

Chapter 1 – Ideas, People, and Economics in Texas Politics

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I. Chapter Overview

A. Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Trace the roots of Texas government and the impact of the state’s cultural diversity on its politics
- 1.2 Identify the core political values Texans hold, and distinguish between four distinct ideologies
- 1.3 Outline the transformation of the Texas economy from its dependence on agriculture and petroleum to a highly diverse, global economy
- 1.4 Analyze how disparities in wealth, income, and poverty among races and classes influence politics in Texas
- 1.5 Assess the potential for welfare reforms within the context of the state’s political culture

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B. Chapter Summary

Texas is changing. Anglos no longer constitute a majority of the population. Immigration is roughly half of the story. The other half of the increase in population has come from natural increases. During the 1990s, the Anglo population grew by 7.6 percent, while the Hispanic population increased by 53.7 percent, and the African American community grew by 22.5 percent. Roughly 60 percent of the population growth in Texas can be attributed to the Hispanic community. Texas, like the rest of the United States, is also getting older.

Since politics and government structures flow from, and are shaped by, the population, history, and economy of the political entity, one must first understand Texans and their history to be able to comprehend Texas politics and the government of the state of Texas.

The Roots of Texas Politics and Government

The roots of Texas politics and government are to be found in the early settlers of a huge and varied land and the type of society and government they created. Texas is larger than many countries, with over 267,000-square miles of space—in other words, it is larger than Germany at 221,842-square miles but smaller than France at 340,281-square miles. It also contains every major landform, from plains to mountains.

Texas is the second largest U.S. state in population (first is California) and size (Alaska is the largest state). Its diverse population (in 2007) was nearly 24 million and breaks down ethnically like this: 47.2 percent Anglo, 36.5 percent Hispanic, 11.2 percent African American, and 5.1 percent Asian American. The first inhabitants, of course, were the Native Americans.

Native Americans

There are few Native American tribes in Texas today, though there had been at least four different cultural traditions established in the coastal areas of South Texas, as well as in Central Texas, North Texas, and East Texas, and the Puebloan culture in the West. The name Texas comes from the Caddoe greeting “Taiphas,” meaning friends, Hispanicized to Tejas and then

Anglicized to Texas. Today, there are only three tribes on reservations in Texas: the Alabama-Coushattas in East Texas, the Kickapoos in South Texas, and the Tiguas in far West Texas. Their small numbers reduces their political influence, but the Tiguas—and more recently the Alabama-Coushattas—have been embroiled in legal battles against the state’s Attorney General, who sought an injunction to halt gambling on tribal property. The Tigua had been recognized by the federal government in 1987 and, in exchange, the tribe agreed to prohibit gambling in all forms and obey Texas law. The tribe then opened Speaking Rock Casino in 1993. Legally, they argued that the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act allowed them to open a casino. But in 2001, a federal district court granted an injunction, and in February 2002, the casino was forced to close. Other tribes have tried, and failed, to open casinos in Texas. Conservative religious groups have led the opposition to gambling.

Hispanics

Spaniards explored Texas in the sixteenth century, but Spanish colonization of Texas began in the early eighteenth century, built around the mission, the presidio, the rancho, and towns or civilian settlements. Though there were only about 5,000 *pobladores* (settlers) by the end of the eighteenth century, they established an enduring cultural legacy. Hispanics remained a small minority in Texas after Mexico won independence from Spain, as late as the mid-nineteenth century. However, between 1910 and the 1980s, the Hispanic population in Texas grew tenfold and by the 1940s, had already passed African Americans to become the largest ethnic minority in Texas. By late 2007, Hispanics had achieved considerable political influence in Texas, with 2,170 Hispanic-elected officials in positions at every level up to the state legislature. In 2007, 36 Hispanics served in the Texas legislature, 271 in county officials, 595 municipal officers, 402 judicial and law enforcement officials, 807 school board members, and 42 special district officials. Almost all Hispanic-elected officials are Democrats, but the Republican Party is making a concerted effort to woo Hispanic voters and attract Hispanic candidates.

African Americans

Most African Americans in Texas were brought as slaves from the lower Southern states between 1836 and 1865. By 1860, 13 Texas counties had African American majorities. Following emancipation, many African Americans remained in these same counties, mostly in East Texas. However, with the end of the sharecropper system, African Americans moved to the closest large cities: Houston and Dallas. In 2002, 466 African Americans held elective office in Texas. Texas currently ranks ninth in number of elective offices held by African Americans. Two of these representatives serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, two were state senators, 14 were state representatives, and the rest held lower elective offices. In 2008, three African Americans (all Republicans) held statewide offices in Texas: the railroad commissioner and two Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice.

Asian Americans

Chinese immigrants first came to work on the railroads in the late 1800s, and Japanese rice farmers came in the 1900s. In the 1970s, thousands of Vietnamese immigrants came to Texas, following the fall of South Vietnam. By 2000, there were 562,319 Asian Americans in Texas. Houston has the largest Asian American population in Texas, with its own Chinatown and Vinatown. There are relatively few Asian Americans holding elective office in Texas, though

Martha Wong served on Houston city council from 1993 to 1999 (prevented from seeking another term by term limits). She won election to the Texas House in 2002 and 2004. In 2000, David Chiu became the first Chinese American to win election as mayor of a Texas city (San Marcos) but was defeated for reelection in 2002. In 2003, few Asian Americans held elective office in Texas. Martha Wong became the first Asian American woman and the second Asian American to be elected to the Texas legislature in 2002. Also in 2002, Linda Yew Chew was elected as district court judge and won reelection in 2006. Hubert Vo was elected to the Texas House in 2004 and 2006. El Paso county court law judge M. Sue Kurita was elected in 2006.

Anglos

In the early period of Anglo (non-Hispanic whites) settlement in Texas, from 1815 to 1836, most were from the upper South. After Texas independence, the legalization of slavery drew more settlers from the lower South—Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The upper Southerners—from Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and North Carolina—settled especially in the western and central parts of the state, while the lower Southerners settled in eastern and southeastern Texas. By the late 1800s, lower Midwesterners—from Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa—came to dominate the upper Panhandle. Anglos have long dominated state government and politics, though the changing composition of the population of Texas could spell the end of Anglo dominance.

The Contemporary Population of Texas

Texas has become more populated, more urbanized, and more Hispanicized. With more than 25 million residents, Texas is now second in population, surpassing New York in 1994, which fell to third place. A majority of Texans live in urban areas, especially the fast-growing metropolitan areas of Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin-San Marcos, and the border cities of El Paso, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, and Laredo. Three of the ten largest cities in the U.S. are in Texas: Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.

With Hispanics becoming the principal ethnic group, politics, government, and policy priorities will change. More Hispanics are Democrats than Republicans, though most identify themselves as conservative, especially on social/moral issues. However, since Hispanics also support an expanded role for government in combating crime, drug prevention, providing public education, and increasing health and child care, policy changes may be anticipated—including making the tax system less regressive than it is currently. By 2020, demographers anticipate that Hispanics will outnumber Anglos in Texas.

The Ideological Context

The ideological context for Texas politics and government centers around the Texan Creed. The Texan Creed incorporates many of the same ideas held by other Americans—individualism, liberty, constitutionalism, democracy, and equality. But there are distinctive features in the Texan Creed arising from the unique historical experiences of Texas and Texans, especially between the 1820s and 1880s.

The Texan Creed

Among the five ideas of the Texan Creed, individualism is in a special place for most Texans.

- **Individualism:** According to the ideal, the individual is responsible for whatever he/she achieves in life. Added to this is a strong attachment to land, which possesses both symbolic and practical importance. The landowners' ethos is still strong in Texas and individualism was nurtured by the frontier experience, epitomized in fights against the Native Americans, by the rough but effective frontier defense provided by the Texas Rangers, and by the whole mythology of the cowboy.
- **Liberty:** For Texans, the battle for the Alamo best exemplifies their deep commitment to liberty. It was, along with other grievances, concern over the lack of local self-government that motivated the revolt against Mexico. The Alamo has retained its symbolic power with Anglo Texans (rugged individualism and defense of liberty), and both conservatives and liberals struggle for a sense of community, justice, and civil liberties. For Mexican Americans, the Alamo is an ambiguous symbol—Tejanos played a major role in the fight for Texas independence, but the Alamo came to be seen as a symbol of Anglo domination and discrimination against Mexicans.
- **Constitutionalism and Democracy:** For each of its governments, Texas has had a formal, written constitution, and each one has included an extensive Bill of Rights. However, Texans' notions of democracy were reflected in their desire to create an Athenian or Jeffersonian democracy—a male, slave-owning democracy of property owners.
- **Equality:** A commitment to social and political equality reflected the belief in a society based on land ownership, believed to be plentifully available. However, a long history of racial discrimination has meant that even with the end of legal segregation, persistent inequalities—"two societies, one Anglo and one African American, separate and unequal"—remain (quotes from the text). The same could be said of Anglos and Hispanics.

