

JUDICIAL REVIEW

The power of a court to refuse to enforce a law or government regulation which it believes to be unconstitutional

JURISDICTION

The authority of a court to hear a case

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The branch of government responsible for making the laws

LEGITIMACY

The belief among citizens that their government has the right to pass and enforce laws

LIBERALISM

A political system in which individual rights & freedoms are highly valued & protected

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

A system in which controls are placed on the powers of the government, & each individual has certain rights that the government cannot take away

MAGNA CARTA

British document, signed by King John in 1215, which limited the powers of the king & recognized that even he was subject to the law

MONARCHY

A system of government in which one person, usually a king or queen, inherits power

NATURAL RIGHTS

Rights that people are born with and that no government can take away

NATURALIZATION

Process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Active citizenship; can include voting, lobbying, letter writing, etc.

POWER

The ability to impose your will upon others

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

The idea that the people are the source of the government's power, that government must be conducted with the consent of the governed

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Representation in which each state's Congressional membership is based on its population

PUBLIC POLICY

Government response to public issues

REPUBLIC

A system of government carried out by elected representatives

RULE OF LAW

The concept of a government of laws

SEPARATION OF POWERS

Dividing government power among legislative, executive, & judicial branches

SOVEREIGNTY

Supreme, absolute power of a nation within its own territory

SUFFRAGE

The right to vote

TYRANNY

Abuse of power

U.S. CONSTITUTION

The fundamental law of the United States

WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

An order requiring that a prisoner be brought before a judge & his incarceration be justified