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Cartoons – Linking Past to Present

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Cartoons – Linking Past to Present

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, November 27, 2015, 7:20 PM

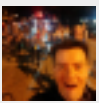
After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

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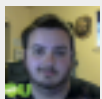
Cartoon #7

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Sunday, November 29, 2015, 10:54 AM

In cartoon number seven we see that the executive branch of government has cut off the other two branches of government. I find this ironic because if one relates this to the constitution then the federal government has over stepped its boundaries. The constitution was made to limit the powers of the federal government fearing that it would become too large. Today many people believe the federal government is too large, regulating things it has no power over, such as drugs. The executive branch here cut off the other branches, meaning when the executive branch today takes no consideration from the other branches before making decisions on issues.

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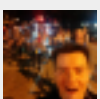
Agreed

by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 7:33 AM

I completely agree with your interpretation on the cartoon. I did the same one and it definitely shows how Executive branch just severs the connection to the other two branches. However, I'm curious if you have any specific examples of when this occurred? I know you said it regulates drugs but perhaps something more specific. I would also like to add that I like how you were able to reference a modern issue back to the original reason the constitution was made.

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more specific example of drug regulation (federal)

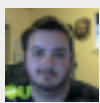
by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 10:26 PM

Thank you for the compliments and yes I do have a more specific example here. The federal government has federal drug laws which they enforce. Nowhere in the constitution does it give the federal

government the power to do so. Let's take marijuana for example, it is federally regulated and for most purposes it is illegal. Now state governments and voters have tried to legalize marijuana. Oregon has recently legalized marijuana to a certain extent yet it is still illegal on a federal level. If a federal police officer was to catch someone in possession of marijuana they would be charged even though it is legal on a state level. Here we see the limb of the federal government cutting the limb of Oregon state government, or at least injuring it.

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Of course

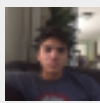
by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 11:35 AM

Yeah, I agree that the federal government is sticking it's nose in the states affairs. It's like what we talked about in class. Oregon voted yes for Marijuana a few years ago but the federal government sort of did that cliché you see in court where they punch their own hand, "keep quiet or die" type mentality. That's how I see it most of the time. haha

Not sure if that made sense.

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Cartoon #7 Right after Marbury V. Madison

by [Oliver Valdivia](#) – Thursday, December 3, 2015, 10:01 PM

I like how you explained the cartoon. I was trying to find an example in the history we learned where the population could have felt that one of the three branches was attempting to separate itself from the others. The best example I found was in the case of Marbury v. Madison which our textbook says, "laid the basis for the practice of judicial review" (259). They go on to say, "Some Republicans saw Marshall's ruling as an attempt to arrogate power to the Court" (259). Perhaps for the citizens in this time period this political cartoon would be have been effective if the branch with the chainsaws trying to cut itself from the others was the judicial branch.

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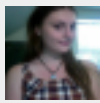
Checks and balances then vs. now

by [Cole Fritz](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 1:04 PM

Cartoon number 7, accurately reflects the historical events we have been studying because it represents the failure of the checks and balances system that was originally designed by the founding fathers. I believe this cartoonist does not correctly interpret history with this cartoon, because in the past the checks and balances system has worked almost flawlessly. Checks and balances in the government have only recently fallen apart, as shown in the cartoon. The executive branch has used its power of vetoes and executive orders to effectively cut out the judicial and legislative branches. Therefore I would agree with the cartoon's message as it relates to the present more than the past, the executive branch clearly has the most power in the government.

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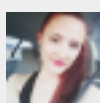
Re: Checks and balances then vs. now

by [Paul Young](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 9:19 PM

Actually, to posit that the Executive branch has become too powerful is to question the very basis of 'checks and balances'. We must ask ourselves, do we think the Executive branch has become too powerful because it acts against our own political agenda, or do we think the Executive branch has become too powerful because it is going against the original checks and balances set forth in the Constitution? This is where true analytics become real. Do we disagree on a personal or on a legalistic level? We have to learn to hold our opinions and think of what laws and practices are best for our great nation as a whole.

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Quotes out of context

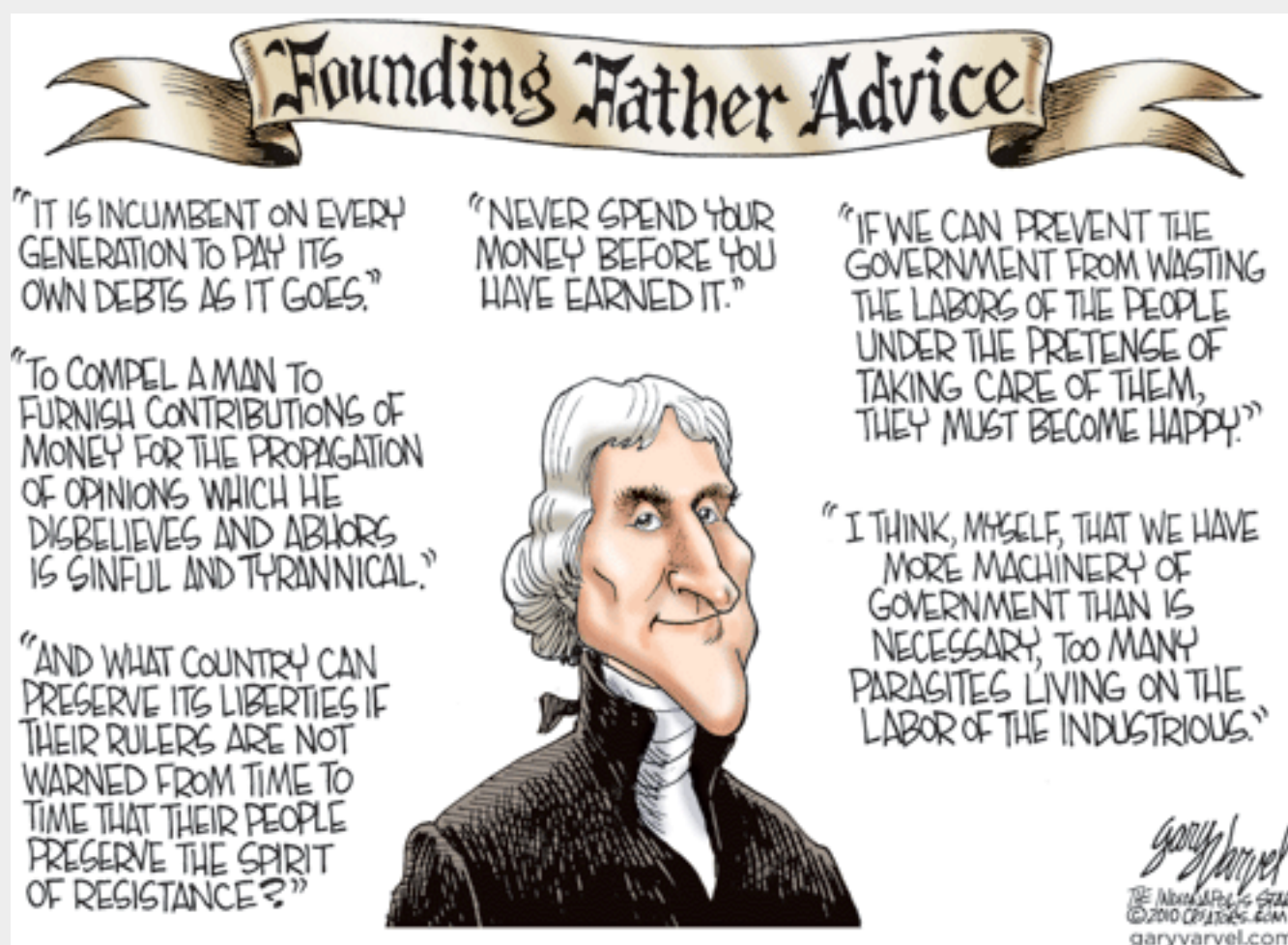
by [Lauren Collett](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 4:37 PM