Political Ideologies in Texas

Politics involves conflicts over different ideas regarding the role of government. The Texan Creed allows different conceptions of the proper role of government. This is seen in differing views on laws requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets or affirmative action. The kinds of conflict that can occur can be viewed along two dimensions: the degree to which one is willing to use governmental power to maintain order and the degree of willingness to use governmental power to promote equality. From the choices a person makes on each of these questions come his/her ideology: libertarian, populist, conservative, or liberal.

Libertarians: for whom individual choice is the highest value and who most strongly oppose government activism. While the Libertarian party rarely wins more than a few percent of the votes, support for the ideology is greater than the small vote would suggest.

Populists: who favor government activism to promote equality and to maintain an ordered liberty. Texas has a strong populist tradition, going back to the Farmers' Alliance and Peoples' Party of the late 1800s. The Peoples' Party was strongly Protestant, limiting its appeal

with foreign-born Texans and Mexican Americans. Though the Peoples' Party barely exists today, populism remains.

Conservatives: who support government regulation of individual behavior but oppose government efforts to promote equality. In Texas, conservatives are prominent in both major parties—and are often joined by libertarians in battles against government regulation of the economy.

Liberals: who favor government policies to promote equality but would leave individuals free to make personal/moral decisions. Liberals have always been a minority in Texas.

The Economy of Texas

Until recently, the Texas economy was based on exploitation of the land and was dependent on prices of cotton, cattle, and oil.

Cotton: was once king, based on large slave plantations, and the crop that made Galveston the principal city of Texas. Cotton survived the Civil War and the end of slavery, though slavery was merely replaced by sharecropping. Texas still accounts for 40 percent of the cotton produced in the U.S.

Cattle: The cattle kingdom, inherited from the Mexicans, spread across Texas and the American West. Its mythology was discussed earlier; there are still very large cattle ranches in Texas, and beef is still an important market for Texas. Texas still ranks first in cattle production among all the states.

Petroleum: has been the basis of the Texas economy for most of the twentieth century, from Spindletop (near Beaumont) in 1901 to Santa Rita No. 1 in West Texas in 1923 to the Gulf fields. Texas boomed in the 1970s during the energy crisis and high oil prices, but the bust followed in the 1980s when the price of West Texas crude fell below ten dollars a barrel. Whereas in 1981, the oil industry still constituted 27 percent of the state's gross product (GSP), by 1999 this was down to 7.5 percent of the GSP.

The Contemporary Economy: Since the 1980s, the Texas economy has become increasingly diverse and integrated into the national and global economies. The fastest growth is occurring in the area contained by Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Antonio. Austin, Texas' most liberal city, is a high-tech center, as well as the state capital. Texas has 12 distinct economic regions but has developed a very diversified economy because of a series of recessions since the 1970s. This diversification has allowed Texas economic growth and job creation to outpace that of most of the rest of the nation. Texas, however, does face a problem of continuing to develop a sufficiently educated workforce so that it can continue to develop its high-tech economy.

Income, Wealth, and Poverty in Texas

In 2000, Texas was among the states with the most unequal distribution of income: the richest 20 percent of families had incomes triple the average incomes of middle-income families—and 14 times the income of the lowest 20 percent. The gap between rich and poor has increased despite the unprecedented economic growth in Texas. Texas also has the fourth lowest percentage of high school graduates. Poverty is more pronounced in Texas than in the country as a whole. And poverty hits groups disparately; poverty is more prevalent among Hispanics (25 percent), African Americans (25 percent), and Asian Americans (12 percent) than Anglos (eight

percent). The poor in Texas tend to live primarily in the cities and along the Mexican border. Around 22 percent of Texas children live in poverty while the national average is 18 percent.

Wealthy Texans have always influenced state politics, and some wealthy Texas businessmen have run for (and won) office themselves: George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, and Bill Clements.

Toward Reform: Political Culture and Welfare Reform

Political scientist Daniel Elazar developed a typology of political culture with three types: moralistic, individualistic, and traditionalistic. Texas's political culture is a mix between individualistic and traditionalistic. This means that Texans prefer individuals to take personal responsibility and maintain traditional social values. These types of political systems tend to have low levels of political participation, fewer professional bureaucracies, and fewer competitive political parties.

The political effect of this culture can be seen in how Texas adopted and implemented the 1996 welfare reform. Texas has not successfully implemented the program "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families". To qualify for aid, a family must make less than 14 percent of the poverty line (\$2,350 for a family of four in 2003) and TANF recipients in Texas get fewer benefits than they would in most other states. People are often removed from the program before they find work and the poverty rate in Texas has not declined since the beginning of the program. Texas ranks near the bottom among most public policy and budgetary issues and the state usually does not reform or make changes unless prompted by court order.

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II. Student Assignments – Pre-Lecture

- A. Student Required Reading: Chapter 1 – The Context for Texas Politics and Government
- B. Administer Reading Comprehension Quiz (see Test Bank, Chapter 1)
- C. Student Self-Test – This is the Test Yourself section that appears in the textbook. Review these questions with your class to see how well they grasped the material and identify any problem areas before moving on.

Test Yourself

➤ **1.1 Trace the roots of Texas government and the impact of the state’s cultural diversity on its politics, p. 4-13.**

Anglos constituted a majority of the state’s population until

- A. the period immediately after World War II.
- B. the first decade of the twenty-first century.
- C. the extensive immigration from other states in the 1970s.
- D. the increased immigration from other countries in the 1990s.
- E. the late 1980s.

Answer: B

➤ **1.2 Identify the core political values Texans hold, and distinguish between four distinct ideologies, p. 13-24.**

Which of the following is NOT a significant component of the Texan Creed?

- A. Individualism and personal responsibility
- B. Limited government and freedom from government infringement on the individual
- C. A commitment to constitutionalism
- D. A strong commitment to the principle of the common good and communitarianism
- E. Commitment to political equality

Answer: D

➤ **1.3 Outline the transformation of the Texas economy from its dependence on agriculture and petroleum to a highly diverse, global economy, p. 24-26.**

Which of the following statements does NOT describe the current economy of Texas?

- A. It is highly diversified with far less dependence on petroleum and agriculture.
- B. There are thirteen distinct economic regions in the state.
- C. It usually lags behind the national economy.
- D. It is a major player in the global economy.
- E. It is dominated by the Central Texas triangle.

Answer: C

➤ **1.4 Analyze how disparities in wealth, income, and poverty among races and classes influence politics in Texas, p. 26-29.**

Which group reported the lowest per capita and household incomes in 2008?

- A. Anglos
- B. Hispanics
- C. African Americans
- D. Asian Americans
- E. Persons of two or more races

Answer: B

➤ **1.5 Assess the potential for welfare reforms within the context of the state's political culture, p. 29-30.**

Seemingly, the most significant deterrent to welfare reform in Texas is

- A. the general population's ignorance of the problems of the poor.
- B. the limited number of groups advocating the needs or interests of the poor.
- C. a conservative political culture based, in part, on individualism.
- D. general disdain or contempt for the poor.
- E. the lack of financial resources.

Answer: C

Essay Questions

1. What demands will the projected population increases in Texas place on the infrastructures of the state and local governments?
2. Is the Texan Creed simply a set of myths or stories about the state's history, or can it be identified in contemporary beliefs and attitudes of Texans toward their governments and public policy? Explain your answer.
3. With the changing demographics of the state, will Texas have an adequate workforce to sustain the economic growth experienced in the past? What can the state government do to meet this challenge?
4. How do you account for the wide disparities in income and wealth in Texas?
5. Why are Texans so reluctant to fund many social and welfare programs?

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III. Lecture Resources

A. Lecture Slides*

*Please refer to PowerPoint presentations available for download on the IRC.

