

Wilson 16 Chapter 4 Assignment

1. Define political culture.
2. What are the five elements of the American political system?
3. To what extent do you believe there exists a gap between what we profess to support in political theory and actual practice as it relates to equality.
4. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of a belief in Americanism.
5. Why are people more willing to accept economic inequality than political equality.
6. Why is equality of results not expected while equality of opportunity is an absolute requirement.
7. How does people engaging in their civic duty make our communities and nation stronger?
8. What does high civic competence lead to greater political participation?
9. Why would poor inner city neighborhoods be less likely to engage in civic duty activities?
10. Americans suck at voting, but crush other nations in overall political participation. Explain.
11. In what ways are American beliefs in our political system showing signs of anxiety for its commitment to equality?
12. How did religious values factor into the framers' efforts to establish governmental power in the constitution?
13. Define cleavages in political science.
14. What elements of protestant doctrine have had a lasting influence on American political values?
15. How did the organization of protestant churches provide experience that led to political organization in early America?
16. What is the primary transmitter of political culture across generations?
17. How have American child rearing patterns supported the idea of equality and liberty in this nation unlike in other nations?
18. Why is there a lack of class consciousness in America that is found in other nations?
19. What do you define as the income range for "middle class?"
20. What are orthodox cultural values?
21. What are progressive cultural ideas?
22. How has the culture war between the orthodox and progressives been waged in America?
23. Why is it not possible for there to be compromise in a culture war unlike differences over taxation, foreign aid, and business regulation?
24. Define blue state.
25. Define red state.
26. Define purple state.
27. If Alan Abramowitz is correct why is political compromise not going to be a part of America's future like it has been in our past?
28. How does the decline in public institutions, as measured in Figure 4.5, show that getting America to come together is increasingly difficult? Think about who would be doing this unifying.
29. Define populist.
30. What has led to the political alienation of the public?
31. How do the organizations of civil society hold our best hope for bridging our political differences?
32. As America becomes less white, what are the social and political implications of Putnam's findings in *The American Dream in Crisis*?