In cartoon number 1 we are met with many quotes from Thomas Jefferson with no context given except to say at the top "Founding Father Advice." The artist of this comic seems to be leaning towards a more modern day republican ideals. Generally I can not stand behind anyone using quotes so wholly out of context, for example. The quote he puts in "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical." I believe most people would read that and think Thomas Jefferson is talking about taxes going towards things we don't agree with and/or a president you don't agree with. In actuality that wasn't what Thomas Jefferson was referring to at all.

This quote is taken from an act called "The Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom." This is a bill that granted freedom of religion and freedom from the Church of England in Virginia, this was before the constitution was ratified. Still I'd love to hear why you think this cartoonist included this quote, what he was referring to etc.

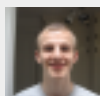
Also lets not forget that he includes the quote "never spend your money before you've earned it" and the other quote about paying off the national debt. Thomas Jefferson is in fact the president who made the Louisiana purchase for 15 million dollars. In our textbook it does say that although he brought the national debt down he did still leave a debt of 57 million dollars at the end of his presidency.(pg 257) So this may not be the best president to quote about not putting the country in debt.

(<https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/virginia-statute-religious-freedom>)



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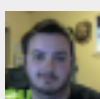
Out of Context

by [Robert Driver](#) – Thursday, December 3, 2015, 8:17 PM

I would agree that the quote "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical," in this artificial context, is supposed to refer to tax money going towards things people don't agree with. I don't think this was much of a problem back in the days of Thomas Jefferson, since the taxes were less obvious and the government didn't have as much power to spend tax money on controversial things. One of the modern examples of this would be abortion. There are a lot of people who think abortion is wrong and who don't want their tax dollars going toward abortion providers like Planned Parenthood.

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Re: Quotes out of context

by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 2:19 PM

For starters, I agree that the artist seems to be leaning towards the republican ideals in modern day. As far as

to why the artist put the quote, "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical." I could only imagine that he thought it would be interesting for someone to read that and, like you said, assume Thomas Jefferson was talking about a completely different topic than what he originally talked about.

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Thomas Jefferson
by [Oliver Valdivia](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9:50 PM

Thanks for posting this, I had no idea that Jefferson left the country in debt. In our notes we wrote that although Jefferson was a Democratic Republican and a strict constructionist he felt that in the case of the Louisiana Purchase "the ends justified the means". This dynamic of strict vs loose constructionism is extremely complicated and was not black and white even for one of the most famous strict constructionists in United States history.

Also I think it's funny that Thomas Jefferson believed that, "Never spend your money before you have earned", and then he leaves the country in debt. It reminded of George Washington's warning at the end of his presidency about continuing with two political parties, but the two parties had been established during his presidency.

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Thomas Jefferson and the National Debt
by [Robert Driver](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 11:36 PM

“During Jefferson’s administration, the national debt fell from \$80 million to \$57 million, and the government built up a treasury surplus, even after paying \$15 million in cash for the Louisiana Purchase” (*Liberty, Equality, Power*, page 257). Even if he did leave the country in debt, Jefferson certainly did better than a lot of other Presidents, at least as far as reducing the national debt goes.

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The Bill of Rights Under Attack
by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 5:41 PM

The #5 political cartoon accurately reflects historical events. The Bill of Rights is interpreted as the tree standing, but being under attack from both sides. Depicted in the drawing, the Democrats are trying to infringe on the right to gun ownership. Which directly interferes with our rights to bear arms made by the Second Amendment. The Republics are depicted as trying to go against the Fourth Amendment and invade privacy without warrants. Both political parties are also going against the Tenth Amendment by trying to take power that is not delegated to them by the Constitution. I agree with the message being presented, because the cartoonist is accurately depicting how today's political parties are trying to violate the rights described by the Bill of Rights.

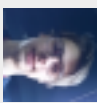
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Re: The Bill of Rights Under Attack
by [Paul Young](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 9:28 PM

Something I really liked about your response is that you addressed how both political parties are facilitating the cutting down of the tree. This represents an independent way of thinking, where you don't just think along party lines and instead consider the consequences both parties are reaping for our country as a whole. However, wouldn't it be nice if both parties recognized that the Bill of Rights should be unassailable? If it is currently assailable by both parties, it shows shows a break down in the moral and legal fiber of our nation.

