The Bureaucracy

Structure of the Bureaucracy…

Bureaucracy—the business side of government; employees work to administer congressional laws, federal/national rules and regulations, and implement programs/policies

- ⇒ **Bureaucrat/Civil Servant**—most are state and local level civilian government employees
- ⇒ **Street Level Bureaucrat**—civil servant; close constant contact with the public
- ⇒ **public administration**—bureaucratic management; implementation of policy
- ⇒ **negotiated rulemaking**—Congress may not provide the level of detail in a law necessary to the reality of implementing the law; use of neutral advisors to negotiate proposals for implementation

Cabinet Departments—largest, most complex units of the executive branch; headed by cabinet secretaries; agencies within departments take one of three basic forms...

- ⇒ **Independent Regulatory Commission**—enforce rules in the public interest (NLRB, FCC, SEC, FDA, etc.)
  Regulation—Government authority used to control or change private sector practices; regulations are written, monitored, and punishment is instituted for non-compliance
- ⇒ **Government Corporation**—perform services that may not be profitable in the private sector but are deemed necessary; the post office department is one example
- ⇒ **Independent Executive Agency**—report directly to the president; not part of a cabinet department; CIA is one example; information; direct focus on tasks

Class Notes…

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Questions to Consider…

- ⇒ Does Article I/Section 8 of the US *Constitution* allow for a large bureaucracy?
  - ⇒ *How do you set up a post office, regulate commerce, print money, etc. without people to make it all happen?*
- ⇒ Is there too much red tape involved with government regulation?
- ⇒ How helpful is the Freedom of Information Act?
  - ⇒ *Is it important to have the ability to obtain records from government agencies?*

Where is executive authority in the Constitution?

Article III—Executive Branch

Terms to Remember…

⇒**patronage/spoils system**—job given for political/personal reasons

⇒**Civil Service**—hiring and firing based on merit

- ⇒ **1883 Pendleton Act**—merit hiring rather than patronage
- ⇒ **1939 Hatch Act**—government employees not to participate in politics while on duty
- ⇒ **Merit Principle**—exams, ratings supposed non-partisan hiring of civil bureaucrats
- ⇒ **Civil Service Reform Act—**rights for whistleblowers

⇒**sunset provisions**—a law or regulation dies out after a specified period of time or other built-in ending such as funding

⇒**whistleblower**—individual who exposes information or activities not correct, likely dishonest, or possibly corrupt

⇒**Government Accountability Office** (GAO)—Congressional oversight tool; provides Congress as well as heads of executive agencies with auditing, evaluating and investigative services; performance reporting

⇒**Freedom of Information Act** (FOIA)—right to request government records from federal agencies

⇒**Sunshine Act**—public meetings; transparency in government processes; public may be part of the process

⇒**redacting**—black marks to cover sensitive information in documents released to the public

⇒**Office of Management and Budget** (OMB)—prepares the president's budget; part of EOP; analyzes taxes, explains programs, evaluates national needs and policy objectives

⇒**Congressional Budget Office** (CBO)—budgetary advice for Congress

Class Notes…