

HST 201: History of the United States (Escobar Meta 21035 21036)

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Constitutional Cartoons



by Joe Escobar - Saturday, November 22, 2014, 9:43 PM

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, discuss each cartoon you choose in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Constitutional Cartoons

Sum of ratings: -

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Rights or The People. (#5)



by Connor Fields - Monday, November 24, 2014, 1:08 PM

Initially I believe that it is the job of the government to protect the people's rights and not to clean up people's messes or poor choices. In the political cartoon we see two people on the left a seemingly well dressed patriot from the revolution era, given the clothing. On the right there is a stocky man with a full beard and a cigarette wearing an occupy wall street shirt. The first patriotic man holds a sign saying "don't tread on me" presumably referring to the colonists' opinion of the English who were oppressing some of their civil liberties. The man on the right holds a sign that says "tread on him" likely referring to the idea of Occupy wall street that the rich or other capitalists need to share the wealth to those with less.

I think that the cartoon very accurately shows the difference in what the people think the government should be doing. When America first formed the government was in charge of protecting the people from oppression and giving everyone a chance at "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". Now people are only worried about everyone else, which is shown in the cartoon. Whether its who has more guns or money people want the government to take them away or spread it out. I think its that lack of focus on themselves that creates more problems than it fixes. With that said I very much agree with the cartoon I

think that it accurately shows the difference in ideas now that we are so comfortable and free as Americans. There are very few people in America who have had to face such hardships like total oppression of their liberties and it is because of that the I believe we have lost focus on what the true job of the government is.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Rights or The People. (#5)



by Sierra Howard - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 4:33 PM

I disagree with your evaluation of the struggle of the people in our country. I believe there is major oppression in this country, and although it may not compare with the struggles experienced by those in third world countries, like Joes said about slavery, "it's all relative!"

It takes a lot of strength and fortitude to grow up impoverished and leave it. Not that you wouldn't want to leave, but it is what you know. What if you fail? Where will you learn to be successful? How will you pay for it? It's a scary world out there, and it takes a fundamentally strong individual to start at the bottom and work their way up. I understand it is doable, but it's kind of like becoming a movie star, for every one that succeeds, how many will fail? Some people become stronger with failure, and yet some deteriorate. There will always be people that don't want to help themselves, and are happy living on a hand out, but I believe there are far more people who just need a hand up.

Not too much historical reference, I know, but noteworthy nonetheless.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Our invisibly large bullies.



by Saleena Smith - Monday, November 24, 2014, 5:27 PM



I know the picture may be a bit blurry. You can click on the link to go to the enlarged photo. This political cartoon depicts the influence of rich industrial tycoons on Congress by showing the Senate chamber dominated by powerful trusts, under a sign proclaiming: "A Senate of the monopolists, by the monopolists, and for the monopolists."

Keppler, Joseph, artist. "The Bosses of the Senate." n.d. Lithograph. From the United States Senate: Art and History Collection. http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/artifact/Ga_Cartoon/Ga_cartoon_38 (October 11, 2012.)

The historical background to this political cartoon is probably of early 18th century to present day Congress situation in the Senate chamber. Monopolies have existed since the beginning of the trade industry which led to the founding of the Americas. The cartoon is saying that even though it may seem that everyday common people are making Congress function, it may not actually be that way with how much our country and world has invested in materialistic monopolies. Some persuasion techniques include the way that the cartoon was drawn. The trust committee is drawn to be portrayed as mean and bullish looking. Their shirts clearly define what it is they represent like Copper Trust, Nail Trust, Sugar Trust etc. It also portrays our congressman as being small, insufficient, haggard, and confused, dominated by the obnoxiously obvious monopolies in the room that no one else will acknowledge.

I think it would be important to research what definite time frame this cartoon came from and who the cartoonist was that actually illustrated it and what biases he might have. This issue I believe is still relevant to us today. We live in a world that is focused on profit and marketing. Monopolies not only still exist, but the number of people that hold onto these monopolies is decreasing. Giving more power to those on top who control mass amounts of our everyday uses. More than we would actually like to believe or acknowledge. We still blindly believe that people are making decisions for us based on our best interest and we need to wake up and smell that 7-8 dollar cup of coffee from Starbucks. Overall I think the cartoonist did a great job at portraying the works of Congress then and now.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Holidays= stealing from the poor to feed the rich.

by Saleena Smith - Thursday, November 27, 2014, 11:28 PM

Happy Thanksgiving! Or is it really? The older I get and the more holidays I participate in (AKA donate money towards) the more I get the feeling that all holidays really mean anymore is about the money you have and what you can buy with it. In about 30 minutes, thousands of people in the United States will participate in a mad dash to get the upper foot in the holiday shopping race. Television will broadcast the event to entertain the more introverted couch potatoes at home (who secretly wish they were out scrambling, shouting colorful words at their neighbors), and now there are apps available on devices to track which popular items shoppers are taking home.