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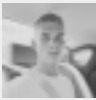


Re: The Bill of Rights Under Attack
by [Drew Chappel](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 8:33 PM

I agree with you about the cartoon, and I like what you said about it showing the breakdown of the moral and legal fibre of our nation. In the cartoon, the artist clearly is expressing the mutilation of the bill of rights based on political points of view of both the Democratic and Republican party. By attacking rights that are given to us in the Bill of Rights, we are straying from our founding father’s original intentions with the nation. The Bill of Rights was all about the limiting of the government, although it was worded in a way that it can be applied today. I think that sometimes politicians can take the loose wording for granted, and as the comic illustrates, hack away at our rights.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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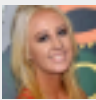


Word for Sacred Word
by [Jacob Brands](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 8:24 PM

The way I interpret cartoon number 3 is that people, mostly our government, use the constitution in ways that are unfair. What I mean by this is that when the government agrees with something in the constitution they will live and die by that and act like the constitution is the most important document in the world and expect the people to take it as seriously as they do, word for sacred word as the cartoon says. Although when there is something they do not agree with they will try and change and manipulate it like the cartoon shows the man asking to change the law about babies born in the U.S. Automatically becoming citizens. Something we've talked about a lot in class and something I believe represents this cartoon very well is the elastic clause.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon 7 Executive vs. the rest
by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 8:33 PM

With the Constitution written to structure the American government, specific branches contained certain powers. The emphasis of the 10th Amendment, “powers not assigned to the national government remained with the states and the citizenry.” (p 240) With the intention of divided power, it still can be seen that the executive branch could take over all power of the nation.

From the beginning, Congress established executive departments of war, state and treasury that would be appointed by the executive head himself, the president. This was a way to remove congressional control; too much power, even though it did let “favoritism” and specific political parties govern the executive branch. (p 240)

In lecture, we addressed the Elastic Clause as “necessary and proper”, but when used incorrectly can enable enormous amounts of power for the executive and legislative branch, by restriction of rights. What seemed to be shared power, later events of being able to declare war without the Congress or testing the limitations of the Constitution only benefited the executive branch.

Looking at a standpoint today, I find it true that a president can have more control over the people and other branches of government. The declaration of war is a fine example that one person could declare versus seeing what the people want through congress or state representatives. The ability to veto a bill through the legislative branch and the pardoning power within the judicial branch definitely push the limits of the Constitution and give the executive branch more power. (Scholastic.com *Can a President be too strong?*)

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 7 Executive vs. the rest
by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 10:44 PM

Kelsey,

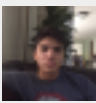
Your points are well put but I disagree with your explanation of the Elastic Clause of the U.S. Constitution. I

read your post to mean that you believe it is possible to use this clause "incorrectly." I interpret incorrectly to mean unconstitutionally and laws that are unconstitutional are subject to being struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States. Therefore, I find it challenging to consider a law that has not been struck down after sufficient time for judicial review, to be incorrect.

However, I still agree that a significant share of the power of the federal government has found its way to the Executive branch. In many cases, the Elastic clause was probably the avenue through which the Executive branch won those powers. Still, I don't find that to be wrong or incorrectly. Merely, I believe, it is demonstrative of the way our society has chosen to interpret the Constitution of the United States through a modern lens.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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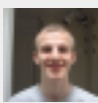
Cartoon #6

by [Oliver Valdivia](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 10:05 PM

This cartoon depicts President Obama speaking with James Madison about the Constitution. It's referring to Obama's loose constructionist view of the Constitution. The cartoon accurately reflects James Madison's view of the Constitution. Madison was a Democratic Republican with a strict constructionist view of the Constitution. In our notes we wrote "James Madison–1. As Federalist in Federalist papers 2. Turned Democratic Republican." The artist is assuming the viewer knows James Madison's view on the interpretation of the Constitution and that Madison is regarded as the "Father of the Constitution." I do believe the cartoonist is accurately interpreting the history in this cartoon. I agree with the message of the cartoon. I do believe most politicians including President Obama are loose constructionists because many seem to believe the powers of the government aren't those specifically stated in the Constitution.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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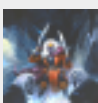
More about Cartoon #6

by [Robert Driver](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 5:29 PM

I’m wondering if this cartoonist knows about James Madison switching from being a Federalist to being a Democratic–Republican. But I’m not sure if it matters. You see, most (if not all) of the Founding Fathers, Federalists and Democratic–Republicans alike, knew that the whole point of the Constitution was to limit government power. If I remember correctly, according to one of the documentary clips shown in class, Alexander Hamilton (a High Federalist) said that a bill of rights was unnecessary *because the Constitution didn’t give the government the power to infringe on people’s rights*. The whole basis of Hamilton’s argument is that the Constitution is there to limit the federal government. The Federalists may have interpreted the Constitution more loosely, resulting in a stronger national government, but they still knew it was there to limit the government’s power.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #6 Point of view on a curve

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 1:22 AM

Hello Oliver Valdivia, I agree with your well written post for cartoon #6.

"How does the cartoon accurately reflect historical events we’ve been studying or does it differ from them? "
– Teach

I would like to add though that I doubt many in Federal U.S. Gov. at the time of Madison were proposing exactly what the caricature of Obama is looking to do “confiscate wealth for redistribution” I imagine to the poor or in need (maybe, I am not so sure with the whole bank and car buy out decisions). Yet also with Hamilton's proposals in economics, in particular, the Bank of the United states, and money value motions altered the values, and names of the holders of the money.

"Passed in April 1791, the national bank and the federal excise measures completed Hamilton’s organization of government finances. Taken separately, the consolidated government debt, the national bank, and the federal excise tax ably solved

"But he insisted that debts owed to Americans be a permanent, tax-supported fixture of government. Under his plan, the government would issue securities to its creditors and would pay an annual rate of interest of 4 percent. A permanent debt would encourage wealthy financiers to invest in government securities, thus allying them with the national state." (p.242 Liberty, Equality, Power)

Do you agree or disagree with the overall message of the cartoon?

The result may only point out that politicians today take advantage of money? people? business?.

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by [Justin Cox](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 10:12 PM



The cartoon's version of the Constitution begins in beautifully hand-scrawled drop caps (the big letters to begin a sentence or paragraph) "we the Government. . ." which stands in stark contrast to how most every American knows the constitution actually begins, "we the People. . ."

