**Lesson Notes**

1. Which of America’s core values were adapted from classical political theories?
   1. Liberty
      1. The principle that individuals should be free to act and think as they choose, provided they do not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others
         1. The concept of liberty in America dates back prior to the American Revolution
         2. The early Americans did not accept the European system of absolute government and aristocracy
         3. Following the American Revolution when the early Americans were forming their own government they first chose to protect their liberties
            1. That is why it is the first amendment to the US Constitution
      2. Personal liberties in the US consist of the freedoms of
         1. Speech
         2. Press
         3. Religion
         4. Assembly
         5. Petition
      3. Personal liberties in the US are “unalienable rights”
         1. These rights were outlined by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence
         2. Thomas Jefferson adapted the concept of “unalienable rights” from John Locke’s “life, liberty, and right to property”
   2. Equality
      1. The notion that all individuals are equal in their moral worth and thereby entitled to equal treatment under the law
         1. America broke away from Europe’s rigid aristocratic system by providing white settlers with land ownership
            1. Under Europe’s absolute rule, only aristocrats could own land
            2. Classical political philosopher Thomas Hobbes

wrote in support of absolute rule

Believed that it created stability in society

* + - 1. Equality had a much different meaning at the time when the founders wrote the Declaration of Independence
      2. Equal rights were not afforded to slaves, and Thomas Jefferson himself was a slave owner
    1. The ancient Greeks placed emphasis on equality of opportunity
       1. Their society was merit-based, in which freemen could

participate in the democratic government, rather than inheriting a position because of birthright

* + - 1. This concept was later adopted by America’s founding fathers
         1. Article 1. Sec 9 of the US Constitution says, “the federal government does not grant titles of nobility”
         2. Also, no office shall be passed down for hereditary reasons
    1. The idea of equality has evolved over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries
       1. The abolition of slavery in the 1860s (13th amendment)
       2. The women’s right to vote movement beginning in the early 1900s (19th amendment)
       3. The civil rights movement of the 1960s (Civil Rights Act of 1964)
       4. The marriage equality movement of the 2000s (to be determined)
  1. Consent of the Governed
     1. The consent of the governed is the idea that in a democracy, the government’s power derives from the consent of the people
        1. This idea was the focal point of the rebellion which lead to the American Revolution
        2. Since this was the focal point of the rebellion, Thomas of Jefferson expressed this concept deeply in the Declaration Independence
     2. The consent of the governed was adapted from John Locke’s idea of the social contract which states that people agree to the government’s authority, and if the government no longer has consent of the governed, the people have the right to revolt
     3. The consent of the governed also implies majority rule
        1. Almost all elections in the US are “majority rule” elections
           1. The candidate must receive at least fifty percent of the vote, plus one
           2. In a democratic government, majority rule must protect minority rights
        2. In the presidential election, the winner must win 271 electoral votes to be elected
           1. The total number of electoral votes is 538
           2. The people must agree on their ruler
     4. According to Locke, the most important notion of the consent of the governed was to protect the natural rights of citizens
        1. The people should only revolt against the government in extreme cases
        2. Injustices must be deeply rooted and felt by most citizens

1. What are the works of the classical political theorists?
   1. Plato
      1. Plato’s works often capture the political and intellectual movement of his time in ancient Greece
      2. One of Plato’s most noted pieces of work is titled The Republic
         1. Centers around one central question: what is just?
         2. Makes the connection to politics and ethical behavior
         3. Addresses these terms as the individual or the soul
         4. Addresses two questions
            1. Is the just person happier than the unjust person?
            2. What is the relation between justice and happiness?
      3. Plato touches on several other subjects which include political regimes, education, family, the role of women, and the afterlife
   2. Aristotle
      1. Aristotle’s most famous work on political philosophy is called Politics
         1. This work centers mainly around the city (polis) as a political community
      2. Aristotle believes that man participating in public life is far more virtuous than private life
         1. Aristotle says that this is true because men are “political animals”
         2. A city, or polis, can be whatever type of government they choose, as long as the people accept that form of government
      3. Aristotle considers democracy the least harmful form of government
      4. Parts of Aristotle’s writings in Politics were adopted from Plato’s work in The Republic
         1. There must be justice in a city (polis)
         2. There must be a “just” distribution of power in government
      5. Aristotle said that government was divided into 3 different types, based on the level of participation by the people
         1. Government of One = Tyranny and Royalty
         2. Government of the Few = Aristocracy and Oligarchy
         3. Government of the Many = Constitutional Government and Democracy
   3. Machiavelli
      1. Niccolo Machiavelli’s most famous political work is called The Prince
      2. Like Aristotle and Plato, Machiavelli writes about the relationship between moral goodness and authority
         1. The political power of a ruler is only “just” when he or she practices personal moral character which is virtuous
         2. There is no moral basis for judging the difference between legitimate or illegitimate power
         3. Once a ruler acquires power, his or her only concern is to retain that power
      3. Machiavelli writes about the relationship between law and force
         1. To enforce laws and be taken seriously as a ruler, you must be able to exercise force
         2. Authority is impossible without the power to enforce it
         3. Fear controls the people
      4. The people are accepting of the ruler’s power if the ruler treats them “justly”
   4. Cicero
      1. Published many different works regarding philosophy in ancient Rome
         1. Two of his most notable works regarding government are
            1. On the Republic

