



The Federal Bureaucracy

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Why Bureaucracy?

- ★ **“Bureaucrat” a pejorative term in US**
- ★ **Yet want government to protect the environment, ensure auto safety, keep terrorist off our planes, etc.**
- ★ **To do so need to form bureaucracies**
 - **Max Weber’s Principles of Bureaucracy...**
 - **Hierarchical, division of labor, impersonal, following defined/abstract rules, striving for specified goals**
- ★ **As government expands, bureaucracy expands**
- ★ **So American’s have a “love-hate” relationship with bureaucracy**

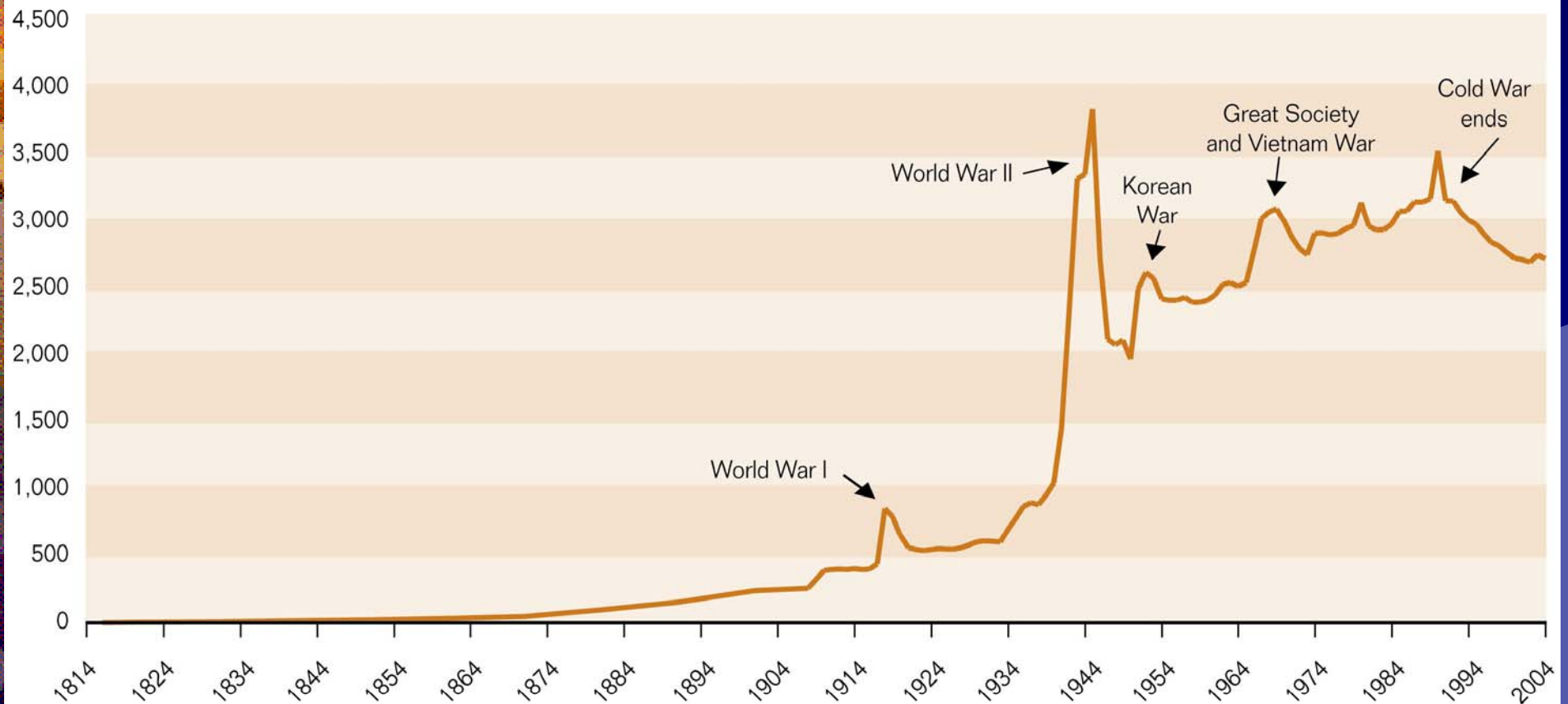


Development of Bureaucracy in America

- ★ ***Spoils System***: winning party appointed supporters to government positions
 - ★ Assassination of James Garfield (1881)
- ★ ***Pendleton Act (1883)***: Civil Service Reform (Merit System)
- ★ ***Hatch Act (1939)***: Prohibition on Political Activities
 - ★ Revised in 1993; now more “no politics while on duty”

Figure 8-1 Changes in Federal Civilian Employment

Number of federal civilian employees (1,000s)



Sources: Harold W. Stanley and Richard G. Neimi, *Vital Statistics on American Politics, 1999–2000* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2000), 259–260; data for 1999–2004 from U.S. Office of Personnel Management, *Federal Civilian Workforce Statistics, Employment and Trends*, bimonthly release.



