

## Chapter 15: The Federal Bureaucracy

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*After studying this chapter, students should be able to:*

1. Identify common myths that surround the bureaucracy and either justify or refute them.
2. Describe in what ways the permanent bureaucracy is broadly representative of the American people.
3. Trace the development of the American bureaucracy from the "spoils system" to the "merit system."
4. Identify and describe several theories of the functions and organization of bureaucracies.
5. Describe the functions of the four basic types of federal agencies: cabinet departments, regulatory agencies, government corporations, and independent executive agencies.
6. Understand what the textbook means when it says that bureaucracies are essentially *implementors* of policy and why implementation of policy can break down.
7. Determine the importance of *administrative routine* and *administrative discretion*.
8. Evaluate the effects that the movement toward *deregulation* has had on the American economy.
9. Determine how presidents try to control the bureaucracy and how Congress tries to control the bureaucracy.
10. Investigate the importance of *iron triangles* and issue networks.
11. Explain the relationship between democratic theory and the operations of bureaucracies.