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B. Additional Lecture Suggestions

➤ 1.1 Trace the roots of Texas government and the impact of the state's cultural diversity on its Politics

- The relationships between a state's people and its politics are thoroughly examined in this chapter. Looking to resolve conflict over competing interests and demands by a highly diversified population and economy, political institutions in the state serve a widely diffused set of interests. A discussion of Texas myths and the political implications associated with their developments introduce readers to relationships between myth and reality; sometimes there is little difference, while other times realities deny the credibility of even long-held myths. Often, myths must be understood in terms of their creators. In Texas, in large measure, the myths overlook or discount the impact of the Hispanic, Spanish, and Mexican heritages on the state's development. However, in the past twenty years or so, renewed emphasis on contributions by both African Americans and Hispanics has surfaced, with recognition of state holidays. The political culture of the state is developed through examination of Daniel Elazar's thesis of political subcultures. The student will be able to identify the subculture associated with Texas, and in so doing will find that differences between Texas and other states' political and economic cultures are more readily understood.
- Is it boots and hats that make Texans what they are or is it more of the attitudes of Texans? This image may be distorted. Many Texans are native to the state but many are also native to other states or countries and most are proud to take on the label "Texan."
- Texas entered the twenty-first century with optimism, but then came jolts: recession; Enron; 9/11; hurricanes.
- Problems emerged such as population growth and immigration, a political and economic shift, nonvoting citizens with little knowledge of government, immigrants from Mexico that strained social services, environmental problems that were identified and required immediate solutions, and a lack of revenue because of a failure to raise taxes.
- Texas myths often provide means to focus on common historical and cultural experiences of Texans. Myths of Texas's origin provide political and social order statements. The experience of the battle of the Alamo provides an explanation for Texas's social and political patterns of "going it alone." The cowboy and the frontier perpetuates Texans' belief in individualism. Texas's myths are, however, primarily associated with the heritage of the white, Anglo population. In recent years, contributions of African Americans and Hispanics have begun to filter into the political and social culture of the state. African Americans in Texas have been successful in making Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a state holiday. Hispanics' common cultural and historical experiences have been recently recognized by statewide celebration of *Cinco de Mayo*.

- Texas is a highly diverse state, with racial and ethnic diversity apparent from one region to another. The concept of political culture can be used to develop an understanding of racial and ethnic diversity. Political culture is a set of attitudes, beliefs, and sentiments. Understanding the political culture aids in explaining the order and meaning of political processes and behavior in the political system. Daniel Elazar, an authority on American political culture, identifies three political subcultures in the United States.
- Diversity in Texas is apparent, even with a superficial examination of the demographic characteristics of the state's citizens.
- Native American tribe members today constitute fewer than one-half of one percent of the state's population. Living on reservations in Texas, the three tribes are Alabama-Coushatta, Tigua, and Kickapoo.
- The Hispanic population in Texas was 32 percent in 2000 and this population continues to increase. Some Hispanics were settled in the area that became the Texas territory of Mexico during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A number of Hispanics were part of the Texas independence movement from Mexico, and remained loyal to the new Republic. Immigration from Mexico and other Latin American countries in the twentieth century has dramatically increased the Hispanic population in Texas. The Hispanic population is projected to grow to 46 percent by 2020.
- The African American population of Texas today is about the same 12 percent it was in 1960, and it is projected to remain about the same through 2020. During the Civil War, the state's African American population was at about 30 percent. There remains a large concentration of African Americans in East Texas, a reminder of the slave heritage of Texas.
- The Anglo population of Texas—a term used to identify “whites” in the state, inclusive of other than Asian, Indian, African American, and Hispanic—came from middle and southern states during the early nineteenth century. The Anglo population of Texas has declined from its 1950 level of 74 percent to its 2008 share of 47.4 percent.
- The Asian population of Texas has grown to about 3.3 percent of the state's total in 2008 and should reach 4.2 percent by 2020, largely because of immigration from Asian countries. The largest number is in Houston.
- Racial and ethnic considerations are implicit in much of today's political and social debates on issues. Polarized voting along ethnic and racial lines is common, particularly in state and local elections (see 2003 budget crisis).
- Since about 1940, Texas's population has increased at a rate higher than the national average population increase; it's the second most populous state. Higher birth rates of the Hispanic population account for some of the substantial population increase. Migration to Texas between 1970 and 1980 accounted for 58.5 percent of the population increase during those years. Though slowed, immigration to the state between 1980 and 1990 accounts for 34.4 percent of the state's population growth. Texas also attracts individuals from other countries. Between 1990 and 2000, 6.4 percent of the population was foreign-born. Ten percent of all Texas residents are not U.S. citizens. Citizenship is directly related to political participation: noncitizens cannot vote and an overwhelming majority of noncitizens are Hispanic. Six million Texans speak languages other than English at home. There has not been an English language movement in Texas. Language is a policy issue in terms of bilingual education.
- Mention that, by 2030, the state's population older than 65 is expected to increase to over 17 percent.

- Texas is an urban state, with close to 88 percent of the state’s residents living in urban areas. Three of the nation’s 10 largest cities are in Texas. Five of Texas’s largest cities are dominated by “majority–minority” populations.
- Density in Texas’s 254 counties is varied. In Loving County’s 677 square miles, there are about 62 residents. In Harris County (Houston), there are more than 3.9 million persons living in 1,777 square miles.
- Explain how the political culture of Texas served the Anglo population in the process of “who gets what, when, and how much.”
- Compare and contrast the “political myths” and the present-day realities that characterize Texas political culture.
- Describe the demographic diversity of Texas and the economic, social, and political divisions it has generated.

➤ **1.2 Identify the core political values Texans hold, and distinguish between four distinct ideologies**

- The individualistic subculture is characterized by limited government intervention in the private lives of citizens and the government’s role is to assure stability, so that the private sector can pursue its own interests.
- The moralistic subculture is characterized by government serving to promote the general welfare, the belief that politics is the responsibility of all, and an understanding that government must intervene in private lives and actions for the good of all of the community.
- The traditionalistic subculture is characterized by a hierarchical arrangement to political order, where the power and influence of the general public is limited and the elite may exercise influence and control that will best benefit them.
- The origins of the patterns identified and examined by Elazar are from early settlement patterns of the United States, primarily associated with the eastern seaboard colonies. It should be noted, however, that while Elazar’s themes prove interesting for study, they are primarily suppositions, as they cannot be proven nor disproven, scientifically.
- Describe the individualistic and traditionalist political cultures and how their persistence in Texas has created conflict in the last three decades.

➤ **1.3 Outline the transformation of the Texas economy from its dependence on agriculture and petroleum to a highly diverse, global economy**

- The economy in Texas was linked to oil and natural gas through the 1980s and because the economy and politics are so closely related, Texas politics were closely associated with the oil and gas industries. After an extended period of economic growth in the early 1980s, the state moved into a decade-long period of booms and busts. By the late 1980s, Texas financial institutions—banks and savings and loans—failed at rates similar to the 1930s Depression era. The effects of the failures were felt statewide, in all businesses and industries, and state leaders began to focus energy on redirecting the state’s economic concentration to a broader set of income producers. Service industries have experienced major growth. High-tech industries are increasingly being developed, either by entrepreneurial efforts in the state or by attracting new high-tech industry. State leaders have increased their attempts to acquire

foreign investment while seeking expanded trade agreements among the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The ability of the state's economy to diversify has limited the effect economic downturns in any one industry can have on the state.

