

DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

François Debras

Thanks to Jérôme Jamin for his trust during all these years and his passion that he transmitted to me for the United States

Thanks to Sarah Amighetti for her dynamism, her curiosity and all the help she gave me to complete this work

Table of contents

INTRODUCTION **13**

CHAPTER I: POWER AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES **19**

- 1) **DEFINITION OF POWER** **21**
- 2) **DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATION** **23**

CHAPTER II: POWER AND ADMINISTRATION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL **25**

- 1) **CONGRESS AND THE LEGISLATURE** **27**
 - a) Congress and the Constitution 27
 - b) Congress and the presidency 30
 - c) Congress and the judiciary 36
 - d) Legislating 37
 - e) Congressional year 42
- 2) **THE DOMESTIC PRESIDENCY** **44**
 - a) The presidency and the Constitution 44
 - b) The President as head of government 45
 - c) The President as chief legislator 52
 - d) The President as head of the state 55
 - e) The President as party leader 57
 - f) The Vice President 58
- 3) **THE PRESIDENCY – FOREIGN AFFAIRS** **60**
 - a) The Constitution and foreign policy 60
 - b) The instruments of foreign policy 61
 - c) The goals of foreign policy 63
 - d) Foreign policy in the twenty-first century 67
 - e) Evaluating the powers of the President 72
- 4) **THE JUDICIARY** **75**
 - a) The Constitution and the judiciary 75
 - b) Judicial review 76

c) The political character of judicial review	78
d) Judicial appointments	80

CHAPTER III: POWER AND ADMINISTRATION AT STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

85

1) STATE GOVERNMENT	87
a) Organization and structure	87
b) State Constitution	88
c) Governor	88
d) State Legislatures	90
2) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	92
a) Organization and structure	92
b) County Government	92
c) Municipality Government	94
d) Special Districts	95
e) Regional Government	95

CHAPTER IV: ELECTIONS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

97

1) VOTING	99
2) MECHANICS OF VOTING	102
3) CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS	103
a) The House of Representatives	103
b) The Senate	103
4) PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS	108

CHAPTER V: ELECTIONS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL **119**

1) STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS	121
2) AMENDMENTS TO STATE CONSTITUTIONS	122
3) INITIATIVES, PROPOSITIONS AND REFERENDA	124
<i>The case of Oregon</i>	125
4) RECALL ELECTIONS	127
<i>The case of California</i>	132
5) DIRECT DEMOCRACY	135

CHAPTER VI: POLITICAL PARTIES **137**

1) THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES	139
2) THE REPUBLICAN PARTY	145
a) Social conservatives	145
b) Fiscal conservatives	146
c) Moderate conservatives	148
d) Nativists	148
3) THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY	152
a) Blue Dog Democrats	153
b) Democratic Leadership Council	154
c) The Left	154
4) MINOR PARTIES	158
a) Old but unknown phenomenon	158
b) Third Parties Today	159
<i>Libertarian Party</i>	159
<i>Green Party</i>	167
<i>The Tea Party</i>	169

5) ELECTORAL SOCIOLOGY	171
a) Ethnic identity	173
b) Gender	174
c) Geography	174
d) Religion	176
e) Lifestyle	176
6) CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MOVEMENTS	177
a) Black Lives Matter	177
b) #MeeToo	178
<u>CHAPTER VII: CAMPAIGN FINANCE</u>	<u>181</u>
<u>CHAPTER VIII: PRESSURE GROUPS</u>	<u>187</u>
1) INFLUENCE OF “FACTIONS”	189
2) ACCESS POINT AND STRATEGIES	190
a) Individuals	190
b) Communities	190
c) States	191
d) Elections	191
e) House of Representatives	194
f) The Senate	196
g) The presidency	197
h) The Judiciary	199
<u>CHAPTER IX: ISSUES THAT MATTER</u>	<u>201</u>
1) CULTURE WARS	203
a) Introduction	203
b) Debates	206
<i>Abortion</i>	206
<i>Right-to-die</i>	209

<i>Same-sex marriage</i>	211
2) CIVIL LIBERTIES	213
a) Introduction	213
b) Debates	214
<i>The second Amendment: Gun Control versus Gun Rights</i>	214
<i>The Eighth Amendment: Torture and Capital Punishment</i>	217
3) EDUCATION	228
a) Introduction	228
b) Debates	229
<i>Affirmative action</i>	229
<i>School vouchers</i>	230
4) RACE RELATIONS, ETHNICITY AND INEQUALITIES	236
a) Introduction	236
b) Debates	238
5) HEALTH CARE AND OBAMACARE	243
a) Introduction	243
b) Debates	246
6) THE ECONOMY	252
a) Introduction	252
b) Debates	254
<i>The Subprime Mortgage Crisis</i>	254
<i>Taxes</i>	256
<i>Debt and deficits</i>	257
7) THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY	259
a) Introduction	259
b) Debates	261
<i>Contractor</i>	261
<i>Drone</i>	265

8) ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT	269
a) Background	269
b) Debates	273
<i>Nuclear power</i>	273
<i>Oil</i>	275
<i>Kyoto and states' responses</i>	276
<i>The Green New Deal</i>	280
<u>ANNEXES</u>	<u>283</u>
1) CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATE	285
2) ARTICLES IN ADDITION TO, AND AMENDMENT OF, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA	293
3) THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES	303
4) JUSTICES 1789 TO PRESENT	306
a) Chief Justices	306
b) Current Members of the Supreme Court of the United States	307
5) SAMPLE OF PETITION FOR RECALL:	312
6) CABINET MEMBERS (BARACK OBAMA, DONALD TRUMP, JOE BIDEN)	313
7) LAST VICE-PRESIDENTS (JOE BIDEN, MIKE PENCE, KAMALA HARRIS)	316
<u>REFERENCES</u>	<u>321</u>