

HST 201: History of United States F17 (Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

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Cartoons - Part 1

by Joe Escobar - Friday, November 24, 2017, 6:40 PM

To write your posts and replies, click on my post below. This thread is for the first set of cartoons for the week.

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Cartoon #6, The Second Amendment.

by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, November 25, 2017, 2:40 PM

For this forum post I have decided to talk about cartoon number 6. This cartoon accurately reflects the issues we are faced with regarding the second amendment. Mr. Escobar raised a very good point in class, saying that “when James Madison was drafting the bill of rights, the right to bear arms basically meant, the right to have a musket, as the technology of the day was very limited” (1.). If James Madison had the ability to predict the future of weaponry, would he have written the second amendment differently?

I think this particular cartoon is trying to say that our Bill of Rights would be very different if James Madison had insight into the future of technology. Maybe this is true, but its hard to say for sure what someone was thinking that long ago.

Pulling from our class notes, James Madison did include something called the Elastic Clause in article 1, section 8 of the constitution. This clause gives “powers” to the government and allows loose interpretations of the constitution, or “Loose Constructionism” (2.). It seems like in the beginning he intended for the constitution to be loosely interpreted. I believe that he knew certain issues couldn’t be handled with a strict interpretation of the constitution that’s why we have the Tenth Amendment and “necessary and Proper.” If my interpretation of cartoon number 6 is correct, then I don’t agree. I think James Madison would have written the second amendment exactly the same way if he knew what kind of weapons would be available. The Bill of Rights gave people the right to bear arms, but it also gave the government the power to creates laws that were "necessary and proper".

"The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed"(3), but is It "necessary and proper" for the government to regulate what types of weapons are available to the public?

We are still witnessing the debate between Strict Constructionist and Loose Constructionist views regarding gun laws.

1. (Lecture)
2. (Slideshow notes)
3. (Second Amendment)

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Madison's View of Present Day United States

by Nicholas LaMonica - Monday, November 27, 2017, 5:27 PM

On Cartoon #6, I agree with you in thinking that if James Madison was given insight of present day military technology and capabilities, he would stand by the notion of our military adopting more advanced weapons such as machine guns in order for the US to defend itself. However, if James Madison were able to see the US strengthen itself to the point of making up 1/3 of global military expenditures, establish peaceful relations with Canada and Mexico (both non threatening militarily and heavily dependent on US trade) and increase in population to 325 billion people, he would argue that the US no longer has the need for every citizen to bear arms, let alone machine guns. I also think that Madison included the 2nd amendment to mobilize as many people as possible during a time where our military was extremely small. Today, we have the largest military in the world with soldiers who are trained specifically to

use these weapons, and in retrospect is much better than having less-trained, armed civilians fight for you (i.e. Washington's minutemen who were unprofessional, ragged and didn't know to separate their cooking quarters and toilets)

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Re: Madison's View of Present Day United States

by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 9:59 AM

The Bill of Rights was created to “limit the power of the federal government” (1). Keeping that in mind while reading the second amendment, it leads me to believe that “a well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed” (2) wasn't intended to mobilize and create the largest army in the world, but rather to protect U.S. citizens from the tyranny of a corrupt government and military. I think if James Madison were alive today he would argue that because “we have the largest military in the world with soldiers who are trained to specifically to use these weapons”(3), every citizen should be equally armed in order to keep tyranny at bay.

1.(Lecture Notes)

2.(Second Amendment)

3.(Nicholas LaMonica, Madison's View of Present Day United States, Forum 4)

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Thoughts on Cartoon #2

by Nicholas LaMonica - Sunday, November 26, 2017, 5:05 PM

I thought cartoon #2 was the funniest. It implies that both the Democratic and Republican parties both take advantage of taxpayers to achieve their goals, and that taxpayers are usually unaware of what their taxes are being used for. It also paints the victim as an Uncle Sam-like character, who is a personified version of the American government, or United States as a whole; the anxiety on his face describes his powerlessness in protesting or rebelling.