- There are 12 markedly different economic regions in Texas, each experiencing different economic growth patterns at different times. Among the 12, the *High Plains Region*, which has 41 counties, is closely tied to agriculture and oil industries. The *Metroplex* of 19 counties, found in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, concentrates its economic interests in high-tech and defense-related industries. The *South Texas Border Region* has 47 counties, all of which are closely linked to Mexico for its lifeblood of agriculture and tourism. This region has experienced population growth and even higher growth is projected in the future, though the area is closely tied to Mexico's fortunes and NAFTA will have an effect on the area's economic stability.
- The economic, political, cultural, social, and demographic history of Texas is closely linked to that of the state's 1,248-mile border with Mexico.
- The *maquiladora* program began in the 1960s and continues to focus on interchanges of manufacturing and workers along the borders of Texas and Mexico; 4,100 plants were in operation in 2007. Mexico's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was seen as a major door-opener for future economic prosperity for both Texas and Mexico.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was generally viewed with favorable anticipation by the citizens of Texas and Mexico, though full development of successful programs took years to develop. Vicente Fox captured the presidency of Mexico in 2000. There was hope he would initiate widespread reform in the economy. Some changes have occurred, but he faced a daunting task ahead. Felipe Calderon won the presidency in 2006 in a highly contentious election.
- Mexico is now the United States' third largest trading partner, with imports from Mexico reaching \$151 billion in 2008. Texas exported more than \$62 billion worth of goods, about 38 percent of U.S. exports to Mexico in 2008.
- The economic interdependence between Mexico and Texas appears to be increasing over that of past years; the common borders and problems may be resolved by seeking common solutions. These problems include access to health care, specifically immunizations and environmental protection. Common borders have become associated with common problems, which, in time, must be managed by common solutions reached by the national government, Mexico, and its border states.
- The underdeveloped Mexican economy serves as one of the key factors creating increasing levels of illegal immigration. The economic and social impacts of illegal immigration have become political issues fraught with controversy in Texas today leading to public policies that provide greater funding for border protection. Illegal immigration remains a very complicated issue as some argue that illegal immigrants take jobs from U.S. citizens and use government services without paying taxes for them. Others however highlight the cheap labor they provide which helps keep the prices of goods and services low, especially for Texans.
- Trace the changes in the Texas economy since 1972.
- Trace the history of the maquiladora program and its relationship to transnational regionalism and NAFTA.

- Indicate the manner in which Texas has diversified from reliance on the oil and natural gas industry.

➤ **1.4 Analyze how disparities in wealth, income, and poverty among races and classes influence politics in Texas**

- In 2008 the median age of the state's population was just over 33 compared to almost 37 for the rest of the country. The 65-and-older population's increase will place demands on public and private sectors.
- Distribution of wealth and income throughout the state is even more diverse than is the population distribution, with the inequities breaking down along racial and ethnic lines. The average 2007 median household income was about \$47,548. Thirty-four percent of Hispanics and 37.5 percent of African Americans in Texas have incomes below \$25,000 per year. Nineteen percent of Anglos and Asian-American populations' income in Texas is below \$25,000 per year. County ethnic and racial population distributions are closely related to incomes found in the counties. In Hispanic-dominated county populations, the unemployment rates are twice the state average.
- According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 16.3 percent of the state's population, or 3.8 million people, fall below the poverty level, compared to 13.0 percent nationally.
- Education and literacy have long been a struggle in the state, with the legislature regularly upbraided by citizens and courts for failure to serve all of the state's population equally. According to the 2007 American Community Survey done by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 79.1 percent of all Texas adults 25 years or older completed high school, and 25.2 percent completed college. In 2007, only 83.4 percent of the African American population in Texas completed high school, with only 17.9 percent completing college. Of Hispanics, only 56.6 completed high school, with only 10.6 percent completing college or graduate school. Of the Anglo population 90.7 completed high school, with 33.3 percent completing college. Education levels are directly associated with the incomes of counties and individuals.

➤ **1.5 Assess the potential for welfare reforms within the context of the state's political culture**

- In 2003, the Texas legislature was forced to make major cuts in governmental services as a result of their refusal to increase taxes to offset the loss of revenues caused by the downturn in the state's economy.

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IV. Student Assignments – Post-Lecture

A. Class Discussion Questions

➤ 1.1 Trace the roots of Texas government and the impact of the state's cultural diversity on its Politics

- What contributed to development of Anglo-dominated myths? Why were Hispanic or African American contributions to development of the state overlooked?
- How do myths begin? What are some contemporary myths “in the making,” in your opinion?
- The chapter identifies economic regions in the state. Each region is associated with different qualities of geography, people, and economics. What qualities are most important for each area?
- What is the relationship between ethnic and racial groups' completion of various educational levels and their economic standing in the state?
- Why do people tend to normally associate with people of their own racial or ethnic heritage? What slows integration of cultures of each different group in Texas?
- Is the Texas of today still dominated by individualistic and traditionalistic political subcultures? In what ways do we see the individualistic political subculture? In what ways do we see the traditionalistic political subculture? Discuss ways in which it is possibly changing.
- Have students discuss the roles of federal and state government in resolving transnational issues such as drug smuggling and illegal immigration.
- What have been some of the more significant economic, social, and political issues facing Texas in the last two decades?
- Compare and contrast at least two myths that have developed in Texas. What contribution has each made to the political, economic, or social culture of the state?
- Have students work in groups to discuss myths in Texas. What contributed to development of Anglo dominated myths? Why were Hispanic or African American contributions to development of the state overlooked?
- Discuss how, in 1989, when the Texas Department of Transportation proposed changing the state's vehicle license plates to include the phrase “The Friendship State,” Texans said, “no way!” The proposal was eventually dropped because of the public's reaction.
- Where did the earliest Anglos come from and where did they settle in Texas? What happened after the Civil War and why?
- What political changes do you feel may arise from the increasing Hispanic and decreasing Anglo populations?
- The civil rights legislation in the 1960s was intended to eliminate the racial problems in this country. Why is race still a major political issue even after the passage of this legislation?
- What impact will the projected increases in minorities in Texas have on Anglos by approximately 2020?
- Why are larger cities in Texas experiencing an increasing population of minority and low-income residents?
- How do urban-rural divisions matter politically? Explain your answer.

➤ **1.2 Identify the core political values Texans hold, and distinguish between four distinct ideologies**

- Break students into small groups and have them discuss the following question: In what ways is Texas's political culture reflected in people's attitudes about politics? Once they have had time to discuss this question, bring the groups back together to compare their answers.
- What are the general social and economic characteristics of people living in Texas?
- What is political culture? What are Daniel Elazar's theories of political subcultures? How does this help us understand Texas politics and government?
- What are the sources and realities of Texas myths and what is their relationship to the state's culture and its politics?
- How have your political beliefs been shaped by your upbringing and where you are from? Is there a difference among native and non-native Texans regarding opinions about government?
- Discuss each of the political subcultures associated with Daniel Elazar. Identify and discuss what cultural values you would diminish in Texas. What cultural values would you emphasize in the state?
- Discuss the political culture of Texas. Do you accept what Elazar has identified as the dominant culture in Texas? Why/why not?

➤ **1.3 Outline the transformation of the Texas economy from its dependence on agriculture and petroleum to a highly diverse, global economy**

- What problems has Texas faced with regard to its system of public education? What is the status of the educational system in Texas today?
- Future economic relations between Mexico and Texas appear to be on the increase. What impacts could increased trade between the two governments have? On the border economy? On cities such as Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso? Other cities?
- What are the state's economic resources? How is the state's economic diversification reflected in the 13 economic regions of Texas?
- What are the relationships between the state's politics and its economic development?
- Identify and discuss some of the economic regions in Texas.
- Describe evidence of the increasing interdependence between Texas (or the United States) and Mexico.
- How will globalization of the economy directly impact the economy of Texas?
- Future economic relations between Mexico and Texas appear to be on the increase. What impact could increased trade between the two governments have on the border economy? On cities such as Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and El Paso? On other cities?
- There is a good deal of debate about increasing trade between Mexico and the United States, with Texas clearly a major recipient of benefits. Divide the class into four groups representing labor, merchants, consumers, and politicians. Following in-group discussion, recombine the class to discuss the best and worst potentials for the accelerated trade between the two nations.
- In your opinion, who benefits most from NAFTA, Mexico or the United States? Be specific.

➤ **1.4 Analyze how disparities in wealth, income, and poverty among races and classes influence politics in Texas**

- How does Texas compare to other states in development of subcultural values? In your observations or experiences, what other state can you define as possibly having a subculture similar to that of Texas? Why?
- What impact will the projected increases in minorities in Texas have on Anglos by approximately 2020?
- Have students discuss the challenges facing the government in Texas regarding the enormous growth of urban centers in the state.
- If the problem of poverty is not addressed, what additional problems could Texas face in dealing with this issue?
- How should the Texas government address economic inequality given the state's individualistic and traditionalistic subcultures?
- Identify and discuss the relationship between the lower income of minorities and the lower completion rates in educational institutions. How might such disparities be reduced or ended?
- Divide the class into groups and have them discuss problems that they have observed with public education in Texas. What problems has Texas faced with regard to its system of public education? What is the status of the educational system in Texas today?
- Divide the class into groups to discuss the problems of illegal immigration in Texas and the United States. Have the groups develop three to four strategies to deal with these problems.
- How does the political culture in Texas empower the "elite"?
- Explain how education is funded in Texas. In your opinion, do minorities get their fair share?

