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## AP<sup>®</sup> U.S. Government and Politics 2018-19 Booklist

Title	Edition	Author/Editor	ISBN
American Government: Power and Purpose	14 <sup>th</sup> Full	Ansolahehere, Stephen; Ginsberg, Benjamin; Lowi, Theodore; Shepsle, Kenneth A.	9780393283754
Born Again – With New Introduction and Epilogue	2008	Colson, Chuck	9780800794590
Over the Wall: Protecting Religious Expression in the Public Square	2000	Gulizza, Frank	978-0-7914-4450-4
Presidential Greatness	2000	Landy, M. and Milkis, S.	978-0-7006-1149-2

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## *American Government: Power and Purpose (Ansolahere, Ginsberg, Lowi, Shepsle)*

**Synopsis:** *American Government* analyzes American politics and government from five fundamental assumptions, the first being that all political behavior has purpose. Its four parts review American government through four related lenses: founding, institutions, governance, and politics.

**Reason for Using:** *American Government* follows the format of the AP<sup>®</sup> Exam, with its four parts corresponding to the five units students will encounter on the AP<sup>®</sup> Exam. Its rigorous examination of American government and politics will prepare students to know and analyze complex political questions when taking the AP<sup>®</sup> exam or furthering their understanding of American government.

**Disclaimer:** The textbook is not written from a Christian viewpoint but is respectful in its discussion of Christian participation in politics. Despite the authors' usual neutral approach to politically contentious issues, *American Government* portrays social issues with a slight liberal bias. Through discussions with the Master Teacher and Classroom Teachers, the class encourages students to read critically, evaluate the biases of their sources, and express their own positions respectfully.

## *Born Again (Colson)*

**Synopsis:** Chuck Colson's autobiography focuses on his participation in the Nixon administration and Watergate, cumulating with Colson's personal testimony to the power of the gospel to change lives. Colson explores a Christian's proper approach to politics and how faith transcends political division.

**Reason for Using:** *Born Again* discusses the crucial intersection of faith and politics. It challenges students to think about the assumptions and worldview that shape how individuals act in the political world.

## *Over the Wall: Protecting Religious Expression in the Public Square (Gulizza)*

**Synopsis:** *Over the Wall* gives an overview of the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First Amendment and the relationship between church and state. Gulizza argues that the current interpretation of separation of church and state is neither coherent nor good precedence for future court rulings. He argues that secular humanism should be recognized as a religion, and that the Court should adopt a new interpretation of the state's role toward religion, which he calls "authentic neutrality."

**Reason for Using:** *Over the Wall* is a thoughtful, Christian approach to the religious freedom debate, written by the Master Teacher for AP<sup>®</sup> US Government and Politics. It offers both a coherent overview of the complicated topic of the Court's ruling on religion, and a practical alternative legal argument. Students will learn the terminology of the church/state debate and how to formulate their own opinions on the relationship of the church and state.

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## *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall (Riordan)*

**Synopsis:** *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* is William Riordan's verbatim record of George Washington Plunkitt's plain talks. Plunkitt bluntly describes his role in the Tammany Hall machine which ran New York City at the turn of the century.

**Reason for Using:** *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* is classic primary source testimony, leading students into an analysis of party politics, the spoils system, and ethical considerations of political machines.

## *Presidential Greatness (Landy & Milkis)*

**Synopsis:** *Presidential Greatness* examines the administration of five great presidents and offers general principles of what defines a great president. Great presidents, according to Landy and Milkis, have the strength of character to respond to moments of crisis, redefining the office of the presidency, while still acting within their institutional bounds.

**Reason for Using:** *Presidential Greatness* is the best in-depth analysis of great presidents and the factors that made them great. It engages students in understanding the historical growth of presidential power and evaluates the intersection of presidential power with other governing institutions, parties, and the people.

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