

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

www.geocities.com/socialstudiesjhscunningt@jenkintown.org

Unit Outcomes

1. Understand the purposes for which government exists.
2. Understand the major forms of government in the world today.
3. Understand the major concepts of American democracy.

Materials

Text, chapter 1

Unit Outline

- I. What is government?
- II. the state
 - A. characteristics
 - B. origins (four theories)
- III. the purpose of government
- IV. classifying governments
 - A. geographic distribution of power
 - B. relationship between the legislative and executive branches
 - C. the number who can participate
- V. basic concepts of democracy in the United States
 - A. a recognition of the fundamental worth of the individual
 - B. a respect for the equality of all persons
 - C. a faith in the majority rule and an insistence upon minority rights
 - D. an acceptance of the necessity of compromise
 - E. an insistence upon the widest possible degree of individual freedom

Terminology (names and quotations)

government/politics
presidential government
anarchy
direct democracy
confederation
dictatorship
unitary government
sovereignty

federal government
divine right theory
parliamentary government
social contract theory
democracy
evolutionary theory
representative democracy
(republic)

force theory
John Locke
Thomas Hobbes
Jean Jacques Rousseau
James Harrington
laissez faire
law
oligarchy

If men were angels no government would be necessary (James Madison)

The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins. (Oliver Wendell Holmes)

The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened. (John F. Kennedy)

Must a government of necessity be too strong for the liberties of its own people or too weak to maintain its existence? (Abraham Lincoln)

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. (Preamble, U.S. Constitution)