17.1 Power and Authority Sociologists are interested in the influences of governmental ____________ on society and in how social conflicts arise from the distribution of power. Sociologists also examine how the use of power affects local, state, national, and ________ agendas, which in turn affect people differently based on status, ____________, and socioeconomic standing.

What is Power? This definition was developed by ____________ sociologist Max Weber, who said that power is the ________ to exercise one’s will over others. Power affects more than personal relationships; it shapes larger dynamics like social ________, professional organizations, and governments. Endeavors to gain power and influence do ________ necessarily lead to violence, exploitation, or abuse. Leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas __________, for example, commanded powerful movements that effected positive change without _________ force. Both men organized nonviolent protests to combat corruption and ________ and succeeded in inspiring major reform. Social media was also important in getting accurate accounts of the demonstrations ________ to the world, in contrast to many situations in which government control of the media _________ news reports. Notice that in these examples, the exercisers of power were the _________ rather than the governments. They found they had power because they were able to exercise their ________ over their own leaders. Thus, government power does not necessarily equate to ________ power.

Types of Authority Authority refers to accepted ________—that is, power that people agree to follow. People listen to authority figures because they ________ that these individuals are worthy of respect.

Traditional Authority the power of this _________ is accepted because that has traditionally been the case; its legitimacy exists because it has been ________ for a long time. Britain’s Queen Elizabeth, for instance, occupies a position that she inherited based on the traditional ________ of succession for the monarchy.

Charismatic Authority Followers accept the power of charismatic authority because they are drawn to the leader’s ________ personal qualities. The appeal of a charismatic leader can be strong, and can ________ followers to make unusual sacrifices or to persevere in the midst of great hardship and persecution. Charismatic leaders usually emerge in times of ________ and offer innovative or radical solutions. They may even offer a vision of a new ________ order. Hitler’s rise to power in the postwar economic depression of Germany is a negative example; _________ Reagan is a positive example.

Rational-Legal Authority power made legitimate by ________, written rules, and regulations is termed rational-legal authority. In this type of authority, ________ is vested in a particular rationale, system, or ideology and not necessarily in the ________ who implements the specifics of that doctrine. A nation that follows a ________ applies this type of authority, thus U.S. Government leaders serve under this type of power. Note: A leader or government can start out exemplifying one ________ of authority and gradually evolve or change into another type.

17.2 Forms of Government

Monarchy a monarchy is a government in which a single person (a monarch) rules until he or she ________ or abdicates the throne. Usually, a monarch claims the rights to the title by way of hereditary succession or as a result of some sort of ________ appointment or calling. Although governments and regimes are constantly ________ across the global landscape, A few nations today, however, are run by governments wherein a monarch has ________ or unmitigated power. Such nations are called absolute monarchies. It is generally safe to say that most modern absolute monarchies are concentrated in the Middle East and _________. Monarchies today more typically
take the form of [blank] monarchies, governments of nations that recognize monarchs but require these figures to abide by the [blank] of a greater constitution.

**Oligarchy** The power in an oligarchy is held by a [blank], elite group. Unlike in a monarchy, members of an oligarchy usually have positions of power because of military might, [blank] power, or similar circumstances. The concept of oligarchy is hard to define; rarely does a [blank] openly define itself as an oligarchy. Generally, the word carries negative connotations and conjures notions of a [blank] group whose members make unfair policy decisions in order to maintain their privileged positions. Oligarchies have existed throughout history, and today many consider [blank] an example of oligarchic political structure.

**Dictatorship** Power in a dictatorship is held by a [blank] person (or a very small group) that wields complete [blank] over a government. Dictators use a variety of means to keep their power; economic and military might, as well as intimidation and [blank] are often among their tactics. Under oppression, individuals are less likely to [blank] when they are starving and fearful. A totalitarian dictatorship is even [blank] oppressive and attempts to control all aspects of its subjects’ lives; including [blank], religious beliefs, and the media. The most repressive state today is [blank] under Kim Jong Un.

**Democracy** A form of government that strives to provide [blank] citizens with an equal voice, or vote, in determining state policy, regardless of their [blank] of socioeconomic status. Another important fundamental of the democratic [blank] is the establishment and governance of a just and comprehensive [blank] that delineates the roles and responsibilities of leaders and citizens alike. Democracies, in general, ensure certain basic [blank] for their citizens. First and foremost, citizens are free to organize political [blank] and hold elections. Leaders, once elected, must abide by the terms of the given nation's constitution and are limited in the [blank] they can exercise, as well as in the length of their terms. Most democratic societies also champion freedom of individual speech, the [blank], and assembly, and they prohibit unlawful imprisonment. The United States is not a “[blank]” democracy. The term representative democracy, which is synonymous with [blank], can also be used to describe a government in which citizens elect representatives to promote policies that [blank] their interests. In the U.S., each of the three branches of the U.S. government—the executive, judicial, and legislative—is held in [blank] by the other branches. Democracies are the form of government [blank] likely to declare war on a neighboring country.