Now I won't go into a religious rant about why corporations are taking away Santa Clause and stealing the baby in the manger, but I will voice my concern about why holiday shopping traditions and violence in Winco are so prominent in today's society through the months of November and December. Not only are we being bullied by large corporations profiting from our holiday madness, but we have been since the formation of the constitution! Setting up trade clauses with other countries and monopolizing a system for the sole purpose of profit is wrong. The America's should have been viewed as a place for peace and prosperity, not green dollar signs. Is it too late to fix?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #1 Jefferson said it first.



by Candice Oster - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 4:11 AM

Is it too late to fix? Great question. I get frustrated when I look at history and see that it has, can I say ALL, been done before. It is a different time with cell phones and computers on our wrists, however the same type of greed and lose interpretations of the Constitution, and really anything that is a rule, is still going on today, and at higher speed. In America we use our freedom of speech but we don't think of how what we say just may affect our neighbors.

Reading cartoon #1 we see the thoughts of Thomas Jefferson. How do these sound after "Black Friday"? Or what about all the employees working on Thanksgiving?

"Never spend your money before you have earned it."

"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."

and how can we not hear what this one says, "I think myself, that we have more machinery of government that is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Taxes, taxes, taxes. Cartoon #4



by Alma Cuevas-contreras - Monday, November 24, 2014, 5:31 PM

I think this cartoon represents well what happens with government and taxes. In this picture you can see both parties actually putting their hands in the taxpayer pockets to collect his taxes. Meaning that it does not matter what political party you support or believe in, they both will gladly (or in this picture, without shame) take you money for their governmental purposes. The government will tax everything that they can so that they can benefit from it and apply it to whatever the country needs, or at least that is what is supposed to do. We have learned of many acts passed by Britain like the Townshend Act. This act's purpose was to collect payment from paper, paint, lead, glass and tea to raise revenue to pay their army so they could stay in America. Although this example is a little old, it proves to show that any government and any kingdom, will put taxes in everything to be able to pay for what expenses the government has. This hasn't changed with time, now-a-days we have taxes in pretty much everything. Gas, food, housing, everything and if you dont pay your taxes like you are supposed to then they can take it from your checks. So there is no scape from paying taxes to the government.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Taxes, taxes, taxes. Cartoon #4



by Karla Logan - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 10:55 PM

I think this cartoon is very cut and dry and you hit the points exactly. As you said it doesn't matter what party you belong to or what way you vote they will both be more than happy to take your money from you. It doesn't matter what exactly you are buying or doing now days the government has their hand in our pocket taking their share. My question is why the compromise at the bottom? Are they agreeing to take an equal part? Are they agreeing to both take tax payer money? Will they each take their fair share and go on their way?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Taxes, taxes, taxes. Cartoon #4



by Alexander Taylor - Sunday, November 30, 2014, 2:02 AM

I disagree that the cartoon represents taxation, I would say it represents political greed. The cartoon uses the modern mascots of the democrat (donkey) and republican (elephant) parties. And since the modern visuals are used, and considering the republican parties aversion to taxation, it seems more to me like the artist was trying to say that no matter who is in power, they want your money, not for the government, but in the age of big money in politics and superpacs spreading around millions of dollars from anonymous sources, I would say the cartoon represents political parties taking your money for no other purpose than to stay in power.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #6 - Loose Interpretation



by Sierra Howard - Monday, November 24, 2014, 7:22 PM

This cartoon, to me, represents the idea that when James Madison penned the Second Amendment, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." (p. A-12, Appendix B, textbook) he could not foresee "the People" becoming a future society that collects machine guns intended for wartime activities. When Madison collaborated with Thomas Jefferson, he feared that Hamilton's Plan to formulate a more centralized government of majorities would jeopardize the constitutional rights of minorities. Amendment II was enacted, I believe, with the intent to protect the rights of the people from unconstitutional bullying from a sovereign government authority. Clearly, the soldier holding a machine gun backwards, with a dumb look on his face, is meant to represent a "loose" interpretation of Madison's intended Second Amendment.