This cartoon is less applicable to the historical events we've been studying because it isn't until 1860 that we see emergence of the Republican party and the first Republican president (Lincoln). The elephant was also introduced much later than the

era we're studying (1790-1850): "In a cartoon that appeared in Harper's Weekly in 1874, [Thomas] Nast drew a donkey clothed in lion's skin, scaring away all the animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled "The Republican Vote." (The Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant). Another thing that makes this cartoon inapplicable is that the Whig party, a successor of the Federalist party and opponent of the Democratic party, lacked infrastructure and had trouble agreeing on policies. It can be argued that the Republican party of today is more cohesive on issues and has enough backing to compete with the Democratic party.

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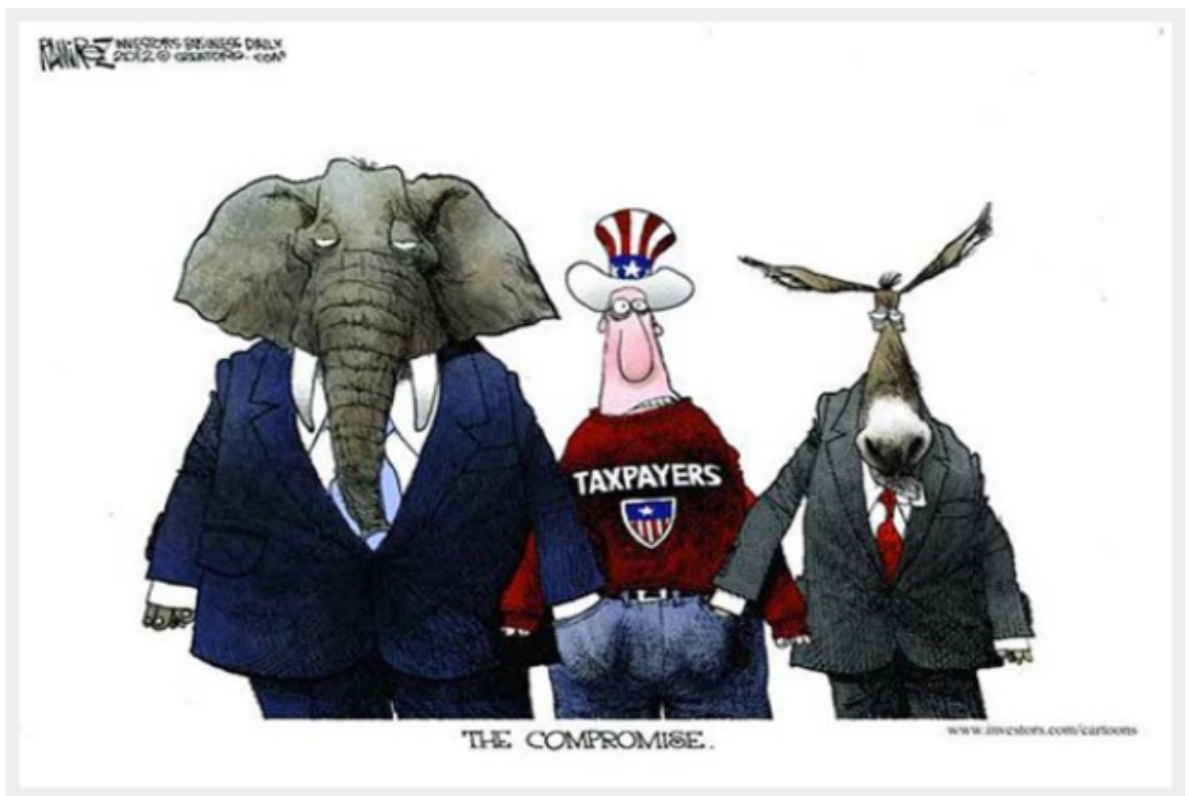


Cartoon #2 "The Compromise"

by Kamron Low - Sunday, November 26, 2017, 5:56 PM

Cartoon #2 "The Compromise" depicts each of the political parties (as their animal representations) reaching into the pockets of the "taxpayer" to, we can assume, take his money. I believe this can be interpreted mainly as commentary on how, no matter which political party we support, taxation always goes to both of them. Or perhaps that we support them and in return they "support" us as "the compromise". There are a few ways you can interpret it, but they all have that same connection between the parties involvement with taxation.