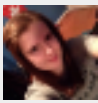
The cartoonist is suggesting that the U.S. Constitution, as currently applied, has been usurped by those with power to create a more powerful federal government system than the signees of the U.S. Constitution ever

intended to allow.

I disagree with the cartoonists’ thrust. I believe the U.S. Constitution is a “living–document” that is referred to when new, trying political situations arise the constitutionally correct answer to which is not easily understood. Furthermore, I believe the Elastic Clause of the U.S. Constitution gives broad authority to the federal government and such a reading of the document is accurate and certainly not historically revisionist as the cartoonist visually suggests.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Thursday, December 3, 2015, 6:21 PM

I agree with your interpretation of how the cartoonist is using an altered version of the Constitution to show how the federal government is trying to take power not originally granted to them. Where our views differ is how the Constitution should be viewed today. I feel that the Constitution should be taken pretty much as it is written, though there is some room for different interpretations when it comes to new political situations. The problem is when the government start to stretch the words in the Constitution too much, which could potentially create problems in which government takes too much power. By loosely interpreting the Constitution, the people lose power and the federal government gains powers.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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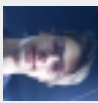
About Cartoon #6

by [Robert Driver](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 10:32 PM

I think cartoon #6 portrays a major difference between the time of the Revolution and today. Today, many people expect big government to solve all our problems. Back then, people expected big government to be a problem. I think this part, at least, is accurate historically. However, it portrays Madison saying that the point of the Constitution is that it doesn’t allow the government to confiscate wealth for redistribution. This is inaccurate according to a literal interpretation; nothing in the Constitution or its historical context that indicates that it was written specifically to prevent the redistribution of wealth (even though it doesn’t allow the federal government to do so). None of the events surrounding the Revolution were related to redistribution of wealth (not even the federal assumption of state’s debts). But according to a looser interpretation, the cartoon is accurate in saying that the point of the Constitution is to limit the federal government’s power, and redistributing wealth is not one of those powers. I would definitely agree with the looser interpretation.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: About Cartoon #6

by [Drew Chappel](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 10:32 PM

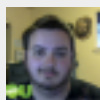
I definitely agree with your opinion on cartoon #6. I like that you bring up the fact that you may come to different conclusions from the cartoon depending on whether you are interpreting it loosely or strictly. I also find it interesting that you relate that back then, people wanted to limit the federal government, whereas today a lot of us expect it to solve a lot of our problems. A couple examples of this are Financial Aid, and Food Stamps. There are so many people in America who depend on money from the government just to get by.

I think that in the cartoon Madison, who at first was for stronger government, is reminding Obama he wrote the constitution with the idea of that the government has the power **“to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested in the constitution of the United States,”** (Article 1 Section 8 US Constitution) while Obama wanted it to say something specifically about the redistribution of wealth. What Obama wanted in the cartoon was a very specific request, which was clearly against Madison’s original federalist intentions with the document. The whole point of the was that the government could make any laws that it needed to in order to fulfill other powers. Although I do think that the cartoon does a good job at portraying Madison’s original intentions, I don’t think that “confiscating wealth for redistribution” was the best example, as it had little to do with the

what was going on before and after the Revolutionary War.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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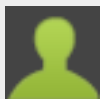
Three branches?

by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 11:15 PM

I chose the seventh political cartoon because, to me, it spoke the loudest. What it depicts is a tree with three branches. One branch has the word Judicial on it, another has Legislative, and the final branch says Executive. The picture shows the Executive branch holding a chainsaw as the other two branches lie on the ground severed from the tree. This relates the past to the present a lot. In the past, we have seen presidents abuse their power so to speak. Recently, George Bush abused his power and sent troops to Iraq because of WMDs. Andrew Johnson, back in 1868, was impeached for abusing his power by removing Edwin Stanton, who was the Secretary of War back then.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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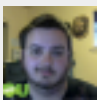
Re: Three branches?

by [Cole Fritz](#) – Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 11:47 AM

I agree with your post and I also chose the seventh cartoon. The fact that it relates so much to the past and present like you said speaks the loudest. I liked your example of George Bush abusing his power, I used the example of executive orders issued by President Obama to completely bypass the other two branches. This cartoon works well, because of the truth behind it, the executive branch has the power to ignore the judicial and legislative branches purely because of the power it holds over them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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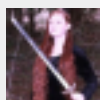
Indeed

by [Jacob Rothaupt](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 2:04 PM

I completely agree with you. There are a lot of presidents who abuse their power to, as you said, "Bypass the other two branches". There is so much truth in this cartoon. I have always found the judicial and legislative branches to merely seem like lackeys compared to the executive branch and this picture shows that extremely well.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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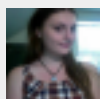
Re: Cartoon #3

by [Bethany Scott](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 11:16 PM

Cartoon #3 might look familiar, after our conversation in class about different interpretations of the constitution (living document vs stagnant). I like how "we the people" is in very large print, not just because it really is but to make a statement, as are the words WORD and SACRED WORD. Also, the far-right guy intrigues me; why is he kneeling? Is he begging and beseeching or in being reverent in some praying manner? Is it implying something about deliberate disobedience or perhaps even the supposed religious majority in "right-wingers"? I'll pick this up again tomorrow after some more research. Please add your observations.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoons – Linking Past to Present

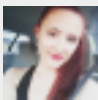
by [Paul Young](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 11:30 PM

The cartoon I've chosen to analyze is number 6. From a contemporary standpoint, it is criticizing Obama for being a socialist. This isn't surprising seeing as it is one of the main insults republicans like to throw at the democratic party. Americans in general seem to treat socialist dogma with disdain. From a historical standpoint, it seems to be rooted in the early days of the United States, when classical liberalism was still the dominant political philosophy. According to classical liberalism, all people are treated equally under the law, with little regard to equality of opportunity. This is in contrast to welfare liberalism (and/or socialism) in which the

emphasis extends beyond equality under the law, and includes equality of opportunity. Our constitution places emphasis on classical liberalism, which is why the cartoon is attacking obama for trying to enforce socialist principles.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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I agree but needs more evidence

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 6:40 PM

Although I agree that this cartoon seems to insinuate that Obama is indeed a socialist I find it disconcerting that you make this a point in your post with nothing to back it up. Also you use the term classical liberalism without defining either socialism or classical liberalism this post could be very confusing, I'm sorry if this seems critical I just think you are on to something but some more examples and facts might help boost your idea a little more clearly?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #9 Jefferson and the Democratic Republicans

by [Drew Chappel](#) – Monday, November 30, 2015, 11:32 PM

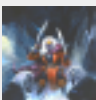
In cartoon #9, we see a man exclaim his opinion that “big government is a threat to our freedom” while holding a newspaper displaying the words “Obama” and “Congress.” Meanwhile in the background, we see an african american as a victim of police brutality who says “speak for yourself...”

