



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



LESSON 28

OUTLINE

Introduction and Review

- Review of Article One:
 - Article One establishes the legislative branch.
 - The bicameral Congress: House of Representatives and the Senate.
 - Distinct purposes of each house.

Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists Debate

- Importance of Knowing Both Sides:
 - Federalist and Anti-Federalist debates help us understand the reasoning behind the Constitution.
- Why a Bicameral Congress?:
 - Federalist argument: Bicameralism serves both the national (people) and federal (states) interests.
 - A unicameral system could have empowered one over the other.

The Role of Bicameral Congress

- Internal Check and Balance:
 - Prevents a unicameral legislature from becoming reactionary or overly influenced by special interests.
 - Senate acts as a check on the House, which represents the people directly and may be more susceptible to public passion.
- Representation of the States:
 - The Senate's role in guarding state sovereignty, particularly in foreign affairs.

Reading of Article 1, Sections 2 and 3

- House of Representatives (Section 2):
 - Elected every two years by the people.
 - Frequent elections keep politicians accountable to the people.
 - States control voter qualifications.
 - Requirements to run for the House: 25 years old and a citizen for 7 years.
- Senate (Section 3):
 - Two Senators from each state, elected for six years.
 - Originally chosen by state legislatures, now elected by popular vote (after the 17th Amendment).
 - Requirements to run for the Senate: 30 years old and a citizen for 9 years.



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



LESSON 28

OUTLINE

The Impact of the 17th Amendment

- Change in Senate Elections:
 - Originally, Senators were appointed by state legislatures.
 - After 1913, the 17th Amendment shifted the election of Senators to a direct popular vote.
- Destructive Effect of the 17th Amendment:
 - Madison's idea: The Senate was meant to represent the states, not the people.
 - Direct election of Senators has blurred the line between the House and Senate.
 - This change undermined the original check and balance intended by the Constitution.

Consequences of the 17th Amendment

- Loss of State Representation:
 - Senators no longer feel directly accountable to state legislatures.
 - State interests are no longer properly represented in Congress.
- Bloated Federal Government:
 - The federal government has grown too powerful without state accountability.
 - State sovereignty has been diminished, weakening the federalist system.

Jefferson's Warning and Federalism

- Thomas Jefferson's View:
 - Warned against centralizing all power in Washington, D.C.
 - The states are supposed to be a check on the federal government's power.
- Federalist 45:
 - Powers delegated to the federal government are "few and defined," mainly foreign affairs.
 - State powers are "numerous and indefinite," concerning internal matters like health care, land management, etc.

Conclusion and Preview

- Why This Matters:
 - The balance of power between state and federal governments is crucial to preserving liberty.
 - You, as future leaders and voters, need to understand this balance to restore proper governance.
- Next Classes:
 - Screening of the documentary Noncompliant to further explore the role of the states and the Senate.



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



LESSON 28

Discussion Questions

1. **How does the bicameral structure of Congress serve to balance the interests of the people and the states, and do you think this system is still effective in modern times? Why or why not?*
2. **The 17th Amendment changed the election of Senators from state legislatures to a direct popular vote. How has this shift impacted the balance of power between the states and the federal government, and do you think it has strengthened or weakened federalism?*
3. **Frequent elections for the House of Representatives were intended to keep politicians accountable to the people. Do you believe that frequent elections still serve this purpose today, or have modern factors (such as media and political parties) altered this dynamic?*
4. **The lecture argues that the Senate was originally intended to act as a check on the passions and potentially hasty decisions of the House. How well does the Senate fulfill this role today, especially considering its modern method of election?*
5. **Thomas Jefferson warned that centralizing too much power in Washington, D.C., would render the states powerless. Do you think this warning has come true, and if so, what steps could be taken to restore the balance of power between the federal government and the states?*



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



LESSON 28

NAME _____

Multiple Choice

1. What is established in Article One of the Constitution?
 - a) The executive branch
 - b) The legislative branch
 - c) The judicial branch
 - d) The Bill of Rights
2. Why did the Federalists argue for a bicameral Congress?
 - a) To give more power to the people
 - b) To equally represent national and state interests
 - c) To reduce the size of government
 - d) To limit the role of state legislatures
3. What is one key role of the Senate, according to the Federalist argument?
 - a) To represent the direct interests of the people
 - b) To act as a check on the passions of the House
 - c) To control the judiciary
 - d) To manage foreign policy independently
4. According to Article 1, Section 2, how often are House members elected?
 - a) Every four years
 - b) Every six years
 - c) Every two years
 - d) Every year
5. What is a key qualification to run for the House of Representatives?
 - a) Must be at least 35 years old
 - b) Must be a citizen for at least 7 years
 - c) Must be born in the United States
 - d) Must have served in the military



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



LESSON 28

6. Before the 17th Amendment, how were Senators chosen?
- a) By popular vote
 - b) By the President
 - c) By the state legislatures
 - d) By the Supreme Court
7. What was one of the main arguments for keeping Senators appointed by state legislatures?
- a) It would keep them accountable to the states
 - b) It would prevent them from focusing on national issues
 - c) It would reduce the size of government
 - d) It would limit their power over foreign policy
8. What did the 17th Amendment change in the election process?
- a) Senators were now appointed by the executive branch
 - b) Senators were now elected by popular vote
 - c) House representatives were now elected by the states
 - d) Governors were now allowed to appoint House members
9. Why did the lecturer argue the 17th Amendment was destructive?
- a) It gave too much power to the federal government
 - b) It weakened the states' control over the federal government
 - c) It reduced the number of senators
 - d) It caused a power struggle between the branches of government
10. According to Thomas Jefferson, what was the role of the states in the federalist system?
- a) To govern only domestic affairs
 - b) To act as a check on the power of the federal government
 - c) To manage foreign policy and trade
 - d) To elect the President and Vice President



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



LESSON 28

1. b) The legislative branch
2. b) To equally represent national and state interests
3. b) To act as a check on the passions of the House
4. c) Every two years
5. b) Must be a citizen for at least 7 years
6. c) By the state legislatures
7. a) It would keep them accountable to the states
8. b) Senators were now elected by popular vote
9. b) It weakened the states' control over the federal government
10. b) To act as a check on the power of the federal government