



# FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# WHAT IS A BUREAUCRACY?

(N.) a system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives.

It is a large, complex structure that handles the everyday business of an organization.

## Bureaucratic Functions:

- 1) Structure
- 2) Job Specialization
- 3) Formal Rules

## Hierarchical in Design

Pyramid like structure, lower levels report to level above



# COMPONENTS OF BUREAUCRACIES

The majority of the federal bureaucracy is part of the Executive Branch

- Offices
- Departments
- Agencies

Congressional Branches

- Library of Congress

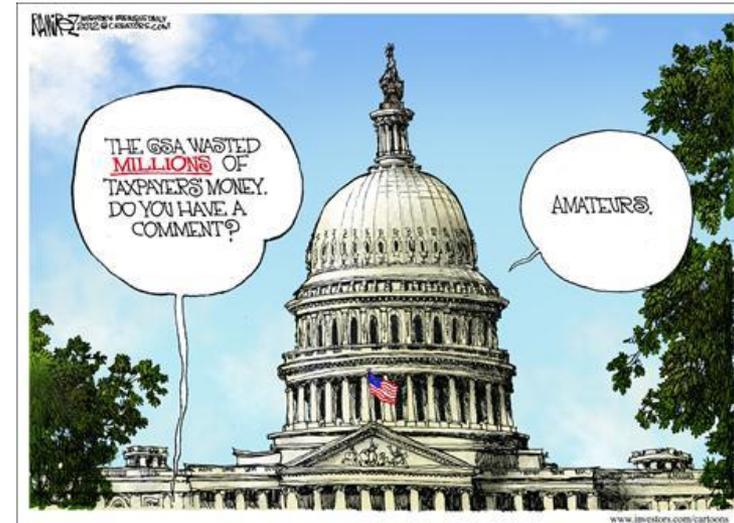
Judicial Branch

- Judges jurisdiction and constitutionality

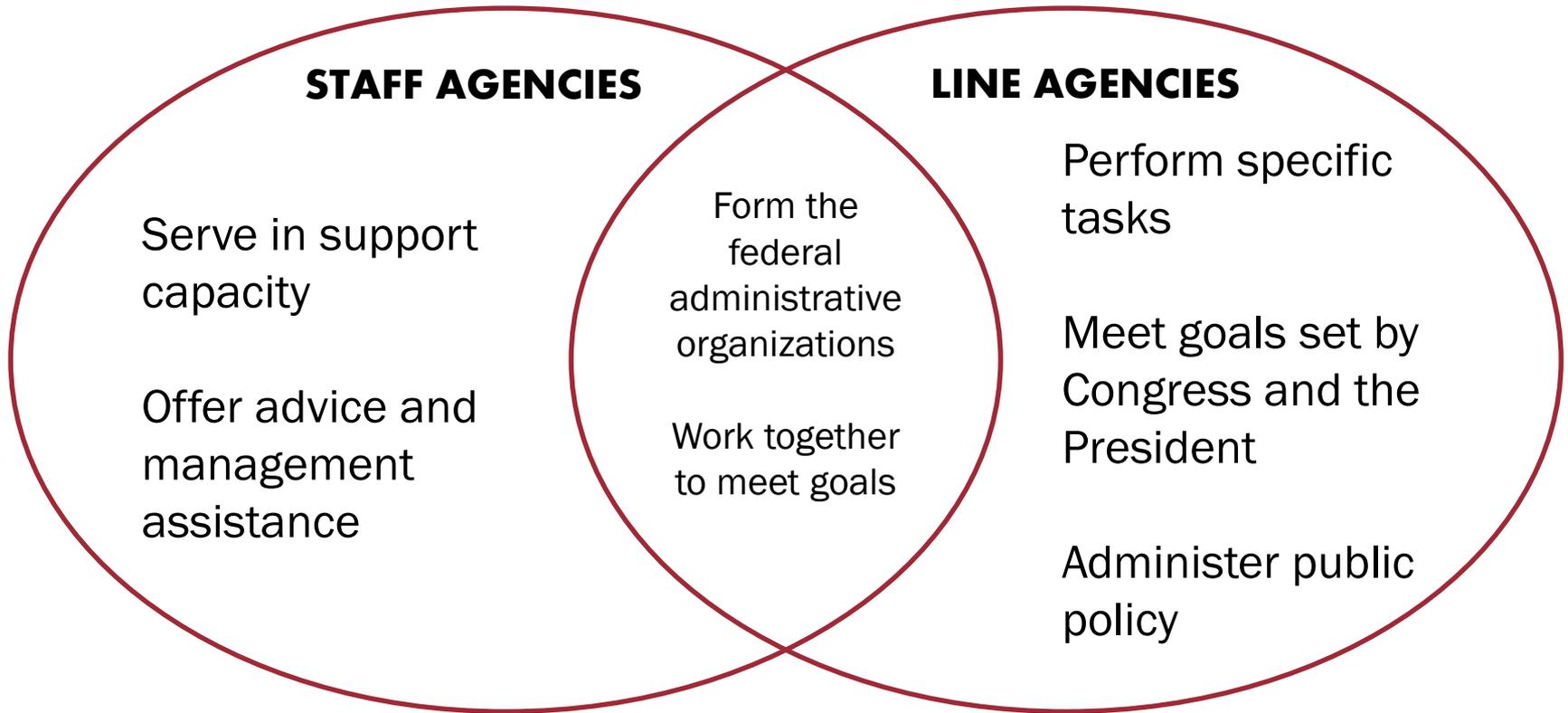
Government Corporations and Freelance Contractors

- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Total over 2.6 million employees



# STAFF AND LINE AGENCIES



# BRIEF HISTORY

## American Revolution

- Federalists v. Anti-Federalists argued over size of government
- Hamilton v. Jefferson; Capitalist v. fear of monarchy

## Constitution

- Federalism: Split responsibilities between Federal and State governments
- Article X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

## Early Presidents

- Washington develops “the cabinet” – advisors in specialized areas
- Adams seeks to expand authority of federal government
- Jefferson aims to shrink government influence

# 20<sup>TH</sup> AND 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## Expansion of Government Power

- Great Depression
- The New Deal
- World War II
- The Cold War
- The Great Society
- The War on Terror

\*Notice a theme?

PRESIDENTIAL CABINET: Department of	
State	1789
Treasury	1789
Interior	1849
Justice	1870
Agriculture	1889
Commerce	1913
Labor	1913
Defense	1947
Housing and Urban Development	1965
Transportation	1967
Energy	1977
Health and Human Services	1979
Education	1979
Veterans' Affairs	1988
Homeland Security	2002

# BECOMING A BUREAUCRAT

## Presidential Appointments

- “Spoils Systems” existed through the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- President can appoint around 2,000 positions

## Civil Service Exams

- Progressive Era politics pushed for “skilled” workers
- Eliminate “Spoils System”; the appointment of party followers
- Approximately 85% of government jobs are filled through civil service screening

## Selective Service

- “The Draft”



# CRITICISMS

Too many federal and key positions are appointed

-How is this democratic?