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B. Class Activities

➤ 1.1 Trace the roots of Texas government and the impact of the state's cultural diversity on its Politics

- Dividing the class into four groups, have each develop a list of cultural contributions they identify with each of the state's racial/ethnic groups—Native American, Asian, Hispanic, African American.
- Write a paper in which you examine the perpetuation of the “cowboy” myth. Examine the public persona of famous Texans to see how much they embody this myth.
- Examine the 12 economic regions of Texas and predict what the next major demographic and economic change will likely be in each of these regions.
- Describe three challenges Texas faces in the twenty-first century. What solutions can we offer to these challenges?
- Have students develop a list of those individuals they associate with regularly and record their race. Why do people tend to normally associate with people of their own racial or ethnic heritage? What slows the integration of cultures of each different group in Texas?
- Describe what Hispanics have faced throughout their history in Texas. What has shaped their level of political involvement? What is their level of political involvement today?
- Describe what African Americans have faced throughout their history in Texas. What has shaped their level of political involvement? What is their level of political involvement today?
- Divide the class into groups and assign the following questions for them to answer. The chapter identifies several economic regions in the state. Each region is associated with different qualities of geography, people, and economics. Discuss the qualities that are most important for each area and why.
- Describe two of the problems that Texas faces as a result of the shared border with Mexico.
- *Name the term:*
 - Form of government in which representatives of the people, rather than the people themselves, govern: _____
 - Attitude rooted in classical liberal theory and reinforced by frontier tradition, that citizens are capable of taking care of themselves with minimal government assistance: _____
 - Widely shared set of views, attitudes, beliefs, and customs of a people as to how their government should be organized and run: _____
 - The political subculture that maintains that the government should interfere as little as possible on the private activities of its citizens while assuring that adequate public facilities and a favorable business climate are available to permit individuals to pursue their self-interests: _____
 - The political subculture that holds that the government's primary responsibility is to promote the public welfare and that it should actively use its authority and power to improve the social and economic well-being of its citizens: _____
 - The political subculture that believes that political power should be concentrated in the hands of a few elite citizens who belong to established families or influential social groups: _____

- Process by which a predominantly rural society or area becomes urban: _____
- Number of residents living within the boundaries of a city, county, or state in relation to the land area: _____
- Expanding economic and social interdependence of South Texas and Mexico: _____
- Policies initiated by Mexico in 1964 to stimulate economic growth along the U.S.-Mexico border: _____
- Treaty between the United States, Canada, and Mexico that created the world's largest trading bloc: _____

➤ **1.2 Identify the core political values Texans hold, and distinguish between four distinct ideologies**

- As an outside project, assign each student responsibility for selecting five states and five nations (other than the United States) and relating those states and nations to their apparent political subcultures, as they associate Daniel Elazar's themes. Justification for the subculture identified with each state or nation must be included in the paper.
- Describe three characteristics of the individualistic subculture.
- Describe three characteristics of the moralistic subculture.
- Describe three characteristics of the traditionalistic subculture.

➤ **1.3 Outline the transformation of the Texas economy from its dependence on agriculture and petroleum to a highly diverse, global economy**

- There is a good deal of debate about increasing trade between Mexico and the United States, with Texas clearly a major recipient of benefits. Divide the class into four groups representing labor, merchants, consumers, and politicians. Following in-group discussion, recombine the class to discuss the best and worst potentials for the accelerated trade between the two nations.
- "Each of you is an entrepreneur. You are charged with responsibility for finding at least one new type of business to be developed in Texas." What will it be? Why? Assign this as a brief, in-class, working project.
- Have students complete an in-class writing assignment which addresses the following question: Has increased expansion of trade with Mexico under the NAFTA accords stimulated Mexico's economy and helped reduce illegal immigration into the United States? Have students share their papers with each other in small groups to explore various ideas on the subjects.

➤ **1.4 Analyze how disparities in wealth, income, and poverty among races and classes influence politics in Texas**

- Divide students into two groups and have them present the opposing sides to the following question: Should a state be responsible for educating children of workers who are in the state illegally?

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V. Quantitative Assessment

Administer Chapter Exam

READING COMPREHENSION QUIZ

Multiple Choice Questions:

- 1) According to projected population trends, which group in Texas is projected to be the largest in twenty years?
- A) Anglos
 - B) African Americans
 - C) Hispanics
 - D) Asians
 - E) Foreign-born Texans

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 2) Which of the following was NOT a factor in the decline of Native American tribes in Texas?
- A) Cholera
 - B) Smallpox
 - C) Military campaigns
 - D) The 1900 Galveston Hurricane
 - E) Forced removal to reservations in other states

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 3) Even though the Spanish explored Texas in the sixteenth century, they did not establish permanent settlements until
- A) the late 1500s.
 - B) the late 1600s.
 - C) the mid 1700s.
 - D) the late 1700s.
 - E) the early 1800s.

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 4) The early Anglos who settled in Texas from 1815 to 1836 were drawn primarily from
- A) Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and North Carolina.
 - B) Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama.
 - C) Michigan, Vermont, and Virginia.
 - D) South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
 - E) New York, West Virginia, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 5) Which of the following is NOT an element of the Texan Creed?
A) Individualism
B) Liberty
C) Constitutionalism
D) Democracy
E) Endurance
Answer: E
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
Skill: Understanding
- 6) The belief that each person should act according to his or her own conscience is known as
A) equality.
B) freedom of conscience.
C) individualism.
D) liberty.
E) constitutionalism.
Answer: C
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 7) Which of the following is NOT one of the main Texas ideologies?
A) Libertarianism B) Populism C) Socialism D) Conservatism E) Liberalism
Answer: C
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 8) Which of the following sectors of the Texas economy began a serious decline in the 1980s?
A) Cotton
B) Cattle
C) High technology
D) Petroleum
E) Insurance
Answer: D
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 9) Which of the following does NOT describe the contemporary Texas economy?
A) More diverse than in the past
B) More globalized than in the past
C) Less dependent on agriculture than in the past
D) The health of the economy is more reliant on the price of oil than in the past.
E) The third largest state economy in the nation
Answer: D
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 10) In the past, the economy of Texas principally depended on
A) agriculture, mining, and high technology.
B) cotton, cattle, and petroleum.
C) tourism, high technology, and petroleum.

- D) high technology, alcoholic beverages, and oil.
- E) finance, telemarketing, and retail clothing stores.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

11) Which of the following is an accurate statement about poverty in Texas?

- A) Poverty is less prevalent than in the U.S. as a whole.
- B) Hispanics are about three times more likely to live in poverty than are Anglos.
- C) Considerably more African Americans than Hispanics live in poverty.
- D) About 8% of Texans live in poverty.
- E) The poverty rates for African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians are similar.

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

12) According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, approximately what percentage of Texas children lived in families below the poverty level in 2008?

- A) 1.7
- B) 3
- C) 8
- D) 14
- E) 23

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

13) The textbook describes three types of political culture—individualistic, traditionalistic, and moralistic. Which best describes political culture in Texas?

- A) Moralistic
- B) A mixture of moralistic and traditionalistic
- C) A mixture of moralistic, traditionalistic, and individualistic
- D) A mixture of traditionalistic and individualistic
- E) Individualistic

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

Skill: Analysis

14) Political culture

- A) directly affects the rate of population growth in the state.
- B) affects the adoption and implementation of political reforms.
- C) is defined in the Texas Constitution.
- D) is defined in laws passed by the legislature.
- E) has little significance in contemporary Texas.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

True/False Questions:

- 1) By the late 1800s, relatively few Native Americans remained in Texas.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 2) The most important economic issue for Hispanics is trade with Latin America.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 3) Most Texans are in agreement with the fundamental ideas relating to politics and government expressed in the Texan Creed.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 4) The battle for the Alamo exemplifies Texans' passion for liberty.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 5) If you view government as an evil which limits the ability of individuals to make choices and achieve their own destinies, you are likely to be a liberal.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Application
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 6) The economy of contemporary Texas is land-based and colonial in structure.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 7) At different times in the past, the Texas economy has been dependent upon the external demand for and prices of cotton, cattle, and petroleum.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 8) The Texas economy is unrelated to the Mexican economy, despite the long shared border.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 9) On average, Hispanics and African Americans have significantly lower incomes than do Anglos in Texas.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

10) Compared with other states, Texas has rather generous programs that benefit the poor and the less well educated.