This is significant as taxation and other similar financial disputes are one of the key factors that created the parties. "Passed in April 1791, the national bank and the federal excise measures completed Hamilton's organization of government." (Pg. 242, Liberty, Equality, Power) Alexander Hamilton's plans for solving the debt issue, such as a national bank for excises taxes, caused conflicts in congress. "Hamilton's proposed Bank of the United States split the nation's political elites and their followers into permanent factions, Hamilton's Federalists and Jefferson and Madison's Democratic Republicans, or Republicans for short (not to be confused with the modern Republican Party founded in the 1850s)." (Pg. 243, Liberty, Equality, Power)



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Cartoon #4

by Kelsey Lane - Monday, November 27, 2017, 6:16 PM

I picked cartoon number 4 because I think it not only relates to current events happening in today's society, but also relates to what we've talked about in class concerning the constitution. In this cartoon a little boy asks his dad if he thinks anyone is looking over them from the sky, the dad says, "yes son, the Intelligence Community." I think this strongly plays into our society today and how our government watches its citizens by monitoring phone calls, internet activity, and other things. In class we talked about the "Necessary and Proper Clause" placed in the United States constitution and how in today's society government can see many things such as, "monitoring" citizens activity, as necessary and proper. This cartoon pushes for people to look at what really is necessary and if "monitoring" would fall under this clause. I believe that this cartoon does a decent job of relaying how government may be abusing the Necessary and Proper Clause. No one wants to be spied on. I think that the cartoonist could have done a better job of letting the audience know exactly what they were referencing because not everyone knows the constitution. More context would be nice. I do agree with the view point the cartoonist seems to be coming from. I think that the government should really pick and choose what they deem necessary and proper and to what extent.

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Cartoon #4

by Dylan Ganahl-Johll - Monday, November 27, 2017, 7:13 PM

In cartoon 4 the son and dad are shaded all black looking into the night sky. Seeing this you can't tell which time period these people may appear to be in. In the cartoon, the dad says yes the government is watching over us. This seems to be true even before we became a country. Before gaining our freedom, Britain looked over us. Making sure we grew products to trade, paid taxes, and the things we did and said. And now today hundreds of years later and the government is still watching everything we do with our emails, phones, what we say, and do.

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Re: Cartoon #4

by Kelsey Lane - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 8:41 PM

This is very true. When we compare government today and government when we were still part of Britain we can see similarities in how we are being watched over and often times controlled. Although the level and type of observation and control is different, it shows how government has always done this. I think this cartoon shows this well. I remember in class talking about how it was illegal to talk ill of your president and how people were even arrested for this. I think this shows the level of control our country, even after breaking from Britain and how it has continued. It will evolve but continue as our government today shows.

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Cartoon 3

by Casandra Fountain - Monday, November 27, 2017, 7:20 PM

In cartoon three we see a family maybe around Thanksgiving time and dress in the early settler (Pilgrim) clothing giving thanks in prayer. We obviously weren't a country during this time but were colonies of the mother country. And once we did become one it was still small by today's standards. So they are thankful for a small unobtrusive government. Let's stop there, small government. Today we are at 22.2 million government employees (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016). I wouldn't call that small. This outnumbers population in Michigan and Ohio combined in 2016 (cnsnews.com). Next word, unobtrusive. Unless you are living off the land in the middle of nowhere and are using those things called feet to get around, the government is apart of some aspect of your life. As we discussed in

class there's departments for anything and everything. Lastly, a government that doesn't try to run our lives. Our government started out trying to avoid this very thing I would say but with the "necessary and proper clause" they have managed to pry their sticky fingers in just about everything you can think of because the government deems it necessary. Overall, I find this cartoon mocking our state of government currently and is quite comical.