Describes the ideal government; he uses the Roman philosophies as an example because during this time it was a mixed government

This mixed government combined elements of Democracy, Aristocracy, and Monarchy

Cicero claims that this form of government can only work if there is a right balance of each of the different types of government (Clayton p.1)

According to Cicero, if the government is left with just aristocracy, it will be the moral decay of society and the government will be destroyed (Clayton p. 1)

Believes that the foundation of a community must be that all people living in the state are involved in the virtue of the state

The people must also have a role with the statesmen and vice versa

* + - * 1. On the Laws

States that as human beings, we can reason, and reason is what has allowed us to discover the principles of justice in society

Therefore, valid law is rooted in nature, and any law not rooted in nature was made by tyrants and should not be considered law

* 1. Confucius
     1. A Chinese philosopher that wrote about how society should participate in government
        1. Wrote about the five relationships in society and each has clearly defined duties
           1. Sovereign and state
           2. Husband and wife
           3. Parent and child
           4. Elder brother and younger brother
           5. Friend and friend
        2. Stated that a ruler should learn self-discipline, then lead by his own example, and treat the people with respect and concern
        3. Claimed that the political institutions had broken down during his time
           1. This claim came from what was said to be too much power in “subordinate” positions
           2. A good government consists of a hierarchical relationship in which each person only operates within the means of his or her own title
           3. There is a basic order in the universe, and society must follow it
        4. Believed a ruler is most effective when he delegates power to his loyal deputies
        5. Believed in Merit Bureaucracy, or civil service, which meant that officials were selected for their moral qualities
           1. Officials were selected based off of merit, rather than wealth
  2. Georg Wilhelm Freidrich Hegel
     1. Worked during the late 1700s, during a period known as “German Idealism”
     2. Wrote several different political works, most of which were never published, but include common themes
        1. He attacks old political concepts which are no longer applicable in the modern world
        2. Old constitutions of countries need to change, but change must be cautious and gradual
        3. Strong central government is necessary but with limited control on public administration and social relations
        4. The citizens must have popular representation
        5. There is not necessarily a need for a separation of powers, but the monarchy must support the constitutional structure
     3. An advocate for a Constitutional Monarchy because he believed in a strong central public authority
        1. Citizens should be treated like a political community rather than excluded units as though they were under the estates
     4. The task of government is not to make everything bureaucratic, but to provide regulation, oversight, and intervention when necessary
     5. Rejects violent popular action, and believes everything can be resolved through equality of the public welfare
  3. Karl Marx
     1. Most remembered, not as a philosopher, but as the founder of the theory of Communism
     2. Communism – an economic system in which government owns most or all major industries and also takes responsibility for overall management of the economy
     3. In the beginning, his work was influenced by Hegel
     4. His most famous work is the Communist Manifesto
     5. Although most of Marx’s writing deals with economic theories, his communist theories apply to the institution of government
        1. Capitalism exploited the citizens of the country
        2. A capitalist economy created class struggle among citizens
     6. Marx felt that if government controlled all means of production, that it would eliminate the “surplus value theory” (profit) and therefore remove social status in society

1. What are the major concepts of the classical political theorists?
   1. Justice – the maintenance or administration of what is just, especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments
      1. Plato
         1. In his Republic, he addresses the concept of justice in society
            1. Happiness in society is dependent on justice
            2. Justice is essential to the quality of life in a government
      2. Aristotle briefly touches on the concept of justice in society
         1. In his Politics
            1. Goes a step further than Plato and states that justice is dependent on the type of government
            2. Justice must be distributed evenly among all citizens
            3. Democracy is the least harmful type of government and also the most “just”
         2. Government of one leads to tyranny among the people and government
            1. The more power that is given to one individual, the less just a society will be
      3. Machiavelli
         1. In The Prince
            1. Much of his philosophy was like Plato’s and Aristotle’s, except for his views on justice in society
            2. A powerful ruler is acceptable if the he rules with moral goodness

Plato and Aristotle would most likely disagree with this statement because, although they believe in moral goodness, a single ruler does not give the citizens freedom to participate in government

Machiavelli believes that the citizens will conform to the single ruler because of fear or injustice

* 1. Participation in government
     1. Aristotle
        1. Participation in government is only truly possible within a democratic form of government
     2. Cicero
        1. Able to expand on Aristotle’s theory of participation in government and state that the ideal government is a mix of different types of government
        2. If there is a mix of each of the government systems, there must be a proper balance between each type
           1. A monarchy provides the foundation for government, while the democratic aspects allow the citizens to participate in the virtue of the state
           2. His discussion about the citizens and the statesmen are much like the American structure of government today

Congressmen represent the citizens on the federal level, but citizens are still urged to participate in the political process

