

Bureaucratic Interactions: the Branches other members of the Government

★ The Bureaucracy and the Legislative Branch (Congress) ★

- _____, _____, and _____ agencies (sometimes with Presidential input)
- _____ funds (appropriates money) for bureaucratic departments & agencies
- executive agencies _____ - committees work with bureaucracy for mutual support and favorable outcomes
- _____ to different agencies- prevent single agency from being too powerful
- _____ on agency abuses; _____ "higher-ups"
- _____ to restrict power/give power to an agency/department

★ The Bureaucracy and the Executive Branch (President) ★

- _____ senior bureaucrats – Cabinet secretaries, agency heads, etc...
- _____ executive orders that must be obeyed; directs agencies to carry out specific actions/goals.
- _____ agency's budget through Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB may cut or add to the budget of a particular agency. Congress provides the appropriations (\$\$\$).
- administrative reform- may _____ agencies based on "need" (with approval of Congress). May be subject to national emergency or crisis. Example- Department of Homeland Security. *Presidential control has fluctuated over the years as not all presidents have the same interest in exercising executive leadership over the bureaucracy.*

★ The Bureaucracy and the Judicial Branch (Supreme Court) ★

Role of the Supreme Court began in 1876...

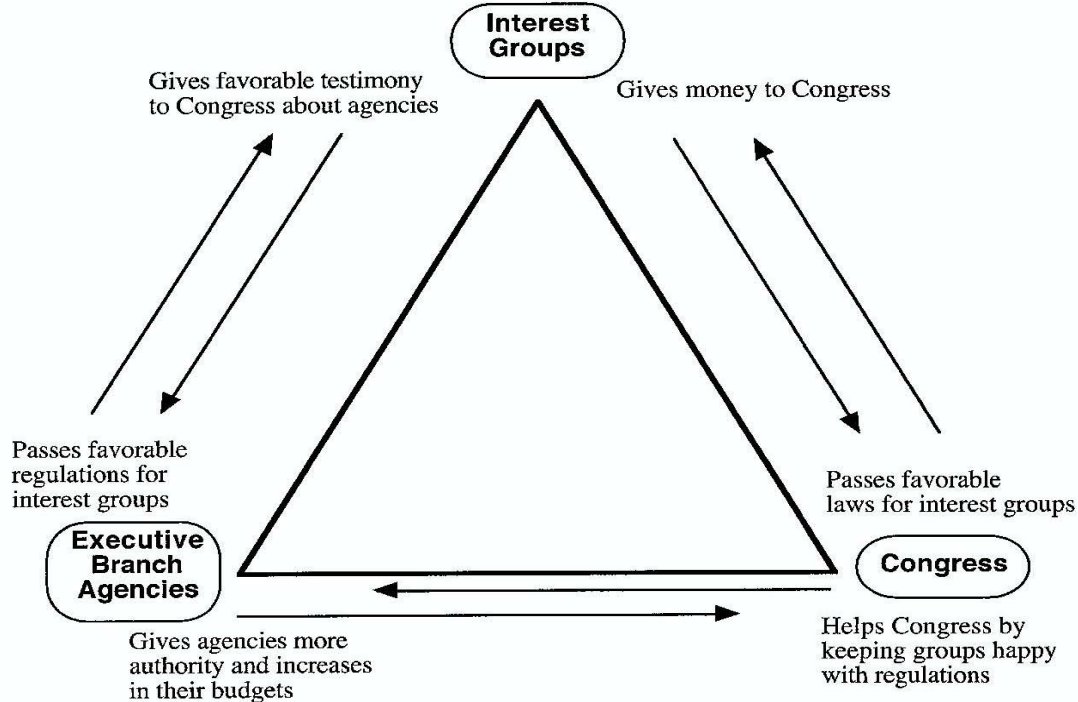
- _____: Supreme Court upheld Granger laws, establishing constitutional principle of public regulation of private businesses involved in serving public interest.
- _____ also increased regulation of business and gov't entities.

What if an agency is not upholding its responsibilities?

- _____ (2008) the role of the EPA in regard to regulating greenhouse gases and global warming. Ten states petitioned the EPA to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. The EPA consistently rejected putting caps on emissions.
- **Ruling:** In 5-4 decision, EPA was responsible to issue emission standards for automobiles under Clean Air Act because greenhouse gases are "air pollutant agents" Hence, the Supreme Court has a role in determining agency responsibilities

The Iron Triangle

One Way to Examine the Function of Government in the USA



These are the three elements which comprise the iron triangle: [1] Congress, [2] special interest groups, and the [3] agencies of the executive branch. Congress makes the laws, the agencies of the Executive enforce the law (i.e., through various regulations, such as from the EPA and the FDA). In reality, enforcement of the "law" in practice actually means creating laws, which the real job of Congress. The three parties in this triangle develop a mutual benefit relationship which creates a subgovernment.

An investigation of the highway subgovernment provides an interesting example. At one point of the triangle are interest groups that benefit from highway construction: auto manufacturers, auto workers' unions, tire companies, asphalt and cement dealers, road contractors, and oil companies. The second point of the triangle is the Federal Highway Administration, which of course, is interested in the preservation of the programs it administers (or why else would the agency exist?). The third point of the triangle is the congressional committees that consider highway construction legislation: the Transportation Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee in the Senate and the Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Public Works and Transportation Committee in the House of Representatives. **Each part of the subgovernment serves and is served by the other two.** The members of Congress involved with this work strive to maintain federal support for highway construction and maintenance. This keeps the interest groups and bureaucrats happy. The interest groups then persist in their lobbying of Congress on behalf of highway programs, and their PACs continue to contribute to members of Congress. **Everybody wins!**

An "_____ " is an alliance of various interest groups and individuals who unite to promote a single issue in gov't policy. They push for a change in policy within the government bureaucracy.

Example: network of environmental groups and individuals who push for more environmental regulation in government policy.

_____? Political executives, career bureaucrats, management/policy consultants, academic researchers, universities, journalists, members of the media, White House aides.

Iron triangles are _____ between interest groups, private businesses and corporations, congressional oversight committees, and federal agencies. Iron Triangle relationships seek only to benefit those _____ at the expense of the _____ that Congress and the Federal bureaucracy are supposed to represent, the general public.