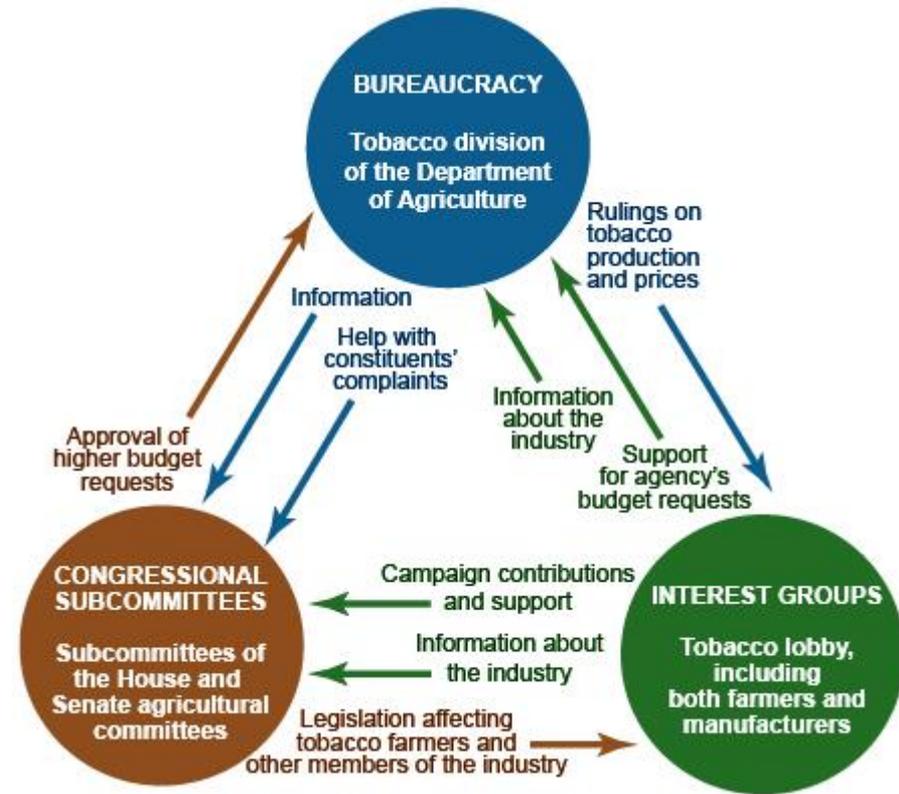
The government is too large and powerful

The government does not respect state rights

Bureaucrats are difficult to remove if not performing at the expectations of the people

Iron Triangles:

an alliance of people from three groups: a congressional subcommittee that deals with an issue, the executive agency that enforces laws on that issue, and private interest groups.



# REFORM

Nearly every modern president has attempted to reform the bureaucracy. Some recent successful attempts at bureaucratic reform include the following:

- Sunshine laws – Public access and regular meetings must be scheduled
- Sunset provisions – Some laws will expire unless shown they are effective
- Privatization – Government functions are handed over to private companies
- Increased incentives for efficiency – Bureaucracies must set goals and meet them to get incentives
- Protection of whistleblowers – Whistleblowers report corruption and inefficiencies. Instead of fearing demotion or being fired, they are protected.



created by Congress to carry out the laws of the country. *Why do you think the executive branch makes up the majority of the federal bureaucracy?*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE of the President

**The Executive Office of the President contains agencies staffed by the President's closest advisors and assistants.**

- White House Office
- Office of the Vice President
- Council of Economic Advisers
- Council on Environmental Quality
- National Security Council
- Office of Administration
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Office of Policy Development
- Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Office of the United States Trade Representative

## EXECUTIVE Departments

**Often called the Cabinet departments, the executive departments and their subunits carry out much of the work of the federal government.**

- Department of State
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Labor
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Energy
- Department of Education
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Homeland Security

## INDEPENDENT Agencies\*

**Independent agencies are responsible for the wide variety of tasks necessary to carry out government business as well as serve the public.**

- Amtrak
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Farm Credit Administration
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Federal Election Commission
- Federal Reserve System
- Federal Trade Commission
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Labor Relations Board
- National Science Foundation
- National Transportation Safety Board
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Office of Government Ethics
- Office of Personnel Management
- Peace Corps
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Small Business Administration
- Social Security Administration
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- United States Postal Service

**\*The agencies listed are just a sampling of the independent**

# PROJECT GUIDELINES AND RUBRIC

**TASK:** Create a Google Slide Presentation to share with the class through the creation of an online museum.

You must choose any one of the offices, departments, or agencies listed from pg. 366 of your textbook as shown and complete the following:

- Provide basic information (title, role, leaders) (**15** pts)
- Discuss the development of the office, department, or agency from its inception through today. Elaborate! (**25** pts)
- Describe, analyze, and discuss TWO programs put into place by your government agency. Elaborate! (**30** pts)
  - +Who is being affected
  - +What is your opinion (do NOT use “I”)
- Provide other relevant or interesting facts (eg. # of employees, financial requirement, etc.) (**15** pts)
- Writing conventions and references - MLA (**15** pts)