I absolutely agree that in today's society, the interpretations of Amendment II have been

"stretched" beyond the original intention of the article. However, I don't believe that either side of the argument is necessarily wrong. My hope is for resolution that allows citizen the right to bear arms, but a system of regulation that acknowledges that certain weapons do not belong in the gun cabinets sitting in our living rooms.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #6 - Loose Interpretation



by Andrew Mirman - Monday, November 24, 2014, 9:56 PM

I enjoyed reading Sierra's post. I agree that our present society is stretching the umbrella of the 2nd amendment in ways that do not support the true purpose. The point of this amendment was a means of protection against a force encroaching on one's rights(Ex.tyrannical government, etc..). I liked the conclusion that she came to about the gun being backwards is a representation of a "loose" interpretation, and no side is truly wrong depending on one's point of view.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #6 - Loose Interpretation



by Erik Fischer - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 10:14 PM

I agree with most of what you said with one exception, the founding fathers would have felt it was necessary and proper for the people to be armed in a manner comparable to the army. Without this type of armament the people would have hopes of overthrowing a government thus armed, completely negating the purpose of this ammendment. They probably would have wanted more emphasis placed on "a well regulated militia" ensuring proper training of people for the use of military weapons.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #6 - Loose Interpretation



by Karla Logan - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 10:49 PM

I agree with your post. there is no way they could know that we would be where we are today with guns so readily available and with some individuals without the knowledge of how to use them properly. There was a point Joe made in class that not only was this about having the right to have but also being knowledgeable on how to properly handle the machinery. There is no sense in everyone having the right to have a gun and be armed if individuals are using them incorrectly. I also like your point about the gun backwards with the dumb look on his face referring to a loose interpretation of what was intended.

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Sum of ratings:1 (1)



Cartoon #3 - Equality and Racism

by Kendra Helgeson - Monday, November 24, 2014, 9:23 PM

I feel that the overall point of the third cartoon is to show that many people aren't always going to understand something the way they're supposed to. This can lead them to think that people in power have no idea what they're talking about which a lot of the times is the case. One of the signs in this cartoon is a great example of this notion.

Arguably the most controversial sign in this cartoon, "equality is racist" is a pretty big statement. We all know that racism was a huge component in the 18th and 19th centuries when slavery had the big boom, and is still present to this day. One thing that probably wasn't talked about much back then though is people's sexuality. It was viewed psychologically and thought it was what degenerates and psychopaths did. It was also not associated with religion anymore. Those two things alone can sum up what it was like to be gay/lesbian etc back then. (wattpad.com) Fast forward to 2014, almost 2015. Gay marriage has been legalized in 35 states, slavery has been illegal for 149 years, and racism isn't as profound as it used to be. Women's rights have also come a long way. Although they've only had the right to vote since 1920, that's still a huge difference than what it used to be.

My whole point in explaining all of that is to get to this next point: the cartoonist seems to be saying that giving equality to people is almost like excluding others from being equal, which isn't really the case. With that being my understanding of the saying, it's a little contradicting. No one is equal in today's world, and probably won't be for a very very long time. This little part of the cartoon does depict some of the history we've been learning about, but for the interpreting portion of this, I don't think it's as good of a job as the history portion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #5 From Gadsden to Tea Party

by Michael Leopold - Monday, November 24, 2014, 10:05 PM

This cartoon plays on the purported differences between the American idealism of today and the American idealism of the Revolutionary Era. First, the Tea Party gentleman holds a sign saying "Don't Tread on Me" which famously was used by General Gadsden during the American Revolution. This saying in itself is a symbol of American freedom and liberty, which is what Tea Party members claim they would like to return to. But the Tea Party gentleman is drawn to look like an older looking conservative man with a revolutionary war looking hat, and the price tag hanging from it reveals that this man probably has money, eluding to wealth. Standing next to him, the Occupy dude is obviously of lower social class(with his wily beard & cigarette). This man is holding a sign petitioning to "Tread on Him" with an arrow pointing to Tea Party man. This is showing that he, as the Occupy movement has been, in part, pleading for, is for the richest of Americans to pay for more social programs and benefits to aid those in the lower echelons of society. In short, one guy is petitioning to have the rich pay for his shortcomings, and ensure his freedom and liberty. Meanwhile, the other guy wants the government to leave his pocketbook(and maybe business) alone, citing his own freedom and liberty. Both essentially want the same thing,

just different ways of going about it.

