

## 3.6 Politics and Government

### **T218 - Political process: voting and elections, lobbying, open government and free movement of information by Marek**

As computers become more and more abundant in this world, government has found a new source which they can utilize to "reach" the people. Computers have now been used by the federal services of many countries from everything to propaganda to substitutes of ballot sheets. It appears that almost everything is done electronically these days.

Governments have found the inherent use of the internet for elections, such as posting banners. Some of the more extreme governmental institutions make use of subliminal messaging or even restrict viewers to sites that are only pro-government. Imagine how many more supporters and how much more power a government was to get if it could post a single banner on every site in the internet. Then it would be viewed by everyone.

One of the methods a government could convince the general population it was a better choice than its opponent would be very similar to posting banners on the internet. It could write "this website is supported by the Country ABC's government". This would give the particular government an edge, by subconsciously communicating to the average user that if they do not choose that form of government, it could shut down the website they are visiting.

Another use of computers and electronics to the governments are as a new form of ballots for elections. For one, computers can not be tampered with as easily as paper ballots, and they are universally recognized as the easiest and most efficient way of communicating which party you desire to see in power (a.k.a. elect).

Many people made mistakes on paper when they were told to put a hole through the spot next to the candidate they would have liked to see elected's name (George Bush's election: Florida) and this resulted in mass confusion and well as mass media coverage. This is not the first time this idea has been introduced, and as time progresses, it appears more and more likely that electronics will be favored over the older methods of paper ballots.

In the end, it seems like computers are a good source to use for both the public and the government. Together, hopefully the people and their government can unite to create a better society, or to strive for the "greater good" as is mentioned in so many political texts.

### **T219 - Government administration: record keeping, tax collection, policy implementation by Akira**

The government can use computers and Internet for record keeping, tax collection, and for policy implementation. It can be a convenient way to do these things but they can have flaws.

The first issue associated with this topic is security. This is because other people who aren't working for the government can access the records if they hack into the database. Also the truth can be faked. For example people can fake the payment of tax or people can change the amount of tax to pay. Another thing that can happen is that the government can charge people the wrong amount of tax. Also because of the possible breach of record it can also be an issue of privacy. This is mainly because the individual's information kept by the government might be leaked or be misused.

One solution that can overcome this is to keep government record secluded so no one except for authorized personnel can access the data. Also they can check the tax payment manually as well as on the computer and to avoid the leak of privacy they can put protections on the information. Another way they can keep record safer is to make the law about invasion of privacy harsher.

Ethical issues concerning this topic for example is someone faking the tax on purpose. This would be unethical because you wouldn't be paying the amount of money you owe the community when you fake tax. Also leaking the record kept by the government is extremely unethical too. This is mainly because the government keeps these records to keep track of people and leaking them means that you are betraying the government as well as the individuals.

The people who are responsible for this problem are the people who are faking tax or stealing information kept by the government. This is mainly because they are causing the problems and because it is illegal.

One alternative decision is to keep the process all manual so it would be harder to take private information from the government because the information would be kept more secure. Another alternative decision is to keep the information all secluded so only a few people who need it can be able to access the data.

One consequence of making all the process manually is making everything more time consuming and less convenient. This would not be good because the people would not be able to access the information easily as before. Secluding the information would make everything take more time and harder to perform. This is because they would not be able to access their private data for various things so as a result any process that requires private data would take longer as a result.

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### T220 - Legislation: policy development, enactment, enforcement and analysis by Romeo Wu

Legislation is law which has been promulgated by a legislature or other governing body. The term may refer to a single law, or the collective body of enacted law, while "statute" is also used to refer to a single law. Before an item of legislation becomes law it may be known as a bill, which is typically also known as "legislation" while it remains under active consideration. In some jurisdictions, legislation must be confirmed by the executive branch of government before it enters into force as law. Under the Westminster system, an item of legislation is known as an Act of Parliament after enactment.

Legislation is usually proposed by a member of the legislature or by the executive, whereupon it is debated by members of the legislature and is often amended before passage. Most large legislatures enact only a small fraction of the bills proposed in a given session. Whether a given bill will be proposed and enter into force is generally a matter of the legislative priorities of government. Those who have the formal power to create legislation are known as legislators, while the judicial branch of government may have the formal power to interpret legislation.

