

The Logic of American Politics, 7th edition Transition Guide

OVERALL

- **New learning objectives** provide measurable takeaways for each chapter.
- **Streamlined content** delivers a tighter focus on what matters most.
- **New policy chapter:** A completely new Chapter 15 now focuses on policy as it asks, Is There a Logic to Policymaking?
- **Updated throughout** to reflect:
 - the impact of the Affordable Care Act’s implementation, including the politics of Medicaid expansion under Obamacare;
 - states’ rights and the battle over Common Core standards in education;
 - increasing legalization of marijuana and same-sex marriage in the states;
 - the implications of the Supreme Court’s *Schuette* decision on affirmative action;
 - debate over Obama’s executive order on the state of immigration reform and its impact;
 - the outlook of a House and Senate united under a Republican majority in an environment of continued partisanship and polarization;
 - the political costs of poor policy implementation with the troubled rollout of HealthCare.gov and the controversy surrounding the Veterans Affairs Administration’s care for men and women in uniform;
 - the further entrenchment of partisanship in the aftermath of the 2014 midterm elections; and
 - how, two years after the Democratic “shellacking” in 2010, President Barack Obama won reelection to the White House—and two years later, his party lost again in midterm elections. Did the Republican Party reinvent itself between 2012 and 2014 or were these changes in congressional seats expected? Is this the beginning of a great Republican realignment or will Democrats emerge as strong in 2016 as they were in 2008 and 2012?

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER

Chapter 1 The Logic of American Politics

- The chapter-opening vignette is updated to reflect on how the Democratic losses in the 2014 midterms were not nearly as surprising as the “shellacking” the party received in 2010.
- Under the main section “Representative Government” the subheading “Majority Rule versus the Republic” has been removed, but the associated content remains.
- Under that same main section, the subheading “Politicians” and related content is removed, including Figure 1-3 Comparing the American and British Constitutional Systems.
- Beneath the main heading “The Work of Government” the subheading “Mitigating ‘Popular Passions’” is changed to “Collective Action and America’s Constitution.”

Chapter 2 The Constitution

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Chapter 3 Federalism

- The chapter-opening vignette is updated to note changes in state legalization of marijuana, including the passage of Oregon’s marijuana initiative in 2014 and approval of a similar measure by DC voters, although the capital’s measure may be blocked by Congress.
- *New Politics to Policy* box “Free Federal Dollars? No Thanks, I’ll Take Political Currency Instead” considers the Affordable Care Act’s provision to expand state Medicaid programs and how, through the Supreme Court’s 2012 decision in *NFIB v. Sebelius*, state leaders are able to oppose Obamacare by refusing federal dollars and Medicaid expansion, thus stymieing the policy’s implementation and leaving millions of low-income Americans without health insurance.
- *New Strategy and Choice* box “Governor Rick Perry’s Business Pitch” highlights the cutthroat competition between states to win businesses within their borders. While in office, former Texas governor Rick Perry ran a multipronged campaign to lure businesses away from other states and offered steep financial incentives. He’s faced criticism that those incentives have resulted in a net loss, but other states have followed suit in an attempt to compete.
- Table 3-2, Abortion Rights Foes Secure State-Level Restrictions, has been removed.
- *New Politics to Policy* box “States Rights Meeting Reading, Writing, and ‘Rithmetic in the Battle Over the Common Core” examines the states’ rights issues behind the Common Core, a set of national educational standards initiated by governors. The Obama administration got involved by offering a financial incentive to states through “Race to the Top” educational grants, but once the standards rolled out, states began to balk at the focus on what some claimed was testing over teaching and others asserted was a step toward an unwanted “national curriculum.”

Chapter 4 Civil Rights

- Figure 4-1, Attention to Civil Rights in Nonsouthern State Party Platforms, 1920–1965, is removed.
- Under the subheading “The Civil Rights Movement: 1960s” the section on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 now reflects the Supreme Court’s 2013 ruling that eliminates the pre-clearance requirement.
- Table 4-2, The Emergence of Black Politicians: A Result of the Surge in Black Voting, is removed.
- The subheading “The Era of Remedial Action: The 1970s to the Present” contains a significantly revised overview of civil rights in the United States since the 1970s, including national policy attempts to eliminate discrimination in residential housing, employment, and schools through affirmative action, quotas, and other measures. It also addresses challenges to these policies, particularly in university admissions programs and a 2014 decision by the Supreme Court that a state’s voters had the authority to remove authority it had delegated to university administrators.
- The subheading “The Modern History of Women’s Rights” contains a new paragraph about how the Equal Rights Amendment’s failed passage at the national level did not

preclude action at the state level. In 2014 Oregon became the twenty-third state to guarantee equal rights to women in its state constitution.

- The “Gay Rights” subheading is updated with a new paragraph on the Supreme Court’s 2013 ruling that DOMA violates the constitutional rights of same-sex couples, with the result of many federal judges recognizing the validity of same-sex marriages, a topic that the Supreme Court will soon need to consider.

Chapter 5 Civil Liberties

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Chapter 6 Congress

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Chapter 7 The Presidency

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Chapter 8 The Bureaucracy

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Chapter 9 The Federal Judiciary

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Chapter 10 Public Opinion

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Chapter 11 Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

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Chapter 12 Political Parties

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Chapter 13 Interest Groups

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Chapter 14 The News Media

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***New* Chapter 15 Is There a Logic to Policymaking?**

This new chapter illustrates that there is a noticeable logic that guides American politics. Using the concepts covered throughout *Logic*, the chapter yields insights into the sources of policy problems, points to possible solutions, and explains why agreement on those solutions is often difficult to achieve. Through five vignettes, Chapter 15 shows:

- how **health reform** advocates needed to stop young, healthy individuals who opt out of health coverage from free-riding the system;
- why the tragedy of the commons dynamic makes it so difficult for any single nation to address **global climate change**;

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- the reasons why the federal government often edges right up to a **fiscal cliff** but never quite tumbles over;
- the way that the prisoner's dilemma influences who would reform **Social Security and Medicare**; and
- a comparison of two efforts of **tax reform** that study why collective action worked in one instance and not the other.