

POLS 4530: Political Parties

Agenda Topic 1

A. The English Context -- American Institutions are *English*

1. Political -- Representative Government; Separation of Powers; the Common Law
2. Economic -- Private Property Rights Enforced by Government

B. General Theme -- The interaction of Private Property Rights and Representative Democracy. This interaction is *dynamic* and produces feedback effects between the Political System and the Economic System. Geographic Based Representation Precludes a Parliamentary style system. Plurality Election Produces 2 Political Parties.

1. Inventors and Entrepreneurs Create things! These creations produce *Unanticipated Structural Changes in the Economy and the social system!*
2. These Unanticipated Structure Changes Generate *Massive Ripple Effects* in the Economic and Political Systems.
3. These Ripple Effects Produce a Political Response.
4. The Political Responses produces a *Feedback* into the Economic System by *altering the structure of incentives*.
5. The Nature of the Political Response is shaped by *Ideology*. The Glue that binds together the members of a Political Party is provided by a *set of beliefs* about what is "good" -- Who gets what, who should rule.
6. The Effects of Shocks Go Both Ways -- There can be *Political Shocks* -- War -- that produce Economic Change.

C. The Historical Context of *Federalist # 10*

1. The Colonial Economy
 - a. Virginia: Tobacco and Indentured Servitude
 - b. The Carolinas: Naval Stores, Indigo, and Rice

c. **Georgia: Rice**

d. **New England: Timber, grains, Rum, Ships**

2. Colonial Politics

a. **BiCameral Legislatures -- House of Burgesses in Virginia founded 1619**

- **Population Based**
- **Legislatures Expanded as Population Expanded**
- **Legislatures *Very Active* -- Land had to be distributed; public facilities had to be provided for an ever rapidly growing population**

b. **Social Classes were *Very Fluid* -- No Real Aristocracy**

c. **Economy Rapidly Shifted as it Diversified with the Rapidly Expanding Population -- This Constantly Produced New Self-Made Men -- Successful Merchants, Shippers, Growers, Mechanics, etc. -- So Political Alliances were fluid and were in constant ferment.**

d. **The Royal Governors did not have enough British Troops to enforce their will so they were never able to assert much control.**

e. **The combination of Fluid Social Classes and little or no British Military presence meant that the rampant factionalism was uncontrollable.**

3. The Economic Grievances that led to the War for Independence

a. **The Navigation Acts and Enumerated Articles**

b. **The Cost of the French-Indian War 1753-1763**

c. **British Payment of Defense Costs of Colonies Led to Attempts to Tax**

4. The Political Grievances that led to the War for Independence

- a. **The Economic Burden of Taxation by Britain**
- b. **Winners and Losers From the Navigation Acts**
- c. **Various Acts of Parliament 1763 - 1774 that Negated
Fundament Rights of the Colonists**

5. The Interaction Between the Economic and Political Grievances

D. Federalist # 10

- 1. Madison's Argument for the Constitution**
- 2. Problems With Madison's Argument**
- 3. Madison's view of Political Parties**
- 4. Madison's Key Insights Into the Nature of Politics**