# Contents

Introduction **xiii**Acknowledgments **xvii** 

#### POLITICS TODAY



## AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE . . . **3**

Today's Culture and Climate . . . Fundamentals of Government . . . Citizenship . . . American Political Community

### CIVIL LIBERTIES . . . **37**

Civil Rights and Liberties ... The Bill of Rights ... The First Amendment: Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition ... The Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments: From the Right to Bear Arms to the Rights of the Criminally Accused ... The Right to Privacy ... Civil Rights and Affirmative Action



### POLITICAL BEHAVIOR AND POLICY



### PARTIES, CAMPAIGNS, AND ELECTIONS . . . **79**

Political Parties ... The Two-Party System ... Third Parties ... The Election Process ... The National Convention ... The Election Campaign ... Campaign Finance ... Public Interest Groups

#### AT THE POLLS . . . 127

Voting in America ... The Popular Vote and the Role of the Electoral College ... Polling





THE MEDIA MACHINE . . . **143** 

The Power of the Press ... Freedom of the Press ... Media through the Administrations

# SOCIAL POLICY . . . **173**

Public Policy ... Social Welfare Policy ... Beginnings of Social Welfare ... Social Welfare Programs: Social Security, SSI, TANF, Medicare, and More ... Health Care Reform and Welfare Reform





# ECONOMIC POLICY . . . **199**

Economic Policy 101 ... Environmental Policy as a Component of Economic Policy ... Economic Stability: Using Monetary and Fiscal Policy to Achieve Balance

# FOREIGN POLICY . . . 223

Foreign Policy Basics ... Promoting Foreign Policy ... Foreign Policy throughout American History





### NATIONAL DEFENSE AND DOMESTIC SECURITY . . . 255

Terrorism ... Select Agencies and Military Units that Deal with Terrorism and Disaster Relief ... Forms of Attack: Biological and Chemical Weapons

### GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

# THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH . . . 297

The President's Roles and Responsibilities ... The Executive Office, Executive Departments, and Independent Agencies and Commissions





### THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH . . . **329**

The U.S. Congress: Its Powers and Functions ... How Congress Operates ... The U.S. Senate ... The House of Representatives ... Congressional Committees ... Congress and Lawmaking

## THE JUDICIAL BRANCH . . . **373**

The Judicial System ... The Federal Court System ... The Supreme Court ... The Justices ... State Courts



#### ORIGINS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

#### THE COLONIAL ERA . . . 405



Early Exploration of the Americas ... England Claims Territory in the New World ... The Pilgrims Journey to the New World ... English Philosophy that Shaped Early Colonial Thought ... The Planting of the Colonies and British Colonial Government ... Colonial People and Personalities ... Colonial Government Alliances, Plans, and Constitutions ... Growing Economic and Democratic Independence

#### REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE ... 439

An Emerging Spirit of Independence ... The Revenue Acts and Their Protests (1764–1766) ... Tightening Control of the Colonies (1766–1774) ... The Continental Congresses Convene (1774–1776) ... The American Revolution (1775–1781) ... The Declaration of Independence





### BIRTH OF A NEW NATION . . . **479**

The First State Governments ... The Formation of a National Government (1781–1789) ... The Constitution of the United States ... Amending the Constitution ... Federalism ... State Government Today

#### APPENDICES AND INDEX

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES 509
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE 527
FURTHER READING 531
OTHER RESOURCES 541
POLITICALLY ACTIVE ORGANIZATIONS 549
POLITICAL COMMENTATORS 563
INDEX 573
ABOUT THE AUTHOR 607