17.3 **Politics in the United States** Political science looks at politics as how [blank] are made and how the political process occurs. Sociology studies politics as it affects and influences [blank] and the social norms and values of a group. Lincoln's famous phrase “of the people, by the people, [blank] the people” is at the heart of the U.S. system and sums up its most essential aspect: that citizens willingly and [blank] elect representatives they believe will look out for their best interests.

**Political Parties and Elections**—The two main political parties are the [blank] and the Republicans since the mid-1800's but people now are most likely to vote a “[blank]-ticket.”

**Liberals**—“More social programs are [blank] for the country, they act as a social safety net.” It is necessary to [tax] heavily to do these programs and to redistribute [blank]. Pro-immigration and pro-abortion are a couple of issues—what about [blank]? Liberals tend to be concentrated in the [blank] Party.

**Conservatives**—Believe that [blank] government is better. Let the people decide how to spend their own money rather than the politicians. Conservatives tend to favor more [blank] welfare laws. [blank] is also important to conservatives. Conservatives tend to be Republicans.
Voter Participation Voter participation is ________ to the success of the U.S. political system. Many Americans are quick to complain about laws and political leadership, but in any given election year only about _______ the population get out and vote.

Race, Gender, and Class Issues Hispanics, ________, and multiracial populations are expected to double in the next forty years. Recent records have shown _______ minorities voting now than ever before. In some southern states, _______ were restricted/discouraged from participating by poll taxes, land-ownership, “grandfathering,” literacy tests and ________ of prospective voters. Literacy tests were not outlawed until 1965, shortly before the Voting Rights Act was passed, the 1964 U.S. Supreme Court case Reynolds v. Sims changed the nature of ________. This landmark decision reaffirmed the notion of “one person, one vote,” a concept holding that all people’s votes should be counted ________.

Like race and ethnicity, social ________ also has influenced voting practices. Voting rates among lower-educated, lower-paid workers are ________ than for people with higher socioeconomic status. Attitudes play a role as well; some people of low socioeconomic status or minority race/ethnicity doubt their vote will ________ or voice will be heard because they have seen no evidence of their political power in their communities. How about ________? Who is more likely to vote—the young, middle age, or elderly?

The Judicial System The third ________ of the U.S. government is the judicial system, (of Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) which consists of local, state, and federal courts. The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States, and it has the ________ say on decisions about the constitutionality of laws that citizens challenge.

17.4 Theoretical Perspectives on Government and Power

Functionalism According to functionalism, ________ and other parts of society serve a function or purpose; the government has _______ main purposes: planning and directing society, meeting social ________, maintaining law and order, and managing international relations. Functionalists view government and politics as a way to maintain ________ and order in society. This is done by enforcing ________ and regulating conflict. Dysfunction creates social problems that lead to social change—good or bad.

Conflict Theory Conflict theory focuses on the ________ inequalities and power difference within a group. Karl Marx viewed social ________, rather than individual personality characteristics, as the cause of social problems, such as ________ and crime. Marx believed that conflict between groups struggling to either obtain or keep ________ and power they had was inevitable in a capitalist society, and conflict was the ________ way for the underprivileged to eventually gain equality. C. Wright Mills (1956) elaborated on some of Marx’s concepts, coining the phrase ________ to describe what he saw as the small group of powerful people who control much of a society. Mills believed the power elite ________ government as a tool that allow them to keep their wealth.

Symbolic Interactionism as it pertains to the government, focuses its attention on figures, ________, or individuals that represent power and authority. Many diverse things in larger society can be considered ________: trees, doves, wedding rings. Images that represent the power and authority of the United States include the White House, the ________, and the American flag. As micro-sociologists, Interactionists are more ________ in the face-to-face aspects of politics. The heart of politics is the result of interaction between individuals and small groups over periods of ________.
The Iron Triangle and the Military-Industrial Complex-The Iron Triangle consists of Congress, the ________, and defense contractors. The “_______ War” lasted from the 1950s to the 80’s and involved a mostly non-shooting war of political power and __________ muscle. Each side tried to out-do the other. This led to an __________ that escalated the proliferation of weapons and increased the influence of the ____________ and defense contractors.

Gender, Race, and the Military-The draft ended in ________ and the all-volunteer force was begun. __Minorities__ tend to be over-represented in the military due to greater ____________ mobility and because other ____________ in society are more limited. Women make up an increasing segment of personnel in uniform; the ____________ has the highest percentage of females of the various branches of the military, which branch has the least? ____________.

Types of Terrorism- Terrorism is the use of unlawful force or threats of force to gain some political, __religious__, economic or social objective. ____________-sponsored terrorism is when a country trains and ____________ the terrorists. Has America ever used terrorism to gain an objective?