



LIFE·PAC®

History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 1201

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT

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Author:
Editor:
Illustrations:

Brad Zockoll
Brian Ring
Alpha Omega Staff



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804 N. 2nd Ave. E., Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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HISTORY 1201

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT

“Really, it’s a waste of taxpayers’ money. Why even pay taxes? We don’t need a **government** at all!” claimed Jeff, as he pounded his fist on the table. “I believe the best type of government is where there is no government. We could all get along by ourselves without any problems!”

Cindy looked at Jeff and wondered if that could be true. What would this country be like if we had no government? Think of it. No state tax to pay on that sweater I just bought. No speed limits—I could get to Grandpa’s house in record time! No driver’s licenses, no mandatory school attendance... But then she thought some more—do we really NEED to have a government? Does any country need to have a government?

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC®.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Explain what the Bible has to say about government, and what its purpose is.
2. Explore the different types of governments in history and in our world today.
3. Explain the terms used with regards to government and its leaders.
4. Give an overview of a presidential government and the various parts that it consists of.
5. Give an overview of a parliamentary government and how it operates.
6. Understand one-party and multiparty governments and the Christian’s responsibility in either.
7. Identify and give a brief summary of the political philosophies of three philosophers: Aquinas, Aristotle, and Engels.
8. Identify and give a brief summary of the political philosophies of three political thinkers: Machiavelli, Marx, and Milton.

Survey the LIFEPAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. GOVERNMENTS

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain what the Bible has to say about government, and what its purpose is.
2. Explore the different types of governments in history and in our world today.
3. Explain the terms used with regard to government and its leaders.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

authority	The power and/or right to enforce obedience and make decisions over a group.
commerce	The business and exchange of goods by purchase, trade, or sale.
federal government	Government formed by a union of smaller groups (states) in agreement.
imports	Goods brought into a country or state for the purpose of trade.
intangible	That which cannot be felt by touching, immaterial.
license	Authorization by law.
regulate	To control, adjust or govern according to a system.
tangible	That which can be felt by touching, material.
tariffs	Systems of taxes placed on imports or exports of a country.
utilities	A service to the public such as gas, telephone, water, or electric power.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Different Nations, Different Governments



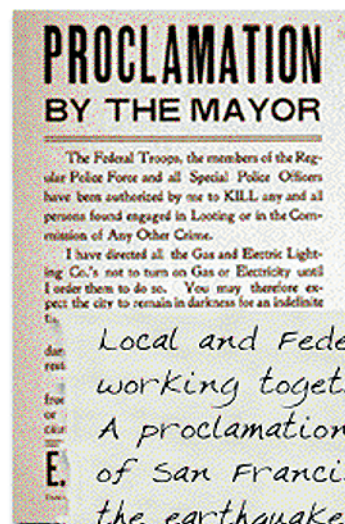
WHY HAVE GOVERNMENTS?

Through the ages, there have been governments wherever there has been a significant number of people. Governments are formed because groups need an organization to create and enforce rules that control conduct within the population. You see governments within many groups. Your town has a government. Your church has a government. Governing occurs within groups ranging from Garden Clubs to Scout Troops. The ruling members are put in their places of **authority** to create and enforce rules that govern the conduct within the group of people.

Perhaps one of the most simple “how to” lessons on constructing a government is found in the Bible. In reviewing Exodus chapters 15-18, you will read about Moses setting up a governmental system from its infancy. In chapters 15 and 17 he deals with the problem of supplying sufficient drink for the populace. In chapters 16 and 17 Moses confronts the problem of feeding this new nation. In chapter 17 he must make military decisions and go into action with the new army. In reading chapter 18 you will even see Moses enacting a judicial system—from the lower courts all the way up to a “Supreme Court” of the new Jewish nation! Of course, in all these decisions, you can see how God gave Moses the wisdom and instruction to know how to organize correctly. Sometimes Moses did not follow the instructions, and we can learn of the failures he faced. A basic government primer - all found in the book of Exodus! Governments also exist in order to assist society to improve in tangible and intangible ways. Governments serve to help in both these areas.

Local governments help in **tangible** ways with creation of mass transportation, libraries, local parks, and town streets. The local government of Delmar, Delaware set up a public library for the citizens of the town. The municipal government in Glendale, Arizona purchased a “trolley-bus” to take visitors around to the various shopping areas free of charge, in order to enhance the shopping experience and bring in more tourist dollars. Governments enact **intangible** laws and ordinances for the welfare of the citizens. The city of Knoxville, Tennessee strictly enforces a “quiet zone” and speed limit around the hospitals in the city. Look at the picture below and you’ll see the actual proclamation by the mayor concerning the need for order during the days after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. If he had not enacted strict law enforcement immediately, many innocent citizens would have been the victims of robbery and violence. The local government came to the rescue of the individual.

State governments help tangibly by creating state parks and recreation areas and maintaining public **utilities**. You see your state tax dollars at work whenever you see the construction crews working on a new lane or constructing a rest stop on the state highway. Intangibly, they **license** and oversee businesses and occupations. Very few people would trust a dentist who did not have his state license, giving him permission to practice in the state. Likewise, few people would trust a lawyer whose state license was revoked.





Federal governments work for the good of the country as a whole. We see tangible evidence of the government at work whenever we see a coin or dollar bill. We see our armed forces and know that the government is obligated to our safety. We receive mail and read of **tariffs** on **imports** and we know that the government works to **regulate** and maintain the mail system and **commerce** for the benefit of the country's citizens.



THINK ABOUT IT...



“That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves.” -Thomas Jefferson

Do you agree with Jefferson’s statement? Discuss your view with your teacher or parents.



Adult Check

Initial

Date



Choose one answer.

1.1

Governments are important because:

- _____ they control every aspect of the population
- _____ they eliminate the need for participation in national decisions
- _____ they enforce rules that control conduct within a population

1.2

The three levels of government are _____ , _____ ,
and _____ .