

Interest Groups

American Government - Chapter 9

Define the following terms:

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| 1. lobby | 10. ideological interest groups |
| 2. lobbyist | 11. public-interest lobby |
| 3. interest group | 12. social movement |
| 4. institutional interests | 13. foundation grants |
| 5. membership interests | 14. political cue |
| 6. incentive | 15. ratings |
| 7. solidary incentives | 16. insider strategy |
| 8. material incentives | 17. outsider strategy |
| 9. purposive incentive | |

Answer the following questions:

1. What does one find on K street?
2. What “social facts” make for a great variety of interests and opinions in the United States?
3. How does the American constitutional system contribute to the number of interest groups?
4. Why do weak political parties arguably contribute to many interest groups?
5. What are four factors that “help explain the rise of interest groups?”
6. Interestingly, Wilson makes the point (p., 222) that one vote clearly doesn’t make a difference. He says most people don’t join politically active groups “not because people are selfish or apathetic but because they are rational and numerous.” Can you think of any rational reasons to vote?
7. What makes the AARP so powerful?
8. Why do public-interest lobbies have a vested interest in crying “crisis?”

9. How can the National Council of the Churches of Christ safely take issue positions substantially more liberal than the majority opinion of its members?
10. What is the effect of a social movement?
11. What are three kinds of women's organizations?
12. What type of unions are growing in size?
13. "Most of the major conflicts in American politics ... are conflicts within" what?
14. What is the single most important tactic of interest groups and why?
15. What is the goal of "grassroots lobbying?"
16. Why doesn't money buy votes in Congress?
17. What has been "the most remarkable development in interest group activity in recent years?"
18. Why is the popular image of rich PACs buying influence in Congress inaccurate?
19. What is meant by the "revolving door?"
20. Why do government officials dread troublemaking activities like sit-ins?
21. What is the most significant legal restraint on interest groups?