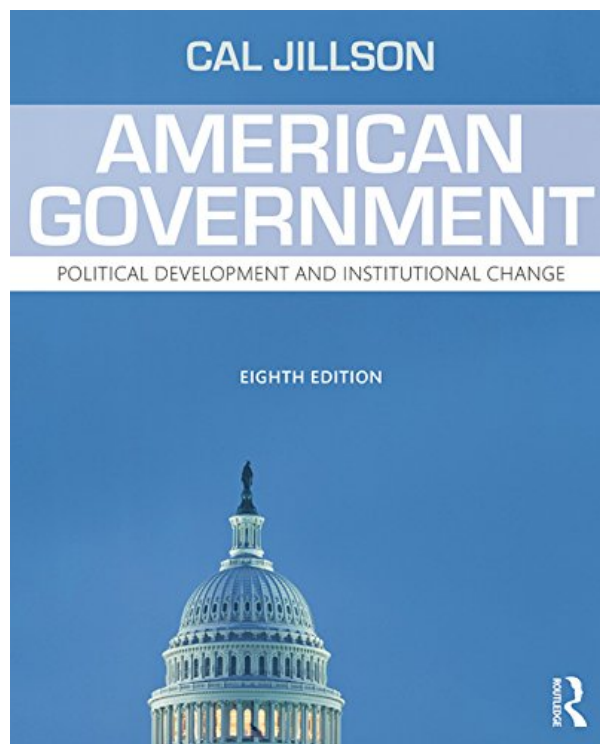
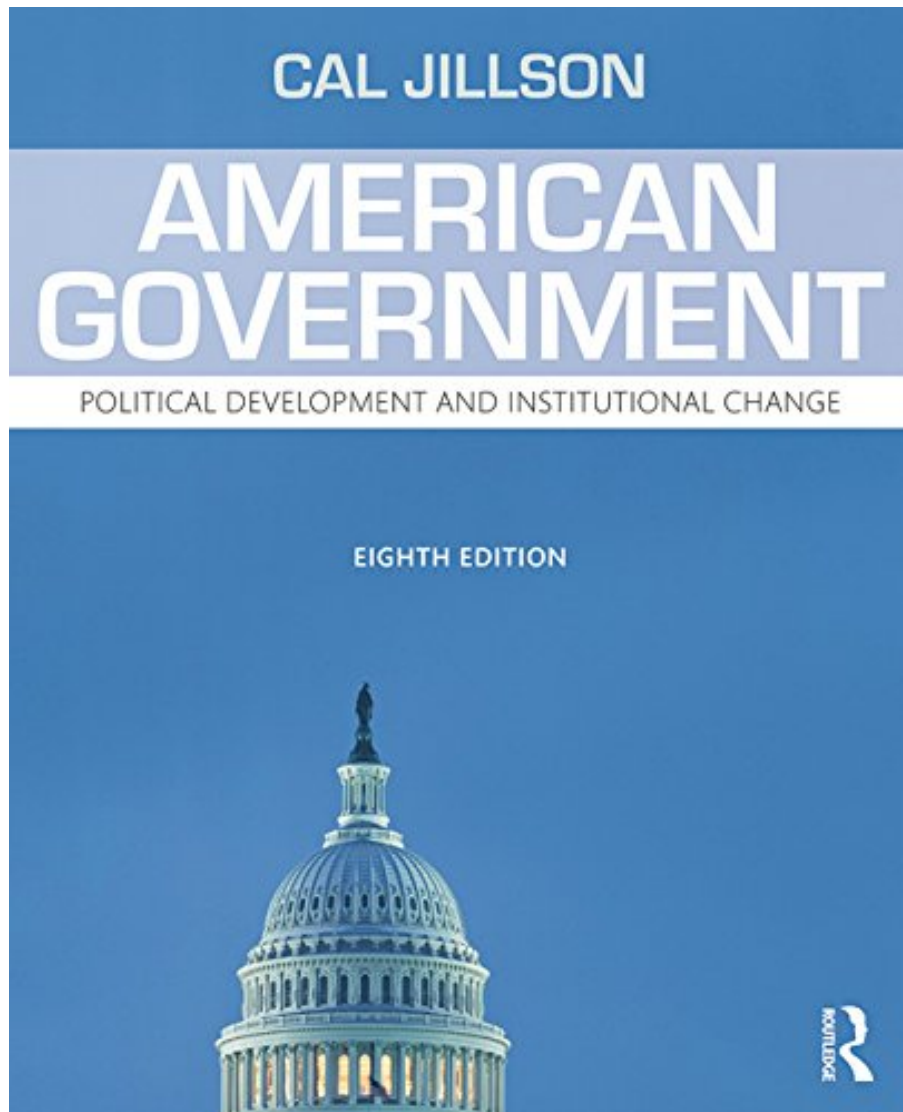


