

- Persistence
 - Some things you learn early in life tend to stay with you
- Ideology
- Political party identification
- What is fair, what is unfair
- What is your first political memory?
- Primacy
 - Those things that influence you first tend exercise a powerful influence
 - First impressions
- Friend or foe
- Conscious and subconscious process millions of bits of information a second

Socialization

- Primary Influences
 - Family, church
 - More emotional than intellectual understanding
 - School
 - Seek to promote values such as respect for authority, pride in government
 - Power of Authority
 - Milgram Experiments
- Secondary Influences
 - Peers
 - Voter turnout study on shaming
 - ◻ Michigan keeps track of who voted and not. Can be purchased for a fee
 - Can blackmail basically
 - Media
 - Twitter, TV
 - Leaders
 - Who do you respect?
 - Events
 - War, scandal
 - Generational Effects
 - Great Depression, Vietnam
 - Life Cycle
 - Do older people become more liberal or more conservative?

Lenses

- How do we filter political information
- Partisanship % Ideology
 - A coherent collection of ideas about a given set of issues
 - We understand politics and events through the prism of our beliefs
- Group Membership
 - Crosscutting membership
 - Different groups made up of different, but some overlapping groups of people
 - Important for democracy
- People tend to seek info that confirms their views and biases
 - We tend to discount info that contradicts our views - **Confirmation Bias**
- Negative or frightening info weighs more heavily

Problems with Relying on Public Opinion

- People don't always know much about politics
 - 63% believe violent crime is increasing

- Restrictions on contributions and expenditures made to influence federal elections
- Public financing of Presidential campaigns

Public Financing of Presidential Campaigns

- Financed by those who agree to use \$3 of their taxes to finance presidential campaigns
- Today, just 11% of taxpayers check off the box - 28% two decades ago
 - Check-off dollars are given only to presidential candidates who demonstrate broad-based public support - those who in the primary elections raise over \$5,000 in each of 20 states
 - General election nominees must agree not to accept any private contributions (from individuals or PACs)
 - Candidates must promise not to spend more than \$50,000 of their own money on their campaign
 - Recipients of public funds must adhere to a limit on total spending
 - Parties may also receive funds for conventions

Campaign Strategies and Tactics

- Three Basic Strategies
 - "Party-centered strategy" - "Contract with America"
 - "Issue-oriented strategy" - "It's the economy, stupid"
 - "Image-oriented strategy" - Obama - "Post Partisan" - "Yes, We Can"

Campaign Planning

- A campaign informs the public about the candidate and the party's **platform**, their stand on important topics
- Campaign Staff
 - Campaign Manager
 - Finance Chair
 - Pollster
 - Media Coordinator
 - Scheduler
 - Issue Advisers
- Campaign Strategy
 - Identify Supporters and Potential Supporters
 - Target the Message
 - Polls and Focus Groups
 - Package the Candidate

On the Campaign Trail

- Candidates spend most of campaign time on **swing states**
 - Where support for candidates is about equal, or in states where their support is greatest

Tackling the Issues

- Candidates use **stump speeches**, or standard speeches usually less than 20 minutes long, express candidate's beliefs on key issues

Negative Campaigning

- In advertising, candidates mostly use **negative campaigning**, attacks on opposing candidate's weaknesses
- 90% of ads at some points are negative
 - Public doesn't like it, but it works

House of Representatives

- 435 House Seats
- Allocated to each state based on population
- Minimum of 1 per state
- Reapportionment
- Redistricting

Gerrymandering

- Political Reasons
 - Constitutional
- Racial Reasons
 - Not constitutional

Redistricting

1. Competitive
 - Original
2. Sweetheart
 - Equal sacrifice
 - Ex: Iowa
3. Packing
 - Put opposite party voters into one district/your party gets multiple surrounding districts
 - Ex: Cleveland, OH
4. Cracking
 - Minimize power of population in one area by dividing it up into multiple district
 - Ex: Austin, TX

Incumbency

- Re-election in House and Senate
- Depends on whether the seat is
 - **Open seat** (no incumbent)
 - **Safe seat** (party composition of district/state means 60%+ of regular voters from your party)
 - **Competitive seat** (district/state may be up for grabs; voting range 45%-55%)
 - Out of 435 house members, **only about 40-50 competitive seats**
 - An **incumbent**, the current officeholder asdfasdf

