

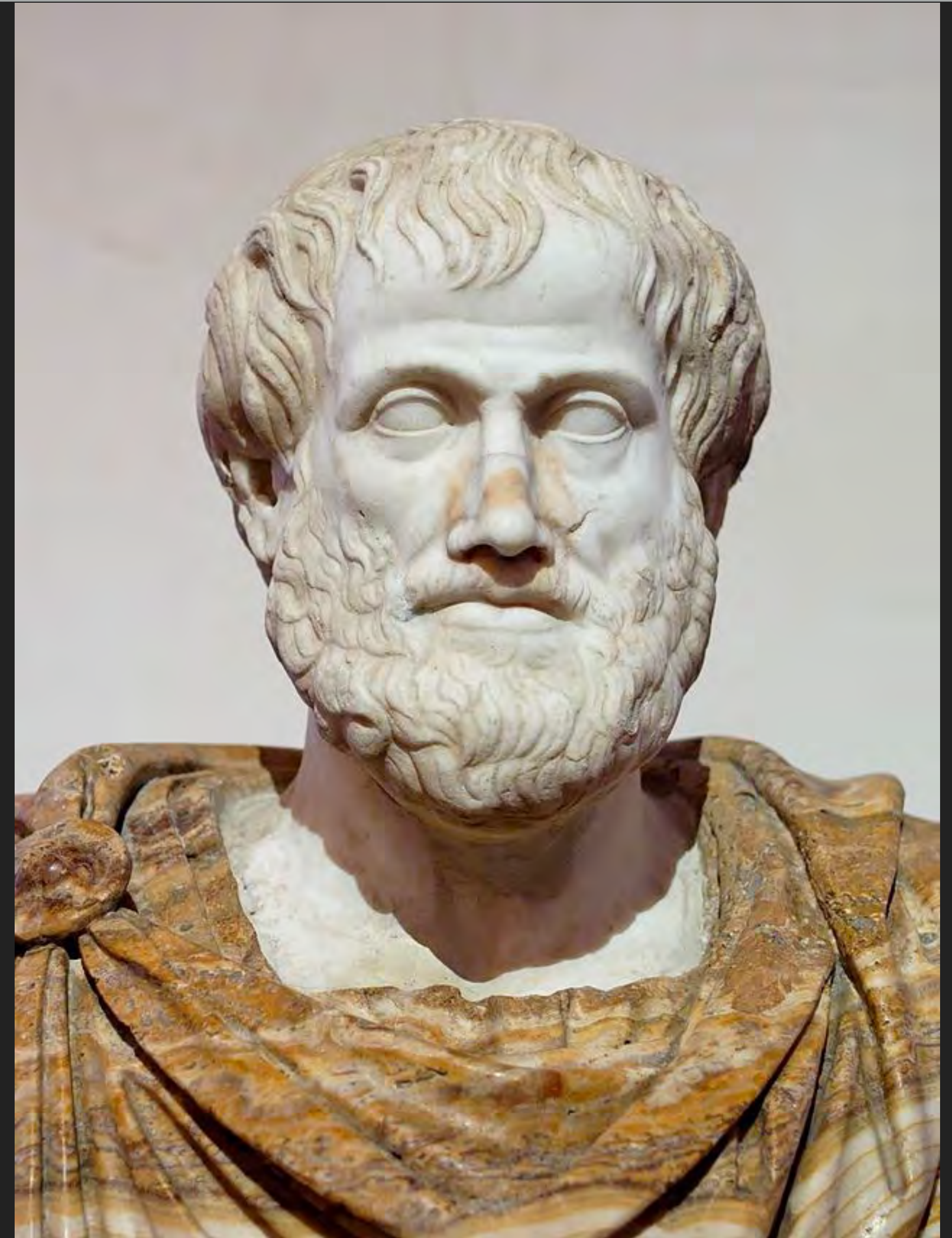


AP GOVERNMENT

Unit 1: Foundations: American Democracy

TWO SIMPLE DEFINITIONS

- ▶ **Politics** is “the activity—negotiation, argument, discussion, application of force, persuasion, etc.—by which an issue is agitated or settled.”
 - ▶ It comes from the Greek politikos, which means “citizen.”
- ▶ **Government** means “the system by which a nation, state, or community is governed.”
 - ▶ It comes from from the Greek verb κυβερνάω [kubernáo], which means “to steer.”