Answer: FALSE

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

CHAPTER EXAM

Multiple Choice Questions:

- 1) In 2010, the population of Texas was about
- A) four million.
 - B) nine million.
 - C) thirteen million.
 - D) twenty-five million.
 - E) thirty million.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: Opening vignette, pgs 2-3

- 2) The Institute of Texan Cultures identifies how many ethnic groups in Texas?
- A) Four
 - B) Five
 - C) Nine
 - D) Seventeen
 - E) Twenty-seven

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 3) In the last twenty years, Native American tribes in Texas have frequently been involved in Texas politics about
- A) restitution.
 - B) patents and copyrights.
 - C) water rights.
 - D) gambling.
 - E) roads.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 4) Which Native American tribe of northeastern and eastern Texas greeted early Spanish explorers as *Tayshas*, meaning *friends*—which was the genesis of the name *Texas*?
- A) Caddo
 - B) Comanche
 - C) Kickapoo
 - D) Kiowa
 - E) Tonkawa

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 5) What Native American tribe was most feared and respected by early Spanish explorers, and whose people displayed many of the characteristics of individualism that Anglo Texans on the frontier admired?
- A) Caddo
 - B) Comanche
 - C) Tonkawa
 - D) Tigua
 - E) Wichita
- Answer: A
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 6) The oldest Native American reservation in Texas was established in 1854 as compensation for the tribe's neutrality during the Texas war for independence for the
- A) the Alabama-Coushatta tribe.
 - B) the Kickapoo tribe.
 - C) the Tigua tribe.
 - D) the Tonkawa tribe.
 - E) the Kiowa tribe.
- Answer: A
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 7) Which of these was NOT one of the mainstays of Spanish colonization of Texas?
- A) The mission, which performed civilian as well as religious functions
 - B) The presidio, which provided frontier defense
 - C) The rancho, which sustained civilian life
 - D) The mills, which supported alcohol and tobacco trade
 - E) Towns or civilian settlements
- Answer: D
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 8) Which of the following is the largest ethnic minority in Texas?
- A) African Americans
 - B) Hispanics
 - C) Jews
 - D) Asians
 - E) Native Americans
- Answer: B
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

Despite inhabiting Texas since Spanish rule, African Americans made up no more than twelve percent of the Texas population prior to 1836 due to

- A) the paucity of agricultural interests in early Texas which would have necessitated the use of slave labor.
- B) the Mexican government's opposition to slavery.
- C) the start of the Civil War, which prompted many African Americans to escape to the North to fight the Confederacy.
- D) Mexican immigration law, which limited the influx of African Americans into Texas because of their limited economic and educational status.
- E) reluctance by African Americans to move to Texas because of the growth of the Ku Klux Klan.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 9) The first permanent resident Asian Americans in Texas were likely Chinese who immigrated to the state as laborers for
- A) railroad construction.
 - B) agriculture.
 - C) cattle ranching.
 - D) the tanning industry.
 - E) road construction.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 10) Since independence from Mexico in 1836, which ethnic group has dominated Texas politics and government, providing all of Texas's governors, almost all of its statewide officials, and the overwhelming majority of its legislators?

- A) Hispanics
- B) African Americans
- C) Asian Americans
- D) Native Americans
- E) Anglos

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 11) Based on current trends, which ethnic group is expected to be Texas's majority population in thirty-five years?

- A) Anglos
- B) African Americans
- C) Hispanics
- D) Asian Americans
- E) Native Americans

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 12) The ideological context for Texas government and politics centers on a set of ideas which includes individualism, liberty, democracy, equality, and constitutionalism, and is known as
- A) the Constitution.
 - B) the Texan Creed.
 - C) the Texas Compact.
 - D) The Rangers' Creed.
 - E) The Code of the West.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 13) Which of the following is accorded the highest social status and is closely tied to Texas individualism?
- A) Being a conquistador
 - B) Being a migrant worker
 - C) Land ownership
 - D) Political expertise
 - E) Being a farm hand

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 14) The most important adaptation Anglo farmers and ranchers had to make in order to survive on the frontier involved defense, which led to the creation of the
- A) ranch hand.
 - B) hired gunslinger.
 - C) Grange.
 - D) Texas Rangers.
 - E) Colt pistol.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 15) The part of the Texan Creed that holds that government should not infringe upon a person's individual rights is the concept of
- A) individualism.
 - B) democracy.
 - C) liberty.
 - D) equality.
 - E) constitutionalism.

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

More than any other incident, what event in Texas history exemplifies Texans' passion for liberty?

- A) The battle of San Jacinto
- B) The battle of the Alamo
- C) The discovery of oil at Spindletop
- D) The signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836
- E) The adoption of the Texas Constitution of 1876

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

16) In keeping with the Texan Creed's emphasis on constitutionalism, each Texas constitution has

- A) delineated the responsibilities of state government in precise and certain terms.
- B) empowered the executive with strong, centralized authority to administer the state.
- C) called for a full-time legislature populated by professional politicians.
- D) limited the authority of government.
- E) created a government of expansive powers designed to grow and adapt to the social needs of the people.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

17) The idea of equality expressed in the Texan Creed that developed in Texas during the nineteenth century has its roots in _____ but was limited to _____.

- A) social welfare; education and health care
- B) land ownership; Anglo men
- C) egalitarianism; fraternity
- D) the abolition of slavery; property owners
- E) the Texas Constitution; Texas Bill of Rights

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

18) Libertarianism emphasizes the

- A) belief in using government intervention to promote equality and establish or maintain an ordered liberty.
- B) belief that government should not promote equality but regulate individual behavior to ensure an ordered liberty.
- C) role of government in promoting equality while leaving free the individual to make moral or personal decisions.
- D) autonomy of the individual and a minimal role for government.
- E) dignity of government and the benefits of government-run social welfare programs.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 19) With its roots in the late 1800s, populism favors
- A) government intervention to promote equality and to establish and maintain an ordered liberty.
 - B) limited government that allows capitalism to thrive and the market to maintain order.
 - C) government intervention to promote equality, while leaving the individual free to make moral or personal decisions.
 - D) strong government involvement, often by force, to maintaining strict order in society.
 - E) the collective sharing of resources and production.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 20) Economic issues have provided the basis for Texas conservatism with the view that
- A) wealth should be stimulated among the working classes to further economic growth.
 - B) government programs to provide public services are unnecessary and anti-capitalist.
 - C) government power should be used to limit the economic effects of dramatic swings in the business cycle.
 - D) governmental intervention in the economy is crucial for the maintenance of a sound monetary and banking system.
 - E) government's role in the regulatory function is crucial to maintaining control of obscene profits by corporate interests at the expense of the workers.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 21) Liberalism as an ideology in Texas is traceable to the effects of
- A) high taxation of industry and the subornation of fraud by limiting capital expansion.
 - B) the use of governmental authority to protect traditional values.
 - C) individualism as a course of action which undermines societal cohesion and order.
 - D) industrialization and the economic and social dislocations associated with it.
 - E) the infiltration of governmental bodies by socialists and communists.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 22) Almost every political issue in Texas politics can be viewed as a conflict over the ideas
- A) found in the Texas Constitution of 1876.
 - B) rooted in Texas's experience as a slave state before Reconstruction.
 - C) in the Texan Creed.
 - D) that were handed down from the state's English and Spanish legal traditions.
 - E) found in the Declaration of Independence.

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

The first real economy of Texas was

- A) inherited from the Mexicans and was based on energy production.
- B) created by southern planters and based on cotton, a money crop.
- C) exclusively based on the barter system with Native Americans.
- D) not developed until the industrial revolution and the urbanization of the state.
- E) confined exclusively to the coastal region and based on shipping and trade.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

23) For much of the twentieth century, the basis for the Texas economy was

- A) agriculture.
- B) cattle.
- C) cotton.
- D) petroleum.
- E) shipping.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

24) Economic diversification in the latter half of the twentieth century in Texas has been tied to the rise of

- A) agriculture.
- B) petroleum.
- C) shipping and transportation.
- D) service industries and finance.
- E) high tech industries.

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

25) From 1990 through 2008, the Texas economy has generally

- A) underperformed relative to the national economy.
- B) outpaced the overall national economy.
- C) seen dramatic periods of fluctuation, going from boom to bust and back again.
- D) been based on the exploration of outer space through NASA and the Johnson Manned Space Center in Houston.
- E) matched the performance of the national economy.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

26) Which of the following is NOT an argument for bilingual education in Texas?