I believe that this cartoon is referring to Jefferson and his democratic republicans, mainly for their opposition for a stronger national government, which the character holding the newspaper in the cartoon also shares. After his inauguration, “Jefferson’s first order of business was to reduce the size and expense of government” He did so by removing employees from office, and replacing “office holders who were incompetent, corrupt, or avowedly anti-republican.” (textbook pg. 256) He also made great cuts to the national army and navy, with the intent to rely mainly on militia. Jefferson and the democratic republicans overall were for a weaker federal government and stronger state government.

I also think that the cartoon relates the racism of Thomas Jefferson to the racism of today. In the textbook we read “Jefferson, for instance, owned 175 slaves when he penned the phrase ‘all men are created equal.’” (pg. 309) I think this relates to today because even though the African-American community has come a long way in terms of rights, and social status, they still are often stereotyped and treated unequally. I think the comic does a good job at illustrating this especially because of all the news stories that you read lately about police officers using unnecessary force on African-American citizens. Even though our founding fathers say they were against slavery, or that all men are created equal, that doesn’t change how people are treated based on the color of their skin.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoons 8 & 4 Follow the \$\$\$

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 12:15 AM

Being a part of the (or any) government as an employee, or a business person that may arrange business with governing individuals, or business or project advocacy can be a money cycling place, and one of closing large deals that can "make or break" a company, or just make it, or I suppose an organization, like a government/citizenry. I combine these two together because there is no one without the other in my mind. With cartoon 8, I think of Gentlemen and Leadership of England, of the Young America Federalists, of men who wanted to build roads and canals in the north, and of Cotton Gentlemen, and Rice Kings. These individuals decide much, and money talks. I can not say who exactly is benefitting, but I feel as though Cartoon #4 is how I often feel the weight is leaning currently for who “pays for it”.

Although feelings aren’t really information, so there is that, but with my interpretation, I really agree with my general translation of Cartoon 8 for today, and I suppose these kinds of business relationships have existed with most governing bodies. Do we really think that we are the only citizens of the world that feel the burden of our

leadership and their Good Friends?

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Follow the \$\$\$ (*Citation for*) Cartoons 8 & 4
by Brianna Huber – Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 12:54 AM

Warning this is mostly citation, only the bold is not citation material

The North Chapter 8

“Governments of the northern states built roads and canals that linked farmers to distant markets” (Liberty, Equality, Power p277–278)

“In the first half of the 19th century, northern society became based in buying and selling. The Northeast—New York City in particular—sloughed off its old colonial

status and moved from the periphery to the industrial and financial core of the world market economy. Britain was the first country to make this industrial transition, yet it deemphasized agriculture, drew its populations into cities, and relied on the export of manufactured goods as its principal source of income.

The American North, on the other hand, built factories and commercial farms at the same time and as parts of the same process.” (Liberty, Equality, Power p.304–305)

“The result was a massive commercialization of the northwestern, mid–Atlantic, and New England states and the beginnings of their integration into a unified northern capitalist democracy.” (Liberty, Equality, Power p.305)

& The South Chapter 9

“As land prices and local taxes rose in the plantation counties, many of the poorer whites moved out. Those who stayed subsisted on poor, hilly land far from navigable rivers. They tended to be commercial farmers, growing a few bales of cotton with family labor and perhaps a slave or two. Many of them were poor relatives of prosperous plantation owners. They voted the great planters into office and used their cotton gins and tapped into their marketing networks. Some of them worked as overseers for their wealthy neighbors, sold them food, and served on local slave patrols. Economic disparities between planters and farmers in the plantation belt continued to widen, but the farmers remained tied to the cotton economy and its economic and social imperatives.” (Liberty, Equality, Power p. 318–319)

While I am not saying that business is bad or good, this could be debated upon what your definition of good and bad are. What I am saying is that those were a time also of government, and business “buddy buddy” culture.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Cartoon #4
by Joshua Kaleel – Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 7:34 PM

How does the cartoon accurately reflect historical events we’ve been studying or does it differ from them? **This cartoon accurately reflects historical events that are a little more recent than what we have studied. It is showing both the democratic & republican parties, content with splitting the wealth of the taxpayer in order to keep a level of trust. This is what “the compromise” is referring to.**

Assuming you, the viewer, is knowledgeable about our nation’s history, do you think the cartoonist does and/or is correctly interpreting that history in his drawing? **I think that it is blatantly exaggerated (it is a comic, after all), but it does a good job of showing how both parties use the double monopoly of sorts as a way to acquire power & use it to their parties advantage. This is a tendency that has been seen in most federal issues.**

Do you agree or disagree with the overall message of the cartoon? **I partially agree with the comic. Americans have a tendency to think that all taxes are bad, but some are obviously crucial to keeping order. But the amount of tax–payers money that does get used for personal gain of each party, is far too large to ignore.**

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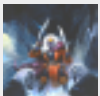


Cartoon # 9

by [Rebeca Haro](#) – Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 12:00 AM

Perspective is everything in this cartoon. We're all blinded by something and that reality is not so black and white (no pun intended) for one person over another. There have been several different cases throughout history that some people’s reality is different than others. When slaves were free, they were still very limited to rights in the U.S. Even with the 14th Amendment around. It wasn’t up until between the years of 1955–1960 that Supreme Courts to require desegregate schools around the states. Even though today of the year 2015 some high schools in southern states still have segregated proms/ school social events. Moving forward a few years after that in 1965 African Americans had finally the rights to vote.

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Perspective – Agreed! Cartoon 9 continued

by [Brianna Huber](#) – Thursday, December 3, 2015, 12:31 AM

I have noticed sometimes there are these Political cartoonists that are good at rendering these real–time and raw depictions, like you said, that "Perspective is everything". It is a difficult crux to view two at odds powerhouse messages like this.