Incumbency Advantage

- Constituent Service
 - Pork
 - Casework
- Money
- Other Advantages
 - Franking
 - Media Exposure/Name Recognition

Elections in Texas

- Texas voters select officials in all three branches
- Texans vote on many more local offices than other states
 - County, city, public school districts, hospital district, railroad BS, etc

full credit of up to 50% of their share of employer premiums

Health Care Exchanges

- Most states use the Federal Health Care Exchange to shop for and purchase health insurance although some states maintain their own exchanges
 - State Health Insurance Exchanges
- Marketplace provide a set of government-regulated and standardized health care plans from which individuals may purchase health insurance policies eligible for federal subsidies
- Put people in a pool of consumers to make it affordable for people and profitable for business
- All private health insurance plans offered in the Marketplace must offer:
 - Emergency services
 - Hospital coverage
 - Mental health
 - Substance abuse services
 - Prescription drugs
 - Rehabilitative services

Health Insurers

- Cannot turn applicants down who have history of illness
- Cannot terminate coverage
- Must renew coverage
- Cannot charge more to those with history of illness (older people can be charged maximum of 3 times that of younger people)

Religious Exemptions

- Can religious groups be exempt from being forced to pay for contraception as a part of the required health care insurance beliefs?
- *Zubik v. Burwell*
 - Supreme Court involving several Catholic charities
- Hobby Lobby case (2014)
 - Supreme Court sided with private corporation whose religious owners wanted exemption under Obamacare's contraceptive requirements
- Department of Health and Human Services then gave religious groups who aren't exempt from the law's contraceptive requirement an accommodation
 - Allows federal government to coordinate coverage for the affected employees with a third-party insurance provider

Financing

- Increased Medicare Part A payroll tax from 1.45% to 2.35%, and 3.8% extra tax on investment income, for individuals with income over \$200,000 individual or families with incomes over \$250,000
- "Cadillac Tax" on employer health plans with values above \$10,000 individual/\$27,500 families, beginning 2018
- Tax = 40% of amount above thresholds
- Reduce payments to Medicare managed care plans
- 10% tax on indoor tanning services

Foreign Policy

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 11:11 AM

Internationalism vs. Isolationism

- Early US foreign policy - 1789 - 1898 driven by
 - a. Trying to escape European past/problems
 - b. More concerned about expansion and issues like slavery
 - c. Resources were not there for assertive foreign policy
 - d. Idealism that we were above the rest of the world's problems
 - The roots of American "exceptionalism"
- But when it suited our interests, did not risk war with the great powers (Britain, France, etc.) and was feasible, we did it
- US was isolationist only in comparison to today, but certainly not naïve in the ways of the world

Dates

- US Isolationism 1789-1898
- US Internationalism 1898-1918
 - Spanish-American War
 - Cuba/Caribbean
 - World War I
- US Isolationism 1919-1941
- US Internationalism 1945-Present
 - World War II
 - Korean War
 - Vietnam War
 - Persian Gulf War
 - Iraq and Afghanistan

Foreign Policy

1. General Interests (ex. Anti-Communism, credibility, making the world safe for democracy) vs. Specific Interests (ex. Defending South Korea, protecting access to Persian Gulf)
 - Do we need a crusade to get us engaged in the world - make things "clearer than the truth" in Dean Acheson's words about communism
 - Resulted in Vietnam but also Cold War commitment
 - Do we need a universal goal to sustain the energy of internationalism, like the Axis of Evil?
2. Resources vs. Commitments (Better at balancing the two before the Cold War - JFK - "bear any burden")
 - Containment was the Cold War strategy of blocking Soviet and communist expansion
 - Avoiding imperial overstretch
 - Asymmetric containment of Soviet Union and communism by matching our strengths, like nuclear weapons against their weaknesses
 - Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) as an asymmetric strategy
 - Over-commit and over-stretch
 - If the Soviets build weapons, we build ten more
 - If the Soviets back Cuba & Fidel Castro, we back anti-Castro exiles

Grand Strategy

- A complete and coherent view that identifies the most important foreign policy goals and most suitable means of achieving those goals. All strive to promote US National Interests.

