* **Domestic**

Agenda Setting

The concept that what the public thinks about is set by the media.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

A federal assistance program [1935 to 1996] created by the Social Security Act that

provided financial assistance to children whose families had low or no income.

Appropriation

A legislative grant of money to finance a government program or agency.

Clean Air Act (1963)

Designed to control air pollution on a national level.

Client Politics

When the organized minority or interest group benefits at the expense of the public.

Entitlements

Benefits guaranteed by law that is paid to individuals by the federal gov’t, for instance,

social security.

Entrepreneurial Politics

A business who seeks to gain profit through subsidies, protection and government

contracts.

Environmental Impact Statement:

Affects the quality of the human environment

Environmental Protection Agency

As EPA to protect humans and the environmental health.

Kyoto Protocol

An international treaty that sets mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

Majoritarian Politics

Has the right to make decisions that affect the society.

Means Test

An income qualification program that determines whether one is eligible for benefits

under government programs reserved for lower-income groups.

Medicaid

A social health care program for low income earners. It is a government insurance program for

people whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care.

Medicare

The federal health insurance program for people who are above 65 or disabled.

No Child Left Behind Act

Reauthorized the elementary and secondary education act

Public Policy

The means by which a government maintains order or addresses the needs of its citizens

through actions defined by its constitution.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

A social welfare program.

Ralph Nader

A private entrepreneur.

Social Security Act

Primarily the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance federal program. The law

created a national system of pensions and, to pay for it, imposed an income tax on

workers that was deducted from their wages and paid by their employers.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

A program that provides temporary financial assistance (to help pay for food, shelter,

utilities, and expenses other than medical) for pregnant women and families with one or

more dependent children. It is an example of *client politics:* a relatively few people

benefit, but everybody pays.

Unfunded Mandate

A statute or regulation that requires a state or local government to perform certain

actions, with no money provided for fulfilling the requirements.

Vouchers

Public monies that can be used to pay for private or religious school tuitions

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

Clinton’s welfare system that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance.

* **Economic**

Appropriations Committee

Congressional committee that deals with federal spending

Budget

A document that states tax collections, spending levels, and the allocation of spending

among purposes.

Budget Resolution

A congressional decision that states the maximum amount of money the government

should spend.

The Congressional Budget Office

A federal agency within the legislative branch of the United States government that

provides budget and economic information to Congress

Debt

The national debt is the total deficit from the first presidency down to the present.

Deficit

The result of when the government in one year spends more money than it takes in from

taxes.

Entitlements

A claim for government funds that cannot be changed without violating the rights of the

claimant.

Expenditures

The spending of money

Federal Reserve System

Central banking system of the United States

Fiscal Policy

The means by which the gov’t adjusts its spending levels and tax rates to monitor and

influence a nation’s economy.

Flat Tax

A tax system with a constant marginal rate, usually applied to individual or

corporate income. A true flat tax would be a proportional tax.

Inflation

A general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

A government agency established in 1862 by President Lincoln that is

responsible for the collection and enforcement of taxes. T

Keynesian Economics

The government must manage consumer demand for goods and services.

Laissez-faire

Abstention by government from interfering in the workings of the free market.

(Capitalism).

Monetary Policy

The control of money supply responsible by the Federal Reserve.

Office of Management and Budget

Under the executive branch, responsible for drafting the budget.

Supply-Side Economics

Maintains that the government should focus its economic policies on stimulating the

supply, not the demand, of goods and services.

* **Foreign / Defense**

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Created by congress in 1947 to gather and analyze information needed to make foreign

policy decisions.

Containment

The belief that the United States should resist the expansion of aggressive nations, especially the former Soviet

Union.

Department of Homeland Security

A cabinet department with the primary responsibilities of protecting the territory of the

United States and protectorates from and responding to terrorist attacks, man-made

accidents, and natural disasters.

Domino Theory

Speculated that if one country in a region came under the influence of

communism, then the surrounding countries would follow in a domino effect.

“Don't Ask, Don’t Tell”

The act prohibited any homosexual rom disclosing sexual orientation while serving in the

United States armed forces. The act specified that service members who disclose that

they are homosexual or engage in homosexual conduct should be discharged.

Iran Contra Affair

A secret arrangement in the 1980s to provide funds to the Nicaraguan contra

rebels from profits gained by selling arms to Iran.

Isolationism

The opinion that the United States should withdraw from world affairs.

Joint Chief of Staffs

A body of senior uniformed leaders in the United States Department of Defense who

advise the Secretary of Defense, the Homeland Security Council, the National Security

Council and the President of the United States on military matters.

Military-industrial complex

An attempt to marshal political support for continued or increased military

spending by the national government.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

An agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, creating a

trilateral trade bloc in North America.

National Security Council (NSC)

Created by Congress in 1947 to serve the president

“Rally ‘round the flag” Principle

Increased short-run popular support of the President of the United States during periods

of international crisis or war

War Powers Act

A federal law intended to check the president's power to commit the United States to an

armed conflict without the consent of the U.S. Congress. President must notify Congress

within 48 hours after admitting troops. Within 60 days after troops are admitted,

Congress must, declare war or the troops must be returned.