The record of events and public statements of legislators that explain the reasons for the law and its expected meaning are called "legislative history". Often, this will include formal speeches or writings made by the bill's sponsors and chief critics. Courts often refer to legislative history in interpreting legislation, in order to discern "intent" or what legislators meant for the law to mean.

However, there is a prevalent minority view among some judges that laws should be interpreted solely according to their text, and without regard to legislative intent. This debate is complicated by the fact that legislators will sometimes craft the text of a law to be intentionally obscure or vague as part of a political compromise, and that in a large legislative body, most of those who vote in favor of a bill will not have read the bill's full legislative history, or, indeed, the bill itself.

#### Legislation: policy development, enactment, enforcement and analysis by Ronald Chu

First of all, what is "legislation?" According to [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), legislation, (also known as statutory law) is a law that the legislature or other governing body has passed. A legislature is a type of representative deliberative assembly with the power to adopt laws. Legislatures are known by many names, the most common are parliament and congress, although these terms also have more specific meanings. A legislation may be a single law or the collective body of a group of laws ("statute" refers to the meaning of one law).

An item of legislation (law passed by the legislative branch of government) may sometimes have to be confirmed by the executive branch of government before it becomes a proper law. Legislation is usually proposed by a member of the legislature (for example, a member of Congress or Parliament), or by the executive itself, where it is debated by members of the legislature and is often changed before completely approved. Those who have the formal power to create legislation are known as legislators, while the judicial branch of government may have the formal power to interpret legislation.

As stated above, the legislation creates a law, and a different branch of government (executive) or the President, himself, will "check" and confirm it. If it passes inspection, the law is confirmed and becomes concrete. (The act of making legislation is sometimes known as legislating.) So, in other words, the legislation branch alone cannot create and pass a law without approval. This goes for vice versa. There is the power of veto here.

The legislation does not only pass laws. Although passing laws may be its primary responsibility, there are other forms of law-making include referenda and constitutional conventions. The term "legislation" is sometimes used to describe these situations, but other times, the term is used to distinguish acts of the legislature from these other lawmaking forms.

Also, some country's laws will empower the executive branch or other government agency to issue regulations or decrees which can carry the force of law, although this is also generally not considered legislation. Legislation can also be created at provincial and local levels of government (which have their own legislatures), where separation of powers may be less formal and complete.

Legislative history refers to the record of events and public statements of legislators that explain the reasons for the law and its expected meaning. Often, this will include formal speeches or writings made by the bill's sponsors and chief critics.

There is also such a thing called secondary legislation, also known as subordinate or delegated legislation. This is a law made by an executive authority under powers given to them by primary legislation in order to implement and administer the requirements of the acts.

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### T221 - Police: DNA data collection, video surveillance by Tommy

In the past, crime fighting was extremely difficult due to the fact that the only kind of evidence that the police could utilize was clues found at the crime scene. When a technique was discovered to find fingerprints and use them to identify criminals, things became much easier. However, fingerprints could still be tampered with. Criminals could go for operations to remove the ridges on their fingertips, effectively ensuring that they would never leave distinctive fingerprints anywhere. Fingerprints found at crime scenes could also be tampered with and cleaned or smudged. This made it very difficult to find good fingerprint samples to match certain individuals. In modern times, however, the police have much easier and accurate ways of identifying criminals.

One of the ways that modern police forces use to identify villains is DNA collection. DNA from various criminals is collected and stored in a database, and when body fluids such as saliva or blood are found at a crime scene, the DNA in them can be extracted and matched up with that of someone in the database. This method has proven to be highly effective and has aided in the capture of many criminals. The main problem with this is the fact that it is limited only to past convicts and certain other individuals. If a relatively new criminal arises, then his DNA data will not be in the database and it will be harder to find him.

A possible solution to this problem would be to collect the DNA of every single person and making it a law that every newborn baby has to go in for DNA extraction. This ensures that whenever DNA is collected from a crime scene, there will be a match in the main database. The main problem with this is that it is very time consuming to have to collect the DNA of every individual, especially in more rural or remote areas, where advanced technology does not have much presence.

An issue with video surveillance is the fact videos from security cameras are often unclear the faces of the people in them are often blurred at a distance. While videos can show what happened, they often fail to identify exactly who is doing what, due to the fact that it is so easy to hide one's identity in a video by wearing a mask or through other means. Videos can also be edited and cameras can be rigged to display loops.