* + 1. Confucius
       1. Wrote in depth about the level of participation in government
       2. Government must have order and a hierarchical structure
       3. Citizens must obey the responsibilities of their role in a society, or it will be chaos
       4. The first to write about the concept of a “merit-based” civil-service exam
          1. This meant that participants were promoted through merit rather than wealth or education
          2. This concept is a part of American society today (i.e. most bureaucratic offices in the US are hired based on their results on the civil-service examination.)
          3. All citizens in the US can participate in the bureaucratic process
  1. Limited powers of the citizens
     1. Machiavelli
        1. The limited power of the people is just, as long as they are being treated with moral goodness
        2. Once a ruler gains power, his or her only concern is to keep that power, even it means using force
     2. Aristotle
        1. One of the first political theorists to discuss the different types of government
        2. Two of the types of government that he discussed gave limited powers to the people
        3. Royalty will eventually lead to tyranny
        4. Oligarchy and Aristocracy are forms of government in which most of the power is delegated to the educated and wealthy citizens
        5. His writings describe the possible dangers of government in which limited powers are given to the citizens
     3. Hegel
        1. His concept of limited government was different than other classical political theorists, such as Aristotle and Machiavelli
        2. Believed in the concept of a monarchy, in which the strong central power lies with a royal family
        3. Believed that the monarchy should support the country’s constitution and the representation of citizens
        4. His writings were said to be examples of the government in England during this time
     4. Marx
        1. His theory of government is the most extreme example of limited powers on society
        2. Based around the government’s complete economic control over all means of production
        3. All decision-making power lies with the government; this eliminates the concept of “class warfare”
  2. Mixed government
     1. Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero all wrote about the concept of a mixed government: a government with qualities of democracy, aristocracy, and oligarchy
        1. This form of mixed government was much more widespread during the time of ancient Greece and ancient Rome
        2. However, mixed government societies existed in different countries throughout history and even today:
           1. In 19th century England, the English government consisted of a King (monarchy), the House of Lords (oligarchy), and the House of Commons (democracy)
           2. Currently, Russia is a mixed government because it has characteristics of presidential systems (oligarchy) and a parliamentary system (democracy)
  3. Communism
     1. Confucius
        1. An ancient Chinese philosopher who still has a tremendous impact on Chinese society
           1. Confucianism was banned by the Communist Party of China when the Communist Party rose to power in the late 1940s
           2. It was not until the 1990s that China began to recognize the writings of Confucianism again
           3. The Communist Party of China did not support Confucianism; they believed it was more of an Aristocratic type of government
        2. Confucian supporters were banished from China in 1949 and exiled to what is now modern-day Taiwan
           1. Since their banishment to Taiwan, they have continued to practice Confucian beliefs, even today
     2. Karl Marx
        1. Influential in leading the formation of the communist states of the Soviet Union and China
           1. In 1922, the Soviet Union was a communist state which consisted of modern day Russia and several countries in Eastern Europe
           2. The communist theories of Marx eventually ran their economic course in the Soviet Union, and in 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving the region in a political and economic mess
           3. In 1949, the Communist Party of China could overthrow the Nationalist Party, and China became a communist country until the late 1970s when they began major economic reforms
  4. Constitutional Monarchy
     1. Georg Hegel’s political theory very much embodies that of a Constitutional Monarchy system
     2. Although Hegel was from Germany, many of his writings were about the governmental system of England
        1. England’s government is a Constitutional Monarchy
        2. The English Reform Bill of the mid 1800s gave citizens more representation in government
     3. Hegel believes that the head of state, or the monarch, should be based on a line in the hereditary succession
     4. The central government, or parliament is in place to control regulation and oversight to public administration
        1. The lower house, or the House of Commons, is a way for citizens to be represented by elected officials

1. What are career opportunities available in the US?
   1. Political Science Teacher
      1. Political Science or government teachers must be well versed in the works of classical political theorists, even at the secondary level
         1. Secondary-level teachers study John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau because of their influences on founding documents like the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution
         2. College professors can become more specialized in their study of classical political theorists
         3. Many college professors teach entire classes devoted to the political theories of an ancient era
      2. A political science teaching position at the secondary level requires that teachers have a college degree in political science or a government-related field
         1. Secondary-level teachers are also required by the state to pass a content exam before they can become a certified teacher
      3. A college professor of political science is much different than a secondary level teacher
         1. A college professor has an advanced level degree, a Master’s or PhD
         2. Professors usually teach classes that are based on their research in that particular field
         3. As part of their employment, the university also expects them to publish their work in the form of books or scholarly journals
      4. Although most of the work done by these classical political theorists is centuries old, new research is important because of its application to the evolving political process in America and around the world
   2. Civil Service Examinations
      1. Confucius developed the idea of a civil service examination in which positions would be based on merit, rather than wealth or heritage
      2. This concept was adopted by the US and is a part of many of the bureaucratic agencies in the US
      3. Some of the agencies in the US that require a type of civil service exam include
         1. Border Patrol
         2. Air Traffic Controllers
         3. Federal Bureau of Investigation
         4. Internal Revenue Service
         5. United States Postal Service
         6. Secret Service
         7. Transportation Security Agency
         8. US Customs
         9. Central Intelligence Agency
         10. Foreign Service Workers
      4. All federal jobs are paid in accordance with the federal pay scale, which is based on position and experience