

Interest Groups

Wilson Chapter 9

Why Interest Groups are Common

- Many kinds of _____ in the country mean that there are many different interests
- Constitution provides many _____ points to government
- Political parties are weak so interests work _____ on government

Periods of Rapid Growth

- 70 percent of Washington-based groups have established their D.C. office since the _____
- 1770s— independence groups
- 1830s, 1840s— _____ associations, _____ movement
- 1860s— trade unions, _____, fraternal organizations
- 1880s, 1890s— _____ associations
- 1900–1920— business and professional associations, _____ organizations
- 1960s— _____, _____, political reform organizations

Factors in the Rise of I.G.s 1

- Broad _____ developments create new interests, redefine old interests
 - Farmers produce cash crops in _____ markets, instead of merely subsistence farming
 - Mass- _____ industries established, creating a need for mass membership unions
- Government policy itself
 - Wars create _____, who demand benefits
 - Encouraged formation of American Farm _____ Federation, professional associations

Factors in the Rise of I.G.s 2

- Emergence of strong _____, usually from a social movement; drawn to
 - need for change and inspired by _____ and
 - religious _____
 - Religious revival of 1830s and 1840s, and creation of antislavery organizations
 - 1890-1920, college educated _____ class increased in size
 - 1960s, college _____ more than doubled and civil rights and
 - anti- _____ movements were also influential
- Expanding role of _____ – creates policies of concern to groups

Kinds of Organizations

- Interest Group defined
any organization that seeks to _____ public policy;
- two kinds: institutional and membership interests

Institutional Interests

- Defined: individuals or organizations representing other _____
- Types
 - _____ firms: example, General Motors
 - Trade or governmental _____
- Concerns—bread-and-butter issues of concern to their _____
- Other interests
 - governments,
 - _____,
 - universities

Membership Interests

- _____ join some groups more frequently than citizens in other nations
 - Social, business, _____, veterans', charitable—same rate as elsewhere
 - _____—less likely to join
 - Religious, political, civic groups—_____ likely to join
 - Greater sense of political _____, civic duty seems to explain tendency to join civil groups

Incentives to Join 1

- _____ incentives—pleasure, companionship
 - require organizations to structure themselves as _____ of small local units
 - Facilitated by the importance of _____ governments in the U.S.
 - Examples: League of Women Voters (LWV), _____, Rotary, Parent-Teacher Association, American Legion
- _____ incentives—money, things, services (farm organizations, AARP)

Incentives to Join 2

- _____ incentives—goal/purpose of the organization itself
 - Though this group also benefits nonmembers, people join because:
 - They are passionate about the _____(s) of the organization
 - They have a strong sense of civic _____
 - Cost of joining is minimal
 - _____ interest groups—appeal of coherent and, often, controversial principles

Incentives to Join 3

- Purposive incentives (cont'd)
 - Public interest groups—purpose principally benefits nonmembers (example, _____ groups)
 - Engage in research and bring _____, with liberal or conservative orientation
 - Publicity important because purposive groups are influenced by mood of the times – they may prosper when the government is _____ to their agenda

Influences of Staff on Practices

- Staff influences the group's policy _____ if solidarity or material benefits are more important to members (than are purposive goals)
- National Council of _____ of Christ and unions are examples

Social Movements = Purposive Incentives 1

- Social movement: a widely _____ demand for change in the social or political order, either liberal or conservative
- The _____ movement demonstrates that . . .
 - Movement may spawn many _____
 - More extreme organizations will be _____ and more activist
 - More moderate organizations will be larger and less activist

Social Movements = Purposive Incentives 2

- The _____ movement; three kinds of organizations
 - Solidary
 - Middle class _____ women
 - LWV, Business and Professional Women's Federation
 - Avoid issues that might _____ membership or limit networks (examples: partisanship, abortion)

Social Movements = Purposive Incentives 3

- Feminists (cont'd)

- Purposive
 - Strong positions are taken on divisive issues, highly _____ organizations
 - Internal _____ is common
 - Local organizations are highly independent from national organization
 - Examples: _____, _____
- Material
 - Addresses _____ issues of material benefit
 - Examples: National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC), National Federation of Republican Women

Social Movements = Purposive Incentives 4

- Unions continue the activism after their _____ movement died, but sustaining membership is difficult
 - Economic _____ have not worked to unions' benefit in member recruitment
 - Public _____ of unions has declined
 - But unions do offer a mix of _____ and are attracting white collar employees (example: government workers)