Also, one other thing to think about. The original Gadsden Flag where "Don't Tread On Me" originated, had a coiled snake on it. Is the cartoonist trying to convey the Tea Party guy as snake? Is he purporting that the upper classes are wealthy at the expense of the lower classes? The price tag hanging from the Tea Party-er's hat leads me to think that the cartoonist is maybe leaning toward the side of the Occupy guy, but because I don't know his political views, I can't be sure.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Cartoon #4



by Simone Reynolds - Monday, November 24, 2014, 10:44 PM

I think that Cartoon #4 is a pretty accurate statement of how the constitution/ early republic relates to what we have been learning in class. In the picture it shows an elephant (republican) and a donkey (democrat), and a man in the middle which represented a tax payer. The reason why I think this is the cartoon most relevant to the teachings in our class is because taxes have been based around taxes. Tax payers, the taxes made to limit certain objects and actions, and the anger it caused the colonists. One of the main focus' around the class is how the colonists fought to overthrow authority. They were primarily angry because of the taxes they were obligated to pay to them. Of course taxes weren't the only issue within the history we have learned, but it has definitely been a major factor within the class and the constitution.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #4



by Brian Burt - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:14 PM

I completely understand what you're saying when I first looked at it new that those two where two different party's of government and when I saw the middle saying tax payer I knew that they where in the pants to get the tax returns the government to me takes what they want and they tax what ever they want like gas and food and other stuff that I could talk about are government is about money now!

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Constitutional Cartoons



by Jordan Hadley - Monday, November 24, 2014, 11:17 PM

I like the message that cartoon #3 is portraying. The Founding Fathers are completely lost because of how the country has changed. It is not what they had imagined when they created the government. This fits in with what we discussed in [Forum 3](#). The radicalness of the revolution is based on evolution and how our country has changed. None of these

things occurred in the 1800s, but they all occur now. I am not very educated on all the controversial issues going on in modern America, but I do know that the Founding Fathers would not like them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Constitutional Cartoons



by Karla Logan - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:24 PM

I agree with your point that the founding fathers are completely lost. This isn't the country they created or believed so strongly in. Most of the changes have been for the best however some of the current events have made me wonder how far we have really come. Is racism really gone? We have even amended the constitution, I'm not saying that is bad or good I'm just using it as a point that not only has the country changed but so has the very words they wrote down as law so many years ago.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Couldn't foresee this. (#6)



by Alexander Taylor - Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 1:05 AM

In this cartoon, we see James Madison writing the second amendment of the bill of rights, while a modern-day man bursts in with a machine gun.

This cartoon is trying to say that the founding fathers did not have the weaponry of our time in mind when they wrote the second amendment. Weaponry of the time was far more primitive, and the kind of destruction a man with a machine gun can cause is in no way comparable to what harm a man with a musket and bayonet could do.

James Madison looks absolutely shocked by the assault rifle, which may be trying to convey to us that he never intended for the average citizen to be able to possess a weapon with so much killing power. He even lifts up the pen, which may be trying to show us that had he known what weaponry American citizens can legally possess now, he may have rethought or at least made changes to the second amendment.

This cartoon is clearly trying to convey a point of view that the second amendment is outdated and that some weaponry is too advanced for the average citizen to own.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Smoke and mirrors



by Saleena Smith - Friday, November 28, 2014, 11:04 PM

Alexander, thanks for your clearly stated views in this post and the evidence you presented to back up your point. I understand how you drew the conclusions that you

did from the political cartoon. I think that you drew your conclusions the same way I did, based off past experiences that form your beliefs. I disagree with your proposal that the second amendment needs changes.

I grew up in a very small time where the majority of my summers were spent fishing, camping, shooting guns... you can see where this is going. I am a gun activist as my family has been for many generations and that is one of the reasons I disagree with making changes to the second amendment.

I also disagree with your statement that James Madison never intended for the average citizen to be able to possess a weapon with so much killing power. In that time, their bayonets were their most advanced "killing" machine, and they still thought "average citizens" should possess them. Yes, they did this for several reasons: protecting themselves from Indians and arming civilians to help defend their nation against the British. But, one of the main reasons I believe it was in the constitution is because it gives people a sense of freedom to own them.

