

HST 201: History of United States F18 (Escobar Meta 20749 22611)

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Cartoons - Part 1

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, November 23, 2018, 7:48 PM

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

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

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Hand in the taxpayers pockets! #2

by [Erik Westfall](#) - Saturday, November 24, 2018, 5:58 PM

The political cartoon I found was the most accurate was number two, where it shows both parties reaching into the tax payers pockets. This cartoon is a spitting reality of todays world, however, even though the parties were a bit different, I think it relates to the time period we are learning about in class. Even though the political parties of this time were far different than today it still relates. These parties all want to get things done but the only way to do it is to reach into the pockets of the people. They know they have to get things done but obviously the money has too come from some where. It's only natural that they

go to the easiest source, which is the tax payers. That is why I picked this cartoon, because it shows the both sides are not as perfect as they think. I hope everyone could agree with me!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Hand in the taxpayers pockets! #2**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 11:10 PM

Well said Erik, I agree with you when you say that the only way the parties get things done is through the tax payers pockets. I say this because, in class we talked about the tea tax people had to pay when Britain had power just so that they had some sort of income flowing in to support the power they had over everyone else. But, at the same time if we look at our history right after the American revolution when George Washington was our president, we were hit with the Whiskey Tax which was way more hefty when compared to the Tea Tax. In order to run a country there needs to be money, and I feel like this money comes out of the tax payers pockets. The cartoon has "The Compromise" written at the bottom of it, and I feel like the only compromise that occurred during that time in history which is also occurring today is the agreement between both the Democrats and Republicans. An agreement that made the tax payers the solution for making there ideas turn into a reality. I totally agree with the message this cartoon sends.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Remember the Anti-Federalists**by [Daniel Oas](#) - Saturday, December 1, 2018, 11:37 PM

I agree with you Erik in the sense that both political parties of our modern society reach deeply into the pockets of American citizens. The part where I must disagree is where you relate this to the time period we are currently studying. During the post-revolutionary war era the two main political parties were federalists and anti-federalists. Federalists being in support of big government which prefers more taxation and anti-federalists being in support of a smaller federal government which prefers less taxation. I believe the main point of this cartoon is that it shows we no longer have a political party in favor of a small federal government like we had in the past with Thomas Jefferson. Both democrats and republicans are big government political parties in favor of heavy taxation to support their agendas. Heavy taxation is necessary to sustain a large federal government and the powers that comes with it. It is understandable that we require a powerful federal government in the modern, global society we live in, but our country was founded on the concept of large vs. small government and the founding fathers were very divided on this issue. It would be interesting to ask the anti-federalist founding fathers what they think of our current political parties and if a small federal government would be possible in today's global society.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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**Cartoon #6 Second Amendment**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Sunday, November 25, 2018, 11:09 PM

This political cartoon depicts the drafting of the constitution by James Madison.

Specifically the second amendment "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." (U.S. Constitution) At the time an organized militia was essential to the colonies.

Not only for defense but also the revolution as well would never have been possible without the minutemen. Another separatist enters the room holding an assault rifle illustrating the vast changes in weaponry over the years. The founding fathers created this amendment so that citizens would have the power to resist a controlling and overbearing government. While the musket was still a powerful firearm it requires a minute to reload after just a single shot and pales in comparison modern weapons. Today even an untrained citizen can kill with the squeeze of a finger and still continue firing. This comic is most likely a pro gun control image judging by the look of fear on James Madison's face. While the second amendment was made originally for the colonies to be able to organize a militia, today most people focus on only the right to bear arms section. That right was originally reserved for the avoidance of an authoritarian government and the preservation of citizens rights. Now that there are no more militias, the amendment is referred to for self protection instead. I think this comic is trying to poke fun at the idea that the second amendment has not been changed in the two centuries America has existed. The United States has changed drastically in that time and has long since stopped relying on militias. Personally I think this has allowed the government to become too invasive of citizens lives as the common man has no way of resisting anymore. However I digress from the original point of the comic that it seems absurd that any individual can easily possess such killing power. In addition to this without an organized militia the meaning of the amendment is greatly changed but has not been ratified since its creation.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

3

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Cartoon #2 - Not Applicable to the Early Republic**by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 2:21 PM

Politics today can seem more partisan than ever before. However, despite their differing takes on some of the major issues today, this cartoon humorously points out that neither the Democrats nor the Republicans seem to be interested in a small government plan. The "compromise" is to keep taking money from taxpayers to keep the big government running.