ARISTOTLE

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

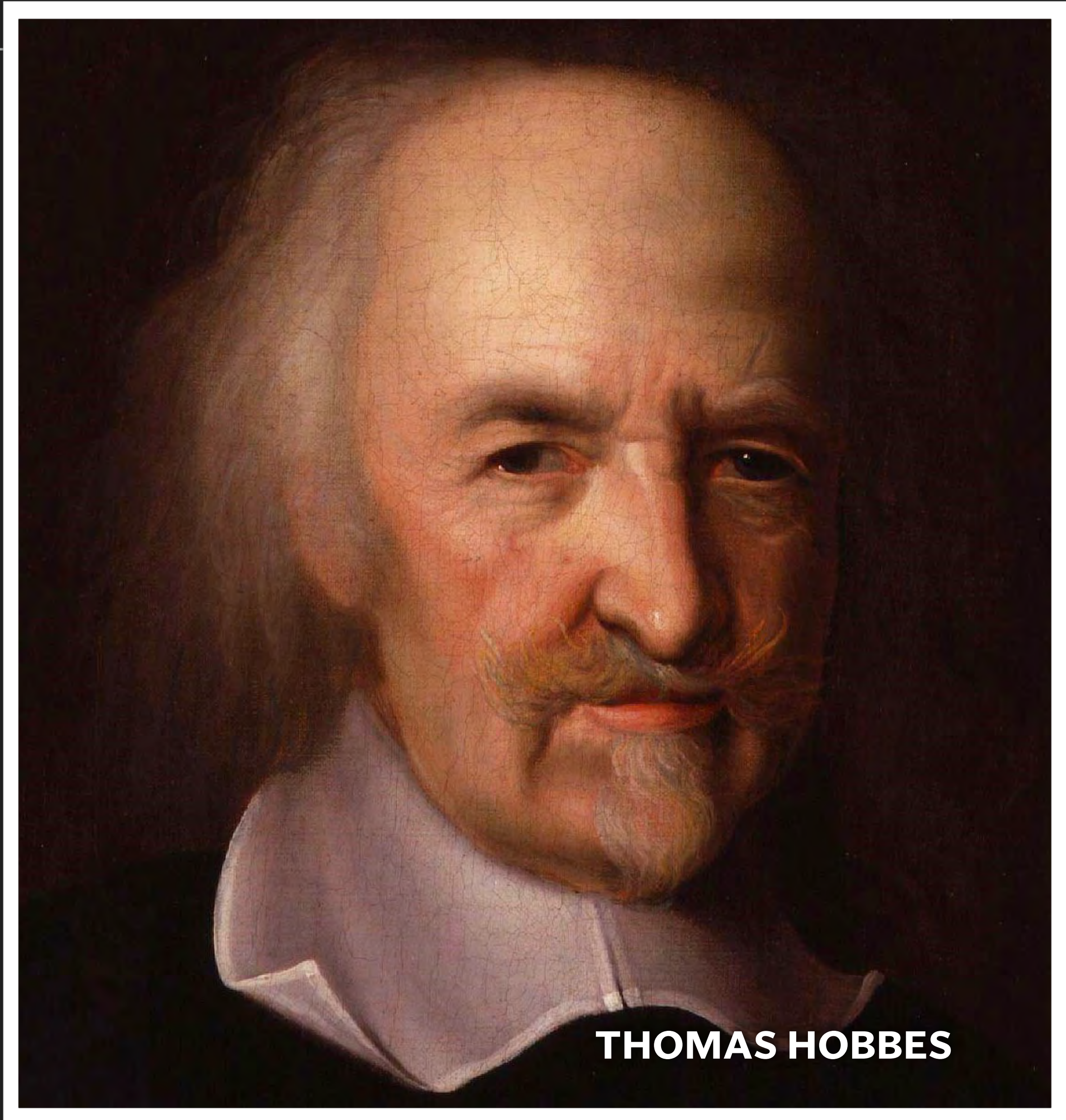
- ▶ **Direct or Participatory Democracy** comes closest to the Ancient Greek definition: a government in which all or most citizens make decisions directly.
- ▶ Today, we more often mean **representative democracy** when we refer to democracy.
 - ▶ Economist Joseph Schumpeter defined it this way: “The democratic method is that institutional arrangement for arriving at political decisions in which individuals [i.e., leaders] acquire the power to decide by means of a competitive struggle for the people’s vote.”
- ▶ **DISCUSS:** What are the benefits and drawbacks of each form of democracy?

OBAMA VOTING IN 2016



THOMAS HOBBS

- ▶ In his book **Leviathan**, Thomas Hobbes argued one of the first claims about the existence of a **social contract**, asserting that humans should give up rights for safety.
- ▶ Hobbes believed that in a the **state of nature** humans would fight, kill, steal, destroy without pause for causes ranging from greed to honor. We'd live in a state of constant war.
- ▶ This led him to believe we should accept a king as a rational transaction, not because of the **divine rights of kings.**