If we are going to reform the second amendment, lets go ahead and reform the whole thing. If the second amendment does not apply because of our evolutionary stance in time, then none of it should apply. A large part of me has come to believe that the constitution contained a lot of smoke and mirrors to portray an illusion to keep this money making machine we call home running.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Smoke and mirrors



by Michael Leopold - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:31 AM

I agree with Alexander. I dont think that the average citizen carrying fully automatic assault rifles was really the idea. If this country were being invaded, or if we had to protect ourselves from the natives, or in a time of war then maybe that might be something that is necessary. But weapons of war are not necessary to arm ourselves with just "because we can." Would we allow people to own missile launchers? How about tanks? Tanks have guns. Surface to air missile launchers are technically guns. Are we to say that every citizen should be allowed to own these weapons thats only purpose if for killing other people? I dont think that we need to own weapons designed for one purpose: war. Now, Im not saying that people should not be allowed to own a firearm. I, too, believe in a free society where we have the right to arm ourselves and protect our family and home from harm. But there has to be a line drawn somewhere. Just as much as I believe in THIS freedom, I also believe that people have a freedom to feel safe when they walk down the street from any jerk out there that decides he needs an AR-15 to make sure nobody cuts in front of him at the gas station. I know there are MANY of us out there that can be trusted to make sound decisions with guns in this country, but there are just as many that positively cannot.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Smoke and mirrors



by Sierra Howard - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 3:55 PM

Doesn't it make a difference that a bayonet could only shoot one bullet, aimed at one person? I think that as advanced as their weaponry was at the time, there was a limit to its power....😄

Hey, isn't that what the Founding Fathers were trying to accomplish?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Smoke and mirrors



by Alexander Taylor - Sunday, November 30, 2014, 2:12 AM

Hi saleena, though we did draw different conclusions about the second amendment, I do agree that if we change, update or revise the second amendment, we should do the same to the entire document. Our constitution is very outdated when compared to constitutions from other countries. Times have definitely changed since the constitution was written. Just like guns have evolved, communication and the media, along with so many other things, have also changed. If we had an updated constitution, the wiki leaks and edward snowden cases could have been non issues, and the law would have been clear on how the government should react. An updated constitution could bring a lot of stability to modern day issues.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Quick Look at Cartoon #2



by Ashley Lazorchak - Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 3:38 AM

This comic differs from the history we have been studying in that this is not what the founding fathers intended for democracy. The cartoonist is showing how the system makes a mockery of that democracy. The message of the comic I feel is accurate because this is what's happening in the country today. Elections are funded by contributions which are solicited and it only fuels the political propaganda and leads to incompetent leaders.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2 A Corporate Democracy



by Candice Oster - Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 6:50 AM

This cartoon, with the Democracy Vending Machine tells us to put in our corporate campaign contributions in to vote. When we think back to the postcolonial society, before "big business", we read what Jefferson had wanted the country to be in the conclusion of chapter 7. "-a system that encouraged rural prosperity, prevented the growth of cities and factories (the much-feared nurseries of corruption and dependence), and thus sustained

the landed independence on which republican citizenship rested.”

This cartoon is showing that today's democracy is not set up in the way that was intended. Are they fair elections? Are they free? What is the price of democracy? The guy's response, "I'm afraid to see what it spits out..." has a point. What will our representation be when the voting process is based on corporate campaign contributions?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #3 Lost Founding Fathers



by Erik Fischer - Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 9:21 AM

I feel like cartoon #3 displays some modern beliefs that are the exact opposite of the founding fathers strong Christian beliefs as well as their beliefs about government and that's why they don't know where they are. For example the Founding Fathers believed that the government should get its power from the people and there is a sign that the government gives you your rights. There are signs that are contrary to Christian beliefs, the abortion sign, and the xxx sign. Although the equality is racist sign is maybe a little true based on the fact that the that there was slavery in early America and that slaves were only counted as 3/5 of a person in the constitution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3 Lost Founding Fathers



by Jordan Hadley - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 1:48 PM

I agree. It's so crazy how much our nation has changed since it was first created. The Founding Fathers would be in shock if they saw modern society. Even though America today there is still many things wrong with it. Even with all the changes in America, if you look at the deal in Ferguson it makes me wonder if racism is still a severe problem. It makes me wonder how crazy life would be if it was still like it was in the early 1800s.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2 - The TRUE Cost of Democracy



by Sierra Howard - Friday, November 28, 2014, 7:10 PM

There is no doubt that 18th century "politician" couldn't have foreseen the extremes to which people will go to prevail politically! The two guys standing in front of the "Democracy" machine aren't pulling out their billfolds to cast their votes, they are reminiscing the day when they actually got to participate in the process. Sadly, we are not all as fortunate as the Koch brothers!