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Cartoon #5

by Nathaniel McKinney - Monday, November 27, 2017, 7:40 PM

In my post I will be talking about cartoon #5. When compared to the historical events we have been talking about, I see this cartoon to basically the opposite of the events. When creating the constitution, they created three branches to keep the other branches in check, so no one branch becomes too powerful. They hadn't to have check and balances so that the president would become like a monarchy, and deviate away the why Britain ran their country. In some of my lecture notes learned that the first continental congress meet to limit the power of the federal government. I think the cartoon is giving the message of the executive branch being a lot more powerful than the other two branches. In the terms of the cartoon nowadays I agree with the message but being honest I don't follow politics very much. With that being said anytime I hear something about our government it comes from a message by the president and not from the other branches. In terms of the cartoon in the historic events we are learning about this message is what they feared when creating the central government.

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Raleigh Emerson - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 5:30 PM

I think this cartoon did a great job showing the dangers that could have com had our founding fathers not been as selfless as they were. Limiting the power of the executive branch is what kept our country from being corrupted by some wanna be king.

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**Re: Cartoon #5**

by Casandra Fountain - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 1:39 PM

I agree with your thoughts on cartoon 5. I think it represents the executive branch dire want to become the one power of the U.S. I think this has been a progression throughout the years and didn't necessary start like that, or our founding fathers would have made it that way. Each branch is very much intertwined with each other. A system of checks and balances prevents one from gaining more power over the other and becoming too powerful. I think when it comes to modern day government this cartoon is accurate with how our recent presidents have handled their powers. For example, when a president can't get anything to go through Congress, they can use their executive powers to override the decisions made to get things passed. It will be interesting to see how our history continues if things keep falling through the cracks and our candidates continue to be reality TV businessmen.

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**Cartoon #6**

by April Frost - Monday, November 27, 2017, 9:55 PM

This cartoon does not completely follow what we have learned in class. The cartoonist skewed the true idea behind the Second Amendment by leaving out "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.", which leads to the later needed clarification that the Tenth Amendment addresses: "powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution; nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people." The textbook leaves out the clarification on both of these amendments in order to enforce the idea that James Madison preserved and/or strengthened governmental power. (p 240). In comparison to the cartoonist, the amendments are divided up to enforce another common misconception. The cartoon proposes that the Bill of Rights has been infringed, and people are disobeying the rules of the government. It is clear though, that the Bill of Rights, in its entirety, actually allows these freedoms to the people.

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**Cartoon #6**

by Jason Yeager - Monday, November 27, 2017, 10:10 PM

This cartoon, which shows a member of a militia presenting what appears to be a modern assault rifle to James Madison, seems to be questioning whether the Bill of Rights would have been written with the same language had Madison been able to

predict the technological advancements of modern firearms. Obviously, this topic is front-and-center in the American national consciousness, considering the use of these weapons in recent attacks on innocent civilians.

I think there would have been two reasons that would have given Madison pause. First would be the technology itself; modern weaponry is incredibly accurate and powerful. Second would be the fact that these weapons are manufactured, marketed, and sold to citizens with no ties to any militia.

While I am sure that the right of civilians to bear these types of arms would have concerned Madison, as it could negatively influence the balance of power of the government that he and the other founding fathers were so carefully constructing, I also feel that he would have realized that the technology would also be available to military and other governmental forces, thereby finding justification in a mutual "arms race."

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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by Lloyd Higgins - Monday, November 27, 2017, 10:16 PM

When I was browsing the cartoons in the forum 4 section, the one that stood out to me the most was cartoon number 4. An obvious commentary on the wiretapping and data gathering carried out by the NSA and CIA as a result of the war on terror. It is both humorous and depressing to see the sort of sardonic commentary regarding warrantless spying by the U.S government on her citizens for the sake of homeland security. While there have most certainly always been issues regarding the security of the nation, never before has the government been able to collect and observe the sheer amount of data available to its agencies. It seems to be both a symptom of security culture, and mass paranoia since the 2001 terror attacks that another attack could happen at any time. The method of preventing these attacks, by searching every piece of straw in a haystack for a single needle, could be said to be effective. However, it begs the question of how much freedom people are willing to give up for the sake of safety and security. Perhaps it is a question that many have pushed to the back of their minds in order to be ready for the next threat, wherever, and whoever that may be, and to rely solely on the government to protect them, even from themselves.