Possible solutions to these problems would be to increase the quality of surveillance cameras so that they present a much better picture. This would cost more money, but it would help more in identifying suspects. If the culprit wears a mask, other attributes can be used to identify him, such as height, and body type. Camera security systems could also be upgraded so that it is harder to rig them.

One of the ethical issues with video surveillance is the fact that video cameras can be seen as an invasion of privacy. Having cameras set up to cover every single location in a certain area may help boost security, but certain people may not be comfortable with the idea of being watched wherever they go. This may create a feeling much like that in George Orwell's 1984, where the Party monitors its members closely through the use of tele screens.

The only alternative decision to this would be to remove video cameras altogether, but this would cause a significant drop in security. It is not possible to have both security and privacy at the same time.

### T222 - Military: cyberwarfare, smart weapons development, espionage by Roger

This is a new area of study as well as actual work for this topic area is mostly associated with the military or it was the military that are pioneering in this field of work. Cyber warfare is a relatively new type of weaponry with various effects on the target. Cyber warfare is usually basic programs that have the objective to defend or attack a target. Growing with recognition and soon enough most of the world's governments will use it often.

There are several methods of attack in cyber-warfare, here it is placed in order from mildest to most severe: Web vandalism; form of attack that defaces WebPages, propaganda; political messages sent to anyone with access to the internet, gathering data; classified information that is not secured can be intercepted and modified making espionage possible. Equipment disruption military activities which use computers and satellites are at risk of attack where orders and commands that can be intercepted and changed putting soldiers at risk. Also attacking critical infrastructure; power, fuel, communications, commercial and transportation are all vulnerable to a cyber attack.

Another close link to cyber warfare is the development of smart weapons especially bombs of high explosives for creating a bigger destruction than just hand weapons or combat equipment. The first ones began in the 1980's which was led by the US Air force and Navy by starting one of the first "next generation" weapons by initiating stages of production. Some of the first smart weapons to be developed with good precision were: Joint Stand-off Weapon (JSOW) is an adverse-weather, short-range, stand-off anti-armor/SEAD dispenser weapon.

A small number of these weapons became operational with the Navy in December 1997. Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is an Inertial Navigation System (INS)/GPS guidance tail kit that converts dumb bombs into accurate adverse-weather capable weapons. JDAM was certified as operational capable on the B-2 in July 1997,

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and achieved operational status with other selected Air Force units in late 1998, including Limited Initial Operational Capability which was achieved on the B-52 in December 1998.

The key people involved in this field are the military who have developed the idea and are now putting it to use by giving contracts to commercial companies interested constructing what the military wants. These new weapons have huge capabilities both in its technological edge but also its firepower and effect which is what now concerns many of the world leaders.

Also related to these two topics is espionage which has come a long way from the ancient times of the Egyptians to modern day spying which is mostly known to be linked to the military but also commercial companies where the its term is industrial espionage. Espionage (spying) is a practice of obtaining information about an organization or a society that is considered secret or confidential without the permission of the holder of the information.

Espionage in the military sense is done throughout the whole world as rival military powers check on each other to see if one is getting more powerful than the other. All these topics concerning cyber warfare, smart weapons, and espionage was, is, and will be a major issue among the world's military for it just a never ending cycle of racing as each member tries to see if it can be more powerful militarily and remain strong.

The military are mostly the leaders in these types of area where they are always seeking ways to make themselves more deadly by creating newer and innovative weapons such as the smart weapons. The advantage about that is that they understand and know how to use it and can protect the nation. They also can improve their technology implementation to be more advanced plus they are responsible but the disadvantage of that is they will face tension coming from the international scene or locally and their governments may want them to do certain things and stop them from doing certain things with their new technology and will most likely receive all the blame if something negative happens.

It is best to create certain specified fields within the military to technological or advance programs which is being carried out but on a level not quite significant for it is a constantly changing area. These military-related subjects are part of the military arsenal so it is intended to cause some sort of problem for the enemy such as in a cyber war, certain programs like viruses but more powerful and smart will destroy enemy databases casing information to be corrupted and affect the enemy's performance in a war or fight. Smart weapons could cause huge amounts of destruction to a specific area causing enemy's to suffer losses to their military supplies etc. Espionage can help to find out the enemy's plans and counter-attack them to their surprise and provide information on the amount or types of weapons used by the enemy or their battle tactics.