There is definitely massive failure in our democratic system when the natural rights of the People equate to their bank accounts. The fifteenth amendment states, "The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or

by any State on account of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude-" (p.A-15, textbook). Is there an implication that you must be rich for your vote to count?

There are so many people in this country that really don't understand what they are voting for, so they either don't vote, or they vote based on what they have been exposed to, (all the money spent on attack ads). There has to be a better way to configure democracy. Why doesn't someone figure out how to funnel some of those campaign contributions into something that is beneficial to the People? I would vote for that guy!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2 - The TRUE Cost of Democracy



by Candice Oster - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 5:34 PM

I agree Sierra, many voters are choosing their votes based on how many of the same sign they drove by on their way to work or the same campaign flyer came in their mailbox. These campaign techniques are costly for the candidate and the money is coming from somewhere. This type of persuasion is like the pizza commercials that come on TV in the evening when your hungry and don't have the energy to look for a better choice.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2 - The TRUE Cost of Democracy



by Andrew Mirman - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 8:31 PM

I enjoyed reading sierra's post. Her examples let me look at this cartoon in a different light. I agree with her that people are not voting with 100% of the right information. I think that is one of the hardest parts of information now in days is that the news channels are all owned by either billionaires or corporations both having political affiliation. The bias of the parent companies means that facts are seconds to the spinning of stories to make their parties views seen by the masses. As we talked about several times in class, you need to research information, and not just believe what you see on tv or online.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon 2 and 4



by Jordan Hadley - Friday, November 28, 2014, 11:50 PM

Both this images are very similar. They show politicians taking money from the citizens. In Cartoon number 2, the political vending machine isn't taking votes anymore it is taking money. In cartoon 4, the politicians are taking money from the taxpayers pocket. I feel like politics nowadays is turning into more of an economic election than anything. Money is involved in everything in today's society. Just running for president for president is extremely expensive, regardless if the candidate wins or loses. "Some analysts believe that President Obama, raised and spent about \$750 million in the 2008

campaign. Compare that to 2007, when Mr. Romney raised about \$23 million in the first three months and ended up spending nearly \$110 million for the primary — \$65 million that he raised from donors and another \$44 million of his own personal fortune (Shear)." This leads to the point that a poor person will never become president, and also makes me wonder if that is another reason why there are such great divisions between high and low class citizens. Money has turned into a problem in our country rather than a beneficial thing.

Works cited

http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/26/how-much-does-it-cost-to-run-for-president/?_r=0

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Pawns in a political war



by Andrew Mirman - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 2:40 PM

I choose to analysis a different cartoon that I think talks about gridlock in American Politics and the economic consequences of their actions. In George Washington's farewell speech, he talks in great detail about how detrimental these factions or parties would be to a Federal Republic government.

Whatever side you are on it doesn't matter. The problem lies now in the spiteful nature of our government and how bitter political disputes trump the needs of the people. When I was in the Air Force, and the government was in a stalemate in the process of shutting down, I remember two things. One shutdown or no shutdown, the 27th Amendment protects the salaries of members of Congress. The second being that Americans, not politicians would suffer because of this political stalemate. That to me is what this cartoon is about these political parties are using the people as economic fodder in a political war. I believe even Federalists with their loose construction views would be appalled and confused if they saw today's version of what they helped create.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoon #2 Not In Their wildest Dreams



by Andrew Mirman - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 4:27 PM



To me this cartoon represents the idea that when our government started the intention was to give the power to the people and create equality through representation in the government. The cartoon shows how, the government is currently being run by large companies lobbying politicians to sway in any direction that benefits the corporations, taking rights away from the people. Events like the 2010 decision that struck down limits on independent campaign spending by corporations and unions shows how big business has intertwined itself with government. This decision allows a small number of people to have control over a large number of politicians (EX. The Koch brothers with The Tea Party).