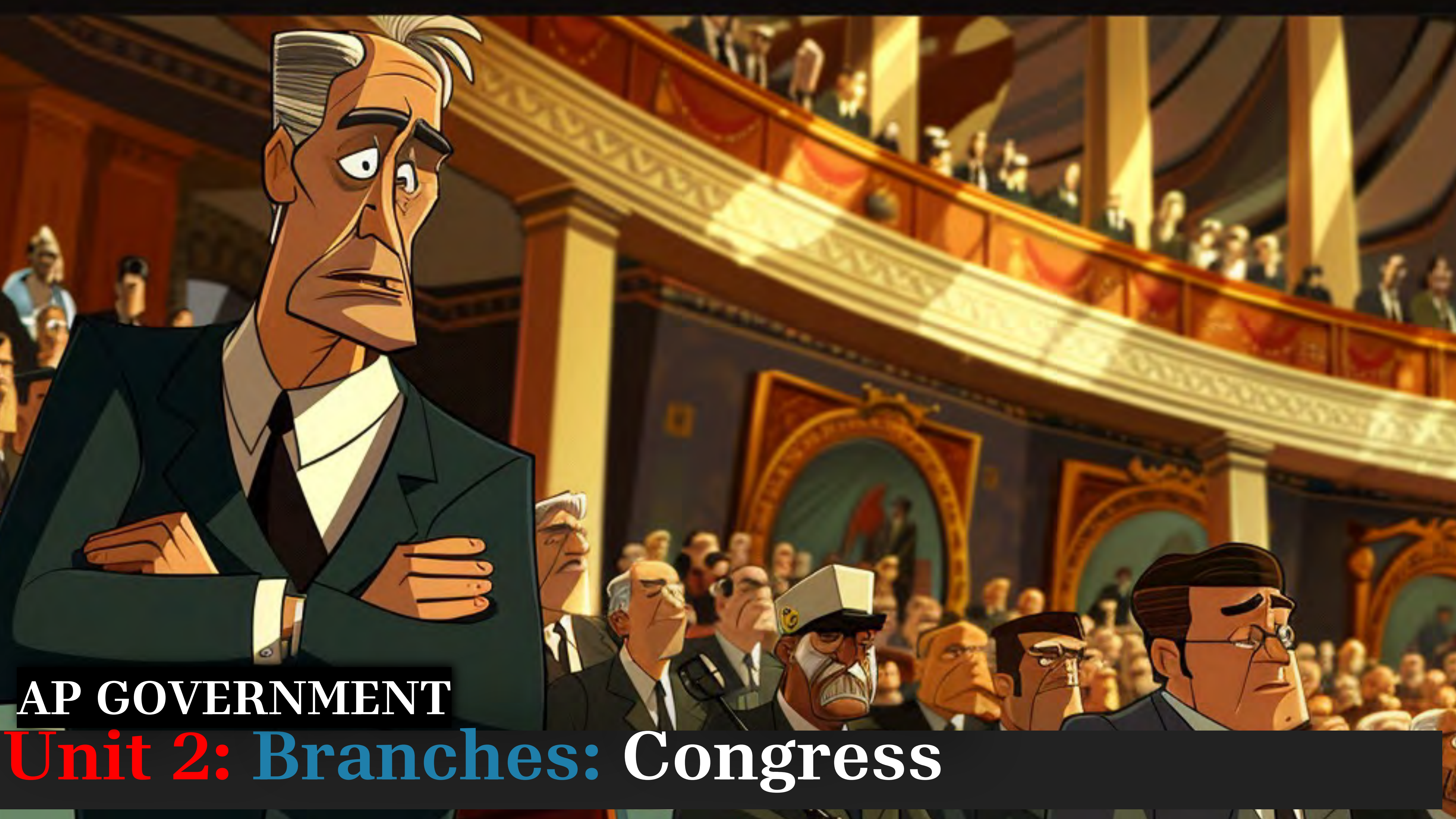
THOMAS HOBBS

THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- ▶ After winning the Revolutionary War, the Founders nearly lost the peace with the **Articles of Confederation (1781)**, which they called a “**league of friendship.**”
 - ▶ The government had no power to tax, no power to draft a military.
 - ▶ It had no uniform currency.
 - ▶ It had no Supreme Court and a powerless Presidency.
 - ▶ Passing laws required 9/13 votes, and amendments required the consent of all states.
- ▶ The **Shays Rebellion** of 1786-87 was the final sign that the Articles could not succeed.



THE END OF SHAY'S REBELLION



AP GOVERNMENT

Unit 2: Branches: Congress

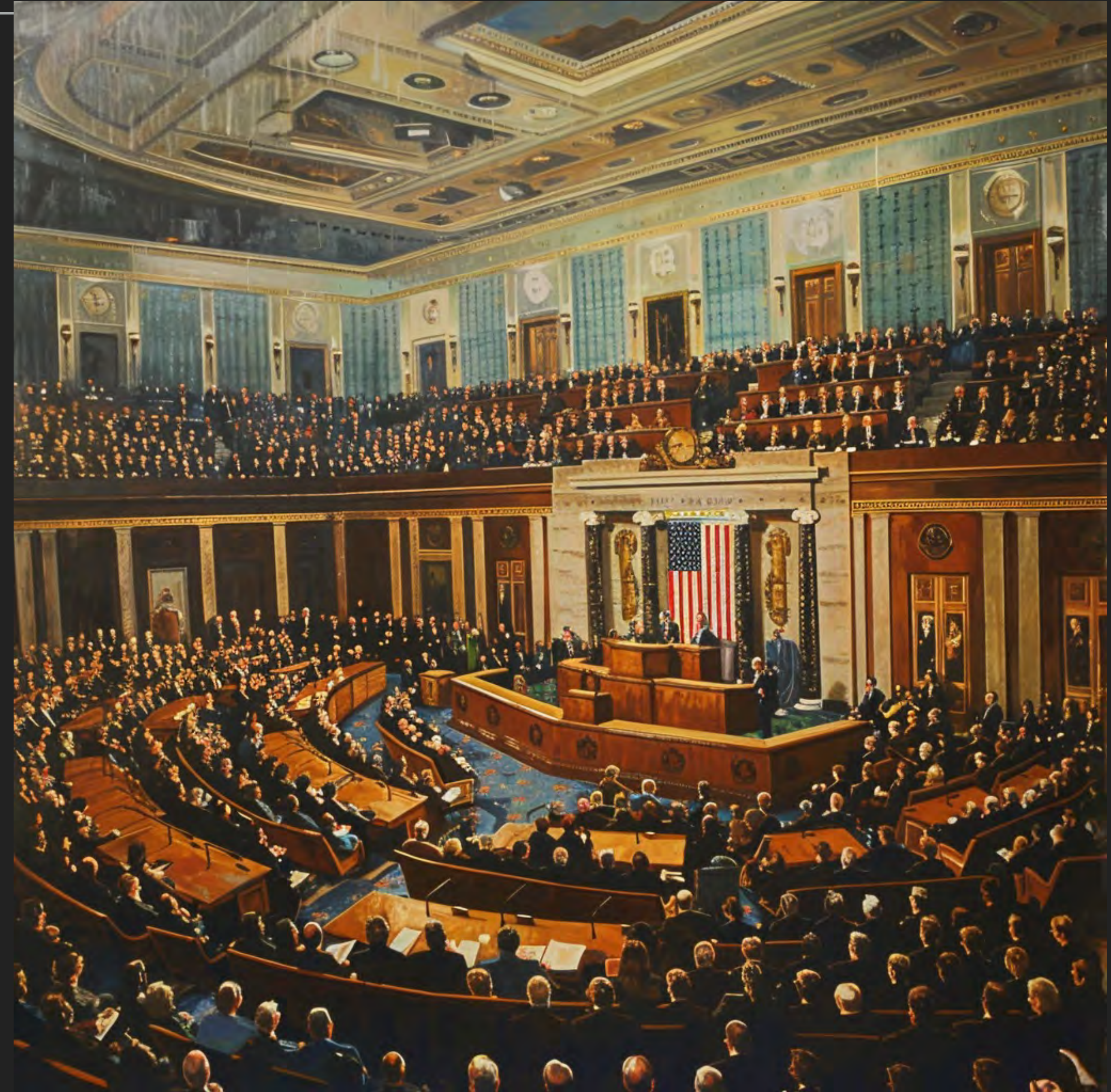
THE BASIC STRUCTURE

- ▶ The founders considered the Congress the **first branch** of government, but today, many see it as the “**broken branch.**”
- ▶ **DISCUSS:** Why might both be true?
- ▶ The Congress was designed as a **bicameral** institution with the **Senate** designed to be insulated from the public and the **House** designed to be more democratic. Washington compare the Senate to a saucer cooling coffee.
- ▶ Until 1913 (**17th Amendment**), Senators were elected by state legislators. Now, both houses are elected by the people.



HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

- ▶ There are seven steps to a bill becoming law:
 - ▶ STEP 1: The Creation of a Bill. Members of the House or Senate draft, sponsor and introduce bills for consideration by Congress.
 - ▶ STEP 2: A **committee** (and usually subcommittees) must hear and pass a bill.
 - ▶ STEP 3: **Floor Action**: the bill can be amended by the whole body of the Senate and/or House.
 - ▶ STEP 4: Each body must vote to pass the bill by a **simple majority**
 - ▶ STEP 5: **Conference committees** reconcile differences between the two versions (House And Senate). Each body must then pass the conference committee version.
 - ▶ STEP 6: The President signs the law.
 - ▶ STEP 7: The law is assigned a number and codified by the bureaucracy.



THE 25TH AMENDMENT/THE COLONOSCOPY CLAUSE

- ▶ The 25th Amendment added Presidential disability as a reason to be removed from office.
 - ▶ The President can notify Congress in writing
 - ▶ The VP and a majority of the Cabinet can inform Congress in writing that the President is “incapacitated.”
- ▶ When has the Cabinet considered invoking the 25th Amendment against the will of the President?



AS HEAD OF STATE

- ▶ The President (through the State Department) dictates American foreign policy. For many years, Americans argued—though without always living up to the claim—that “politics end at the nation’s borders.”
- ▶ Appoint ambassadors, ministers and consuls
- ▶ Make treaties subject to Senate confirmation
- ▶ Receive ambassadors



CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

- ▶ Throughout most of its history, the Court has been dominated by **continuity over change**. Justices have been reluctant to overturn precedent, even when they disagree.
- ▶ **Critics** like Brutus (during ratification) and today, though, have argued that the Court **has too much power**.
- ▶ Brutus wrote that the justices would “be placed in a situation altogether unprecedented in a free country—totally independent. No errors they may commit can be corrected by any power above them, if any such power there be, nor can they be removed from office for making ever so many erroneous adjudications.”
- ▶ Recent Supreme Court nomination battles have undermined the legitimacy of the Court.



THE UNIQUE AMERICAN BUREAUCRACY

The American bureaucracy is distinct for four reasons:

- ▶ Both the executive and legislative branches exercise authority over the bureaucracy.
- ▶ Federalism means that the federal government shares bureaucratic function with state/local govt.
- ▶ The adversarial legal system in the US means that the bureaucracy is challenged in courts far more than in other countries.
- ▶ There are far more public entities (like phone companies, transportation, etc.) in European countries.





AP GOVERNMENT

Unit 3: Civil Liberties: The 1st Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the **right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

The United States Constitution's Bill of Rights (1789)

LIBEL AND SLANDER

- ▶ Defamation is to make a false statement of fact that harms another's reputation.
 - ▶ Libel generally refers to written defamation.
 - ▶ Slander generally refers to spoken defamation.
- ▶ In 1966, Justice Potter Stewart wrote that defamation law “reflects...our basic concept of the essential dignity and worth of every human being — a concept at the root of any decent system of ordered liberty.”
- ▶ In general, libel and slander cases are hard to win in the United States.



CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS

- ▶ **Civil liberties** concern the actual basic freedoms; civil rights concern the treatment of an individual regarding certain rights.
 - ▶ **Civil liberties** are the articulation of the natural rights enjoyed by all and articulated in the Bill of Rights.
 - ▶ **Civil rights** concern efforts to ensure that those liberties are applied equally and that people don't face **discrimination** from **unequal treatment**.
- ▶ Enforcement of civil rights most often rests on the **Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment**.

No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

A BRIEF HISTORY

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

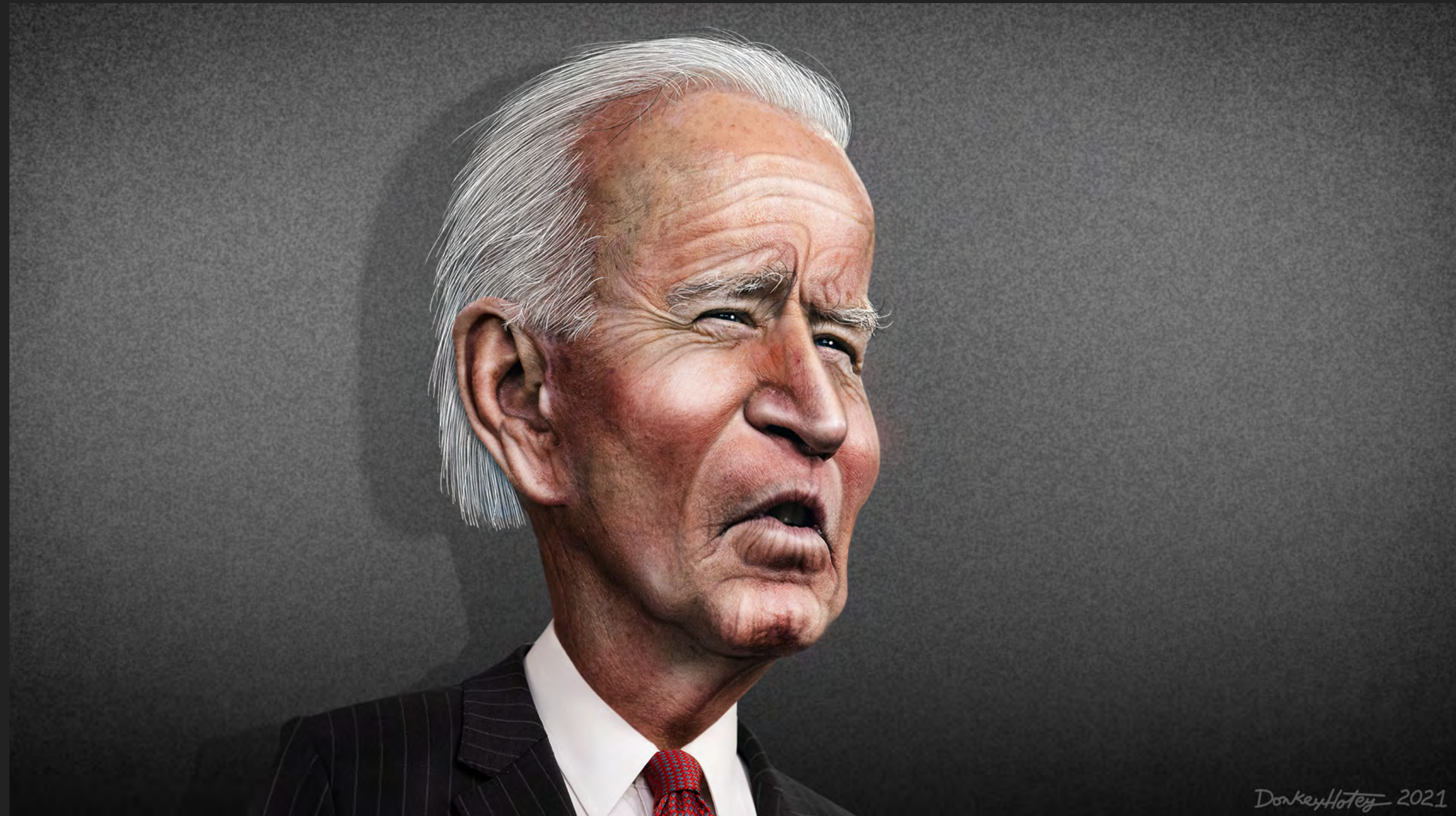
- ▶ One of the most contentious civil rights issues today is **affirmative action**.
- ▶ Proponents argue that affirmative action is a necessary **corrective for the legacy of racism**; opponents argue that it amounts to **reverse discrimination** and we need to live in a **color blind** society.
- ▶ The standard in the United States today is that institutions like schools can use race as a **plus factor** when making admissions decisions, but cannot have **quotas**.
- ▶ Many states have explicitly outlawed race as a factor in hiring and educational practices.
- ▶ Ironically, most of the challenges to affirmative action today are rooted in the 14th Amendment and 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The Supreme Court just (January '22) took two cases arguing that race cannot be a factor in college admissions.