How does the cartoon accurately reflect historical events we’ve been studying or does it differ from them?

"Americans survived the most devastating war they had yet fought and won independence, but only with massive aid from France. Most Indians and blacks, free to do so, sided with Britain. *During the struggle, white Americans affirmed liberty and equality for themselves in their new state constitutions and bills of rights, but they rarely applied these values to blacks or Indians,* even though every northern state adopted either immediate or gradual emancipation."(Liberty Equality Power p.235)

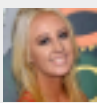
...do you think the cartoonist does and/or is correctly interpreting that history in his drawing?

I feel the current state depiction of current realities in cartoon 9 does reflect the past in the way that there are portions of the government that is not recognizing the rights of African Americans or Indians in similar ways to the past as mentioned in the quote above. When support is structured to protect European Americans, different views of the American experience are bound to reveal themselves.

Do you agree or disagree with the overall message of the cartoon? My understanding of the cartoon is it represents difference in views, and proposes at least two imperfections in our government. While humans can be racist, or not, or government can be imposing to all, and yet at times the feds can come in and “try to protect the underfoot”(keep a certain level of “peace”) from local prejudice, there is a problem.– Images speak a 1000 words, and I am trying to say as little as possible.

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Re: Perspective – Agreed! Cartoon 9 continued



by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 10:47 PM

I feel perspective is a huge factor for this cartoon as well when analyzing it for current and historical presence. For our current time, this cartoon speaks to what some people do actually feel. We have racial bias situations, yet some do feel their own power is being taken away from the government. When I look at this, I see that the man getting arrested as the/our main problem today, yet the man with the newspaper is in the front and to me seems to play the “most important” part. I also agree that in a sense, it does represent historical time. While setting up the United States government/Constitution, many did worry more about their own freedoms versus worrying about equal rights for all. Even with a more present time feel to this cartoon, we are still encountering the problem of freedom for all, over our individuals.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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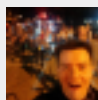
Cartoon #2

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 10:13 PM

The document in this cartoon is one we all know, however it has one large difference. At the top of the constitution it says "We The Government" instead of "We The People". From what we have learned in class, the constitution limits the power of the government and gives the people certain rights, which are not to be taken away. This cartoon depicts something different however. Basically how I interpret the cartoon is that the government has certain rights over the people, which is the opposite intent of the constitution. Today many people would believe such a thing because it seems that the government has taken over every aspect of American life. The federal government regulates so many things (In my first post I use marijuana use as an example) so much that it feels unfair. For what, the economy is never where we want it to be and the nation seems to be divided on so many issues. Is the government overstepping their boundaries? I would think so to a certain extent.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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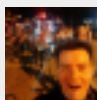
Cartoon #10

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Thursday, December 3, 2015, 9:17 PM

In this cartoon we see a family sitting down for thanksgiving. The father at the head of the table says that he is thankful for a "small unobtrusive government that doesn't try to run our lives". Now knowing the constitution that is what the founding fathers were aiming for of course. However today the government has a say in everything from education to fishing and many other things. It seems like today the government has grown quite large and has involvement in some issues the constitution doesn't give it the power to be involved in. So while the family is thankful that in their lifetime the government wasn't so large, down the road it will become large and obtrusive.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #10 and #4 connection

by [Jacob Spangler](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 2:53 PM

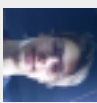
While looking at cartoon number four and I made an instant connection to cartoon number ten. The father in cartoon ten says he is thankful for a small government who doesn't try to run their lives. If you look at cartoon four both political parties have their hands in the pockets of taxpayers. Now cartoon four shows that the government has become intrusive and tries to run the lives of the American taxpayer, and not only that but take their money as well. While I know these cartoons are satire, but it almost seems like cartoon ten should come before cartoon four. It's like those two just connect almost without issue or at least to me they do.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #10 and #4 connection

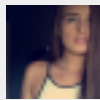
by [Drew Chappel](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 6:35 PM



I like that you brought up that it wasn't our founding father's intentions for the government to be intrusive of our lives, although today we find the government influencing many aspects of our life. I think that cartoon #4 illustrates the irony of this because there a lot of taxpayers who are completely unaware of what the government is doing with tax dollars. I agree with you that cartoon 4 and cartoon 10 have a connection. Back then and even today, it can seem like the government doesn't have a lot to do with our daily lives, although they actually make many decisions for us with things like education, money, food, and other things that we don't otherwise associate with the government.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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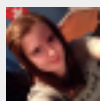
Re: Cartoons #3 and how the government trys to break the constitution

by [Madelyn Howell](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 2:21 PM

I decided to pick cartoon number 3 as the political cartoon I wanted to talk about. I feel that this cartoon represents how the constitution was written as set laws that the government and everyone else in the United States has to follow. Although we have this set constitution the government tries to find loop holes and other things to get away with things that the constitution says they "shouldn't do". The man in the cartoon is on his knees looking up at the constitution. In big bold words the constitution says "To be strictly interpreted word for sacred word." Even though the constitution says this in bold letters in the political cartoon the man still is thinking that they could possibly tweak things.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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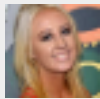
A flaw in the system

by [Aleethia Collins](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 6:31 PM

The cartoonist in drawing number seven accurately reflects historical events. The cartoon shows that the real power of government resides in the executive branch. If the checks against that power are insufficient to stop a president who is politically unimpeachable, he is essentially free to do whatever he wants. He is above the law. The only other real check against his power is the provision of funds to the executive branch. The majority of the budget is automatic and not subject to congressional vote. Automatic spending is unconstitutional and weakens the legislative branch. I agree with the overall message, because currently the executive branch is taking too much power and ignoring laws.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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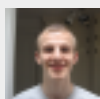
Re: A flaw in the system

by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 9:17 PM

I chose this cartoon as well and have to agree with it. It's interesting to think that the branches were created in order for three equal parts of power. So we wouldn't have the situations we do. I like that you brought up the fact that other than the budget approvals, the executive branch has more control. It's crazy to believe how one person can have more control over several others combined. Looking back in history too, it's interesting to see politically how the executive branch was represented and how that reflected on that time period. We can still see that even in recent presidents.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2 Connection