<https://www.eff.org/nsa-spying>



"THAT'S OBAMA'S NEW GUY...HE SEES YOU WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING...
HE KNOWS WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE...."

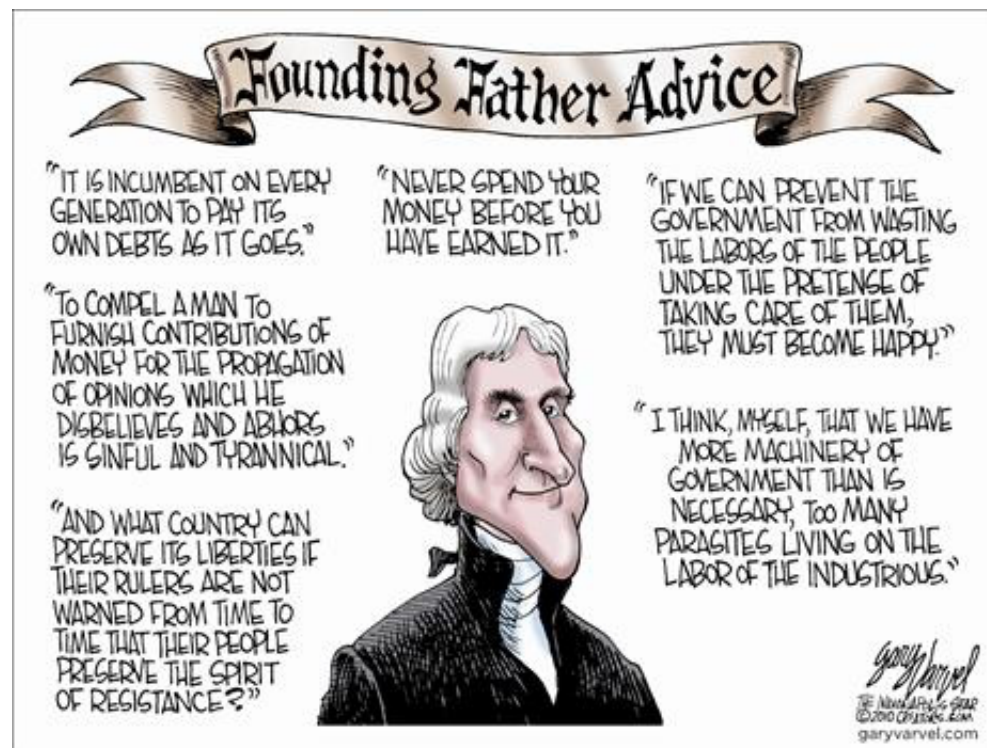
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Re: Cartoon #1 Founding Advice

by Jesse Elizondo - Monday, November 27, 2017, 11:44 PM



Since I want to make some comment on each quote in the picture I'm only going to

focus on a few in this post and do the rest later. So the cartoon features Thomas Jefferson giving advice to our old early government when everything was just starting, but the advice given also can apply to our current situation which is what I'm going to talk about. The two quotes that I'm going to analyze are "It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes" and "Never spend your money before you have earned it". My first impression from seeing these quotes are that they are pretty sound pieces of practical advice that relate well to both old and new government. It relates well in modern times because of the current debt situation in our country in which we have accumulated over 20 trillion dollars of. Looking back at the quotes from Jefferson it seems that we haven't really taken his advice to heart. What could have caused us to stray so far from these principles given to us? Our old government used to be much more minimalistic, compared to now and it could sustain itself on much less revenue compared to now. As we learned in class, the U.S. government sustained itself primarily on trade tariffs up until the first world war. Now our government plays a much bigger role in people's lives and it spends much more as a consequence.

