Participating in Government

Chapter 19: Public Opinion and Interest Groups

**Lesson 1: Shaping Public**

1. Public Opinion and Democracy

* goals the Framers of the constitution wanted in our representative government:
  + Provide popular rule
  + Keep the government separate from the changing whims of an ill-informed public
* Research shows that the  responds to public opinion
* on public policy: interest groups, political parties, the mass media, and activists
* and  officials need to understand how opinions are formed, because public opinion does influence government

1. Political Socialization

* This is the process for which learn their  beliefs and attitudes
* They can learn it from , school, friends, , and other sources
* The process starts early in life can continues till a person is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Political socialization has a major influence on how people form their **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Family and Home Influence

* This is where political  begins
* learn many of their early political **opinions** from their parents
* More than  of all adult voters continue to favor the  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** party their parents supported

1. Schools and Peer Groups

* also play an important part in political socialization
* All students in the US learn the United States  & **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** system
* values are also learned in school clubs and through rules and regulations
* A person’s  groups can also play a part in political socialization
* A person’s peer group often  and shape opinions.

1. Personal Experiences

* Personal experiences are the way a person interacts with the and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** systems
* A person’s  and  statuses affect a person and thus influence their political socialization
* A person’s political opinions may be affected by that person’s **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* A person’s political opinions can also be influenced by their , sex, or place where they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The Mass Media

* The  media does play a role in political socialization
* Mass media from various sources of  such as the Internet, television, radio, newspapers, magazines, movies, and books
* The  and  provide political information and images that can directly influence the political attitudes
* The way the media show different groups can discredit  or reinforce them

1. Other Influences

* leaders, interest groups, and religious **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** also play important roles in political socialization
* The  because of the news media can influence people’s opinion
* Members of  try to influence opinions, by talking to constituents or use mass media
* groups shape public opinion by trying to win public support of their groups goals

1. Political Culture

* Political socialization is also where a person learns the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** culture of your nature.
* Political culture is a set of  values and beliefs about a nation and its government that most citizens **\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* Political culture in  and  can be seen in many patriotic songs
* The  political culture includes the Constitution, and Bill of Rights, and commitment to the idea of political equality
* Political culture sets the  within which citizens develop and express their opinions
* A nation’s culture also influences how its citizens **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** what they see and hear every day
* Political culture affects how Americans see the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Political Efficacy

* Political efficacy refers to a person’s belief that he or she can have an **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on government and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* Some people join  groups because they believe being party of group will increase their political impact
* This is an important part of a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* would be unable to carry out the concept of government “of the people, by the people, and for the people” if their citizens did not participate.

1. The Nature of Public Opinion

* Public opinion is a major reason that affects an American’s opinion
* Opinion refers to the ideas and attitudes that a significant number of Americans hold about government and political issues
* factors describe the nature of public opinion
  + Diversity
  + Communication
  + Significant Numbers

**Lesson 2: Measuring Public Opinion**

1. Nonscientific Methods

* American express their at the ballot box
* Party have long been a reliable source of information about public opinion
* Mass is another source that shows public attitudes
* Many of the sources that show  opinion may give a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** view of public opinion
* One way that  gauge public opinion is by the number of letters, emails, calls, and faxes they receive on different issues
* Straw poll is an  way to measure public opinion
* polls are where newspapers, tv shows, radio stations, and websites ask their audiences to vote on different questions and then publish the results
* Straw polls are always a  sample of the  because the people who take the poll self-select.
* A sample is a group that does not accurately represent the larger population

1. Sampling

* A group of people that will be studied in a poll is called the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* sample is a small group of people who are typical of that universe
* Random sampling is a  in which everyone in that **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** has an equal chance of being selected.
* error is a measurement of how much the sample results might differ from the sample universe

1. Asking Questions

* They way a question is worded can greatly influence people’s **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and the poll results
* Poll  must be clearly worded so there is no confusion
* Questions that include too many  produce results that are hard to interpret.
* questions can take multiple forms

1. Interpreting Results

* Polling is never completely **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* Pollsters cannot be sure that the people they are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** are being honest
* Polling  have learned how to conduct polls that are usually reliable within a few percentage points
* Pollsters have to know the  error when interpreting polls
* When  polls you must also know who paid for the polls

1. Uses of Polling Data

* Some polls show that  hold strong views on one side of an issue, and thus  will introduce a bill on the issue
* Public officials must consider opinion when making decisions
* They report results as news, especially during election season
* Exit polls involve  voters as they leave the  **\_\_\_** place and asking for whom they voted

**Lesson 3: Interest Groups and Their Roles**

1. Power of Interest Groups

* Interest  is a group of people who share common goals and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to influence government
* Interest groups are an important  of American civil society
* Civil society is the network of  associations that exist outside of government in any  society
* Many of  early leaders believed that interest groups could make  difficult
* Today Americans have  interest groups to pressure all **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of government

1. The Purpose of Interest Groups

* Interest groups help connect the people and the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* People communicate their “” or policy goals to government **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** through interest groups
* Interest groups also act as  and protest government policies that harm their members
* Most interest groups do not exist only to  public policy, they also influence business and supporting research
* Interest groups  their members and the public, and meet the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of their people

1. Political Power

* Interest groups follow the  principle “There is strength in numbers.”
* Interest groups are **\_\_\_\_\_\_** and because of that interest groups have a stronger bargaining position with leaders in **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** than an individual would
* The number of members needed to  government leaders changes with the size of the  involved
* An interest group draws from the resources and expert knowledge of its many members on the state and national levels
* An interest group that is  and has enough resources can have influence far beyond the power of its **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** members

1. Leadership and Membership

* Interest group  strengthen the political power of the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** by uniting its members
* People join  groups to protect or promote their **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** self-interest
* People join to put their  into policy or into  action to help others
* People join  groups for social reasons, because **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** promotes group  and political goals

1. Types of Interest Groups

* Interest Groups-are concerned about taxes, food prices, housing, inflation, and unemployment.
* Interest Groups-focus their work on influencing policies that they believe affect the general public.
* Rights Groups-have been formed to protect the rights of various groups throughout US History
* Groups-are the most effective interest group because they focus on one particular issue
* Interest Groups-promote broad policies based on their core political or religious beliefs
* Interest Groups-promote specific religious traditions
* Interest Groups-they represent specific professions
* Interest Groups-represents the workers and leaders in American government at all levels

**Lesson 4: Affecting Public Policy**

1. Lobbying

* Interest  work to influence public policy wherever it is made.
* is the direct contact that interest groups take to persuade lawmakers
* are paid representatives of an interest group
* lobbying refers to political advocacy efforts carried out by the general public and members of interests groups
* Lobbyists work to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** legislators at all levels of government

1. Who are Lobbyists?

* Federal laws says that a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is anyone who:
  + Is employed by a client to contact government officials about federal legislation or policy
  + Makes more than one contact for the client
  + Spends more than 20% of his or her time serving the client
* Professional **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** who work at the federal level must register with the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** government so their **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** activities can be monitored
* Many lobbyists are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** government officials
* Congress placed a time **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on how soon senators and representatives may become lobbyists
* Other lobbyists are often **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** or **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** relations experts.