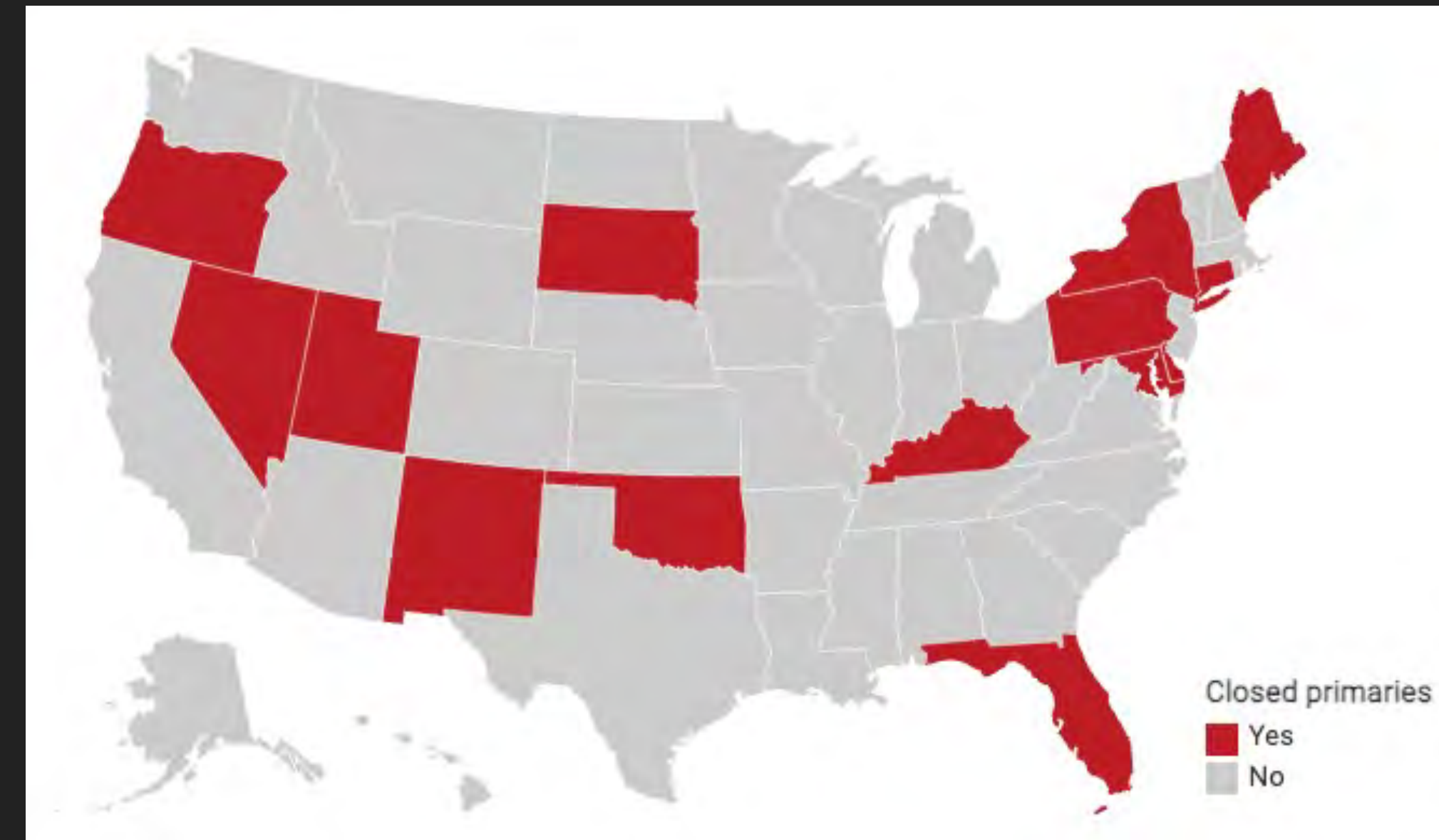
FUNCTIONS OF PARTIES

- ▶ Political parties play three important roles:
 1. As organizations that recruit, nominate and support candidates
 2. As ideas in the minds of voters.
 3. And as leaders who coordinate behavior among elites.