by [Robert Driver](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9:59 PM

I think the checks and balances originally weren't just between the three branches of government. The executive branch (as well as the legislative branch) was meant to be answerable to the people. It's a great idea, at least on paper. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work well in practice. The whole system of checks and balances could very well be falling apart due to the failings of the citizens to keep the government in check. I would say that this relates back to Cartoon #2, which depicts the Constitution starting with the words "We the Government." Cartoon #2 is saying that the government was meant to be under the power of the people, rather than the people being under the power of the government. But if we the people don't exercise this power, the government starts getting out of hand and the rest of the checks and balances start failing. Perhaps if Americans were more concerned about electing Presidents that could be trusted to not abuse their power, the whole system would work better.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Using taxpayers

by [Jacob Brands](#) – Friday, December 4, 2015, 9:04 PM

I also thought cartoon number 4 was funny and accurate. Both parties are standing with their hands stuck in the taxpayers pocket. I like this cartoon because it's an accurate representation of how the government uses so much of our tax dollars to fund things that aren't important or don't benefit us in any way.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #3

by [Justin Cox](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 3:00 PM



In Cartoon #3, a white man representing the far right of the American political spectrum worships before the U.S. Constitution, in all its glory. It is important to note he is kneeling with his hands clasped in prayer. To him, it seems, the U.S. Constitution is holy.

Ironically, he is asking the Constitution, his god, to allow for what he calls a “tweak” to the constitution to briskly eliminate a political problem he doesn't like. It's ironic to the point of humorous because, as the cartoonist suggests with his visuals, the far-right of the American political spectrum so aggressively advocates strict literal interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

Also of note in this cartoon is the degenerative language the far right character uses to explain his grievances.

He is upset, we can infer from his comments, about what he perceives to be a potential flaw in the U.S. Constitution in that it affords every citizen born on American soil automatic U.S. citizenship.

He fears expectant Mexican mothers are, through illegal means, finding their way to American soil to give birth to an American baby. This scheme becomes fruitful, supposedly, when the American child can use rights afforded to him or her as an American citizen to economically assist his or her Mexican family. This conspiracy is often referred to as having an “Anchor baby,” a term in itself considered controversial. This is why the far right character refers to the act of “dropping a baby,” keeping with the metaphor of an anchor on a boat.

I find that the cartoonist’s use of this kind of dialogue from the far right character is simply an insult from a liberal cartoonist at the stereotype of the right wing. It is an insult by insinuating that this kind of curse language is common-place amongst those in the far right.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Loose vs. Strict Interpretation
by Robert Driver – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 4:56 PM

This cartoon seems to be a loose constructionist criticizing the strict constructionists for saying the Constitution should be interpreted “word for sacred word” and yet wanting to change it. As if the strict constructionists are doing something worse by changing the Constitution to say what they want it to say than the loose constructionists are doing by interpreting the Constitution loosely. The cartoonist sees hypocrisy in the strict constructionists for criticizing the loose constructionist view of the Constitution and yet wanting to impose their own ideals of what should or shouldn’t be allowed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3
by Aleethia Collins – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 8:48 PM

I agree with your interpretation of the cartoon. You do an impressive job of accurately interpreting the cartoonists drawing. The cartoonist is portraying the hypocrisy of the far right people of the government, by showing them trying to alter the constitution. They are suppose to be strictly interpreting the constitution and taking it for its word, though when situations occur they go against it and try to change the words to help fix their problems. The cartoon shows that the loose constructionist are not the only ones that try to alter the words of the constitution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #4
by Jacob Spangler – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 3:06 PM

In this cartoon we see both parties with their hands in the pockets of the American taxpayer. We hear about this all the time in fact its a common saying "government has their hands in the pockets of the American taxpayers." How this is relevant to class is that when the constitution was made it's purpose was to keep the federal government size down. Today we see that the government has become quite large since those days. To think that colonists had fought to escape the crown and make their own nation without the same or similar taxes. Now one of the main complaints of the average American citizen would be about how much taxes are and how many taxes there are. I would agree that many of these taxes are out of control.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #9
by Justin Cox – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 8:09 PM



In cartoon #9 a notably white, presumably middle class American wearing a “Don’t Tread on Me” t-shirt reads a story in the newspaper that causes him to believe Big Government manifested as President Barack Obama and Congress are trying to take away his freedom.

In the background, unbeknownst to the belly-aching conservative, a black American is detained by highly-militarized police officers. The officers point a gun and swing a police baton at the black man in front of their military-style transport.

We don’t know the specifics of the situation involving the black American and the police but we can assume the cartoonist is making a comment about the recent highly-publicized series of violent incidents between American police officers and people of color:

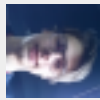
- In, Ferguson, a poor suburb of St. Louis, Missouri, on August 9, 2014 18-yr-old Michael Brown was shot and killed by a white Ferguson police officer who had initially contacted Brown and his friend through his cruiser window in order to instruct them not to walk in the middle of the street. Darren Wilson, the Ferguson police officer involved in the incident was not tried. However, the Department of Justice of the United States subsequently performed an investigation of the Ferguson Police Department and found that “Ferguson’s approach to law enforcement both reflects and reinforces racial bias, including stereotyping.” [http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/ferguson_police_department_report.pdf]
- In New York City, on July 17, 2014, a man on the street, Eric Garner, died after a police officer attempted to arrest him. In a video of the incident, posted online, it is clear to see that a police officer placed Garner in a chokehold for an extended period of time. Garner never returns to his feet in the video and is declared dead. The use of a chokehold by police officers is banned by the city and thusly the officer continues to deny he used one.
- In Baltimore, Maryland, Freddie Gray, Jr. died on April 19, 2015. A few days earlier, on April 12, Grey was arrested and allegedly given a “rough ride” in the back of a police wagon on the way to the police station. It is alleged a “rough ride” is an intentional form of police brutality. Grey died due injuries to his spinal cord that he suffered while unrestrained in the back of the police van. Several officers involved have been charged with murder.

All of these incidents involve the use of force against American citizens. The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States affords all American citizens protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. The reasonableness of the police officers’ involved in these incidents is highly questionable.

