

American Political Culture

American Government – Chapter 4

Define the following terms:

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|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Alexis de Tocqueville | 6. civic duty | 11. progressive |
| 2. political culture | 7. civic competence | 12. political efficacy |
| 3. political subculture | 8. work ethic | 13. internal efficacy |
| 4. political ideology | 9. class consciousness | 14. external efficacy |
| 5. Americanism | 10. orthodox | |

Answer the following questions:

1. Is the constitutional machinery in the U.S. entirely responsible for the endurance of our nation?
2. Why did democracy flourish in the U.S.?
3. What is a major difference in the way Americans judge their political and economic systems?
4. What are five important elements in the American view of the political system?
5. Besides values, what two other important factors influence behavior?
6. How does the Civil War illustrate the persistence of certain fundamental beliefs?
7. What does the existence of the House Committee on Un-American Activities illustrate?
8. What type of economic equality to most Americans support?
9. What is at the core of American beliefs about economic issues?
10. How do Americans political participation differ from citizens of other nations?
11. How does American confidence in government compare with those of European democracies?
12. How do religious beliefs in the U.S. compare with other nations?
13. What percentage of Americans identify themselves as “religious?”
14. What was the “animating spirit” of the Constitution?
15. How is American distrust of government related to belief in original sin?
16. How is religious diversity tied to a lack of a political orthodoxy?
17. What types of beliefs were fostered by predominant Protestantism?
18. How did (and do) churches provide opportunities for developing and practicing civic and political skills?
19. What institution is primarily responsible for preserving and transmitting culture?
20. How does the “culture war” differ from other political disputes?
21. What are two major changes in American society that have elevated cultural conflict?
22. What has happened to public trust in the federal government?
23. What have Americans not lost trust in?
24. What is perhaps the most worrisome change in American attitudes?
25. Democratic politics depends crucially on what?
26. Which of the seven types of meetings listed on page 95 would you allow?
27. What three things can be said on behalf of the average citizens level of political tolerance?
28. How does an independent judiciary aid in fostering democratic politics?