Funds for Interest groups beyond member dues

- Foundation _____
- Federal grants and _____
- Direct _____
 - Unique to modern interest groups
 - Through the use of _____, mail is sent directly to a specialized audience
 - But this approach is also expensive – must generate checks from at least ____ percent of the people contacted
 - Techniques
 - _____ on the envelope
 - Letter arouses emotions
 - _____-name endorsement
 - Personalization the letter

Problem of Bias

- Reasons for belief in upper-class _____
 - More _____ more likely to join and be active
 - Business/_____ groups more numerous and better financed than those representing minorities, consumers, or the disadvantaged
- These facts do not decide the issue because . . .
 - Describe inputs to the political system but not who eventually _____ or _____ on particular issues
 - Business groups are often divided among themselves
- Important to ask what the bias is
 - Many conflicts are among upper-middle class, politically active _____
 - _____ differentials are clues, not conclusions about the outcomes of political conflicts

Activities of Interest Groups (overview)

- Supplying credible _____
- Public _____: the rise of the new politics
- _____ and PACs
- The “_____ door”
- Trouble

Supplying Credible Information

- Single most important _____
- Detailed, current information at a premium and can build (or destroy) a _____ – lobbyist relationship
- Most effective on narrow, _____ issues— links to client politics
- Officials also need political cues regarding what _____ are at stake and how that fits with their own political beliefs – so groups may establish informal _____ based on their general political ideology
- Rating systems are intended to generate support or opposition for legislators

Public Support: Rise of New Politics

- _____ strategy previously most common—face-to-face contact between lobbyist and member or Hill staff
- Increasing use of _____ strategy—grassroots mobilization of the issue public (effects of individualistic Congress, modern technology)
- Politicians dislike _____, so work with interest group they agree with
- Lobbyists' key targets: the _____ legislator or bureaucrat
- Some groups attack their likely _____ to embarrass them
- Legislators sometimes buck public _____, unless the issue is very important and would cost them an election
- Some groups try for grassroots support

Money and PACs 1

- Money is the _____ effective way to influence politicians
- Campaign finance reform law of 1973 had two effects
 - _____ amount interests can give to candidates
 - Made it legal for corporations and unions to create PACs that could make donations
- Rapid growth in PACs has probably not led to vote buying
 - More money is available on all _____ of the issues
 - Members of Congress take money but still can decide how to _____
 - _____ are establishing their own PACs, to advance their political ambitions

Money and PACs 2

- Almost any _____ can create a PAC
 - Over half of the PACs are sponsored by _____, one-tenth by unions, and remainder vary
 - Recent increase in ideological PACs: one-third _____, two-thirds conservative
- Ideological PACs raise more money, but raising the money also _____ those resources
- In 1998, _____ and business/professional organizations gave the most

Money and PACs 3

- _____ get the most PAC money
 - Labor PACs almost exclusively give to _____
 - Business PACs _____ money between Democrats and Republicans
 - Democrats often receive more _____ money than do Republicans
- PACs provide only one-_____ of the money spent by House candidates

Money and PACs 4

- No systematic evidence that PAC money _____ votes in Congress
 - Most members vote their _____ and with their _____
 - When an issue is of little concern to voters and ideology provides little guidance, there is a _____ correlation between PAC contributions and votes, but that may be misleading
 - PAC money may influence _____ in other ways, like access or committee actions
 - PAC money most likely to influence client politics, see Chapter 15

Revolving Door

- Very Important for AP Test!
- Promise of future _____ to officials – does this lead to corruption?
- See How Things Work box, Conflict of Interest

Trouble

- _____ has always been part of United States politics, and has been used by groups of varying ideologies, etc.
- Tactics have been more frequently used since the 1960s, becoming more generally accepted

- Goals:
 - Disrupt the institution and force _____
 - Enlist the _____ of others, who will also press for negotiations
 - Create _____ to draw public concern and support
- Often create no-win situations for public officials, who are criticized whether they negotiate or not

Regulating Interest Groups 1

- Protection by _____ Amendment
 - 1946 Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act accomplished little in requiring registration and financial reports
 - _____ Court restricted application to direct contact with members of Congress
 - _____ activity not restricted
 - No staff to enforce law by reviewing registration or reports

Regulating Interest Groups 2

- 1995 act provided a broader _____ of lobbying and tightened reporting requirements
 - Requires reports twice a year, including client _____, expenditures, issues
 - Still exempted grassroots mobilization
 - No enforcement agency established, but _____ Department may undertake investigations
 - Tax-_____, nonprofit organizations cannot receive federal grants if they lobby

Regulating Interest Groups 3

- Other significant _____
 - Tax code; nonprofits lose tax-_____ status if a “substantial part” of its activities involve lobbying
 - Campaign-finance laws limit donations by individual _____

The End!