NOMINATING CANDIDATES

- ▶ One of the roles for parties is simply to recruit candidates.
- ▶ Since the progressive era, most nominations have taken place in primary elections—the elections in which parties choose their general election candidates.
 - ▶ Some states have closed primaries, in which only registered voters of each party can vote.
 - ▶ Others have open primaries, in which a voter receives both ballots but can only vote one.
 - ▶ Some states have moved to a top-two or jungle primary, in which the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the general.
- ▶ What are the benefits and drawbacks of each system?



HELPING CANDIDATES WIN

- ▶ Parties provide candidates a label voters can understand. Some of this is found in party platforms.
- ▶ Parties help candidates get out the vote.
 - ▶ In recent years, this has become an incredibly sophisticated, data-driven process.
- ▶ Parties raise money beyond the individual campaign limits.
- ▶ Parties can create coordinating committees to use the resources from high-profile campaigns to help down ballot candidates.





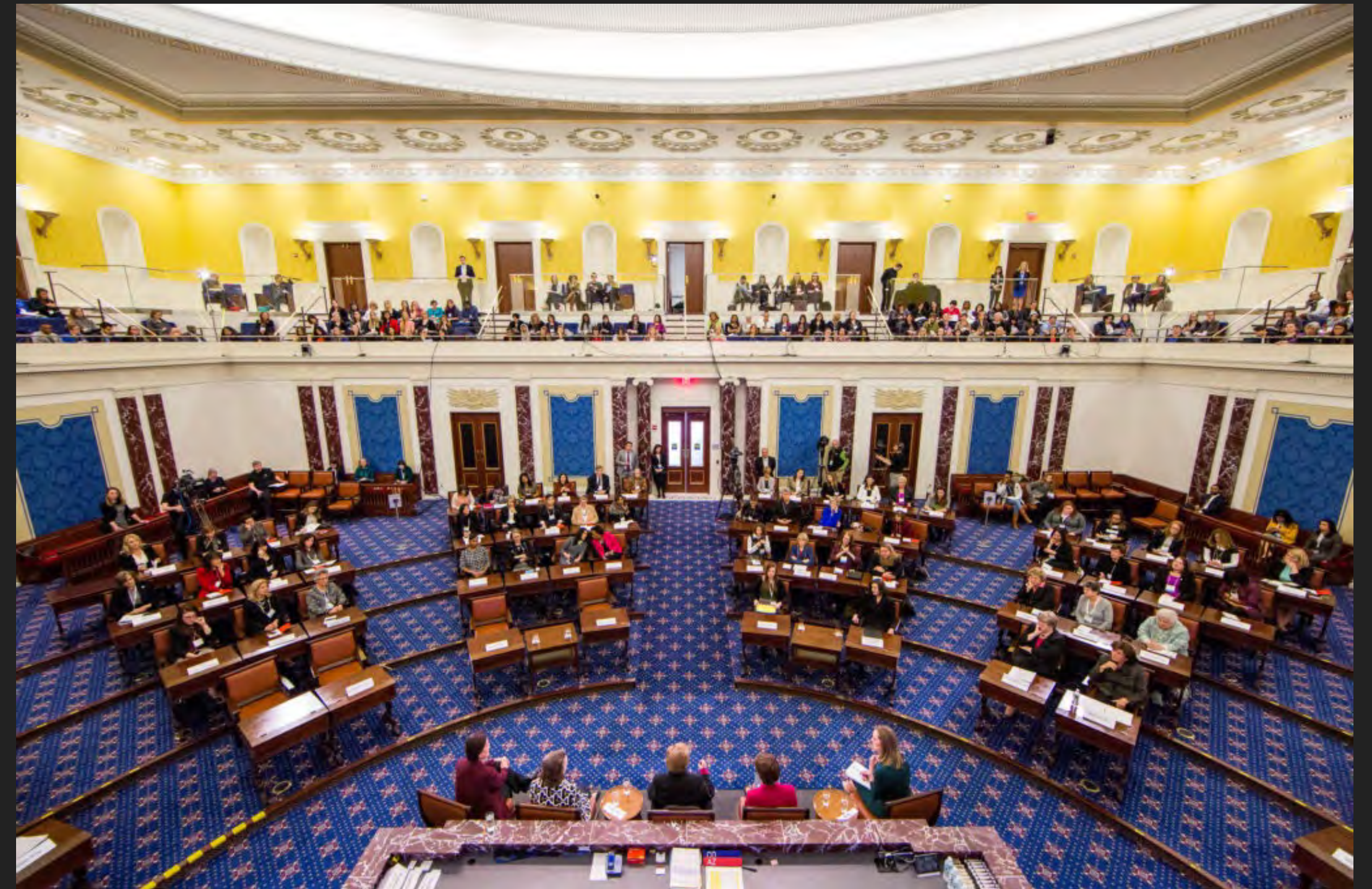
Partisanship

VIEW OF POLICY MAKING

- ▶ When candidates take office, they typically have an agenda—a set of goals and policies they have promised to enact.
- ▶ There are two broad views of policy making:
 - ▶ Majoritarian policy making: when politicians enact the will of the majority.
 - ▶ Why is this good? What could make it problematic?
 - ▶ Interest group policy making: when political leaders respond to a pluralist view of government and enact policy
 - ▶ Why is this good? What could make it problematic?

BIG IDEA:

Pluralism is the recognition and affirmation of diversity within a political body to permit the peaceful coexistence of different interests, convictions, and lifestyles.





AP GOVERNMENT

Unit 5: Political Participation: Elections

QUICK REVIEW

- ▶ Four broad ideologies still drive the American national election process.
 - ▶ Popular sovereignty
 - ▶ Individualism
 - ▶ Republicanism
 - ▶ Federalism
- ▶ Take a moment to review the four. Define and provide a reason why they are essential to the way we elect candidates.



