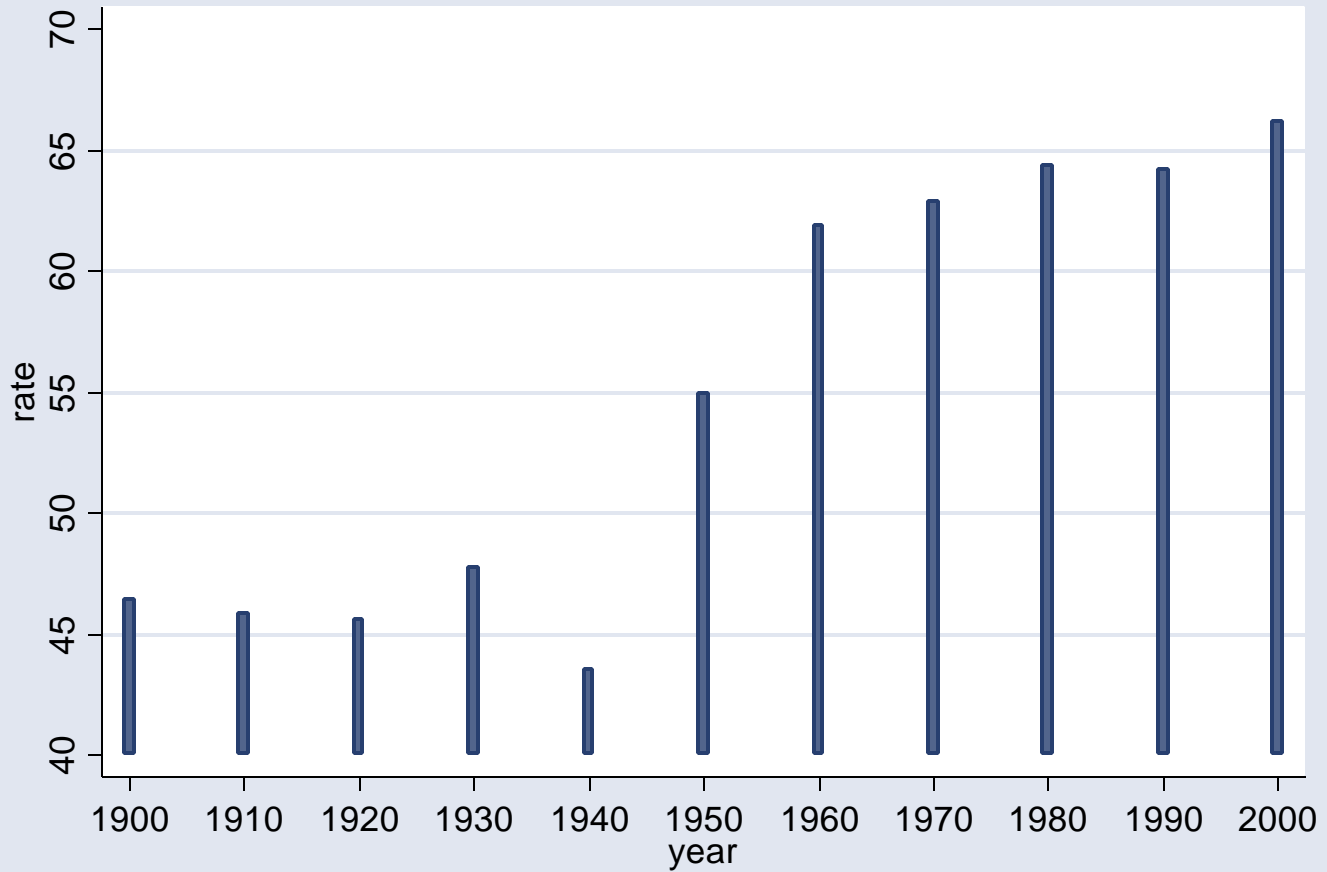
States in the Nation



Student-Loan Debt

- Average Undergraduate Debt, 2002
 - Overall \$18,900
 - Public universities \$17,100
 - Private universities \$21,200
- Average Graduate Debt (in addition to undergraduate debt)
 - Overall \$31,700
- Average Monthly Payments (undergraduate), 2002
 - \$182 per month

Homeownership Rates, 1900-2000



Theories of American Politics

- Elitism
 - Public policies are determined by a small number of economic and socially influential individuals.
- Pluralism
 - Public policies are determined by competition among diverse interest groups
- Public Opinion/Majoritarianism
 - Public policies are determined by citizens' preferences as expressed through popular elections
- Bureaucracy
 - Public policies are determined through their implementation by unelected, career bureaucrats