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"In crafting a text on American government, the greatest difficulty lies in explaining the complexity of the American political system and at the same time making that explanation accessible. In this new edition, Cal Jillson accomplishes both with extraordinary ease. Each chapter unfolds around three deceptively simple questions: 1) How does American politics really work? 2) Why do we do it this way? and 3) Is there a better way? Jillson thus allows student and professor to connect the descriptive to the historical to the normative. Clear, comprehensive, and concise, this is no doubt the best American government text on the market today."

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The 8th edition of this well-respected text features the 2014 midterm Congressional elections, the latest on Obama's presidency, important Supreme Court decisions, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and other timely updates. An increased attention to media in politics runs through the book.

- Key learning objectives at the beginning of every chapter focus students on central points to watch for.
- "The Constitution Today" chapter opening vignettes illustrate the importance of conflicting views on constitutional principles.
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- Sales Rank: #293361 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-07-24
- Released on: 2015-07-24
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Yes, at times this book was dry, but I actually felt inspired and even captivated while reading some of its passages. I never thought I would be one to like history, but this book gives a great foundation of our government and why it is the way it is.

The book also points you to a free supplemental website that has vocabulary and quizzes. I enjoyed taking the quizzes because it let me know what I needed to focus on when I got some answers wrong, which helped for my exams.

I rented this book on Kindle for just under \$20. I might actually buy the Kindle version, or a hardcopy version, because it is so foundational. I (almost) love this book! Even with the author's biases and all. (The author can be quite sarcastic at times in his critiques of both parties and "the system", which gives the book

personality.) 4.5 stars!

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Great Textbook for an American Government Class

By Movie Lover

I've used Jillson's textbook in the online classes that I have taught. This American Government textbook is unique because Jillson uses history to show how our political system has changed over time. This is important because most students tend to think that the way government works today is how it worked in 1789; that is simply not the case. Our institutions are the same but their levels of strength have fluctuated since then. I would recommend that potential purchasers read the reviews for the 6th edition of the textbook on this site (http://www.amazon.com/American-Government-Political-Development-Institutional/product-reviews/0415881579/ref=dp_top_cm_cr_acr_txt?ie=UTF8&showViewpoints=1). The 7th edition is not that much different from the 6th. the only major differences is that it covers the 2012 election and President Obama's entire first term.

Instructors: If you order an exam copy of the book from Routledge ([...]) the company will give you access to Instructor's Manuals and Sample PowerPoint slides for each chapter in the textbook. These materials have been very helpful to me when I teach my classes.

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This book explains everything and is super easy to read

By Amanda Jamison

I read this book the most out of all my college textbooks. This book explains everything and is super easy to read. I would highly recommend this for a government 100 class! It's a great study aide since it goes over all the concepts. My teacher pulled her test questions out of this which is why it was so helpful for that class, but despite this, it does a great job at explaining concepts. The book itself is really flimsy though and seems fragile so there's a lot of wear and tear on mine.....The resale value seems to be decent (\$20?), but it's fine because I got a lot of use out of it. Definitely recommend as a study aide!

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