CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
Chapter I	
THE ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	
In what sense did the American colonial government foreshadow the federalism of the future?	7
What were some of the organized attempts at establishing the union?	9
What is the essential difference between a confederation and a federation?	10
Why was the Albany Congress summoned and what was the Albany Plan?	10
What was the Stamp Act Congress?	11
What were the Committees of Correspondence?	13
What events sparked off the convocation of the First Continental Congress?	14
Why was the Second Continental Congress summoned?	16
What other gevernmental powers did the Second Continental Congress exercise?	17
Charter II	
Chapter II THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED STATES	
	18
How was the Declaration of Independence drafted and proclaimed?	19
What is the content of the Declaration of Independence?	20
What philosophical theory was the Declaration of Independence founded on?	20
Why were the Articles of Confederation drafted and how powerful was the national government under this document?	20
What were the most important achievements of the American government under the Articles of	20
Confederation?	21
What are the essential points concerning the Constitutional Convention of 1787?	22
What was the philosophical theory underlying the American Constitution of 1787?	24
What exactly is the Bill of Rights? How do some of its provisions function in the execution of justice	
today?	25
How can the Constitution be amended? What amendments followed the Bill of Rights?	28
In what sense does the US Constitution change?	30
Why are most Americans so proud of their Constitution?	32
What was the fate of the original documents of the Declaration of Independence and of the federal	
Constitution?	33
What is the origin of the American flag?	33
What is the origin of the American national emblem?	34
What is the origin of the American anthem?	34
Who is Uncle Sam?	35
Chapter III	
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS	
What is the structure of the federal legislature?	36
In what way is Congress today a continuation of the Continental Congresses and of the first	30
Congress under the Constitution?	37

	38
What is the membership of Congress?	38
What are the constitutional qualifications for Representatives and for Senators?	39
Who are the key members in Congress?	39
What is the meaning of the term "Congressman" Do members of Congress really represent the people?	
Do members of Congress really represent the people;	39
What is the social and professional background of the majority of members?	40
What factors contribute to the decentralization of power in Congress?	41
What factors contribute to the decentralization of power in Congress. What powers does the Constitution vest in Congress?	41
What powers does the Constitution vest in Congress:	42
What are the exclusive powers of each chamber of Congress?	43
What exactly is impeachment?	46
What are the main functions of Congress roday: What is the congressional committee system?	46
What is the congressional committee system: How many committees and subcommittees are there in Congress?	46
What is the role of the political party machinery in Congress?	47
What is the role of the political party machinery in Congress: What exactly is the "seniority rule"? What are the powers of the committee chairman?	48
How does Congress perform its law-making function?	49
How does a committee act on a bill?	50
What exactly is a Senate "filibuster"?	51
What exactly is a Senate 'Infousier':	52
What is the role of pressure groups and lobbies in the US political system?	53
In what way are pressure groups and lobby ists involved with Congress?	53
Which are some of the powerful lobby groups in the US?	54
How does Congress perform its function of oversight?	55
What is the congressional function of "casework"?	57
What is the congressional function of Casework	
Chapter IV	
THE PRESIDENCY AND THE PRESIDENT	
the standard of the standard o	
Why is the United States government designated presidential and not a cabinet or parliamentary	58
system?	59
How powerful is the office of the Presidency today?	59
How was it originally planned by the Founding Fathers?	62
What factors have most strongly contributed to the growth of the Presidency?	63
What are the President's main constitutional and extra-constitutional powers and responsibilities?	65
What are the most important checks on the Presidential powers?	65
By what tactics can the President evade the checks imposed on him? What is the general structure of the executive branch of government?	69
What is the general structure of the executive branch of government: What is the White House and how did this What exactly is the Executive Office of the President? What is the White House and how did this	
What exactly is the Executive Office of the President: what is the what is the	71
name originate? What functions does the Vice-President perform?	73
What functions does the Vice-resident perform: What are the constitutional and extra-constitutional requirements to candidates for the US	
What are the constitutional and extra-constitutional requirements	74
Presidency? What is the typical background of American Presidents?	7
What is the typical background of American Freshdents. How does the President begin his official duties?	70
How does the President begin his official duties: How many terms can a President serve?	7
Which Presidents did not complete their terms of office?	7
	77
	7
What privileges and benefits do American President selloy. What are the main roles that the American President plays today?	78
What are the main roles that the American recondent plays to any	
Class V	
Chapter V	
THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY	
How are federal judiciary powers vested?	8
What kind of law is applied by American judges?	8

What is the relation of federal laws to state laws?	83
What is the meaning of "due process of law"?	84
What does trial by jury really mean?	85
What does "subpoena" mean? How was it applied in the Watergate Affair?	86
What is the power of "judicial review"?	86
In what way is the Supreme Court involved in politics?	87
Is "judicial review" the primary function of the Supreme Court?	89
What is the jurisdiction of federal courts?	89
Which cases are covered by state jurisdiction?	90
Which court does a case of assassination of a US President go to?	90
What is the relation between federal and state courts?	90
What is the structure of the federal judiciary?	91
How are the federal courts of general jurisdiction organized?	91
What are the federal courts of special jurisdiction?	200
What cases go to the Supreme Court?	92
How are federal judges chosen? What are their terms of office and their salaries?	92
Can the President significantly influence the character of the Supreme Court?	92
What is the relation between the federal courts system and the Department of Justice?	93
In what way are state and local judiciary systems patterned after the federal model?	93
and way are state and occar judiciary systems patterned after the federal model:	94
Chapter VI	
POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS	
TOTAL TARTES AND ELECTIONS	
What are the reasons for discussing the American political parties under the same heading as the	
electoral system?	
Why is the United States said to have a two-party system?	96
How many political position are those in the United States	97
How many political parties are there in the United States?	99
What were the most important stages in the growth of American working-class organizations and	Louis.
parties?	101
What are the origins of the Communist Party of the United States and what has been the status and	100
role of this party on the American political scene?	104
What are the differences between the Democratic and Republican parties?	106
What are the essential characteristics of the US party-system?	108
What are the main characteristics of the American electoral system?	109
Why was the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November chosen as general election day?	111
In what way are members of Congress elected?	113
In what way are members of Congress elected? What does "gerrymandering" mean?	113 113
In what way are members of Congress elected? What does "gerrymandering" mean? What are the phases the candidate usually has to go to be elected Senator or Congressman?	113 113 114
In what way are members of Congress elected? What does "gerrymandering" mean?	113 113