IOWA AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ▶ Iowa is the first caucus every four years.
- ▶ New Hampshire is, by state law, the first primary every four years.
- ▶ Other states have moved their primaries up in the calendar, too, a front-loading that often sees primary season wrap up very early.
- ▶ Some have called for reforms like a national primary day or a few because IA and NH do not represent the nation.
 - ▶ Ethanol
 - ▶ Race
- ▶ Super Tuesday is an important early date when a lot of states hold their votes.

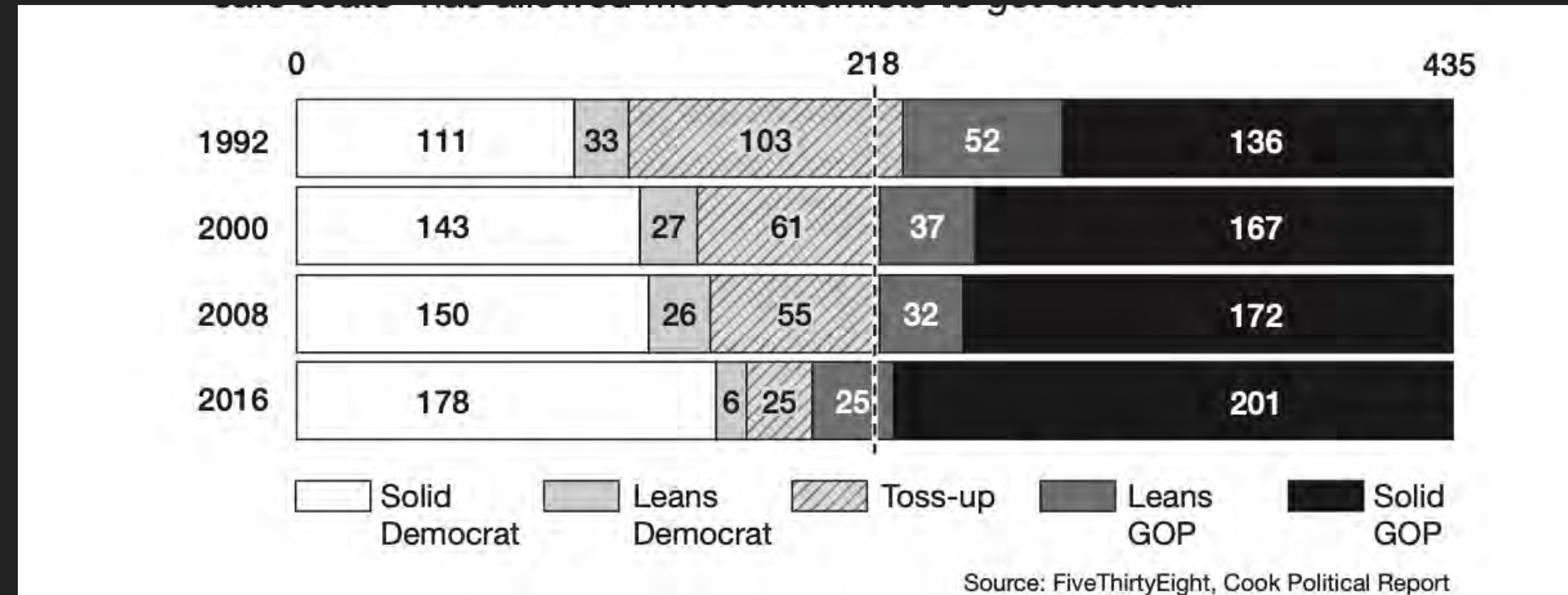


**So My
Daughter
Knows**

**She Can Be
President.
Hillary 16**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ▶ Every member of the House has to face re-election every two years.
- ▶ 1/3 of the Senators face re-election every two years, ensuring more continuity in the body.
- ▶ Senators must win election across the whole state; members of the House represent districts inside their states.
- ▶ Gerrymandering has created a situation where over 75% of House seats are considered safe seats, where either a D or R win is almost assured.





AP Government Review

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

15 - 22%

HOW MUCH OF THE TEST WILL COME FROM UNIT 1?

LAST MONTH REVIEW STRATEGY

BIG ARGUMENTS

Make sure you can articulate answers, develop thesis statements, and contextualize these big arguments.

KEY POINTS

Review these key points, narrowed down from our notes throughout the year. Pay particular attention to bolded terms.