Organization of the Federal Bureaucracy

- ✱ Only about 15 percent in Washington area.
- ✱ More than 25 percent of the civilian employees work for military; another 30 percent work for the Postal Service.
- ✱ Less than 10 percent work for welfare agencies.
- ✱ Diverse group more demographically representative of the nation than politicians.
- ✱ Most are white-collar workers: secretaries, clerks, lawyers, inspectors, and...
ENGINEERS!!!!



Organization of the Federal Bureaucracy

- ★ **Cabinet Departments (e.g., State, Commerce, Education)**
- ★ **Independent Agencies (e.g., NASA, CIA, EPA)**
- ★ **Independent Regulatory Commissions (e.g., Federal Reserve, SEC, FCC, FTC)**
- ★ **Government Corporations (e.g., US Postal Service, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, TVA, FDIC)**

Size of the Bureaucracy

TABLE 8-3

Cabinet Department Staff and Budget

Department	Personnel (thousands)	Budget (billion dollars)
Agriculture	109.8	81.8
Commerce	36.0	6.2
Defense	700.0	428.9
Education	4.5	64.3
Energy	16.1	23.3
Health and Human Services	67.0	574.7
Homeland Security	183.0	31.0
Housing and Urban Development	10.6	38.9
Interior	71.4	8.9
Justice	112.6	20.7
Labor	17.3	57.0
State	30.3	28.0
Transportation	58.6	59.0
Treasury	115.9	403.8
Veterans Affairs	218.3	67.3

Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the United States Government Fiscal Year 2005, at <http://whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005>.



Who Controls the Bureaucracy?

- ★ **Congress**

- ★ **Budget**
- ★ **Oversight**

- ★ **President**

- ★ **Budget (Office of Management and Budget)**
- ★ **Appointments (with Senate)**

- ★ **Courts**

- ★ **Administrative law courts**



Bureaucratic Autonomy

- ✱ **Agency Control**

- ✱ **Regulation and Administrative Discretion**

- ✱ **Agency Interests**

- ✱ **Bureaucratic Culture and Bureaucratic Capture**

- ✱ **Political Alliances**

- ✱ **Iron Triangles and Issue Networks**

Bureaucrats are not just referees, but active players in the political game!



Bureaucracy and the Size of Government

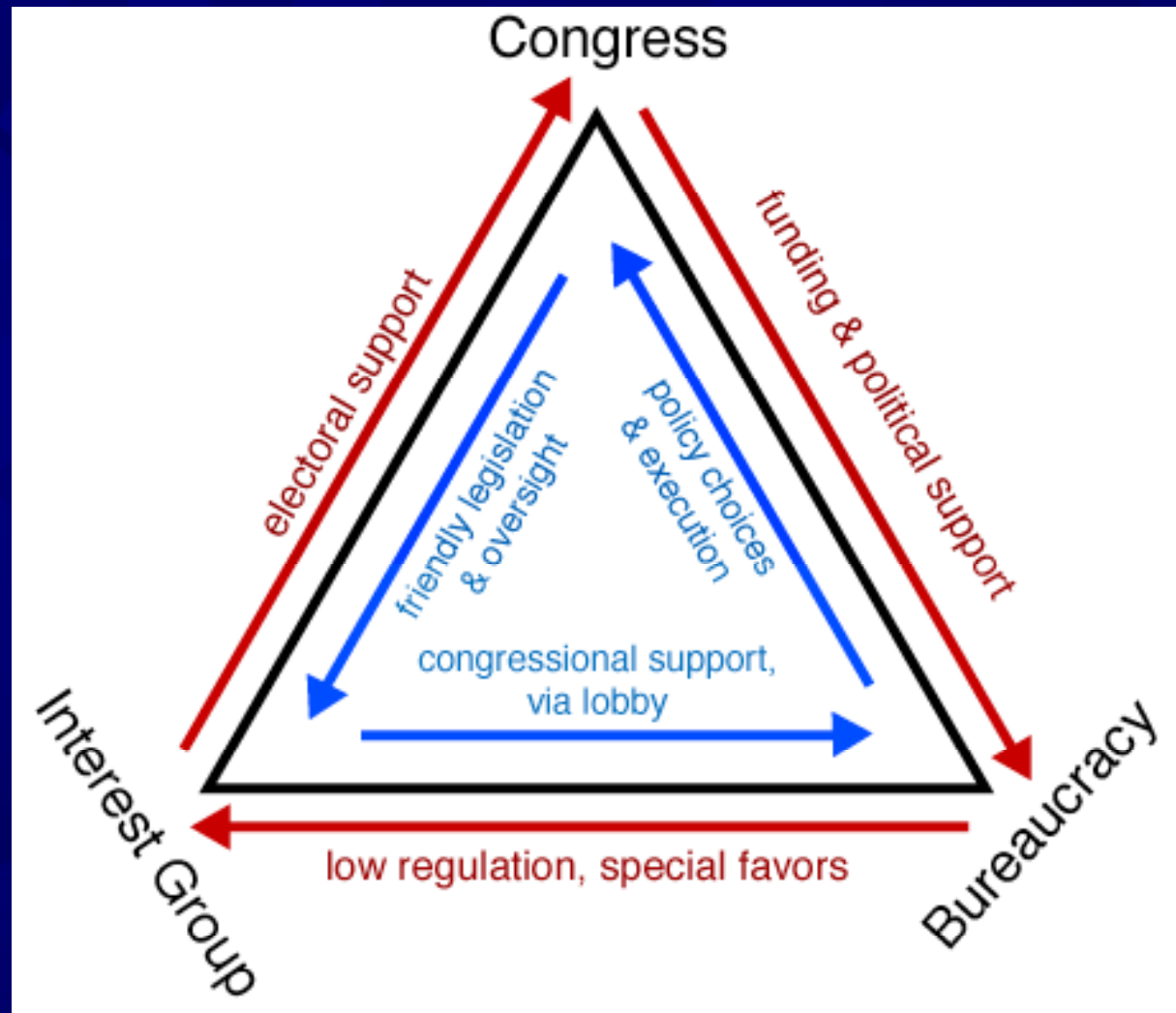
Q: Can the size of the bureaucracy be controlled?