The cartoonist is stating that in spite of this string of possibly unconstitutional behavior by the state, the angry conservative remains transfixed by his own perceived loss of liberty, which seems selfish in comparison.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoon #7

by [Drew Chappel](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 10:18 PM

In cartoon #7 we see an executive branch cutting off the judicial and legislative branch. I believe that this is an accurate representation of history because it is referring to Presidents of the United States (the executive branch) that have abused their powers by basically finding ways around the other two branches. To me, a good example of this is specifically with the use of Executive Orders, which is something that the president can issue to help the officers and agencies of the executive branch manage the operations within the federal government itself.

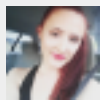
We have a history of presidents who have used Executive Orders that grant them unprecedented powers. For example Jimmy Carter reach a peak in his presidential power by establishing the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**, which was implemented on April 1, 1979 (*Executive Order 12127*) There is nothing in the constitution that permits presidents to additional powers in the state of emergency, so Carter just made up his own rules to advocate.

Another example is when many Americans resisted the **Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM)** Act, President Barack Obama turned to an Executive Order that offered immunity for a million illegal aliens. In a press conference on March 6th, 2012 Obama makes it clear his opinion on congress's role in making laws *"If Congress refuses to act, I've said that I'll continue to do everything in my power to act without them."*

We see a history of presidents finding ways around congress, and getting away with it. I think that this comic does a good job at portraying this because if the President can find a way to do anything he wants, then in a way that nullifies (or in the cartoon, cuts off) the other two branches of government.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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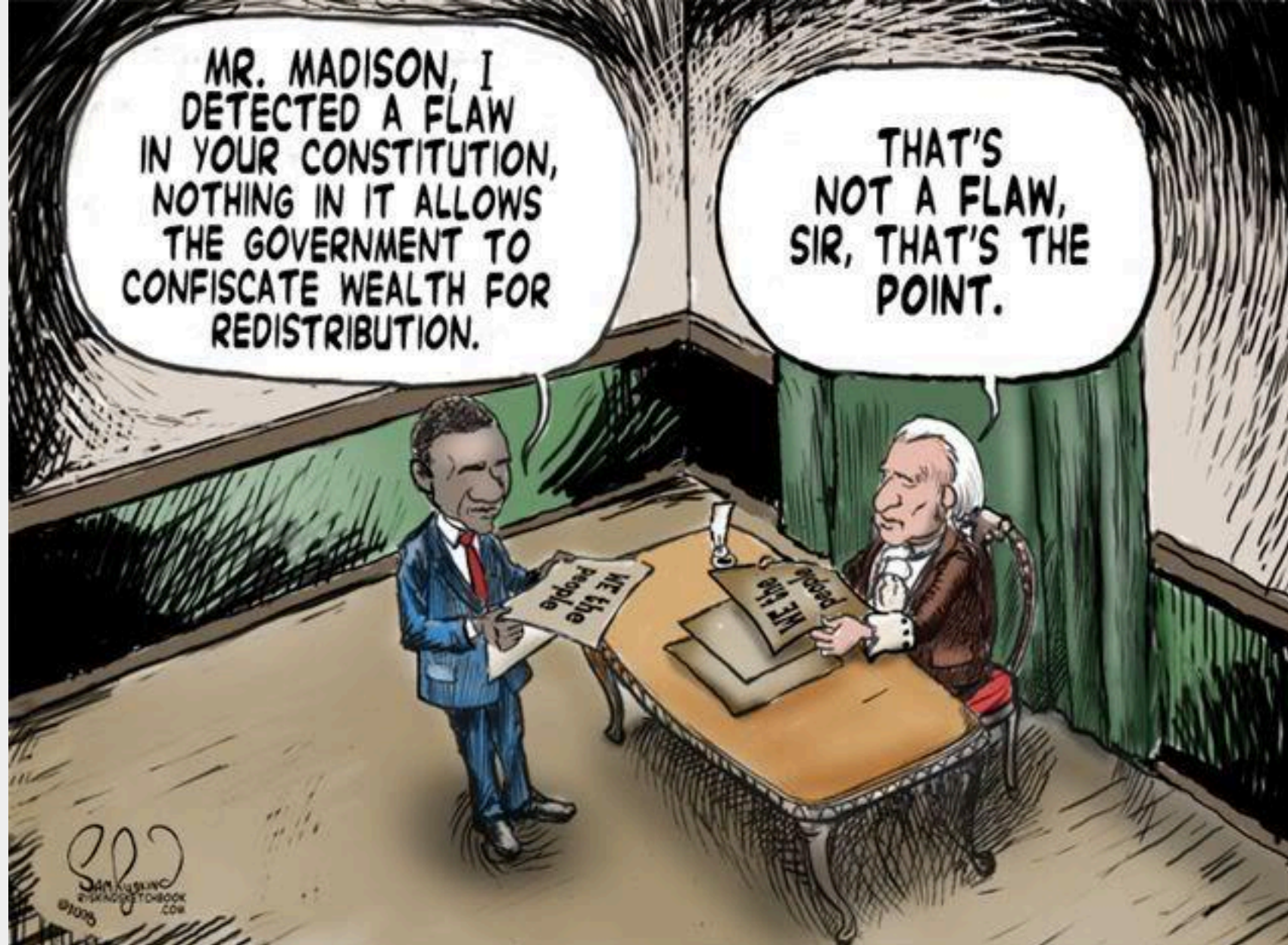
Cartoon #6

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Saturday, December 5, 2015, 11:42 PM

If we look at cartoon #6 we see President Obama saying to James Madison "Mr. Madison I detected a flaw in your constitution,nothing in it allows the government to confiscate wealth for redistribution." To which Madison reply's that is not a flaw it is the point.

There are many things happening in this cartoon. Clearly pointing back to Madison's original role in ratifying the constitution. The problem I have with this cartoon is that it is some how implying that Obama is wanting to redistribute the wealth in the nation. Is this cartoonist implying he is a socialist or communist or simply implying that he wishes to infringe on constitutional rights? Either way this is a clearly republican cartoon.

I'm not sure if another implication is that Obama wants to simply tax the rich more than the poor and give tax refunds or breaks? We must remember the James Madison is one of the people that began taxation as we know from ratifying the original constitution Article 1 section 8 allows the congress to collect taxes in the first place.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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