Which then leads to legislation being pushed that doesn't benefit the people that voted, only the contributing group. The founding fathers could never have foreseen how events transpired, but as we talked about in class things in our constitution were a matter of interpretation and viewpoints. So over the last 200 plus years we have seen how far the government has used interpretation to make reason to create a situation where corporations have more influence than people. I do agree with this cartoon, and I am sad to say that this vending machine is what our government has become.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Government taxes



by Brian Burt - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 5:55 PM

Wow so after reading this cartoon it truly made me believe that this is how are government was represented and how taxes really worked. I mean it's very obvious that you can see both government parties putt there hands into the tax payers pockets to get there taxes. I mean you really don't have much of a choice the government will tax any and everything they feel so that it will benefit the needs of the country! I mean look at cartoon #2 the machine was designed to take votes from people but now it takes money. Money in today's sociaty I feel like is taking over are sociaty! Cartoon 3 it just makes you think that no matter what you do you will always have to pay taxes I mean there are taxes now days on everything food,gas,housing and so much more and we can't just run and not pay are taxes we are obligated as a citizen of the United states to pay them or be punished. I mean money to be honest has turned more of a problem then a solution in are country as the country gets older it seems to my opion with money gets worse!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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cartoon 6 guns!



by Brian Burt - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 7:49 PM

So cartoon #6 really just catches my eye as you can see in the picture James Madison is writing the second amendment witches the right too bear arms! But what really seems to stand out in this picture is that the guy who came in is holding a assault rifle now obvisouly when they where writing it they didn't know about all these new guns cause back then they had muskets and bayonets they didn't think a man could do mass destruction with those guns. I mean in the picture you can tell that James was suprised about the gun that was

brought in it makes you think little bit he obviously didn't know anything about how guns where going to evolve I mean in the picture he even stops writing in complete shock! If he knew what what the guns where going to be evolved into he most definitely would have changed some things on the second amendment but that's just what I see from this picture. Some weapons that citizens own I think should not be owning the amemd has been completely stretched beyond max cause now weapons can wipe out lot more things then a musket.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #1 - Downhill Spiral



by Kendra Helgeson - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 8:54 PM

This cartoon accurately reflects what we've been studying because of how the government was better about getting people to pay their debts and the fact that people were self motivated about paying off their debts as well. People would either write down what they were given or owed, or just remembered what they were given or owed and eventually repay the other person. The first quote by Jefferson on this cartoon is "It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes." I'm not sure what happened between then and now, but we all know that this country isn't all that great with paying the debts considering we're in debt by \$17 trillion. Another quote that really stands out to the position we're in today is, "Never spend your money before you have earned it." Many people didn't have a lot of money back then so they used what they had very, very wisely. Now that we have all types of credit cards, people can spend all the money they can and many people don't even pay that back so they end up in a lot of debt. Like I said, I'm not sure what has happened between then and now but it really is sad how much debt we're in and that we will most likely never get back to a \$0 amount.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #1 - Downhill Spiral



by Karla Logan - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:07 PM

It's so sad that it's true. Our founding fathers would be so ashamed of us if they could see where we are now and how much debt we are in. everyone kept track of their own debts that they owed and who owed them. Trust me that is still true today. Those that the US owes money to haven't forgotten however back then it was a chicken or bushel of wheat not billions of dollars. I also very mush agree with the point you made about today's society spending more money than they have or earn just to have the next best thing or just living off credit cards. Individuals are getting home loans for more than they can afford just to have the biggest and the best. Some homes are being foreclosed on and individuals are filing bankruptcy, if we lived by the rule don't spend your money before you have it then most wouldn't be in these situations.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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money talks (#2)



by Karla Logan - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 10:35 PM

I believe this cartoon is poking fun at our election system. There was a time when our vote was what was counted and meant something. It does today but at the same time it's almost a battle of pocket books. This cartoon is showing how we are no longer selecting a leader by only our vote we are picking them by who has the largest financial backing. This is held true today with almost anything we spend our money on, movies, restaurants, or goods. When we spend our money something even a politician it is our vote to keep that person or thing around. I got a little giggle at the part of the cartoon that says "I'm afraid to see what it spits out". It is uneasy to see an outcome that isn't based solely what can and will be done or what the person believes in but based on who has the most money behind them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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who are you tricking? (#7)



