

The Very Basics:

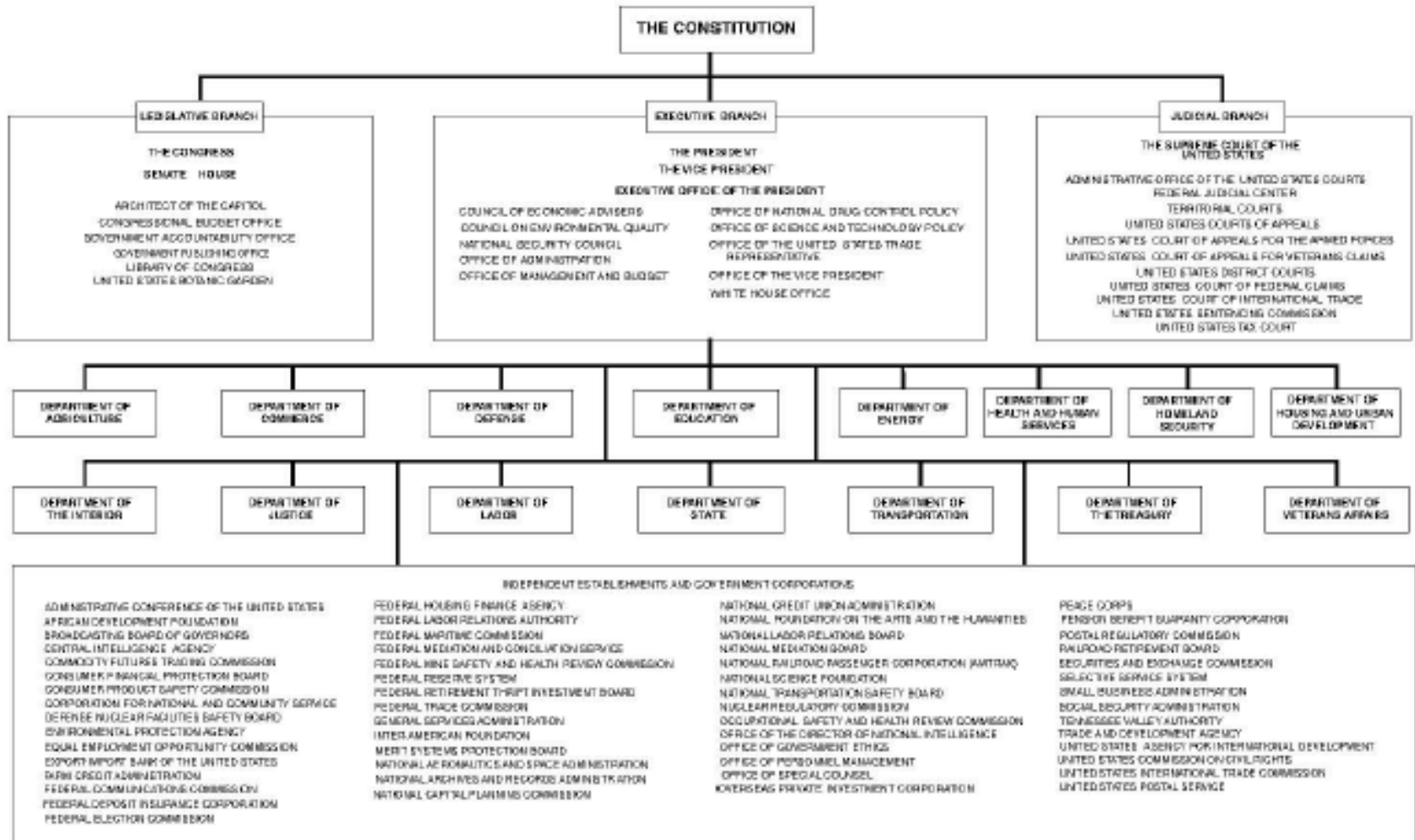
U.S. Political Institutions,
an Overview

