

# UNIT SEVEN

DOMESTIC/SOCIAL POLICY

**DOMESTIC POLICY**

**MAKING POLICY & INFLUENCING POLICY MAKERS**

BROAD CATEGORY	SPECIFIC SEGMENT	DESCRIPTION
<b>LINKAGE INSTITUTIONS</b> (THEY INFLUENCE POLICY)	Political Parties	A group which attempts to win elections so they can control the government.
	Interest Groups	-Use propaganda to influence society. -Use PACs to influence elections. --Hire lobbyist to influence Congress.
	Media	Selects stories to cover thus that topic gains our attention. (This could place issues at a higher priority on our nation's agenda)
<b>GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</b> (THEY MAKE POLICY)	Congress	Creates laws.
	President	Issues executive orders.
	Bureaucracy	Agencies set regulations (rule making)
	Judicial	Court sets a precedent.
-Policy is basically anything a government decides to do. --Domestic Policy includes everything a government takes care of within U.S. borders. The United States has developed policy to take care of its people, especially the less fortunate, to protect the environment, to finance government, and to enhance that state of the economy. -Remember linkage institutions connect people to the government.		

**THEORIES ON THE COST & BENEFITS OF POLICY**

THEORY	THE COST	THE BENEFIT	EXAMPLE
<b>MAJORITARIAN</b>	Distributed (Everyone pays)	Distributed (Everyone gets)	-Social Security -Military Protection
<b>ENTREPRENEURIAL</b>	Concentrated (Some pay)	Distributed (Everyone gets)	--Congress passes a law that factories can only allow so much carbon emissions per year.
<b>CLIENT POLITICS</b>	Distributed (Everyone pays)	Concentrated (Some get)	-Food stamps -Medicaid
<b>INTEREST GROUP</b>	Concentrated (Some pay)	Concentrated (Some get)	Congress passes law that when a factory closes they must give the workers 60 days notice.

**DOMESTIC POLICY**

**THEORIES ON INFLUENCING POLICY**

THEORY	DESCRIPTION
<b>MAJORITARIAN POLITICS</b>	They focus on carrying out the will of the majority. (Framers wanted to stop the tyranny of the majority)
<b>ELITE THEORY</b>	People with more money and influence dominate the policy--making process.
<b>INTEREST GROUP POLITICS</b>	Interest groups organize PACs to influence elections and hire lobbyist to influence policy creation.
<b>PLURALIST THEORY</b>	Viewpoints are so scattered no group can control all the levels of government.
Other textbooks refer to other theories: - <b>Class View (theory)</b> The view that that the government is dominated by capitalists. - <b>Bureaucratic View (theory)</b> in which appointed officials have too much control of the government. - <b>Power Elite View (theory)</b> government is dominated by a few top leaders (many outside of government).	

**BASIC OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

PHASE	DESCRIPTION
<b>AGENDA SETTING</b>	The <b>agenda</b> is a set of issues to be discussed or given attention. Presidents recommend legislation. Congress member propose bills in their house. Polls and media show government officials how the people feel about policy.
<b>POLICY FORMATION</b>	Political leaders look at the cost benefit analysis to decide if policy is worthy.
<b>POLICY ADOPTION</b>	Congress creates policy (law) with presidential approval.
<b>POLICY IMPLEMENTATION</b>	An agency within executive branch that deals with that topic is selected.
<b>POLICY EVALUATION</b>	The public and government react to new policies to decide if any changes are needed. Congress is the tool used to change budgets or alter policy laws.

AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT STUDY GUIDE  
**DOMESTIC POLICY**

**SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY**

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Social Security Act of 1935 created an insurance program that required the employed to pay a small contribution via a payroll tax into an insurance fund designed to assist the unemployed to help financially strapped retirees.</li> <li>• It also helps blind, elderly, and less fortunate people.</li> <li>• Officially called Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and it administered by the Social Security Administration.</li> <li>• Most employed citizens pay 12.4 percent (6.2 by employer, and 6.2 by employee) of which they can start collecting at age 65.</li> </ul>
<b>MEDICARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although it was one FDR's plans the Medicare law was passed in 1965 and it administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.</li> <li>• It is funded by a payroll tax of 1.45 percent paid by both employee and employer. (People who make over 200,000 by 3.8 percent)</li> <li>• Must be 65 years old to collect benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>MEDICAID</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health insurance coverage for the poorest Americans</li> <li>• Eligibility requires minimum-income thresholds or disabled or pregnant.</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens purchase their own health care coverage.</li> <li>• <b>Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2010</b> attempts to expand coverage.</li> </ul>
<p>-The only portion of the Constitution that refers to welfare is in the preamble stating the government will "promote the general welfare"                      -Government intervention increased during the the Great Depression with New Deal (series of legislation)                      -Food Stamps &amp; Housing also exist for mean-based needs (only if they make under a certain amount)</p>	

**NON-MEANS TESTED VERSUS MEANS-TESTED**

<b>NON--MEANS--TESTED</b>	Meet general requirements (does not include financial need)	-Social Security (OASDI) -Medicare -Veterans' Disability -Unemployment Benefits
<b>MEANS--TESTED</b>	Meets requirement that shows financial need.	-Medicaid -Supplemental Security Income -Temporary Assistance for Needy Families -Food Stamps
<p>Unemployment appears in wrong category at first glance. But actually if you are fired you can collect regardless of savings.</p>		

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
<p align="center"><b>Environmental Protection Policy Act</b> (NEPA) (1969)</p>	<p>Requires any government agency, state or federal, to file an environmental impact statement with the federal government every time the agency plans a policy that might harm the environment, dams, roads, or existing construction.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Clean Air Act</b> (1970 Amendment to PCA)</p>	<p>Calls for improved air quality and decreased contaminants.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Clean Water Act</b> (1972)</p>	<p>Regulates the discharges of pollutants into the water</p>
<p align="center"><b>Endangered Species Act</b> (1973)</p>	<p>Empowers the National Fish and Wildlife Service to protect endangered species.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Superfund</b> (1980)</p>	<p>Congress created this to pay for waste cleanup in the instances in which the company responsible is unknown or has gone bankrupt.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Environmental Protection Agency</b> (EPA) (1970)</p>	<p>It along with federal government require states to set air quality standards, to reduce damage done by automobiles, to measure city smog, and to set environmental guidelines.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Kyoto Protocol</b> (1997)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi--country agreement that committed the signing nations to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Bill Clinton liked it but 2/3 of the Senate did not agree.</li> </ul>
<p>--Environment was first being seen as in issue in late 19th century, it was in the 1960's and 1970's (with the creation of the majority of acts and laws listed above) in which the government started regulated business in order to protect the environment. There has been backlash every since.</p>	