In a congressional debate at the turn of the 19th century, this would not be the case at all. Prior to 1800, power was held by the Federalist party. Federalists, such as John Adams and Alexander Hamilton, wanted a big federal government powered by taxpayer money if necessary. After 1800, president Thomas Jefferson and the Anti-Federalists sought to realize Jefferson's vision of a small government that could pay its debts without needing any federal taxes. In short, the two major political parties in that time would not have reached such a compromise.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon #2 - Not Applicable to the Early Republic**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7:12 PM

The founding fathers would roll over in their graves if they could see our country today.

I agree that the polarizing of the political parties and the constantly increasing government power are the most glaring changes in the past two hundred years.

However the post revolutionary war economy was so poor that George Washington a federalist, was forced to pass the Whiskey tax which was a 25% tariff. Even today that would be an absurdly high tax. This tariff was agreed upon and even enforced by Washington himself. Desperate times call for desperate measures but, the theme of taxation has been present almost since the foundation of the nation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**The Branch That Never Breaks #5**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 5:23 PM

After looking at Cartoon #5 by Gary Varvel, I feel like it has a lot to do with John Adams and the separation of powers in the government. When looking at the cartoon, the viewer can clearly see that the Executive branch (president) is the chainsaw who has cut off the two other branches of our government (legislative and judicial). When I saw this, it reminded me of John Adams in chapter six of our book where he came up with the idea of the "separation of powers". And I feel like because the powers of the government have been separated, the president wouldn't actually have enough power to just break off from the other branches and make all the decisions himself, even if he tried. Murrin writes, "Adams was already moving away from the British notion of mixed and balanced constitution, in which government by kings, lords, and commons embodied the distinct social orders of British society. He was groping toward quite a different notion, the separation of powers (225)" I feel like this cartoon accurately reflects historical events we've learned about in class because it represents what too much power can do to a person and his ego. I did some research and found out that Gary Varvel made this cartoon in 2013 when Barack Obama was the president of the United States. He probably felt that Obama had too much power compared to the other two branches based off the decisions or laws that were being passed under his presidency. In reality, the separation of powers gives all three branches the equal amount of power so that no irrational laws or ideas/decisions would be made just by the president. Overall, I disagree with this cartoon because of one reason, Checks and Balances. As google puts it, "Its a system that allows each branch of a government to amend or veto acts of another branch so as to prevent any one branch from exerting too much power." And because of this, I don't think that the Executive branch can ever become the "Chainsaw".

What do you guys think?

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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**Cartoon #6: 2nd Amendment in Today's Society**by [Daniel Oas](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 7:28 PM

I chose cartoon #6 due to the controversy surrounding the second amendment in today's gun violence ridden society. When I listen to people debate this topic, those in support of gun owner's rights often reference the founding fathers and the true meaning of the second amendment. The overall purpose of the second amendment is to support a militia comprised of American citizens in order to resist potential government tyranny or foreign invaders. This is made possible by giving every American citizen the right to own a firearm. In the cartoon, James Madison is seen writing the words, "Well regulated militia", when a member of the continental army walks in with a modern assault rifle and tells Madison to, "Check this baby out!". Madison is shocked by the rifle for an apparent reason, a well regulated militia of civilizians would not be well regulated with weapons such as these. The second amendment was written during a time when the most advanced firearm available to American citizens was a single shot, black powder rifle. In a society where someone can walk in and buy an AR-15 from Walmart, are we as American citizens truly well regulated? It would be very interesting to show these modern weapons to James Madison and the founding fathers to see if they would alter the 2nd amendment in any way.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon #6: 2nd Amendment in Today's Society**by [Gurpritam Sandhar](#) - Saturday, December 1, 2018, 5:26 PM

