

# 2003 Prentice Hall American Government

## Answers

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in this provocative and readable volume eleven leading constitutional authorities challenge business as usual in american foreign policymaking for far too long they contend americans have acquiesced to presidential claims to sweeping executive powers in foreign affairs thanks to imperial minded presidents a weak willed congress and neglectful scholars these authors forcefully argue that the president is not the supreme crafter of foreign policy and that congress must provide more than a rubber stamp for the president s agenda unilateral presidential control of foreign relations they warn can pose a grave threat to our nation s welfare and is simply without constitutional warrant combining constitutional theory with keen historical insights these authors illuminate the roots of presidential abuse of executive power and remind us of the past and potential costs of such disregard for our unique system of checks and balances an essential guide for all concerned citizens and members of congress this volume should help revive a proper understanding of this crucial dimension of american democracy

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for students of the early american republic james madison has long been something of a riddle the member of the founding generation whose actions and thought most stubbornly resist easy summary the staunchest of federalists in the 1780s madison would turn on his former allies shortly thereafter renouncing their expansive nationalism as a threat to the constitution and to popular government in a study that combines penetrating textual analysis with deep historical awareness gary rosen stakes out important new ground by showing the philosophical consistency in madison s long and controversial public life the key he argues is madison s profound originality as a student of the social compact the venerable liberal idea into which he introduced several novel and seemingly illiberal principles foremost among these was the need for founding to be the work of an elite few for madison prior accounts of the social compact in their eagerness to establish the proper ends of government provided a hopelessly naive account of its origin as he saw it the

federal convention of 1787 was an opportunity for those of outstanding prudence understood in its fullest aristotelian sense to do for the people what they could not do for themselves this troublesome reliance on the few was balanced rosen contends by madison s commitment to republicanism as an end in itself a conclusion that he likewise drew from the social compact accommodating the proud political claims that his philosophical predecessors had failed to recognize rosen goes on to show how madison s idiosyncratic understanding of the social compact illuminates his differences not only with hamilton but with jefferson as well both men madison feared were too ready to resort to original principles in coming to terms with the constitution putting at risk the fragile achievement of the founding in their determination to invoke respectively the claims of the few and the many as american compact persuasively concludes madison s ideas on the origin and aims of the constitution are not just of historical interest they carry crucial lessons for our own day and speak directly to current disputes over diversity constitutional interpretation the fate of federalism and the possibilities and limits of american citizenship

the literature on rural america to the extent that it exists has largely been written by urban based scholars perpetuating out of date notions and stereotypes or by those who see little difference between rural and agricultural concerns as a result the real rural america remains much misunderstood neglected or ignored by scholars and policymakers alike in response emery castle offers the changing american countryside a volume that will forever change how we look at this important subject castle brings together the writings of eminent scholars from several disciplines and varying backgrounds to take a fresh and comprehensive look at the forgotten hinterlands these authors examine the role of non metropolitan people and places in the economic life of our nation and cover such diverse issues as poverty industry the environment education family social problems ethnicity race religion gender government public policy and regional diversity the authors are especially effective in demonstrating why rural america is so much more than just agriculture it is in fact highly diverse complex and interdependent with urban america and the international market place most major rural problems they contend simply cannot be effectively addressed in isolation from their urban and international connections to do so is misguided and even hazardous when one fourth of our population and ninety seven per cent of our land area is rural together these writings not only provide a new and more realistic view of rural life and public policy but also suggest how the field of rural studies can greatly enrich our understanding of national life

this is the first single volume to focus on the presidencies of both james a garfield

and chester a arthur drawing from a host of studies on the foreign and domestic policies of the nation during the gilded age as well as from his own primary research the author presents a somewhat revisionist look at garfield and arthur revisionist in that he gives the reader a renewed appreciation of both men far from being cynical spoilsmen or naive incompetents individuals whose presidencies provide studies in ineptitude garfield and arthur emerge as men of considerable ability while making no claims of greatness doenecke maintains that each was a significant transitional figure playing a crucial role as the institution of the presidency moved from the weak leadership of andrew johnson to the forceful direction of theodore roosevelt according to doenecke garfield saw the office of chief executive primarily in administrative terms and his great battle was over keeping the power of appointment in his own hands his victory over the stalwarts enhanced both the power and prestige of the office his knowledge of how government worked was unmatched long before woodrow wilson made his mark garfield was the scholar in politics the diplomacy of secretary of state james g blaine comes under critical scrutiny doenecke evaluates his performance in the chile peru war war of the pacific the guatemala mexico dispute the isthmian canal issue irish american activities in britain and efforts to secure markets in korea br garfield was assassinated less than six months after he entered office he had yet to be tested on major issues of public policy chester a arthur was ill prepared to be chief executive was in poor health much of the time while he was in office and was faced with a hopelessly divided party nevertheless he was one of the nation s great political surprises his administration pioneered in the development of the navy sought foreign markets for american surpluses fostered civil service reform and pressed for a scientific tariff doenecke devotes one chapter to the spoils system and the background to the pendleton act one to arthur s strategy regarding the south and then offers an in depth analysis of diplomacy during arthur s tenure during the presidencies of garfield and arthur the united states attempted to intervene in a war between chile and peru sought to turn nicaragua into a protectorate supplied leading advisers to madagascar and korea and took a major part in the congo conference of 1884 in examining these activities even while pointing to uncoordinated statecraft and inept diplomacy doenecke challenges the long held view that from 1881 to 1885 the nation was withdrawn and insular his fresh perspective on the garfield and arthur years will be of considerable interest to historians of the gilded age

where did the era of divided government come from what sustains split partisan control of the institutions of american national government year after year why can it shift so easily from democratic or republican presidencies coupled with republican or democratic congresses how can the vast array of issues and personalities that

have surfaced in american politics over the last forty years fit so neatly within indeed reinforce the sustaining political pattern of our time these big questions constitute the puzzle of modern american politics the old answer a majority and a minority party plus dominant and recessive public issues will not work in the era of divided government byron shafer a political scientist who is regarded as one of the most comprehensive and original thinkers on american politics provides a convincing new answer that has three major elements these elements in combination not divided government as a catch phrase are the real story of politics in our time the first element is comprised of two great sets of public preferences that manifest themselves at the ballot box as two majorities the old cluster of economic and welfare issues has not so much been displaced as simply joined by a second cluster of cultural and national concerns the second element can be seen in the behavior of political parties and party activists whose own preferences don t match those of the general public that public remains reliably left of the active republican party on economic and welfare issues and reliably right of the active democratic party on cultural and national concerns the third crucial element is found in an institutional arrangement the distinctively american matrix of governmental institutions which converts those first two elements into a framework for policymaking year in and year out in the first half of the book shafer examines how dominant features of the reagan first bush clinton and second bush administrations reflect the interplay of these three elements recent policy conflicts and institutional combatants in shafer s analysis illuminate this new pattern of american politics in the second half he ranges across time and nations to put these modern elements and their composite pattern into a much larger historical and institutional framework in this light modern american politics appears not so much as new and different but as a distinctive recombination of familiar elements of a political style a political process and a political conflict that has been running for a much much longer time

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