- A) Children who enter school but cannot understand English cannot be expected to master the concepts or materials that is presented solely in English.
- B) Children who cannot master basic material because of language deficiency inevitably fall behind.
- C) Bilingual education is expensive.
- D) Bilingual children will grow up to play an important role in Texas's economic success.
- E) Bilingual education helps Texas remain a leading center for international trade.

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 27) Efforts to diversify the Texas economy began about fifty years ago and have
- A) failed to transform the economy's basic structure.
 - B) transformed the economy's basic structure.
 - C) increased the number of jobs in the cattle industry.
 - D) stabilized petroleum prices.
 - E) eliminated the need for high technology training for Texas workers.

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 28) The relationship between the economies of Texas and Mexico are evident
- A) in the declining poverty rate of Hispanics.
 - B) in the *maquiladora* program.
 - C) in the holidays celebrated by children and families in Texas.
 - D) from the increase in the personal income tax.
 - E) All of the above

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 29) Assume you are a prominent businessperson in Texas dealing in international trade and commerce. Asked to point to one of the major factors that has contributed to the globalization of Texas's economy, you point to
- A) the North American Free Trade Agreement.
 - B) the importance of Texas petroleum exports to Mexico.
 - C) the role of many international trade treaties entered into exclusively by Texas and Mexico.
 - D) the importance of tourism along the Mexican border for economic growth of both economies.
 - E) All of the above

Answer: A

Skill: Application

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 30) What was first discovered in Texas in 1901 near Beaumont?
- A) Oil
 - B) Evidence of Native American settlements
 - C) Gold
 - D) The Rosetta Stone
 - E) An original signed copy of the Declaration of Independence

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 31) Which of the following best describes the Texas economy?
- A) The Texas economy remains dependent on "the big three"—cotton, cattle, and petroleum.
 - B) The Texas economy is the third largest in the United States.
 - C) The Texas economy soared while the U.S. economy tanked in the most recent recession.
 - D) The Texas economy has raised the standard of living for nearly all Texans.
 - E) The Texas economy is mainly based on tourism, entertainment, and soybeans—the "new big three."

Answer: B

Skill: Understanding *Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26*

- 32) In 1881, the XIT Ranch in the Texas Panhandle was established on three million acres of land that were received
- A) in exchange for building the Texas capitol.
 - B) as a gift from the Alabama-Coushatta tribe.
 - C) as spoils during the Spanish-American War.
 - D) in a poker game.
 - E) in lieu of taxes owed by John D. Rockefeller.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 33) The state's greatest population and economic growth is in a core area called the Texas urban triangle and is anchored by
- A) Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, and Houston.
 - B) Texarkana, Houston, and Dallas-Fort Worth
 - C) San Antonio, El Paso, and Dallas-Fort Worth
 - D) Austin, Houston, and Galveston
 - E) Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Antonio.

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 34) During its history as an independent republic and during its early statehood, what was the economic heart of Texas?
- A) Cotton
 - B) Cattle
 - C) Oil
 - D) Manufacturing
 - E) Land speculation

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 35) Which of the following accurately describes income in Texas in 2008?
- A) The median income of Texas families was higher than the national average
 - B) The median income of Texas households was higher than the national average
 - C) The per capita income of Texans was higher than the national average
 - D) The per capita income of Texans was roughly equal across ethnic groups.
 - E) The per capita income of Texas Anglos was considerably higher than the per capital income of all Americans

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 36) Which of the following statements about the distribution of income Texas is accurate?
- A) There are wide disparities in the distribution of income in Texas.
 - B) There are few significant disparities in the distribution of income in Texas.
 - C) The distribution of income in Texas is fairly flat, as would be expected by our emphasis on egalitarianism.
 - D) Only about 5% of Texas households have annual incomes less than \$25,000 or more than \$100,000.
 - E) Income is distributed more equally in Texas than in the country as a whole.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 37) In which of the following categories is Texas among the highest in the nation?
- A) Automobile production
 - B) Maple syrup production
 - C) Mean household income
 - D) The number of Native Americans
 - E) The number of richest Americans

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 38) Members of which of the following group(s) have lower per capita incomes than Texas Anglos?
- A) Asian Americans in Texas
 - B) African Americans in Texas
 - C) Hispanics in Texas
 - D) Americans as a whole
 - E) All of the above

Answer: E

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 39) Which of the following states has the highest level of poverty among children?
- A) New Hampshire
 - B) Utah
 - C) Mississippi
 - D) Texas
 - E) Alaska

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 40) How does poverty affect political participation?
- A) Poor people usually do not actively and routinely participate in politics and government.
 - B) Poor people actively and routinely participate in politics and government on social issues.
 - C) Poor people actively and routinely participate in politics and government on economic issues.
 - D) Poor people actively and routinely participate in politics and government on social welfare issues.
 - E) Poverty promotes political participation.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 41) Historically, how do wealthy Texans influence state politics?
- A) By contributing money to public education to stimulate voter participation across the socioeconomic spectrum
 - B) By volunteering their time to participate in ground work for political campaigns
 - C) By recruiting and funding candidates for public office or by seeking public office themselves
 - D) By bribery and other forms of graft
 - E) By abstaining from voting as a form of protest

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 42) Why do the wealthy participate in politics and government more frequently than the poor?
- A) The wealthy are usually bred with a sense of *noblesse oblige*.
 - B) Politics and government have a greater effect on their lives than on the lives of the poor.
 - C) The wealthy consider it a sport.
 - D) The wealthy tend to be more aware of what they could lose or gain through policy changes.
 - E) The concerns of the wealthy are more communal, while the concerns of the poor are more individualistic.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 43) Why are the wealthy better able to be actively and routinely engaged in politics and government?
- A) The wealthy have more resources, more available time, and more social connections.
 - B) The wealthy are much more interested in helping others.
 - C) The wealthy are much more likely to attend church and to have a reliable moral compass.
 - D) The wealthy watch more television and see more political ads on TV.
 - E) The wealthy are happier and more interested in sharing and spreading that happiness to others.

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29

- 44) Which of the following best describes the political culture of Texas?
- A) Government should act as a positive instrument with responsibility to enhance the well-being of its citizens.
 - B) Government should act solely to promote individual responsibility.
 - C) Government should act solely to maintain traditional social values.
 - D) Government should act both to significantly enhance the well-being of the poor and to maintain traditional social values.
 - E) Government should act to promote individual responsibility and to maintain traditional social values.

Answer: E

Skill: Application

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

45) What three political cultures did political scientist David Elazar identify?

- A) Individualistic, traditionalistic, and moralistic
- B) Individualistic, communistic, and traditionalistic
- C) Moralistic, socialistic, and individualistic
- D) Constitutionalism, legalism, and moralism
- E) Libertarianism, egalitarianism, and paternalism

Answer: A

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

46) In a study of several states representing different political subcultures, it was determined that that states with a moralistic political subculture performed better than states with traditionalistic or individualistic political subcultures in

- A) promoting individualism.
- B) enhancing self-esteem.
- C) adopting and implementing welfare reforms.
- D) limiting the size of government.
- E) protecting capitalism.

Answer: C

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

47) Reflecting a governing preference for individual responsibility and the maintenance of social values, Texas's political culture is best described as a blend of

- A) individualistic, traditionalistic, and moralistic subcultures.
- B) the traditionalistic and moralistic subcultures.
- C) the pragmatic and moralistic subcultures.
- D) the individualistic and traditionalistic subcultures.
- E) the individualistic and socialistic subcultures.

Answer: D

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

True/False Questions:

1) By the late 1940s, the Hispanic population had replaced the African American population as the largest ethnic minority in Texas.

Answer: TRUE

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

2) The mission was an important institution of Spanish colonization.

Answer: TRUE

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

3) No Texas legislators in the past twenty-five years have been Hispanics.

