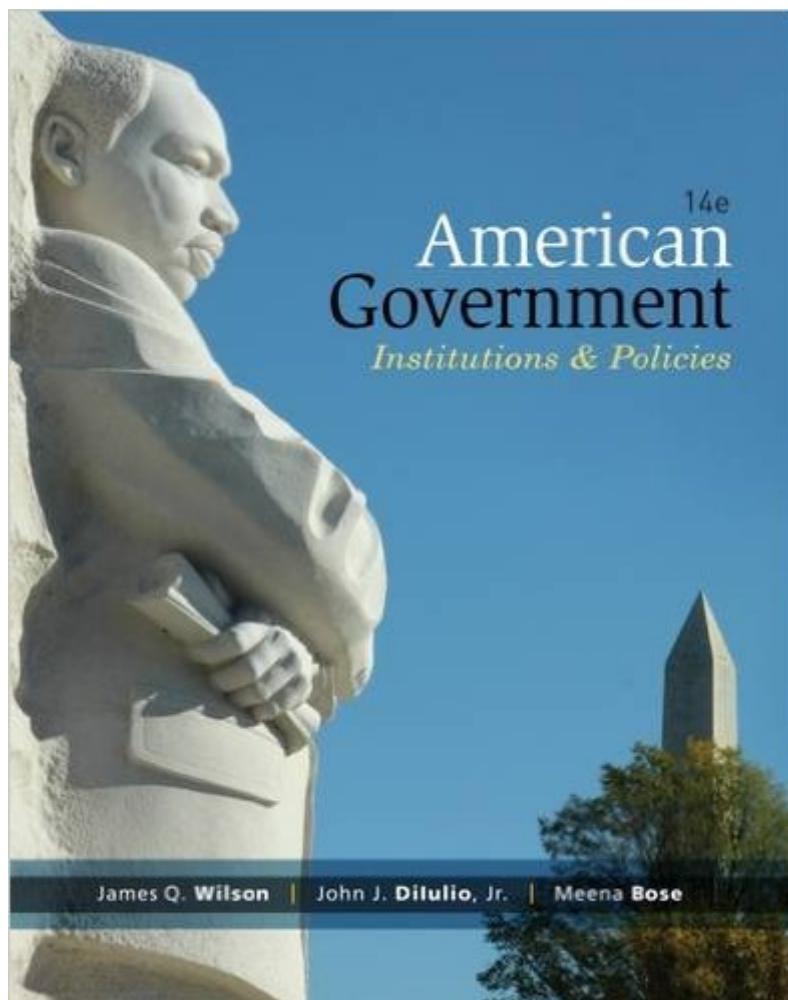


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# American Government: Institutions And Policies, 14th Edition



## **Synopsis**

Acclaimed for the scholarship of its prominent authors and the clarity of its narrative, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES sets the standard for public policy coverage while maintaining focus on three fundamental topics: the institutions of American government; the historical development of governmental procedures, actors, and policies; and who governs in the United States and to what ends. Reader involvement in the material is bolstered by features such as learning objectives, "Constitutional Connections" relating current issues to founding principles, and "How Things Work" boxes that illustrate important concepts. Available separately, a state-of-the-art media package with online tools makes the learning experience engaging and accessible.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I used this text regularly, from about 1988 to 2012. The principal author, James Q. Wilson has, unfortunately, passed. It is/was a "classic text," as they say, but carries some of the negative aspects of that kind of characterization. College professors may find it more "civics" oriented than "political science" oriented - perhaps the result of a marketing strategy. The earliest chapters (The Constitution, Political Culture, Public Opinion) are some of the strongest, but with each edition, it seems there is less and less emphasis on research and data (in charts). The chapter on Campaigns and Elections is almost pure fluff but the chapter on Political Participation is outstanding. The chapters on political institutions are perhaps the most disappointing. The Congress chapter is way too long and, again, high schoolish. The presidency chapter is about 90 percent straight up history,

but the judicial chapter is/always has been the least impressive in terms of reflecting writing and research in the discipline. It spends a lot of time on judicial process and judicial review (something rarely used by the Court) and yet offers no comprehensive data on the topic. The discussion on confirmation of Supreme Court justices is weak. Re judicial decision making: It is almost like Pitchett, Schubert and Spaeth never existed. The Civil Rights and Civil Liberties chapters are tolerable but not without problems. For a couple of editions, the Civil Liberties chapter clumsily confused the facts of two cases (a mathematical error re the Electoral College traveled across several editions as well). The section covering Church and State is horribly written, apparently aimed at convincing students that this is a confusing area of law. Well, no @!#\$.

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