

HST 201: ONLINE History of U.S. F18 (Escobar Meta 20748 22964)

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Cartoons - Part 1

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, November 24, 2018, 11:19 PM

To write your post, click on the reply link in this post. This forum topic is for the first set of cartoons for the week.

As usual, be sure to change the subject line of your post to the cartoon number and some descriptive text.

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Cartoon #5 - "To be properly balanced within itself"

by [Ruth Hyde](#) - Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 7:13 PM

A maniacal looking branch of a tree, labeled "Executive", is shown cutting off the only other two of its branches – "Legislative", and "Judicial", in Cartoon #5 of this week's forum. This cartoon is representative of the branches of government, laid out in Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Constitution, and speaks to the concept of vulnerability when one branch of government is allowed to overwhelm the others. The depiction of the executive branch removing legislative and judicial branches of government, detailed as a chainsaw, on the central tree stem, emphasizes the artist's concept of a take-over, or major disruption, the norms when one governmental group dominates.

This cartoon is particularly relevant to our study of the Constitution, and the founding of America as it relates to the very basis of the document which was signed into law, when the country moved from being colonies of England, to its own rightful nation.

Monarchies of England had undisputable power, and the Founding Fathers established protocols in the Constitution which honored the Patriots wish to have fair representation. John Adams also believed in public virtue and that “Americans must elect legislatures that would mirror society. Brittan had put the nobility in one house and the commoners in another, but in America, everyone was a commoner. A free government did not embody distinctly social orders to be stable. It could uphold republican values through virtue and by being properly balanced within itself.” (pg.225, Murrin)

“Government, he (John Adams) affirmed, should be divided into three different branches – an executive arm with veto power, a legislature, and a judiciary independent of both.” (pg. 225, Murrin)

Modern discussion around government checks and balance appear to be a pertinent today, as when the country was founded. I appreciate the stance taken in this particular cartoon, as it provides the opportunity to reflect on the importance of each branch, and the danger of unbalanced government. The US is not a monarchy, ruled by the most important one, or group of people. This is a country where people maintain the “Blessings of Liberty” (US Constitution), and the branches of government must balance each other so that one doesn’t become too powerful.

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Cartoon #1 is it historically accurate?

by [Tehya Curley](#) - Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 11:43 PM

Cartoons a childhood favorite of mine to watch after school. While it’s typically used for entertainment now it may be used to reflect events such as historical events. For example, the cartoon where Thomas Jefferson was giving advice hence the name of the cartoon “Founding father advice”. This can show accuracy for historical events. In this cartoon there are six quotes such as “if we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them they must become happy” (Cartoon #1 Gary Varvel) which with the founding father being Thomas Jefferson I wouldn’t consider it accurate for this part of the cartoon. My reason behind this is because this quote is basically telling us to make the workers happy, but the way Jefferson treated his slaves was the opposite of this quote. When the emancipation was coming to Virginia Jefferson would state on the side for freedom for the slaves but his actions stated otherwise. For example, he penned a phrase when he nearly had 200 slaves “Thomas Jefferson, for instance, owned 175 slaves when he penned the phrase that “all men are created equal” (Liberty, Equality, Power- Murrin pg 309). While it wasn’t uncommon for people to own slaves during this time he didn’t treat them the best. He basically treated them like property “he lived off their labor, sold them to pay his debts, gave them away, sold them away from their families as punishment” (Liberty, Equality, Power- Murrin pg 309).

He did all of this while spurring phrases that everyone is equal or that he thought slavery was wrong. This to me shows the inaccuracy of this cartoon to historical events due to Thomas Jefferson's actions that are contradictory to one of the quotes.

While this cartoon is accurate historically in some ways. When it comes to the quote "never spend your money before you earned it" (Cartoon #1 Gary Varvel) I find this quote the most accurate out of the six. To sum up the meaning of this quote is that we shouldn't spend your money before you actually have it. Towards the beginning of his election he talked about a way to reduce the amount of debt "it would be small, and it would pay its debts without incurring new ones" (Liberty, Equality, Power- Murringp 256) this quote from the book is basically a long version of the quote from the cartoon.

Some parts of this cartoon I would consider more accurate than others when it comes to historic events. Furthermore, I can see where the artist was going with making this cartoon about Thomas Jefferson. I agree with the way he did it in quotes because it shows what the main problem was back then when Jefferson was president. What do you think?



