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REGENTS REVIEW #1: Foundations of American Government

The Colonial Period

- I. Settlement of the 13 Colonies
 - a. Reasons for settlement

 - b. Important Settlements
 - i. Jamestown
 - ii. Plymouth
 - iii. Massachusetts Bay

 - II. Colonial Government and Individual Rights
 - a. Virginia House of Burgesses (1619)
 - b. Mayflower Compact (1620)
 - c. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut – First Written Constitution
 - d. Iroquois Confederacy
 - e. Zenger Trial
 - f. Undemocratic characteristics

 - III. Colonial Economy
 - a. Mercantilism
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- Navigation Acts
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- b. Labor in the colonies
 - indentured servitude
 - slavery
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- IV. Religious Toleration
 - a. Rhode Island
 - i. Roger Williams
 - ii. Anne Hutchinson

- b. Pennsylvania – William Penn
- c. Maryland – Maryland Toleration Act

Revolutionary War Period 1754-1783

- I. French and Indian War
 - a. causes
 - b. Albany Plan of Union – “Join or Die”
 - c. Results
 - i. End to “salutary neglect”
 - ii. New Colonial Policy – restrictions on colonies
- II. Causes of the American Revolution
 - a. Taxation
 - Stamp Act
 - b. Enforcement of Mercantilism
 - Writs of Assistance
 - Tea Act
 - c. Prohibition of migration into western land
 - Proclamation of 1763
 - d. Limitations on colonial self-government and individual rights
 - ~~quartering act~~
 - coercive acts
 - e. Influence of the Enlightenment
 - Government under consent of governed
- III. Declaration of Independence
 - a. Natural Rights Philosophy – John Locke
 - b. Declaration of Independence

Key Ideas

Regeants Review 2

Review: Government and politics (pt. I)

Growth of democracy during the Colonial Period

- Mayflower Compact - agreement among Pilgrim men to create government
- Virginia House of Burgesses - first Representative assembly in colonies
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut - first constitution in colonial America
- Zenger trial - freedom of press

- "Government under Consent of Governed"

- Enlightenment - J. Locke, Montesquieu

American Revolution

- causes - taxation, enforcement of mercantilism, violations of rights of Englishmen
- Declaration of Independence -
Purpose - justify revolution and separation from Britain

Key Ideas:

Men are born with inalienable rights

government's job is to protect those rights

government receives power to rule from people

people have duty to change government if it abuses their rights

Articles of Confederation

- structure - one house legislature, no executive branch or court system
- Weak national government

no power to:

tax

regulate interstate trade

raise army without states' permission

enforce legislation

- strong state governments

power to

coin money

regulate interstate commerce

tax

- reasons for creation of weak government - reaction to British colonial rule

Problems - different \$, trade disputes, problems with Britain, Shay's rebellion

Successes - land ordinance of 1785 and Northwest Ordinance of 1787 provided for orderly settlement of the west

The Constitution

reasons for Constitutional convention: strengthen power of national government

Compromises at Convention

★ Compromises

- Great Compromise - 2 house legislature, resolved dispute between large and small states
- 3/5 Compromise - slaves count as 3/5 of person for purposes of Representation
- Electoral College - group that elects president, initially chosen by state legislatures, by 1850 chosen by people



Important principles/sections of Constitution

- Federalism - division of power between states and national government delegated, concurrent, and reserved powers
- Separation of powers and Checks and balances - be able to give examples
- Expressed Powers - specifically stated - regulate commerce, coin money, tax, declare war, etc.
- Elastic Clause ("necessary and proper") - creates implied powers - powers not specifically stated in Constitution



Elasticity of the Constitution

- Amendments
- Judicial interpretation
- elastic clause



Unwritten Constitution (important political institutions and practices not included in the constitution)

- political parties
- cabinet
- committee system in congress
- judicial review

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Regents Review –

The Three Branches of Government

Congress

- House of Representatives

Reasons for Census every 10 years

- Senate

Filibuster

President

Many Hats –

Chief Executive

Commander in Chief

Chief Diplomat

Head of State

Head of Political Party

Chief Legislator

Court System

Reason for life tenure

Judicial Review

~~Review~~: American Government and Politics (Continued)

I. Interpreting the constitution

- A. Judicial Review - Established in Marbury v. Madison (1803). Power of courts to decide constitutionality of laws and presidential actions
- B. Strict Constructionism - Government only has power to do things specifically stated in Constitution. "If its not permitted, its prohibited"
- C. Loose Constructionism - Government (in particular Congress) has implied powers. Can do more than what is stated in Constitution. "If its not prohibited, its permitted."
- D. Judicial Activism - court uses its powers to make social policy on issues not specifically referred to in the Constitution (eg. Roe v. Wade)
- E. Judicial Restraint - on issues not specifically mentioned in the Constitution, courts should allow Congress and state legislatures determine social policy.

II. Political Parties

- A. Definition - Organization of people who share similar political ideology and who try to win elections so as to determine governmental policy
- B. Two Party System - Two major political parties dominate political system
 - Federalists and Democratic Republicans (1790s)
 - Democrats and Republicans (1850's to present)
- C. Third Parties - minor parties.
 - while third parties rarely win elections, they can bring attention to issues and force the major parties to address those issues. Example - Populists during the 1890s

III. Elections

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- A. Primaries and caucuses - voters in a political party choose the candidate they want to represent their party
 - B. Electoral College - How does it work? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
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IV. Influencing Government

- A. Special Interest Groups and Political Action Committees - organizations that try to influence government through lobbying and contributing to campaigns
- B. Campaign finance reform - McCain-Feingold

✎. Important Amendments to the Constitution

A. Bill of Rights (1-10)

First - free expression (speech, press, religion)

Fourth - Protection against unreasonable searches and seizures

Fifth and Sixth - Due process of law (protection against self-incrimination, jury trial, right to an attorney, confront witnesses against oneself, no double jeopardy, etc.)

Tenth - powers not given to federal government are reserved to the states

B. The Civil War Amendments

Thirteen - end slavery

Fourteen - states must give people equal protection of laws regardless of race. Extends protections of Bill of Rights to include actions by state governments

Fifteen - gives blacks right to vote

C. Progressive Amendments

Sixteen - income tax

Seventeen - direct election of senators

eighteen - prohibition of alcohol

nineteen - women's suffrage

D. Expansion of voting rights - 1960s and early 70s

twenty four - ends poll taxes

twenty six - gives eighteen year olds right to vote.