Answer: FALSE

Skill: Understanding

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13

- 4) With slavery legalized in the Republic of Texas, the number of African Americans increased rapidly, composing 20% of the population by 1840.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 5) Texas's population completed the transition from primarily rural to primarily urban in the 1940s.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 6) Historically, Hispanics are less likely to mention social issues as areas of concern to pollsters than Anglos.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 7) For a majority of Texans, there is no consensus on the importance of the five ideas of the Texan Creed.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 8) Individualism stresses the primacy of the individual conscience as the basis of behavior and is the product of seventeenth century Protestantism.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 9) The frontier era in Texas lasted for four decades and involved battles with Mexico, conflicts with the Native American population, and struggles to conquer a difficult land.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 10) Texas children are more likely to live in poverty than are children in the United States as a whole.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 11) The creation of the Texas Rangers was meant to control the haphazard grazing of cattle in pristine farmlands.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 12) Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna led the Texas revolution and became its first president.
Answer: FALSE

Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 13) Both *Tejanos* (native Texans of Mexican descent) and Anglos typically interpret the Alamo as a symbol of liberty and freedom.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 14) Each successive Texas constitution has expanded the scope and authority of government.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 15) An Equal Rights Amendment was added to the Texas Constitution in 1972.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 16) The Texas cattle economy was inherited directly from Spaniards.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 17) The contemporary Texas economy more closely resembles the diversity of the national economy than ever before.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 18) The petroleum industry's share of the Texas gross state product has been slowing but steadily increasing since the 1973 oil embargo enforced by OPEC countries.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 19) The health of the state's economy for much of the twentieth century was directly tied to the price of wheat.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 20) The Texas oil industry is currently booming.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 21) Some of the nation's poorest counties are in Texas.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding *Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29*

- 22) If you are a Texas Anglo you are likely to have a higher per capita income than a Texas African American or a Texas Hispanic.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Application
Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29
- 23) Texas has a history of improving social programs only after being required to do so by the courts.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30
- 24) Texas runs one of the highest quality public health programs for the poor in the country.
Answer: FALSE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30
- 25) A higher percentage of Texans lack health insurance than in any other state.
Answer: TRUE
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

Short Answer Questions:

- 1) How has Texas responded to proposals to institute gambling on Native American reservations?
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 2) Describe the Hispanic population of Texas in 1836 when it became an independent nation.
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 3) How has the ethnic composition of Texas changed over the past century and how is it projected to change in the next few decades?
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 4) Describe two elements of the Texan Creed.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 5) Examine the significance of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 6) Compare and contrast two of the political ideologies most prominent in Texas.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24

- 7) What role did cotton play in the Texas economy?
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 8) Describe the contemporary Texas economy and how it differs from previous Texas economies.
Skill: Understanding
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 9) Examine the lessons for the Texas economy that can be learned from its history with the petroleum industry.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 10) To what extent should Texas provide bilingual education?
Skill: Evaluation
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 11) Describe the distribution of wealth and poverty in Texas.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29
- 12) Compare and contrast incomes in the U.S. and Texas. What might explain these differences?
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29
- 13) Why might the uneven participation of the wealthy and poor in Texas politics matter?
Skill: Evaluation
Reference: LO 1.4, pgs 26-29
- 14) Describe two distinguishing elements of Texas political culture.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30
- 15) Compare the political subcultures of Texas and Massachusetts.
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

Essay Questions:

- 1) Examine, compare, and contrast the characteristics, history, and politics of the five main ethnic groups in Texas: Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Anglos. How has each group impacted Texas politics?
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 2) How has the ethnic composition of Texas changed in the last few decades and how is it expected the change in the next few decades? How will these changes impact Texas politics?
Skill: Evaluation
Reference: LO 1.1, pgs 4-13
- 3) Describe the five ideas of the Texan Creed. Evaluate the extent to which these ideals are held equally across ethnic groups in Texas.
Skill: Evaluation
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 4) Which of the five ideas of the Texan Creed is most closely aligned with your personal beliefs? Which is the least closely aligned? Why do you think your beliefs are similar to or different from those expressed in the Texan Creed?
Skill: Application
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 5) Compare conservatism and liberalism in Texas. What are the principal differences today, and how do they affect Texas politics?
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 6) Do Texans really have ideological tendencies, as expressed by the authors of your textbook? If so, what ideological tendencies do you exhibit? What about your family and friends? Do these tendencies affect your overall beliefs and behaviors, and if so, how?
Skill: Application
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 7) What ideologies are evident in the supporters of the Tea Party movement? How well do they reflect aspects of the Texan Creed?
Skill: Application
Reference: LO 1.2, pgs 13-24
- 8) Is the current Texas economy well situated to withstand the economic crises our country has been experiencing? How has the Texas economy weathered previous economic storms? What aspects of the contemporary Texas economy give you hope or despair for your economic future, and why?
Skill: Evaluation
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26
- 9) Examine the arguments for and against bilingual education in Texas. Describe economic inequality in Texas. To what extent are these trends related?
Skill: Analysis
Reference: LO 1.3, pgs 24-26

- 10) Examine the economic conditions of Texas with regard to race, culture, and class. Do the disparities in wealth have an impact on the overall economic health of the state? If the disparities continue to grow, what do you anticipate could happen to the health of the state's economy and its culture? What reform measures would you recommend to improve the status of the poor in the state? If these measures require increased state expenditures, how would you recommend paying for them?

Skill: Evaluation

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs 29-30

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VI. Resources for Further Study

A. Books

1. Barr, A. (1996). *Black Texans: A history of African Americans in Texas, 1528–1995*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
2. Brown, L. C., Langenegger, J. A., Gargia, S. R., Lewis, T. A., & Biles, R. E. (2009). *Practicing texas politics* (13th edition.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
3. Buenger, W. L., & Calvert, R. A. (Eds.). (1991). *Texas through time: Evolving interpretations*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
4. Davidson, C. (1992). *Race and class in Texas politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
5. Elazar, D. (1966). *American federalism: A view from the states*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell.
6. Fehrenbach, T. R. (1968). *Lone star: A history of Texas and the Texans*. New York: Macmillan.
7. Haley, J. (2009). *Passionate nation: The epic history of Texas*. New York: Free Press.
8. Hanson, R. (2003). *Civic culture and urban change: Governing Dallas*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.
9. Langley, L. D. (1988). *MexAmerica: Two countries, one future*. New York: Crown.
10. McComb, D. G. (1989). *Texas: A modern history*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
11. O'Brien, E. (2003). *The face of Texas: Portraits of Texans*. Albany: Bright Sky Press.
12. O'Connor, R. F. (Eds.). (1986). *Texas myths*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
13. Sizer, M. (2001). *Texas politicians: Good and bad*. Plano: Republic of Texas Press.

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B. Web Resources

1. **Burnt Orange Report**. A blog by Democrats in Texas claiming to offer “News, Politics, and Fun Deep from the Heart of Texas.” <http://www.burntorangereport.com/>
2. **Census Bureau Report on Texas** includes summaries of all of the data released by the Census Bureau on Texas. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html>

3. People of African descent are among the oldest residents in Texas. Check out Estevancios's story (as well as the stories of other early explorers) in the **Handbook of Texas** online at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/AA/pkaan.html>
4. **Harvey Kronberg's Quorum Report** has been reporting on Texas since 1983 and bills itself as non-partisan political commentary and news. Basic information is available for free, full text requires a subscription. <http://www.quorumreport.com/>
5. The **Lone Star Report** offers news and opinion about state politics. It requires registration for some information. <http://www.lonestarreport.org/>
6. The **Office of the State Demographer** gives population estimates and projections by age, sex, race or ethnicity, and several other characteristics, through the year 2040. <http://txsdc.utsa.edu>
7. **Politics1 Online Guide to Texas Politics** includes information or links on all Texas candidates for governor, state cabinet, United States senator, and Congress in the current election cycle, state political parties, the official state election office, and state news sources. <http://www.politics1.com/tx.htm>
8. The **Texas Comptroller** provides information on almost every facet of the Texas economy at the Window on State Government site at <http://www.window.state.tx.us>
9. Visit UTSA's **Texan Cultures** information and other activities. <http://www.texancultures.com/education/tools.html>
10. **Texas Online** is the official state government page with information on all state activities, a message from the governor, links to counties and cities, and more. <http://www.texasonline.com/>
11. **Texas Online** is the online clearinghouse for all official Texas sites. <http://texasonline.state.tx.us>
12. The **Texas Political Resource Page** offers political analysis by George Strong and links to political issues, buttons, and other items of interest. <http://www.political.com/>
13. **TexasTribune.com** is "a non-profit, non-partisan public media organization," whose "mission is to promote civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government, and other matters of statewide concern" through original journalism and public events. <http://www.texastribune.com>
14. Check out the cultures of Texas, including events and attractions, on the official **Travel Texas** site. <http://www.tourtexas.com/>

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