Daniel, you are totally right when you say that there is a lot of controversy surrounding the second amendment today. I feel like ever since the second amendment was written, everything has progressed. Newer technology, leading to better guns, but the amendment never really changed to keep a real control over the freedom given to American citizens when it comes to guns. Laws didn't progress as fast as they should have in my opinion. I couldn't agree with you more when you say, " The second amendment was written during a time when the most advanced firearm available to American citizens was a single shot, black powder rifle." I don't think people had the thinking process of looking forward back then, or else I feel like gun control/laws wouldn't have been as "easy going" as they are today. Had the weapons we had today been available back in James Madison's time, I'm pretty sure the second amendment would have been different in a way where we wouldn't have had the freedom to own more than a certain amount of guns and the ammo that went with it. But, like I've said before in my other posts, I personally feel like guns are not the issue when it comes to shootings and murders, it's the people pulling the trigger that are the problem. We have people with serious mental issues that need help, and I feel like if we can solve this issue, we wouldn't need to fear guns as much as we do today.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon #6: 2nd Amendment in Today's Society**by [Daniel Oas](#) - Saturday, December 1, 2018, 10:56 PM

You make a good point in referring to the correlation between mental health and gun violence. Not only have firearms drastically changed in the time since the constitution was written, but our understanding of mental health has as well. When the second amendment was written, the concept of mentally unstable individuals committing acts of terror most likely not even considered. Although gun laws have become more strict since the amendment was written, clearly it's not enough to prevent these mass shootings. Background checks are a good start, but we must consider other forms of gun control or mental health care to stop deranged individuals from getting their hands on a firearm.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Founding Fathers Advice

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 8:49 PM

Cartoon Number 1

This political cartoon of Thomas Jefferson shows wise advice. The principals that we should pay our debts (this is a problem today not only in both political parties but privately as citizens), to never spend your money before you earn it (credit cards, anyone?), if we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of its citizens under the pretense it will take care of them (taxation without representation), to compel a man to furnish contributions . . . to what he believes as sinful (Roe v. Wade), that we have more machinery in government than is necessary . . . too many parasites (President Reagan and Drain the Swamp), and the notion that what country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned time to time to preserve the spirit of resistance (this relates less than the others, but still may be adapted to the Revolution, our 2-term limit first set in motion by Washington, etc.).

Jefferson was the opposite of Hamilton in so many ways. Federalist seem to adhere less to the Constitutional norms created and more towards taxation without representation, British rule, and big government. It seems Jefferson was onto something in the past, in creating principals (not mere statements) that we individually and collectively should live by. We live in a society driven by our less than best impulses and norms. Jefferson would likely be shocked at the current state of affairs. This is beyond the scope of just local and federal issues but more in relation to ideals of our founding fathers.

Truly, advice we would be wise to heed.

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Sources:

Escobar, J. History 201, Lane Community College. (2018)

<https://youtu.be/6ixNPplo-SU>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roe_v._Wade

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drain_the_swamp

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Cartoon #5

by [Logan Habib](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 9:12 PM

Cartoon #5 was one that I thought had a significant relationship to the Early Republic period of U.S. History. It depicts a tree branch labeled as the executive cutting down the other branches labeled as legislative and judicial. Recently in class we have discussed separation of powers, the concept of dividing government into three branches, executive, legislative, and judicial, designed to keep a singular body of government from obtaining too much power. The framers of the Constitution approved of this new democratic form of government. The executive branch has the most power of the other branches, despite all of the checks and balances.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Cartoon #6 Analysis

by [Elias Brouse](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 9:21 PM

Cartoon #6, depicting James Madison while writing the constitution, shows a great example of the loose outline that the constitution lays out for our current government. A colleague of his walks in with what is presumably an automatic rifle, the idea, and looks of which would obviously blow away the founding father. He never would have imagined the way our society would evolve with the second amendment. This cartoon shows a great interpretation of today's issue in defining the articles and amendments of the constitution, and how they can vary. Examples such as gun control, or even social healthcare, and many others were not thoughts of the authors of the constitution. This brings up the addition of the elastic clause, which gives Congress the power "...To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers..."(Article 1 Section 8) This was created in order for the government to change its laws for the benefit of the future American population, and is used today to the advantage of many politicians to justify change in law. Those who opposed this clause, such as Thomas Jefferson, believe that it brings "...popular fears of centralized despotism that had nearly defeated ratification of the Constitution." (Page 243 of the textbook) I agree that giving the government this power may seem frightful, It is necessary as society changes over time that the laws will also be changed. James Madison would hopefully understand the need for change, as he would probably have expected the homicide rate to continue to decline as America became more civilized, although that is not what happened. No politician can predict the future.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by [Dylan Mecchi](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 10:01 PM