CONTEXT

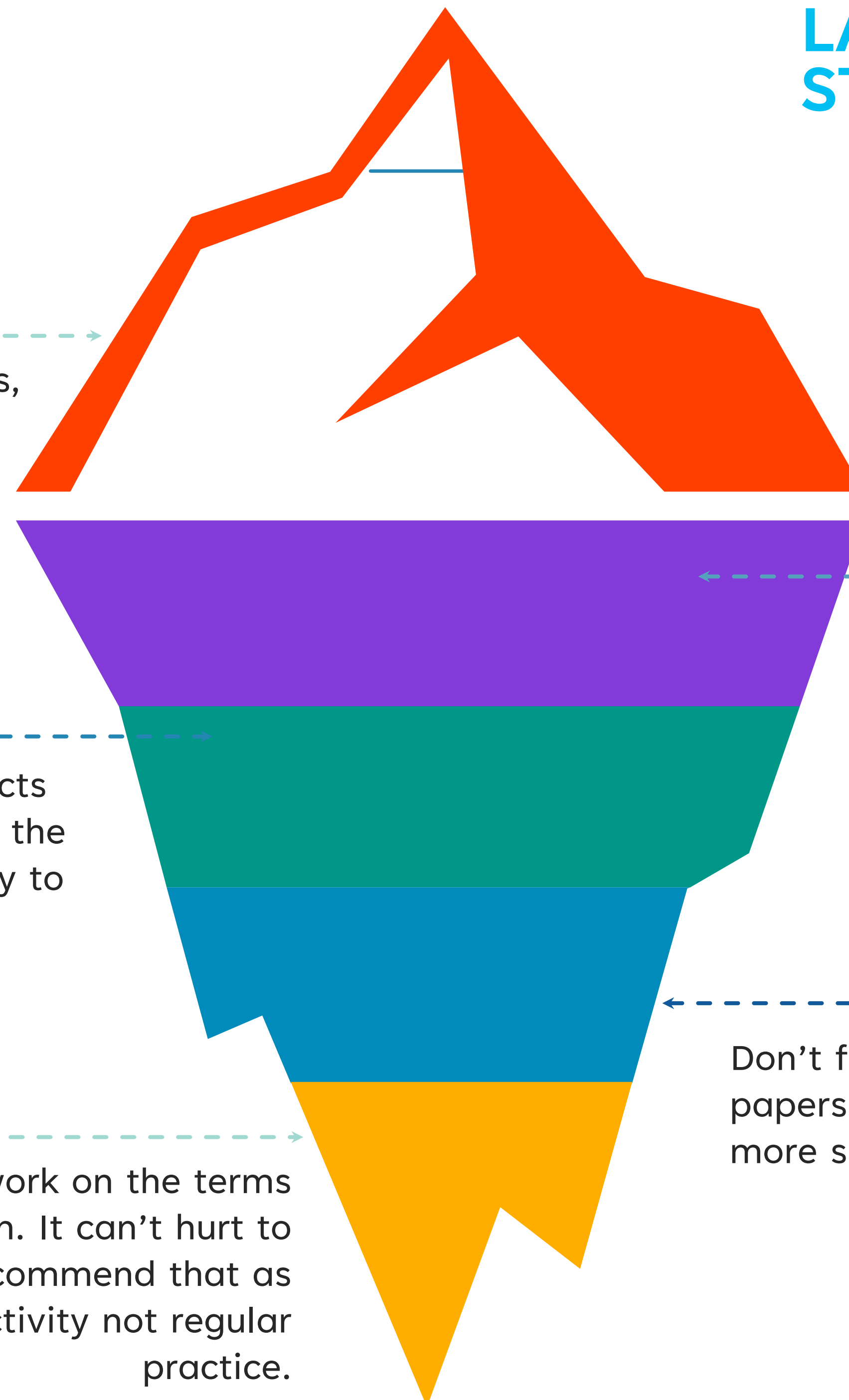
Think about how each unit connects to others. For instance, how does the compromise that denied humanity to slaves connect to the Civil Rights Movement?

TEST PREP

Don't forget to review rubrics, sample papers, multiple choice questions and more specific test prep!

TERMS

Your lowest priority is to work on the terms at the end of the presentation. It can't hurt to review those, but I would recommend that as a quick, periodic Quizlet activity not regular practice.



THE BIG ARGUMENTS

MAJOR THEMES AND CONCEPTS

THE BIG ARGUMENTS

- ✓ The US Constitution emerged from a mixture of the political ideals of the Enlightenment, the revolutionary impulses of the rebellion, a spirit of compromise, the failures of the Articles of Confederation, and a willingness to limit the extension of rights to some Americans.
- ✓ The Constitution rests on these core principles: limited government, republicanism (not democracy), federalism, checks and balances, and popular sovereignty.
- ✓ The Constitution represents an effort to balance order and liberty.
- ✓ Over time, the balance of power has shifted dramatically from the states to the federal government, but there is increasing pressure from right and left to restore local/state authority.
- ✓ Debate over the allocation of power (from President to Congress, state to federal) has been a core struggle in American government.
- ✓ The founders deliberately created a system of complex governance to limit and even slow the response of government.

CONSTITUTION

- ▶ The Constitution rests on the idea that the government needed to be strong enough to preserve order but not so strong that it would undermine liberty, a balance between democracy and elite power.
- ▶ The Great Compromise created the House (based on population) and the Senate (two per state).
- ▶ The 3/5th Compromise (“the original stain”) counted slaves as 3/5 a person for representation.



POWER!

- ▶ **Federal power**
 - ▶ **Enumerated Powers: listed in the Constitution**
 - ▶ **Implied Powers: the Elastic Clause**
 - ▶ **Inherent Powers: all governments have these**
- ▶ **State Power**
 - ▶ **Reserved power: exclusive to the states**
 - ▶ **Concurrent powers: shared between federal and state governments**
 - ▶ **Prohibited powers: things the states cannot do**



TERMS

IT CAN'T HURT TO KNOW WHAT THESE MEAN

KEY TERMS

- ▶ 10th amendment
- ▶ 3/5th Compromise
- ▶ anti-federalists
- ▶ Articles of Confederation
- ▶ Baron de Montesquieu
- ▶ bicameralism
- ▶ Bill of Attainder
- ▶ Bill of Rights
- ▶ block grants
- ▶ categorical grants
- ▶ checks and balances
- ▶ Civil War Amendments
- ▶ Commerce Clause
- ▶ Concurrent Powers
- ▶ Confederation
- ▶ cooperative federalism
- ▶ dual federalism
- ▶ Elastic Clause
- ▶ Electoral College
- ▶ elite and class theory
- ▶ Eminent Domain
- ▶ enumerated powers
- ▶ Ex Post Facto Law
- ▶ extradition
- ▶ faction
- ▶ federalism
- ▶ Federalist Papers
- ▶ federalists
- ▶ fiscal federalism
- ▶ formula grants
- ▶ Full and Faith Credit Clause
- ▶ full faith and credit
- ▶ Great Compromise
- ▶ hyperpluralism
- ▶ implied powers
- ▶ Interstate Commerce
- ▶ Interstate Compact
- ▶ Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- ▶ John Locke
- ▶ Judicial Review
- ▶ limited government
- ▶ Madison Model
- ▶ Mandate
- ▶ natural rights
- ▶ Necessary and Proper Clause (Elastic Cause)
- ▶ Nullification
- ▶ pluralism
- ▶ popular sovereignty
- ▶ Privileges and Immunities Clause
- ▶ project grants
- ▶ Reserved Powers
- ▶ separation of powers
- ▶ Social Contract Theory
- ▶ Super Majorities
- ▶ Supremacy Clause
- ▶ Thomas Hobbes
- ▶ unicameralism
- ▶ unitary governments
- ▶ writ of habeas corpus