- Must report to Congress within 48 hours of deploying them
 - ◆ The President's report is supposed to be the end of the matter
- Congress can require the President to remove the forces at any time now by passage of joint resolution which requires presidential signature
- The forces are to be withdrawn at the end of 60 days, in special cases, 90 days unless Congress has declared war, enacted some authorization, or made an exception - 60 day limit never invoked - Lebanon - Reagan given over a year
- **Why doesn't the War Powers Resolution work?**
 - a) There are no sanctions against a president who does not comply
 - b) Congress lack the will - doesn't want responsibility for screwing up
 - c) Fast-moving nature of events
- President and Congress are basically content with ambiguity in this area and leave it as a partisan issue

b. Treaties

- President negotiates and treaties are approved with advice and 2/3 consent of Senate
- What does "with the advice and consent of the Senate" mean?
 - Treaties where the Senate is consulted are more likely to be ratified, but presidents increasingly resort to **executive agreements at a 20-1 ratio**
- Executive Agreements
 - An agreement made by the President or his representative without the approval of Congress
- Since 1945, 94% of all commitments have been made in this way
 - WWII Lend-Lease
 - Vietnam Peace Agreement
- The CASE Act of 1971 requires the president report these agreements to the Congress
- Supreme Court has ruled presidents can unilaterally abrogate treaties (Goldwater v. Ginzler 1979) and that executive agreements have the same force of law as treaties (US vs. Belmont 1937)
- Relatively few treaties are rejected
 - Most are never submitted for ratification if support is not guaranteed

c. Receiving and Appointing Ambassadors

- President has power to receive and appoint ambassadors which has become power to recognize foreign governments

President, Supreme Court and Foreign Policy

- Constitution general powers
 - Chief Executive Officer with responsibility to preserve, protect and defend the constitution and take care laws are faithfully executed
 - US vs Curtis Wright Export Corporations 1936
- SC ruled that in domestic affairs the federal government can only exercise enumerated powers, but it possessed external sovereignty and the powers associated with it and the president was the representative of that sovereignty
- Rules the President was the embodiment of the nation's sovereignty - was the sole organ in the conduct of foreign policy

Presidential Influence & Foreign Policy

- Types of Presidential Influence increases because
 - Military Action
 - "Rally round the flag"

- Control of Information
 - CIA, NSA
- Speeches
 - JFK/Reagan
- Travel
 - Nixon to China
- Public looks to the President for leadership
 - Given credit and blame for whatever happens, rightly or wrongly, if it happens, on your watch
- Need to look firm/decisive

Foreign Policy Decision Making Style:

1. US decision makers often **assume events are analogous** and that if a strategy worked once it will work again
 - Munich and Vietnam syndromes
2. Tendency to think that the world revolves around us
 - If we had done "x", then "y" would not have happened
 - Down play choices made by others
 - US "lost" China and Cuba to communism
 - The more the US acts like this, the more others do attribute events to us
3. Preference for Doctrines
 - Monroe Doctrine (1823)
 - No European colonization in western hemisphere
 - Teddy Roosevelt Corollary to Monroe Doctrine (1904)
 - US will intervene in disputes between Europe and Latin America
 - Truman Doctrine (1947)
 - US will resist those who seek to interfere in and overthrow friendly governments
 - Nixon Doctrine (1969)
 - US as the arsenal of democracy, not the army
 - Carter Doctrine (1980)
 - US will insure flow of oil through Persian Gulf
 - Reagan Doctrine (1985)
 - US will aid those seeking to overthrow communist governments - "Support for freedom fighters is self-defense".
 - Bush II Doctrine (2002)
 - US will attack source of and supporters of terrorism

Public Opinion and Values

1. Exceptionalism - Where does this belief come from?
 - a. Geographic isolation allowed US security; ability to develop institutions at its own pace; made people feel separate and special
 - b. Emphasis on liberty, democracy, and opportunity
2. Distrust of Elites and Experts - foreign policy rooted in values
3. Universality of Democracy and Human Rights - at first US supposed to be an example and a beacon (JQ Adams - US should not "go abroad in search of monsters to destroy") but later became a model
 - a. Lincoln - "This nation is the world's last, best hope."
 - b. Wilson - "The world must be made safe for democracy."
 - c. Truman and Reagan Doctrines; Clinton; Bush II - All made democracy promotion a cornerstone of US foreign policy
4. Preference for Simple Distinctions and Clarity - good vs. bad; with us or against us - Bush