

AMGOV

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LOSCO | BAKER

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Journal

EXCLUSIVE:
CURRENT ARTICLES,
CURRENT ISSUES

What issues affect
18 to 25-year-olds?



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THE IMPACT
of the mid-term elections

WHY YOU VOTE

>> POLITICAL VIEWS OF 18 TO 25-YEAR-OLDS

We should do whatever it takes to protect the environment	77%	
Voting gives people like me some say about how government runs things	72%	
Illegal immigrants should have the chance to stay	70%	
I disapprove of the Iraq war policy	69%	
The U.S. relies too much on the military to defeat terrorism	67%	
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society	58%	
Government is not usually inefficient and wasteful	64%	
Voting can bring about social change	56%	
I feel guilty for not voting	50%	
I am registered to vote	49%	
It's my duty as a citizen to always vote	42%	

SOURCE: Pew Research Center, "How Young People View Their Lives, Futures, and Politics: Portrait of Generation Next," January 9, 2007.

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What's Inside AM GOV? . . . YOU ARE

YOU STARTED AM GOV. You convinced us that there had to be a better way to get across the fundamental concepts of American democracy and what it means to be an American citizen.

Students showed us they wanted more portable texts with innovative visual appeal, interactive pedagogy, an integrated approach, and relevant content designed according to the way they learn. Instructors told us they wanted a way to engage their students without compromising on high quality content.



*Ralph Baker and Joseph Losco,
Ball State University*

WE LISTENED

We also did our homework. McGraw-Hill conducted in-depth ethnographic research of student learning to explore what makes their reading and learning experience more engaging, memorable, effective, lasting, and enjoyable. We then interviewed instructors to identify their biggest challenges and how a completely different kind of text could serve as a solution to those challenges.

AM GOV is new, but our approach is simple. Our approach in AM GOV marries our commitment to scholarly content with the value that currency, presentation, and reasonable price have for students. We update AM GOV every

year to keep the course vital and relevant. We gave AM GOV this visually rich design because our research taught us that, in our visual culture, it makes student learning excel and American government memorable.

Our goal in AM GOV is to engage students in the story of people's relationship to government and how an active and informed citizenry is essential in making democracy meaningful. We want students to recognize how their choices about government affect their lives.

With the election of a new president, we have an opportunity for American government to take on new meaning for a new generation. More current, more portable, more captivating, plus a rigorous and innovative research foundation adds up to: more learning. When you meet students where they are, you can take them where you want them to be.

We listened . . . to you. We learned . . . from you. We created . . . for you.

Joseph Losco

Ralph Baker

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CITIZENSHIP QUIZ

Can You Pass the U.S. Citizenship Test?

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to bring you exclusive commentary on events from the past year



National Journal
Federalism
**THE ECONOMIC CRISIS:
WASHINGTON'S SAD
TRIUMPH**

Washington always profits from change—especially when there's a new party in power at the White House, as there is now that the Democrats have taken control. But this time around, the triumph of Washington—the sad triumph—is all about wreckage. It is about the crisis that has commercial and investment banks, credit unions, insurance companies, property developers, automakers, and other...

Our with the Age of Reagan—and it is, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." and in with the Age of, well, Hamilton, as in Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first Treasury secretary. "We've got Alexander Hamilton running the economy," Ralph Kitchum, a political scientist at Syracuse University, said in a phone conversation.

Hamilton believed in markets, but he also believed that government should ride herd on them and direct them to society's advantage. He tended to downplay the role of Congress and the states in favor of centralized management of the economy by a powerful bureaucracy of the lost and the brightest. Hamilton championed federal assumption of state debt, a powerful national bank, federal protection for a vulnerable manufacturing sector, and even a kind of early industrial policy. He championed the "implied powers" of the Constitution—a phrase that could be taken as license for Washington to do almost anything it wanted in the private economy.

Hamilton's bent was strongly opposed by his great rival, Thomas Jefferson, who stood for states' rights and a limited role for Washington as manager of the economy—position rooted in his distrust of power concentrated in the hands of a Hamiltonian...



Inside Washington

apist and make sure it stays open, with nationally directed public works programs, a formula for an even more powerful federal government.