Cartoon #5

Cartoon #5 actually differs from the events we've been studying in history. Cartoon #5 depicts the executive branch being the one to take all the power by chopping off the branches and taking control of the entire government. This does not accurately depict the united states history considering that even the first president set the path to making the future presidents follow. This path being only staying in office for 2 terms and then handing over to the next runner up to take office. This nation was built on the people holding the most power and the structure of the government makes it so there is no chance the president can take over the government and create a dictatorship. On 11/8 we discussed the creating of the 3 branches of government and how the power is dispersed equally so there is not one part of the government that has more power than another. This makes it so no part of the government can overthrow anyone else and create a sole ruler. This separation of power shuts down cartoon #5 and I do not believe that cartoon #5 is an accurate representation of United States history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoons - Part 1**by [Kyle Schmidt](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7:36 PM

I disagree that the executive branch has never cut off power from the other two in american history. Even in the foundation of the country the president ran unopposed. Also as commander and chief in times of war the president has more power than any one person in the country. This has been a recurring theme in history war is regularly used as an excuse to overthrow the other branches, for example many people were given court martials during the civil war as opposed to regular trials. While I do not know of any instances in U.S. history the president also has the power in times of war to enact martial law which would effectively replace the legislative branch as well. However the civil war isn't even part of our class so as far as the revolution goes I agree with you.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cartoon #5 - Limited power of government**by [Owen McCoy](#) - Thursday, November 29, 2018, 10:02 AM

I agree with you that it is unlikely that the executive branch would be able to sever the other two as depicted in cartoon number five. As they watched the new French republic descend into chaos and eventually authoritarian rule, the founders of the United States wanted to make sure that their republic wouldn't suffer the same fate as the French Republic and others of the past.

I think that this cartoon represents the fear of the executive branch cutting off its checks and balances to attain more power. A federal executive branch with no checks and balances would make for a strong, powerful government. However, that starts to resemble the same kind of monarchy that the Americans went to a lot of trouble to

overthrow. As it is, the executive branch is held in check by Congress and the supreme court. It is also subject to the demands of the people, who collectively have the power to vote. The constitution further limits the power of the federal government. This makes the government less powerful but more stable. I think that the founding fathers made it very hard for one branch to seize power from the other two, so I agree that cartoon #5 doesn't represent what has happened historically in our country.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by [Bryce Moore](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 10:06 PM

The one that caught my eye was the father and son. He son asks "Dad, do you think there's someone up there looking down at us?" The father reply's, "Yes son, the intelligence community." This sparked a lot of things in my head. But the main thing is that people look down on us, as In the government looks down, trying to get things right supposedly. Without really even doing anything. This causes us to not even realize they are so we suspect no one is watching over us.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Cartoon #2

by [Sharon Osicho](#) - Monday, November 26, 2018, 11:49 PM

Cartoon number two quickly stuck out to me based on several class discussions on regardless of being a Democrat or Republican, politicians use us to fund their own agenda. I agree with the cartoon because it has been something that has been occurring for a long time.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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Cartoon #5 Tree

by [Karsten Brevik](#) - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 8:12 PM

Cartoon #5

How do you feel about the cartoons accuracy in history, and do you or do you not agree with its message?

I personally chose this cartoon not only because of its simplicity, but also because of its relevance to my last forum post. We see depicted a tree with three branches of equal size, each labeled "Judicial", "Executive", and "Legislative" respectively. Wielding a chainsaw, the "Executive branch" has severed the other two. I interpret this as the artists attempt at conveying the frustration that the Executive branch holds because of the limits imposed on them by the rest of the government, and its urge to free itself from those bureaucratic bonds. A much more cynical interpretation, and the one which I think our founding fathers

would hold, is that its a depiction of their worst fears for the nation they had built. A corrupt establishment destroying the checks and balances they created to gain more power, and have the ability to exploit its citizens. Although today the reality of this cartoon hasn't come to fruition, it shows that the issues that the founding fathers faced are still relevant and we need to pay attention as to not let the integrity of our country fail.



© Gary Varvel

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

1



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