**Chapter 4: American Political Culture**

**On the 150th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave the following remarks prior to administrating the Oath of Allegiance to two dozen new American citizens.**

**"Before I administer the oath, I want to say a few words of welcome to the new citizens. What makes us Americans, what unites us, is quite different from that which unites other countries.**

**There's a word, 'unAmerican.' We used to have a House unAmerican Activities Committee. There's no equivalent word in foreign languages. It would mean nothing in French political discourse to refer to something as unFrench, or in German political discourse to refer to something as unGerman. It is only Americans, we Americans, who identify ourselves not by our blood or by our color, or by our race or by where we were born, but rather by our fidelity to certain political principles.**

**That's very strange. It's unique in human history, I believe.**

**We are, as you heard from the Director, a nation of immigrants, who have come here mostly for two reasons. First, for freedom. From the pilgrims in the 17th century to the Cubans and the North Koreans in the 20th and 21st centuries.**

**And that freedom, of course, is not free, as the dead who rest buried here can demonstrate. The last line of our 'Star Spangled Banner' is, 'the land of the free and the home of the brave.' The two go together. Freedom is for the brave.**

**The second reason they came, these immigrants, was for opportunity. My father, who was the most patriotic man I ever knew, used to say that in the old country, if your father was a shoemaker, you would be a shoemaker. And in America, you could be whatever you were willing to work hard enough to be and had the talent to be.**

**And his son ended up on the Supreme Court.**

**My Grandmother expected me to be President; I didn't quite make that. But it was possible. It is possible in America.**

**So welcome, my soon-to-be fellow citizens, to the nation of Americans. May America bring you all that you expect from it. And may you give it all that it expects from you."**

**4-1   
I. American Culture**

**A. THEN-**

1. Alexis de Tocqueville-

a.

**B. NOW-**

1.

2.

**C. 3 Major Cultural Differences**

1.

**II. Political Culture  
 A. Constitutional Difference**

1.

2.

**B. Demographic Differences**

1.

2.

**C. Political Culture**

1. Definition-

2. Americans-

**a.**

**b.**

3. French and British-  
  **a.**

**b.**

**D. Political Equality**

1.

2.

**E. Cross-National Differences**

1.

2.

**F. Effect of Abundance of Land**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**G.** Alexis de Tocqueville and **American Exceptionalism-**

1. U.S. v. South America

2. Moral and Intellectual Characteristics

**a.**

3. American Exceptionalism Definition-

**H. Country Comparisons**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**III. Political System**

**A. 5 Elements**

1. Liberty

2. Equality

3. Democracy

4. Civic Duty

5. Individual Responsibility

**B. American Opinions**

1.

2.

3.

**C. 3 Questions**

1.

a.

b.

2.

a.

b.

3.

a.

b.

**D. Civil War**

1.

2.

**E. Americanism and the American Dream**

1.

2.

**F. Political Conflict**

1.

2.

**G. 2016 Campaign**

1.

2.

**H. “Good Citizen”**

1.

2.

**IV. Economic System  
 A. American Opinion**

1.

2.

**B. Opportunity v. Results**

1.

2.

**C. Liberal Groups**

1.

2.

**D. Economic Individualism**

1.

2. “symbolic racism”

3. self-reliance

**E. Economic Political Change**

1.

2.

3.

**4-2 How we Compare: Comparing America with Other Nations  
  
V. Americans’ Attitudes toward Politics v. European democracies** 1.

2.

**VI. Political System  
 A. Americans’ Attitudes**

1.

2.

**B. Sweden**

1.

2.

**C. Japan** 1.

2.

**D. Civic Duty**

1.

2.

**E. Civic Competence** 1.

2.

**D. 2016 Survey: Trust in Government**

1.

2.

**VII. Economic Systems  
 A. Sweden**

1.

2.

**B. America**

1.

2.

**C. Differences**

1.

2.

**VIII. A History Changing Choice Video Notes**

**IX. Role of Religion  
 A. Religion in America**

1. Belief in God

a.

2. Charity

a.

**B. Religion & Politics**

1.

2.

**C. Liberals & Conservatives**

1.

2.

**D. Candidates for office**

1.

2.

**E. General Feeling**

1.

2.

**F. Recent Polls**

1.

2.

**4-3**

**X. Sources of Political Culture**

**A. American Revolution**

1.

2.

3.

**B. Adversarial Spirit**

1.

2.

**C. Suspicion of Government**

1.

2.

**D. The Constitution**

1.

2.

**E. No Established Religion**

1.

2.

**F. Dominant Religious Groups**

1.

2.

**G. Influence of Churches**

1.

2.

**H. Family**

1.

2.

**F. Class Consciousness**

1.

2. Horatio Alger

**4-4  
XI. Culture War  
 A. Orthodox View**

1.

2.

3.

4.

**B. Progressive View**

1.

2.

3.

4.

**C. Difference with other Political Disputes** 1.

2.

**D. Two Opposing Views**

1.

2.

**XII. Mistrust of Government  
 A. Public Opinion since the 1950’s**

1.

2.

**B. Reasons**

1. government System v. Government officials

2. 1960s

3. 1970s

4. 1980s

5. 1990s

**D. Domestic Turmoil**

1.

**E. Patriotism**

1.

2.

**F. Faith in Washington**

1. Congress-

2. Others-

3. Alienation?

**XIII. Civil Society**

**A. Civil Society**

1.

2.

**B. Individualism**

1.

2.

**C. Putnum**

1.

2.

**D. 3 Qualifications to Putnum**

1.

2.

3.

**XIV. Political Tolerance**

**A. Democracy & Tolerance**

1.

2.

3.

**B. the Abstract v. the Concrete**

1.

2.

**C. Evolution of American Tolerance**

1.

2.

**D. 3 Reasons for Tolerance**

1.

2.

3.

**E. Liberty**

1.

**F. Civic Duty**

1.

**G. Democratic Rule**

1.

**XV. Learning Objectives**

4-1.

4-2.

4-3.

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