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Cartoon #6

by Jack Westphal - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 1:33 PM

Referring to Cartoon #6, the picture shows James Madison writing a piece of the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution, and entering the scene is a soldier carrying a scoped assault rifle anachronistically proclaiming "James...check out this baby!!". What this picture is depicting is that the forefathers could not perceive how advanced our weaponry would become, and that writing this 2nd Amendment would allow millions of assault weapons to be bought and sold by American citizens 300+ years into the future. I believe it accurately depicts that James Madison wrote the 2nd Amendment, but clearly no soldier would have access to that type of weapon until hundreds of years later. I think the cartoon makes a valid point in that so much has changed since the winning of our independence in 1776 that relying on a document written during the time period may come with it's own flaws and misinterpretations as we continue moving forward as a society.

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Cartoon #5

by Raleigh Emerson - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 5:12 PM

Cartoon 5 was the impactful for me. What resonated with me most from our studies was George Washington's concern with president controlling too much of government. This cartoon provides a look into just how out of control things could have gotten had they not given our commander and chief the proper restrictions.

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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by Daniel Brockett - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 10:03 PM

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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by Daniel Brockett - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 12:05 AM

nvm found it thought it might be hidden in the forum itself

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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by Daniel Brockett - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 5:16 PM

it reflects the historical events we have been studying in class, due to the simple fact, that taxes are an important issue since the founding of our country. When we rebelled from Britain to today. However it differs because the attitude towards taxes is very different now. People hate taxes and often deem them unnecessary And why wouldn't they? CNN corespondent By Curtis Kalin blog's states "*The National Institutes of Health paid this six figure sum to the National Center for Complimentary and Alternative Medicine in order to discern whether Swedish massages would be helpful in recovering from an illness. A group of rabbits received daily rub downs from a 'mechanical device that simulates the long, flowing strokes used in Swedish massages.' these cost Swedish massages for rabbits: \$387,000.this is just one of many things listed there and throughout the internet. The blog itself may be suspect but if you trace the articles they check out. This is a drop in the bucket with the amount wasted on military spending. An article in the Washington times (By Renee Garfinkel - - Tuesday, March 7, 2017)says: Waste at the Pentagon "is nothing new, but it may have soared to new heights. Multiple financial*

scandals have emerged from U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, with ProPublica estimating the cost of wasteful and misguided expenditures to be \$17 billion.” in conclusion id say that they do reflect history correctly. I agree with the message of the cartoon which is both party's are motivated by taxes. It also might be referencing the compromise of 1850 which was “1850 A set of laws, passed in the midst of fierce wrangling between groups favoring slavery and groups opposing it, that attempted to give something to both sides. ... Part of the Compromise included the Fugitive Slave Act, which proved highly unpopular in the North.” (dictionary.com) maybe, the artist is drawing a parallel that Taxes are unpopular today is the compromise was to the north back then. maybe instead of just complaining about taxes we should look as to where are taxes are going. America used to pay it's debts what happened? SO yes i agree with the cartoon, but think we should look into not just how much and but what for.



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Cartoon #5- "Implied Powers" of Executive Branch

by Nicholas LaMonica - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 5:58 PM

I believe cartoon #5 accurately reflects historical events we've been studying and what most of our founding fathers feared while creating the constitution: the President having too much power. The colonists did not want to recreate an aristocratic, authoritarian government like Britain's, for fear of citizens not being able to live their lives without restriction.

I don't believe that the executive branch of government can do much on its own without Congressional approval, however presidents in recent times have been increasingly asserting 'inherent powers' of the executive branch in authorizing military action and deployment. According to my political science textbook We The People (10th edition), inherent powers are "powers over and beyond those expressly granted in the Constitution or reasonably to be implied in the Constitution, [used] in times of war or national emergency" (p. 321). This has been seen in the Truman presidency with the dispatch of US soldiers to fight in the Korean War without congressional approval, as well as George W. Bush's order to invade Iraq (although Congress approved Bush's actions beforehand, he was careful to assert that he did not need congressional authorization). This is the only example I can think of regarding the executive branch acting without interference of checks or balances.

