

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation-only a “firm league a friendship” among states, only one vote for each state, regardless of size, congress powerless to levy taxes or duties, congress powerless to regulate commerce, no executive power to enforce acts of congress, no national court system, amendments require the consent of all states, a 9/13 majority required to pass laws

Types of Party Systems		
Two-Party	Multiparty	One-Party
Two major parties dominate politics	A system in which several major and many lesser parties exist, seriously compete for, and actually win, public offices	Only one party is allowed to exist, the resulting one-party system really amounts to a “no-party” system
United States (Republicans and Democrats)	Most European democracies	Typical dictatorship

Splinter Parties-parties that have split away from one of the major parties

Voting Requirements-qualifications set to determine who can vote (universal-citizenship, residence, and age), religious qualifications were the first requirements to be eliminated, no state has had religious test for voting since 1810

Why do states have voter registration?-prevent fraudulent voting, gives election officials a list of those persons who are qualified to vote in an election, several states use voter registration to identify voters in terms of their party preference and their eligibility to take part in closed primaries

Voting Rights Act of 1965-made the 15th amendment (no denial of vote because of race, color, or previous enslavement) a truly effective part of the Constitution, this act applied to all elections held anywhere in this country-state and local, as well as federal

Why are people not voting?

- Main cause is the lack of interest.
- Cannot-voters, they cannot vote.
- Many who could go to the polls do not because they are convinced that it makes little real difference which candidate wins a particular election.
- People feel alienated and don’t trust political institutions and processes
- People who lack political efficacy, they lack any feeling of influence or effectiveness in politics.
- Time zone fallout problem-early results from the east coast discourage west coast voters.

Help America Vote Act (2002)			
Requires states to replace all their lever-operated and punch-card voting devices by 2006-a deadline that, in fact, most states failed to meet	Requires states to upgrade their administration of elections, especially through the better training of local election officials and of those who work in precinct polling places on election day	Requires states to centralize and computerize their voter registration systems, to facilitate identification of qualified voters on election day and so minimize fraudulent voting	Requires states to provide for provisional voting, so a person whose eligibility to vote has been challenged can nonetheless cast a ballot that will be counted if it is later found that he or she is, in fact, qualified to vote