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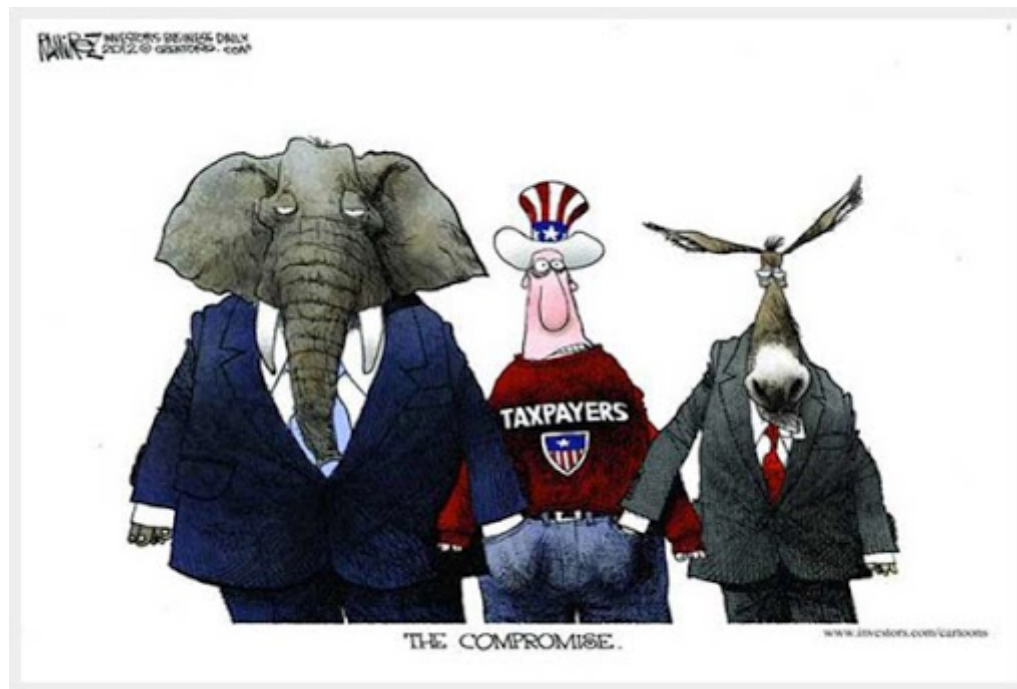
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Compromise (cartoon #2)

by [Christian Jakobsen](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 10:12 AM



I believe that this picture shows that the political parties in the government may be "against" each other but we the people are the ones that are affected. We the taxpayers are in the middle of their "fight" to win and have say of what goes. Our money is the "compromise" for both parties and its one of the things they both want and have in common. American politics are a game for the people running, and we the people, the taxpayers have to pay for them to play.

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Re: Compromise (cartoon #2)

by [Ruth Hyde](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7:31 PM

It is interesting to consider how long Americans have had discomfort with the idea of being taxed by their government. It seems to be enshrined in the culture - from the point whereby rebels threw tea into the Boston harbor, and eventually declared independence from England after resenting unfair taxes without representation. America's anxiety around tax didn't end when the English were gone, and they were left to self-govern. "Hamilton called for a federal excise tax (a tax on goods) on wines, coffee, tea, and spirits. Its purpose, stated openly by Hamilton, was not only to produce revenue but also to establish the government's power to create an internal tax and to collect it in the most remote regions of the republic." (pg. 242, Murrin) This tax was very unpopular with whiskey producers for whom it effected most directly, and the unrest caused led to what is known as the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. Although the government prevailed, after using soldiers on it's own people, the dissent for what was regarded as excessive tax did not.

The American taxpayer depicted in this cartoon is looking upset, yet dumbly submissive towards the two figures standing to his sides. I see this as an ongoing conversation around governments rights to tax, government being too powerful, the so-called "compromise" of government falling to individual people to support. I wonder whether the conflict around taxes will ever see resolve, or if we will continue to challenge the tax systems that we are regulated by?

