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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

BY
CHARLES A. BEARD

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE several excellent manuals on American Government now available are written primarily for high schools, and there seems to be room for a volume, not too elementary nor yet too technical, designed for college students and for citizens wishing a general survey of our political system. This volume, taken in conjunction with the companion work, *Readings in American Government and Politics* (cited in the footnotes as *Readings*), is intended to fill this gap. It is not a contribution to political literature, but is frankly based upon the best authorities of recent times.

I have many personal debts to acknowledge. My colleagues, Professors Dunning, Goodnow, Munroe Smith, Shepherd, and G. W. Scott, and Mr. Sait have read portions of the manuscript or proof, and have given firmness to every page they have touched. Dr. Howard McBain has read the parts on Federal and State Government, and through his extensive knowledge of practical politics and administration I have been saved many slips. I am also indebted to him for innumerable corrections in perspective and interpretation. Professor A. R. Hatton has read the chapters on Municipal Government and, in addition to making a number of rectifications, he has shown me how much better they could have been done. Mr. Arthur Crosby Ludington has aided me materially with ballot and primary legislation. Mr. Alexander Holtzoff has helped me at every point in the making of the volume; two chapters, on National Resources and the State Judicial System, were drafted by him under my direction; and I owe him a debt which no mere line in a preface can pay. In planning and executing the work, I have had the constant and discriminating assistance of my wife. Notwithstanding all this coöperation, I must take the burden of responsibility for errors and shortcomings. Only one

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who has gone over the same ground can appreciate how many there are; but I trust they will be viewed with charity by those who know how difficult a thing it is to describe a complex political organism which is swiftly changing under our very eyes.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
April, 1910.

CHARLES A. BEARD.

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

FOR this edition the original text has been completely revised and nearly all of it rewritten. I have reduced the historical sections and placed them with the chapters on current politics to which they relate. I have written a new introduction which seems to offer a better approach than the historical method — one more calculated to enlist at the very outset the interest of the student in practical politics and government. An effort has been made to bring the entire volume up to date, both in letter and spirit. A multitude of details has been deliberately omitted to make room for a discussion of fundamental principles and practices.

I am deeply indebted to Mr. A. E. Buck and Dr. Luther Gulick, of the National Institute for Public Administration, for counsel and advice. I am under very special obligations to Professor Arthur W. Macmahon, of Columbia University, who has given me critical and constructive suggestions of the highest value.

CHARLES A. BEARD.

NEW MILFORD, CONN.,
April, 1924.

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