

# American Government And Politics Today Bardes

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featuring a foreword by congressman glen browder politics on a human scale examines political decentralization in the united states from the founding of the republic to the present part of the desirable equilibrium is a sense of proportionality some sizes some amounts some levels are more appropriate than others decentralism is the best political tool to ensure equilibrium to promote proportionality and to obtain appropriate scale power distribution should be as wide as possible government functions should be as close to the people as practicable in this way individual human beings are not swallowed by a monstrous leviathan persons are not at the mercy of an impersonal bureaucracy led by the far away few decentralism gives us politics on a human scale it gives us more democracy within the framework of a republic the longest chapters in the book deal with crucial turning points in u s history specifically when decentralists lost the upper hand in the two major political parties decentralism in our nation runs deep both intellectually and historically it also has considerable popular support yet today it is a virtual political orphan in washington neither major political party is serious about dispersing power to lower levels of government or to the people themselves still there are dissident politicians and political movements that remain committed to the decentralist principle power needs to be held in

check partly through decentralization because power holds a great and dangerous attraction for humans recognition of this human tendency is the first step in guarding against it and getting back on a better path

this comprehensive two volume guide is the definitive source for researchers seeking an understanding of those who have occupied the white house and on the institution of the u s presidency readers turn guide to the presidency and the executive branch for its wealth of facts and analytical chapters that explain the structure powers and operations of the office and the president s relationship with congress and the supreme court the fifth edition of this acclaimed reference completes coverage of the george w bush presidency the 2008 election and the first 3 years of the presidency of barack obama this includes coverage of their handling of the economic crisis wars abroad and obama s healthcare initiatives the work is divided into eight distinct subject areas covering every aspect of the u s presidency and all chapters in each subject area have been revised and updated origins and development of the presidency including constitutional beginnings history of the presidency and vice presidency and presidential ratings selection and removal of the president including the electoral process a chronology of presidential elections removal of the president and vice president and succession powers of the presidency including the unilateral powers of the presidency and those as chief of state chief administrator legislative leader commander in chief and chief economist the president the public and the parties including presidential appearances the president and political parties the president and the news media the presidency and pop culture public support and opinion and the president and interest groups the presidency and the executive branch including the white house office the office of the vice president supporting organizations the cabinet and executive departments presidential commissions and executive branch housing pay and perquisites chief executive and federal government including the president and congress the president and the supreme court and the president and the bureaucracy presidents their families and life in the white house and beyond including the daily life of the president the first lady the first family friends of presidents and life after the presidency biographies of the presidents vice presidents first ladies this new volume also features more than 200 textboxes tables and figures major revisions cover the supporting white house organizations and the president s role as chief economist additional reference materials include explanatory headnotes as well as hundreds of photographs with detailed captions

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presents a comprehensive textbook for undergraduate students on the constitutional governmental political social and economic structures and processes

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contents preface the electoral college how it works in contemporary presidential elections the electoral college method of electing the president and vice president and proposals for reform the election process in the united states electoral structure and representative government selected references presidential elections in the united states a primer general bibliography index

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