by Karla Logan - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:18 PM

I am intrigued as to why no one picked #7 so I'm going to get the conversation started. This cartoon is poking fun at Obama. The little girl represents us as Americans and America as a whole. As most politicians Obama has told his fair share of fibs. However some believe he took things to an extreme. This article shows him fooling us, America, into thinking he will make everything better. He pulled the wool over our eyes saying he is going to fix everything and it won't cost a dime. We as America take him up on his offer to make everything better. I am curious to see the next cartoon to this one. Will see a wolf in sheep's clothing? How will they represent how he tricked us and changed things at his will?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #6 - Second Amendment



by Ashley Lazorchak - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:21 PM

Cartoon #6 is based on our second amendment, which is partially written in the comic already as if James Madison is in the process of writing the amendment as the man holding the gun enters the room. It's quoted as "...a well regulated militia..." and the full statement being: *"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."* (Pg. A-12, Appendix B – Liberty, Equality, Power textbook). To me, this indicates that James Madison did not envision a society that allows individuals to own such ridiculous forms of weaponry. It is clear that during the time that amendment was written, it was necessary for the average person to own some form of a firearm or weapon in general in order to protect themselves as well as their families. I believe as time has gone on, that amendment has been taken advantage of, in a sense. Considering all of the different types of guns that people own, with easy access, sometimes just sitting in their garage or "stored away" in a closet or cabinet as common as the individual's bedroom. The guy holding the gun in the comic which seems to be backwards and over his shoulder to me, as well as a surprised look on his face, could be represented as individuals who own serious firearms such as the weapon in the comic with

little knowledge about them. I believe that people should without a doubt be able to own guns and have protection and feel secure in their own home. I do not believe that it is necessary for people to own certain types of firearms, such as firearms as big as the one in the comic. To me, in order to own a firearm such as that, you should have a serious reason as well as all of the knowledge and place that you can lock and secure the firearm away. Individuals who have owned firearms such as that and have failed to do so, has resulted in school shootings and other tragic events where children have obtained such firearms. I am aware that everyone has a strong outlook on this certain amendment, and not everyone will agree with me when I say that only certain firearms should be allowed in homes and even for individuals to own, but I feel as though if that were the case, the tragic events would not be increasing as time goes on.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #4 - No Choice



by Ashley Lazorchak - Saturday, November 29, 2014, 11:37 PM

While looking through the cartoons, the one that stuck out to me the most was cartoon #4. It applied to our class very clearly considering an abundance of our lessons have been based on the subject of "taxes." My interpretation of this cartoon is that it is based on the government taking our taxes. The "taxpayer" being in the middle and the Democrat (the donkey) and Republican (the elephant - <http://www.infoplease.com/askeds/donkey-elephant.html>) standing on either side of him, reaching into his pockets. My interpretation of them reaching into the "taxpayers" pockets is to represent them searching for money in his pockets, without his consent, to put towards taxes. While finding it hard to understand the title: "The Compromise," after pondering it for a while, I came to the conclusion that the title possibly represents that regardless of what side you are on, you are going to be forced to pay taxes either way, there is no "compromise." From the very start of taxes, such as the Stamp Act that we have learned about in class and while reading (Pg. 173-177 – Liberty, Equality, Power textbook), the majority of people were unhappy with the idea of taxes and having to pay extra money on common items. To this day, the majority of people are still unhappy with the idea of taxes as well as a low desire to pay taxes, but despite your opinion on taxes and your level of desire to pay them, you do not have a choice.

(Apologies for the late postings, I got back from my trip later than I expected to.)

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Ignorance is bliss (#7)



by Alexander Taylor - Sunday, November 30, 2014, 2:42 AM

This cartoon shows a tall man labelled "obama" holding a young child labelled "america" wearing a disney hat's hand, as if to lead them. The words "state of the union" are on the bottom of the image. This cartoon depicts multiple public perceptions of government. First, it depicts that the government sees common americans as essentially children, unable to lead themselves, and in need of babysitting. Second, it depicts that the state of the union address is the governments way of brainwashing people by only showing them the good, while mostly glossing over the bad. Third, it depicts the old adage of government as "big

brother", who is leading their younger sibling through disneyland, thus superficially keeping them happy, while making no real changes of substance.

Joe, I know this is late, but the holiday and travel was a nightmare. I've been throwing up for the last three days. Please let this count, it would help me out so, so much.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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