Theses topics will cause huge tensions between nations as is seen in N. Korea where Kim Jung IL is building long-range missiles with nuclear capabilities causing widespread anger also locally people wouldn't want to face a war. Nations could e involved on stalemates or other impacts such as economic boycott or sanctions etc. to cause a nation great suffering. It may depend on the government for they are the key decision-makers so if they make certain decisions then it is carried out unless the people are against it because usually when the government makes a decision then it is done so the people are included in too.

In a dictatorial state the decision falls on a small body of the dictatorship neglecting the people so that is ethically not right for the people are rarely permitted to voice their views and feelings towards the issues concerning them as the nation's citizens. As was in the case of Saddam Hussein, after his capture, he was taken to trial by the new Iraqi government and sentenced to death by hanging which happened. So whoever responsible will face a certain penalty likewise with the ones held accountable such as Saddam whose orders had many people killed by his army.

Careful consideration should be taken as these technology/knowledge is shared for the slightest misuse can cause huge catastrophes for the world now is very conscious of its surroundings and any nation may want to get militarily strong but the receiving candidates should be screened cautiously cause there might a few Saddams out there. But these will lead on to more tension because certain nations or leaders may complain and there will be bad relationships among nations or leaders.

### T223 - Rebel forces and terrorist allies against the empire use of IT by Alex Young

In this generation, terrorism is a huge influence upon people's lives and news about suicide bombers and clashes with terrorists occur almost everyday. With the US and other countries being involved in the struggle in Iraq and Afghanistan, this terrorist fight is a global fight now.

Although many of the attacks usually occur in Iraq and Afghanistan, there has been major attacks in countries such as England, Australia and the Phillipines. Some of the conflicts that are involved such as in the Phillipines, has been going on for at least 20 years with different guerrilla groups trying to control certain parts of the Phillipines. Also, certain African countries such as Sudan has had major civil war within the country and now it is a huge mess there but no country has taken strong stance on how they should help the innocent Sudanese people.

Some terrorists use technology in order to locate exactly where they want the attack to occur. For example, some terrorist groups may have hidden video cameras installed in order to observe very carefully and to carry out the attack accordingly. Although the technology used is not as sophisticated as other countries such as the US, it does unleash enough destruction to create chaos in places such as Iraq.

Last summer, there was a small war between Israel and Hezbollah. It all started when Hezbollah captured two

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Israeli soldiers near the border of the two countries and in retaliation, surprised Hezbollah and the country of Lebanon as full-scale aerial bombardment was done by Israel for a couple days. This created chaos among the civilians because it came as a complete surprise and there were still foreigners still living in Lebanon at the time Israel was attacking.

With the help of technology, the US military sent ships to carry the American people living in Lebanon to escape the clash between Israel and Hezbollah and thus rescued many Americans living in Lebanon. Thankfully through the UN, there was a resolution that was passed to end the war and as long as Israel and Hezbollah does not fire weapons and mortars with each other, both countries will be in peace.

Other ways technology has somewhat influenced the terrorists is that in Iraq, terrorists plant home-made bombs underneath the ground to specifically target military convoys such as Tanks or to kill soldiers. Also with technology the people fighting the terrorists have a better sense of where to strike with satellite images and aerial images through the work of a helicopter or a jet. The one superiority the terrorists don't have is that they can't use aerial attacks because they don't have any jets so they can't shoot down American tanks through a helicopter or whatever it may be.

Through technology, terrorists are able to post executions on the internet and also record images of people in hostage and the terrorists demanding what they want in order to free the hostage. The internet is also used to try to hire new terrorists so technology does indeed play a huge role in terrorism.

With new technology being created every day, it is a scary thought that what the terrorists will have at their disposal in terms of what and how they carry out the attacks. Bombs will probably be even bigger and deadlier and RPG's will be more deadly as well. Although terrorist equipment may improve, the US and other countries fighting the terrorists will improve as well so hopefully, they know how to combat and protect the soldiers who are in the battlefield with terrorists constantly adapting and changing their tactics.

Or if you can't destroy your enemy sometimes you can negotiate a settlement as the Israelis have done from time to time.