LaneOnline



Joe Escobar



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Cartoon Number 6

by Lloyd Higgins - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 8:52 PM

Cartoon number 6 is certainly interesting. We see Madison surprised when a soldier shows a modern assault rifle to him. While I think the message is clear, that the founding fathers could never have predicted, nor anticipated the advancement of technology and the military. I think the cartoonist may be interpreting the second amendment in a unique light, one which I find myself in partial disagreement with. To me, the cartoon suggests that Madison would have written the document differently if he had known what sort of weapons we would be developing in the future. However, Madison was also a strict constructionist. He believed that the word of law was final, and ruled both peasant and

lord among the land. His interpretation of the constitution, despite changes which may occur in the future (such as far reaching government control, alliances with countries, trade agreements, outsourcing of domestic labor to foreign powers) was that the document should be interpreted as is, and put into law without room for flexibility. In addition, some of the puritan ideals of the time, that absolute power could eventually corrupt, or that people always had the potential to be evil, held true in the minds of the founding fathers when the constitution was drafted. For all intents and purposes he may have assumed, and perhaps rightly so, that in the future the government of the United States could potentially bear absolute power over its people, or be controlled by powers other than the rule of law. This is why I think that he may not change his mind if he were shown modern weapons, in fact, he may be encouraged to tell the people to interpret the constitution as non flexible, or rigid, as he did.

<https://www.ucumberlands.edu/downloads/academics/history/vol13/aaroncoleman01.htm>

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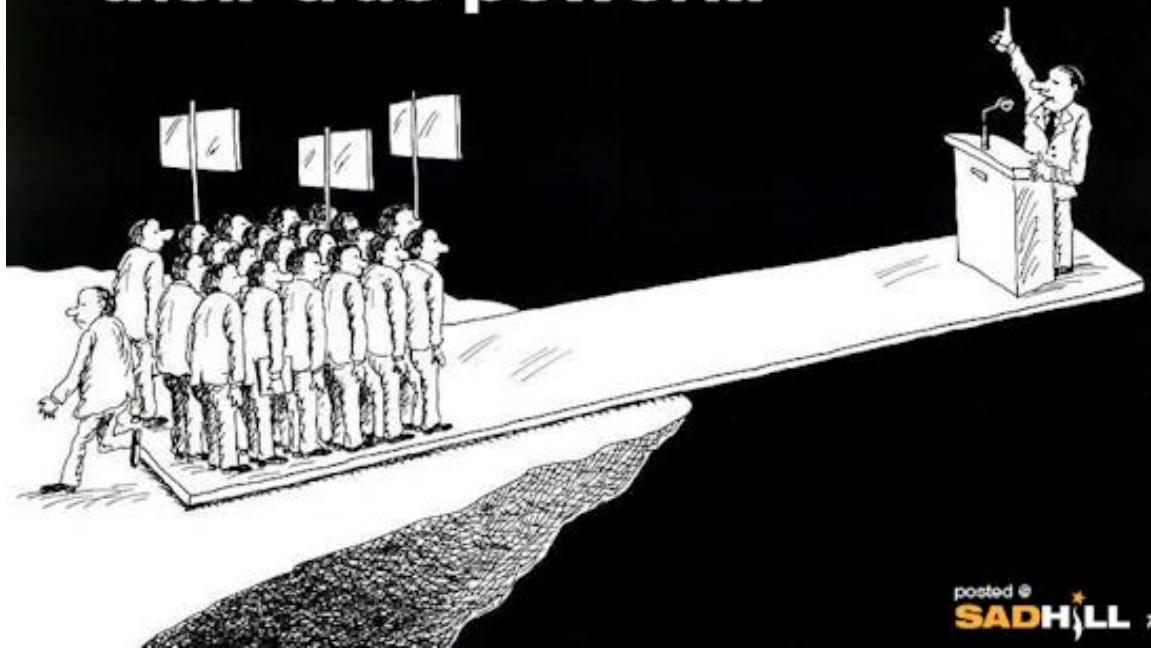