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3



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Re: Compromise (cartoon #2)

by [Daniel Urias](#) - Friday, November 30, 2018, 3:46 PM

I agree completely that Americans have a history of being upset about new taxes, even before they were considered Americans. I don't think the conflict around taxes will ever be resolved personally. I remember hearing back in 2008 about Walmart paying zero dollars in taxes (it was a while ago and i don't have access to news links, sorry) and then you hear about Apple hiding hundreds of millions of tax dollars overseas sometime after 2010. Even two hundred years later those of us with the capabilities and know-how (and probably the right lawyers) do everything in their power to avoid paying taxes. Even the layman will take side jobs under the table to have a little bit more in their pocket. We've all heard the famous phrase about "death and taxes", taxes are a part of your life if you're rich or poor, and it would seem most people dislike paying them. The interesting bit for me is that countries with higher taxes also have happier citizens. I think it would do some good for the stigma on taxes to end, cause in this world where wealth is so grossly disproportionate true equality is often hard to find and taxes, enforced, fair, proportionate taxes, could be one of many solutions to fill that equality gap.

Count of ratings: (1)

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cartoon 2

by [Callista Wulff](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 12:27 PM

In cartoon number 2 showing the government in the taxpayers pockets means that the government always has their hands in the peoples pockets. Despite what we make and how much we make we will always be tied to the government through our tax payer money. But, we also did sign up for this due to the Social Contract, we have to give up a little freedom to gain security. A social contract is an implicit agreement among members of the society to cooperate for social benefits. For example the people sacrifice individual freedom for state protection which Trump is trying work on through border control. I do think that this cartoon accurately represents the history and the present. I also agree with this cartoon as it is hard to disagree with because these are facts. The government will always have their hands in taxpayers pockets. And it is funny that they picked an elephant that obviously represents Trump but what is even more strange is that the donkey is wearing red and the elephants is wearing blue.

Count of ratings: (1)

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**Cartoon #1**by [Colleen Young](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 3:50 PM

I feel like cartoon #1 accurately reflects Thomas Jefferson's viewpoints and beliefs to some degree. The cartoon appears to be telling us to remember one of our founding father's words of wisdom, and heed his advice, which we can use and apply to today's economy. The cartoonist is correct in saying that "We have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious." Jefferson wanted to accredit to status and void any hierarchies, as well as work towards a "rural agrarian pastoral society" (George Washington and the New Government, 1:45). He wanted to get back to basics and create a "'wise and frugal' government [that] would respect the powers of the states and preserve the liberties ensured by the Bill of Rights" (Murrin pg. 255). Upon wanting a frugal government, Jefferson reduced government expenditures and convinced Congress to denounce the direct tax of 1798 and repeal sections of the Alien and Seditions Act that weren't already out of date. At this rate, the national debt fell from \$80 million to \$57 million (Murrin pg. 256-257).

The one statement in the comic I don't agree with is, "If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy." Jefferson coined the term that "all men are created equal," yet he owned 175 slaves. Our textbook talks about how he sold slaves to pay off debts, tore families apart as punishment, and thrived off of their labor (Murrin pg. 309). Sounds a bit hypocritical to me. Overall, I think this comic captures the spirit and nature that was Jeffersonian ideals.

Count of ratings: (1)

3


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**Re: Cartoons - Part 1**by [Jessica Bene](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 4:17 PM

Cartoon #5

I picked this cartoon because when thinking on the beginnings of America the idea of a separation of power was the basis for a lot as the early Americans didn't want to end up in a monarchy or a dictatorship like they had when they were under the rule of Europe. John Adams thought that the government needed to be split between three different branches "an executive armed with veto power, a legislature, and a judiciary independent of both." (Murrin 225) The whole idea was that each branch wouldn't have complete power so that the American people were protected from tyranny.

A provincial congress in Virginia of June 1776 agreed with Adams saying "that the legislative and executive powers... should be separate and distinct from the judiciary" (Murrin 226) However after saying this they wrote up a constitution that gave supreme power to the legislature.

June of 1776 saw Pennsylvania creating the most radical of state constitutions which established a unicameral assembly and an executive of 12 men, one of who would be named the president. Anyone who was free and paid taxes, along with their adult sons living under their roof was allowed to vote in the annual elections. This was changed in 1790 when the unicameral became bicameral and the elective governor had a veto that could be overruled.

However, the truly revolutionary idea came from Massachusetts when instead of giving sole power to any piece of the government they placed the sole power with the people.