The sad triumph of Washington seems certain to breed a counterreaction, a Jeffersonian-style backlash that could prove equally intense. At the start of the 20th century, the historian John Fiske observed, "All American history has since run along the lines marked out by the antagonism of Jefferson and Hamilton." Our hundred years later, that insight remains valid, as does the maxim that the heart of the American body politic, if not necessarily the head, tends to side with Jefferson.

The role of Washington, the federal power, is inevitably at the center of this eternal antagonism. Even before the Constitution was ratified, the camp of so-called anti-federalists railed against its provision for a permanent federal capital—a "District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Congress of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States."

The anti-federalist pamphleteer known only as the Federal Farmer wrote, "This city, and the government of it, must inevitably take their tone from the characters of the men, who from the nature of its situation and institution, must collect there.... If we expect it will have any sincere attachment to simple and frugal republicanism, to that liberty and mild governance, which is dear to the laborious part of a free people, we must assuredly deceive ourselves."

Nowadays, anti-Washington populism is no longer a regionally concentrated movement, as it was in the 19th and early 20th centuries with its bases in the rural Midwest and South, but a nationally dispersed one, linked by the electronic media of talk radio and the Internet—themselves examples of a decentralized, Jeffersonian-style domain. A few days before Thanksgiving, the conservative talk-show host Glenn Beck, a latter-day Federal Farmer with a microphone, who claims to have the third-highest-rated national show among adults ages 25 to 54, asked his listeners: "So the question is, do states have the right to secede anymore? Because it was a compact. It's not perpetual. In fact, in the Declaration of Independence, it says it is our right, it is our responsibility to get away from a government that doesn't listen to its citizens."

Perhaps Jefferson's ghost will return in the form of Palinism. Sarah Palin hails, after all, from one of the few remaining geographical bastions of anti-Washington sentiment in the nation—the state of Alaska, home to a secessionist movement of which her husband, Todd, was a member. Should the Washington-driven rescue plans not work, should the Obama economy founder (Boulder's), populist voices like Palin's may gain traction with their pleas for a return to traditional principles of conservatism based on small government and decentralized power.

And perhaps this will prove the ground on which a demoralized Republican Party, whose strength is more in its state governors than in its beaten-down Washington politicians, rebrands its political image. As much as Americans hope that Obama can fulfill his pledge to restore jobs, they are also in tune with Republican concerns about a wasteful use of taxpayers' money, as illustrated by the polls showing deep public skepticism toward a Washington-led bailout of the U.S. automakers. While George W. Bush, in his final days, yielded to the Hamiltonian imperatives, John McCain, the GOP's 2008 presidential nominee, said he opposed the \$17 billion in emergency federal financing for Detroit.

As he pursues his agenda, Obama may be able to co-opt populist objections to Washington's return to primacy with a Hamiltonian-style appeal couched in the emotional vocabulary of economic nationalism, with the rising threat of China and other 21st-century manufacturing powers substituting for the threat of Great Britain in the 19th century.

Still, even in his honeymoon moment, when all things seem possible, Obama would be wise to stay on guard. The triumph of Washington—the return of the planner and the regulator and all the other apparatuses of central government—is a triumph that few Americans are likely to cheer, however necessary it may be at this unsettling time. An Inauguration Day through watched Obama make his way along the parade route from Capitol Hill to his new home in the White House, but the vigilance was for his ascendancy and for the hope he represents, and not for the return to power and pre-eminence of the city he will rule.



Election 2008
Special Report



National Journal

For Discussion

- The article focuses on the ways the return of the philosophy of regulation and planning threatens to stall the balance between the federal government and business. Consider also, however, some specific ways the traditional federal-state equilibrium will shift during a new era of regulation. How might increased Washington intervention in the car industry, for instance, substitute from top-down to state authority?
- Assuming the article's predictions are correct, discuss some benefits of Washington's new central place in the American community, as well as some drawbacks. On the one hand, a Democratic administration is likely to change the way government relates to business in a significant way?
- The piece alludes not only to the Hamilton-Jefferson debate over the power of a centralized government, but also to the Civil War issue of state secession. Do you think the movements of Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin's husband—that a state could secede from the Union—have any grounding? What sort of frustration with federalism do you think these movements reveal?

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