The people

by Casandra Fountain - Thursday, November 30, 2017, 11:14 AM

I had found this cartoon and I felt it related fairly well with what we have been studying. First we see a group of people holding signs listening to what seems to be a politician I'm assuming. They're standing on a plank and the group is holding this speaker up. There's one person already leaving. If all the people get off the board what do you think happens to the speaker? The quote in the cartoon is very telling. Many people don't know their true power. The 10th amendment states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." People have the power. If they collectively start stepping off the board, it would be the end of the politician. This cartoon definitely is true in what it is trying to say and I would agree with the message, if Americans came together instead of constantly at odd with each other we would be a much more productive country.

The people don't know their true power...



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Cartoon #7

by Jason Yeager - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 5:50 PM

I just wanted to throw in a comment about this cartoon, which I found to be the funniest of the bunch. My remarks may not have any historical context, or connect directly to anything we have learned this term, but I still wanted to comment on my experiences as they relate to this cartoon.

I am reminded of election night a little over a year ago. I participated in the election, and while I did not consider myself entirely "with" either candidate, I assumed--as much of the country did--that Hillary would win easily. My kids were old enough to understand what was going on, so as a family we watched the results as they came in.

Almost without exception, all of the television stations--from ultra-conservative to ultra-liberal--were celebrating this historic event. We were about to elect our first female President. The talking-heads had already anointed Hillary, and were literally beaming as they pondered how big the landslide victory would be.

I was shocked and disturbed, as many others were, at the final results. That we as a progressive nation could elect someone that I always considered to be somewhat of a buffoon to the highest office in the land (and in some respects, the world) was beyond my comprehension. But as I watched the results that night, I found the reaction of the

media to be quite entertaining. The once beaming heads were steadily fading to a ghostly pale, and as reality set in, the attitude went from something like a New Year celebration to something more akin to a funeral.

As I watched one channel in particular (probably CNN or CNBC, but I can't remember), they discussed the low voter turnout, which we did briefly talk about in class. They floated the idea that voters were staying away from the polls because Americans in general felt that the election was already decided. The very first thought that came into my head was "Yeah, thanks to you."

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Re: Cartoon #7

by April Frost - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 11:15 PM

Jason,

I appreciate you sharing this idea. I'd like to point out how the absence of the Trump campaign in this cartoon also speaks volumes. While it is upsetting to the democratic supporters that the media had turned their heads away from their voters during parts of the election, the more conservative channels, such as Fox News, also reported high polls and support for the Trump campaign, which also provided a *false* hope. I think the cartoon can reach further than just the Hillary campaign, and it really can apply to earlier elections that this country has held. Much like the video we saw previously on how brutal campaign ads can be... we know that election outcomes such as this have been a controversial topic for many years. Accusations can be false, polls can be skewed, and the media should take responsibility in honest journalism. Unfortunately, many Americans and myself struggle with the dilemma of having more regulation in the media (which can lead to a more strict/strong government) over just allowing the media to remain biased in hopes that these consumers will research the correct material and information.

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Cartoons #6

by Jordan Lopez - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 8:55 PM

in this photo it shows James Madison writing the bill of rights. specifically the second amendments which states "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." however

this is not the case. it shows a weapon of our time that is fringed upon for owning. The Constitution does not mention specific weapons, yet not all weapons are viewed the same way by the government. The Judiciary Act of 1789 as says on page 240 of our textbook states how the congress created the supreme court which views the right to carry arms mainly for military purposes only. in 1939 case of the United States vs Miller, Miler was found carrying a sawed-off shotgun and brought to the district court. He was then let free from charges arguing he was being violated of his rights that the second amendment gave him. The supreme Court then reversed there ruling and ruled him guilty. This shows how loosely the second amendment is since there is 18 year olds firing tanks and mini-guns in another country but people being denied to buy a hand-gun at 20 in the United States.

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