1776 saw John Adams draft of the constitution which began with a bill of rights and stated that both houses would be elected annually. The House of Reps would be picked by towns, and senators would be chosen by counties and divided by property values instead of population counts. The governor would be chosen by the people and he would have a veto that two-thirds of both houses could overrule. (Murrin 228)

Starting with New Hampshire in 1784 the states one by one adopted the Massachusetts model of the constitution which is still in force today, making it the oldest written constitution (Murrin 228)

However, while the original intent for the three branches was so that no one person or group would have absolute power, Gary Varvel sees a different government than our constitution lays out. He sees a government where the executive branch has the power to make the other two branches completely obsolete. The general job of the executive branch is to enforce the laws and is often seen as the branch with the most power because of its complete control over foreign policies. However, with every presidency, the line between what the president/executive branch can do and what they aren't supposed to do has become blurred. Today the general powers of the executive branch are the ability to veto or reject a proposal for a law, appointing federal posts (such as members of agencies), negotiating foreign treaties, appointing federal judges, and granting pardons for crimes.

The biggest example of a newfound power of the executive branch/president is the ability to pass executive orders and make/overrule laws. While Congress can veto these executive orders or make laws that overrule them it takes a large majority of the Congress to do so and it rarely happens that executive orders are overturned or found

unconstitutional by the judicial branch (which remember is compiled of judges hand chosen by the president, so think about that). The most noted executive orders have been: Emancipation Proclamation, New Deal Desegregation of Armed Forces, Japanese-American Internment, Indian Reservations and more recently DACA.

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Cartoon #5

by [Jessica Bene](#) - Sunday, December 2, 2018, 7:31 PM

More specifically. Obama in his two terms of his presidency is known for signing executive orders that weren't exactly constitutional. Under the Constitution, Congress has absolute power over immigration. However, in 2012 Obama signed an executive order that ordered Homeland security to issue work and residence permits, or DACA's (Deferred Action to Childhood Arrivals). Up until this point, Congress had regrettably failed to implement some sort of immigration reform, however, Obama's order still violated the Administration Procedure Act, The Constitutional Take Care Clause and immigration laws. While it might not have been though unconstitutional at the time it became more glaringly obvious when in 2014 Obama tried to pass DAPA (Deferred Actions for Parents of Americans).

The very essence of executive orders is unconstitutional as the ultimate role of the Executive Branch is to **ENFORCE** laws not make them.

(But wait aren't executive orders addressed in the constitution?)

I'm going, to be honest, I am not one hundred percent sure, I haven't found the information on that. But I have found that the U.S. Supreme Court has held that all orders need to be constitutional, however, that clearly hasn't been the case and more and more executive orders are made that blatantly ignore the constitution or go over the heads of Congress. How far will this new found power go?

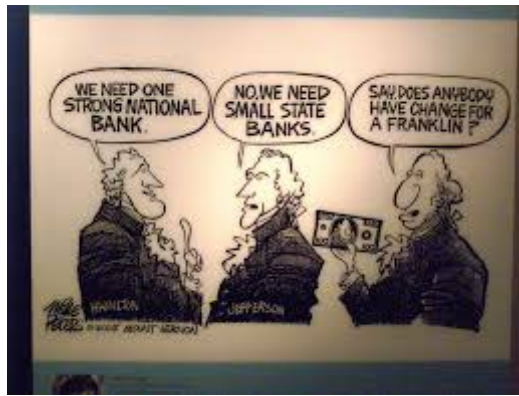
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Re: Cartoons - Part 1 National Banks

by [Garrhett Nelson](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 5:59 PM



So this cartoon is obviously alluding to the great debate between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson on whether the funding of the national debt post-revolution should be dealt with through a national bank or state banks. The artist pokes fun at the situation with who I'm assuming is George Washington asking if they have change for a bill that wasn't around at the time, the \$100. I thought this was very funny as something that's related to history around this time.

Count of ratings: (1) 1

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Cartoon #6

by [Daniel Urias](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7:13 PM

I found this cartoon interesting because we studied the creation of the Bill of Rights (a document that is constantly brought up in modern debates on gun regulation) not too long ago in this class. This is also a modern argument many are passionate about today. The comic accurately shows Madison at work creating what would become the second amendment to the constitution, more popularly known as the law that gives Americans, "the right to bear arms". It emphasizes the original intention of the bill, which is to allow for "a well regulated Militia", and the fact that even James Madison, the one who wrote the amendment, couldn't have possibly comprehended the future (which is today) of firearms.