David King
Harvard University



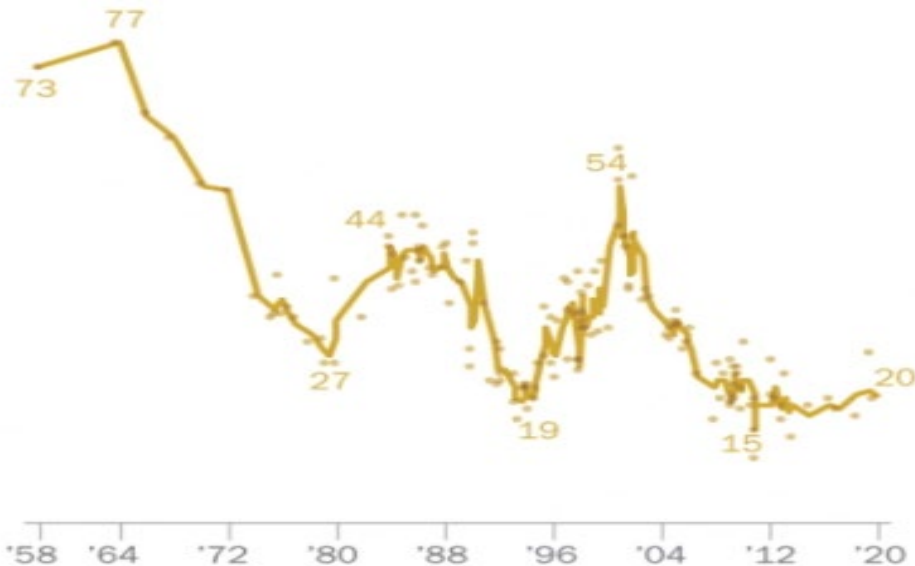
Structures of the U.S. Political System

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

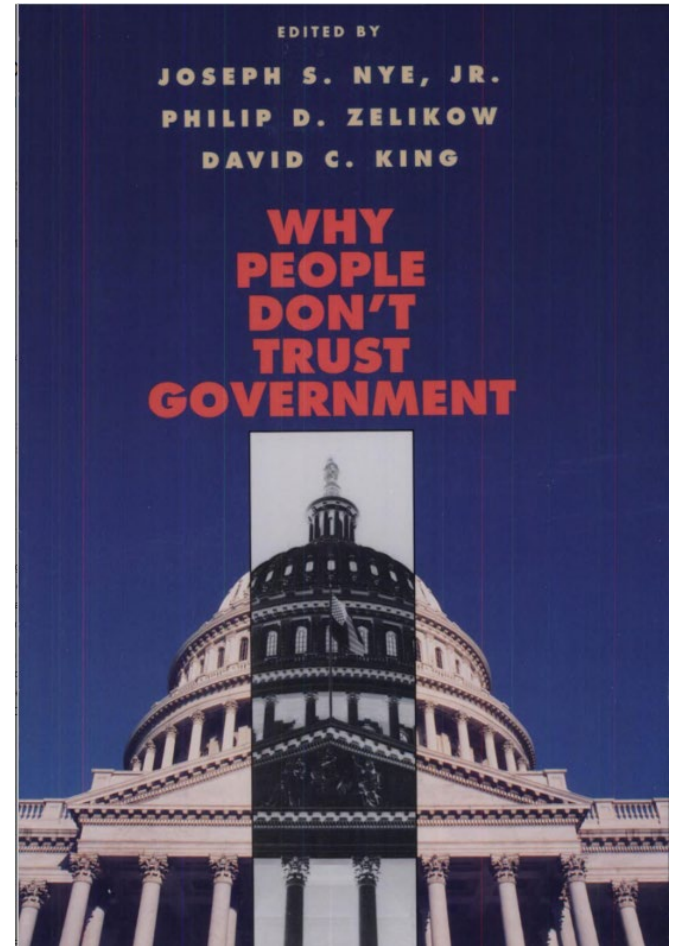


Public trust in federal government near historic lows for more than a decade

% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time



<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/09/14/americans-views-of-government-low-trust-but-some-positive-performance-ratings/>



↑
1997

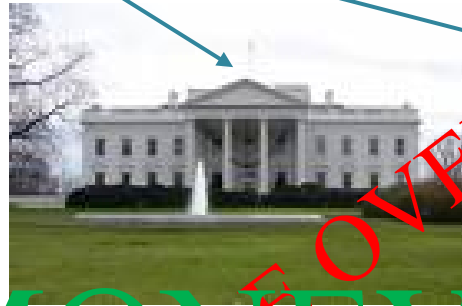
←
2020



U.S. Political Institutions

Interest Groups?

News Media?



Article 1:
Legislature

Article 2:
Executive

Article 3:
Judicial

Make Laws

Administer Laws

Decide Constitutionality

MONEY?

← Veto Bills

Override
Vetoes

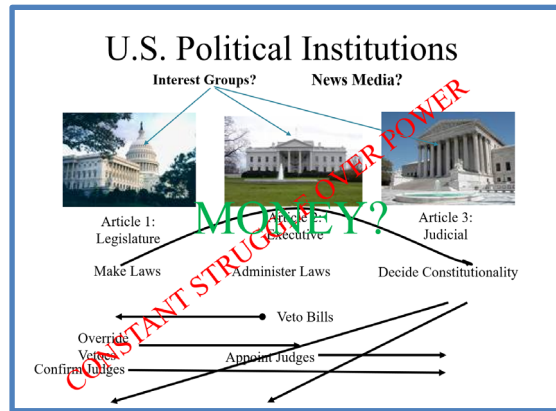
Appoint Judges

Confirm Judges

CONSTANT STRUGGLE FOR OVER POWER



How did we end up **here**?



What is the “form” of a just state?

Which structures promote freedom and order?

How might we think about federalism?

Whose interests are represented?

How do Parties and Interest Groups Harness Factions?

Now let’s remember the Three Branches

How are you going to map your policy environment?



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