The person showing Madison the assault rifle is a reflection of modern pro-gun advocates, he holds the rifle in a showman-like (proud) manner and calls it "baby" not as if discussing a practical tool so much as a really cool toy he just obtained. Madison is clearly shocked screaming "WHOA!!" with the speech bubble written in red, all caps, and a larger font than accompanying dialogue, indicating that the idea of a fully automatic accurate long range assault rifle was the last thing on his mind when authoring the bill.

The main point of the cartoon is a long standing argument among gun regulation advocates; that even the founding fathers, the ones who declared it an American God-given right for all Americans (of course this excluded slaves at the time) to own and operate guns, could never have fathomed under any circumstances the advances in gun technology today. In other words, we shouldn't look to the words of men who didn't know any better for guidance regarding a modern problem. Our textbook even states, "the Second and Third amendments [were] prompted by old fears of a standing army" (Murrin p.240), a real threat at the time the bill was written, but an unrealistic threat in the last two hundred years. I completely agree with this argument, which isn't for or against gun

ownership, the argument is simply stating that the second amendment is not by any means a logical point of reference when discussing the possible regulations of what should be considered a tool and not a toy.

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Cartoon #2

by [Kathleen Gilbert](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 9:52 PM

The first cartoon that caught my attention was Cartoon #2. In relation to what we have learned the last few weeks, this cartoon can apply to the Boston Tea Party. This major historical event came about due to the tax payers' anger towards the implementation of the Tea Act in which the tea was taxed heavily in order to compensate for a business that was going bankrupt. In our book, *Liberty Equality and Power* they discuss the patriots view on this tax and that the "combined dangers of taxation and monopoly again forged the coalition of artisans and merchants" (Murrin p. 187). Further, this was just another attempt at parliament being greedy or, as the cartoon implies, literally taking the tax payers money right out of their own pockets. Murrin states that "Patriots saw the Tea Act as a Trojan horse that would destroy liberty by seducing the settlers into accepting parliamentary sovereignty." (Murrin, P. 187). The tension that the British created using taxation on the patriots was linked to the greediness and "taxation without representation".

Count of ratings: (1) 2

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Cartoon #3 Small government and it's control on daily life

by [Geoffrey Cannon](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 11:51 PM

The third cartoon caught my eye as it focuses on how much of a role the government should play in a person's life. The setting reminds me of chapters 2 and 3 in our book, when the English pilgrims were trying to establish their presence in North America in the early 1600s. As we learned in our book, "In some villages, town meetings occurred often, made most of the decisions, and left only the details to a board of 'select men'" (Murrin page 67) and that may be what the artist of the cartoon is trying to depict. A time when the government was less intrusive and smaller than it currently is. At this time in the 1600s, the town decided on the distribution of land and other decisions rather than a distant legislature. I feel that Gary Varvel interpreted it almost correctly, yet it falls short of being authentic.

I still feel that the local level of government played a larger role in the colonist's lives than he depicts. According to the video "Saints and Strangers," power was invested with the congregation and there was no civil office. (Video Saints and Stranger, Unknown time) While I do agree that the government sometimes attempts to influence our personal lives, I also see that the congregations of the 1600s also tried to control certain aspects of its member's lives.

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**Cartoon #6- Gun Control**by [Colleen Young](#) - Friday, November 30, 2018, 4:37 PM

Cartoon #6 appears to be referring to gun control. President James Madison was one of the founding fathers of the United States, and helped write the Constitution. Leadership of the First Congress went to him, from which he went on to propose and draft the Bill of Rights. The Second Amendment “guaranteed the continuation of a militia of armed citizens” (Murrin pg.240), or the right to bear arms. The cartoon shows a soldier holding a modernized gun. Madison obviously wasn’t expecting assault rifles when writing the Bill of Rights, since the cartoon portrays him saying “WHOA!!” in all caps and written in red. This can be applied to our world today, as the Bill of Rights is one of the longest standing (living) documents, and people today still have the right to bear arms. The only difference is that weapons today are much more lethal, and people have easier access to purchase and use one. This cartoon is spot on.

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