In many respects...NO!

- ✱ Shift to State and Local Government**
- ✱ Federal Spending Largely Uncontrollable**
- ✱ Federal Spending has Not Increased Much Relative to Overall Economy**

“Iron Triangles”

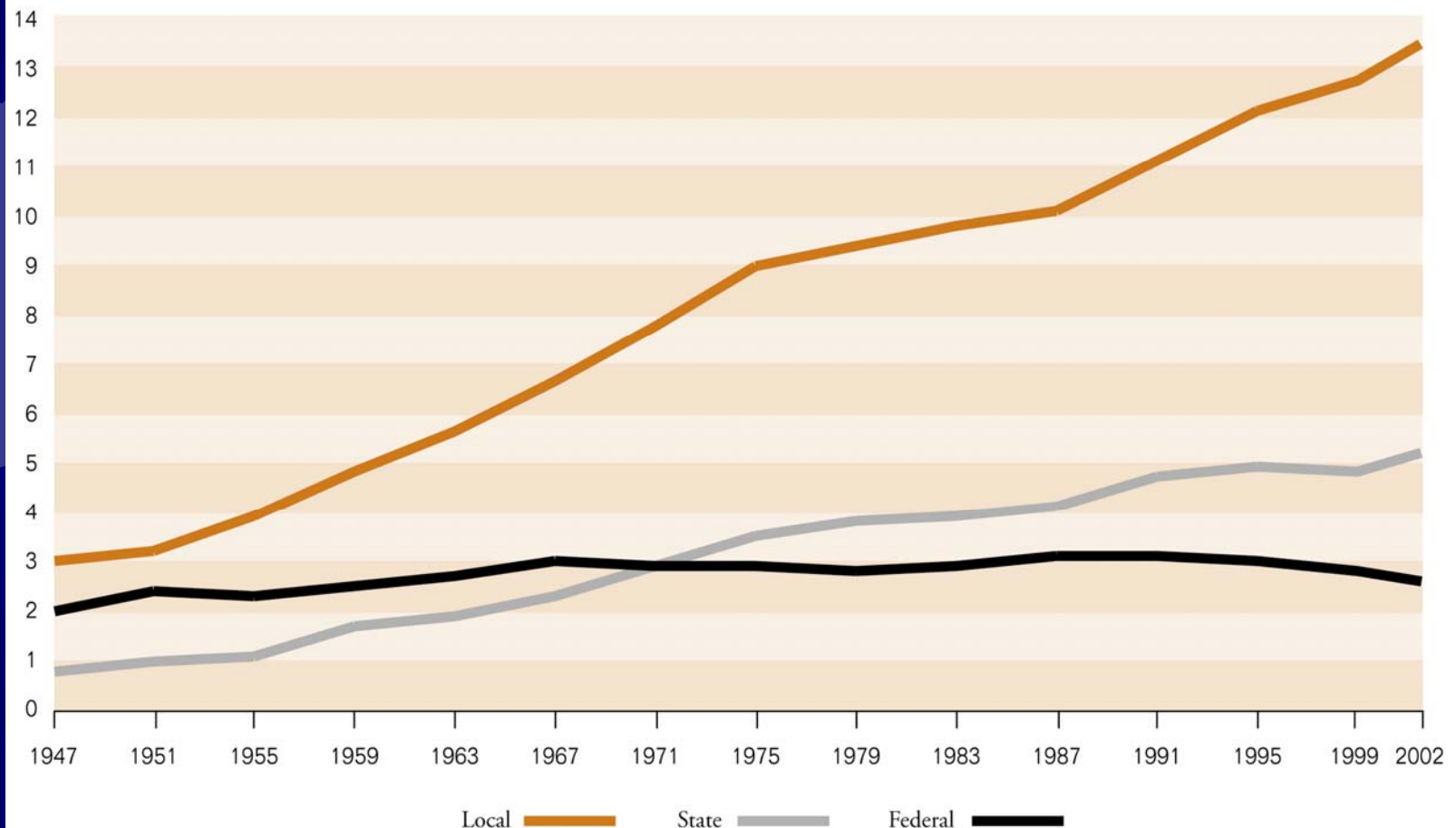
Public and other interests largely blocked out....



Growth of State & Local Bureaucracy

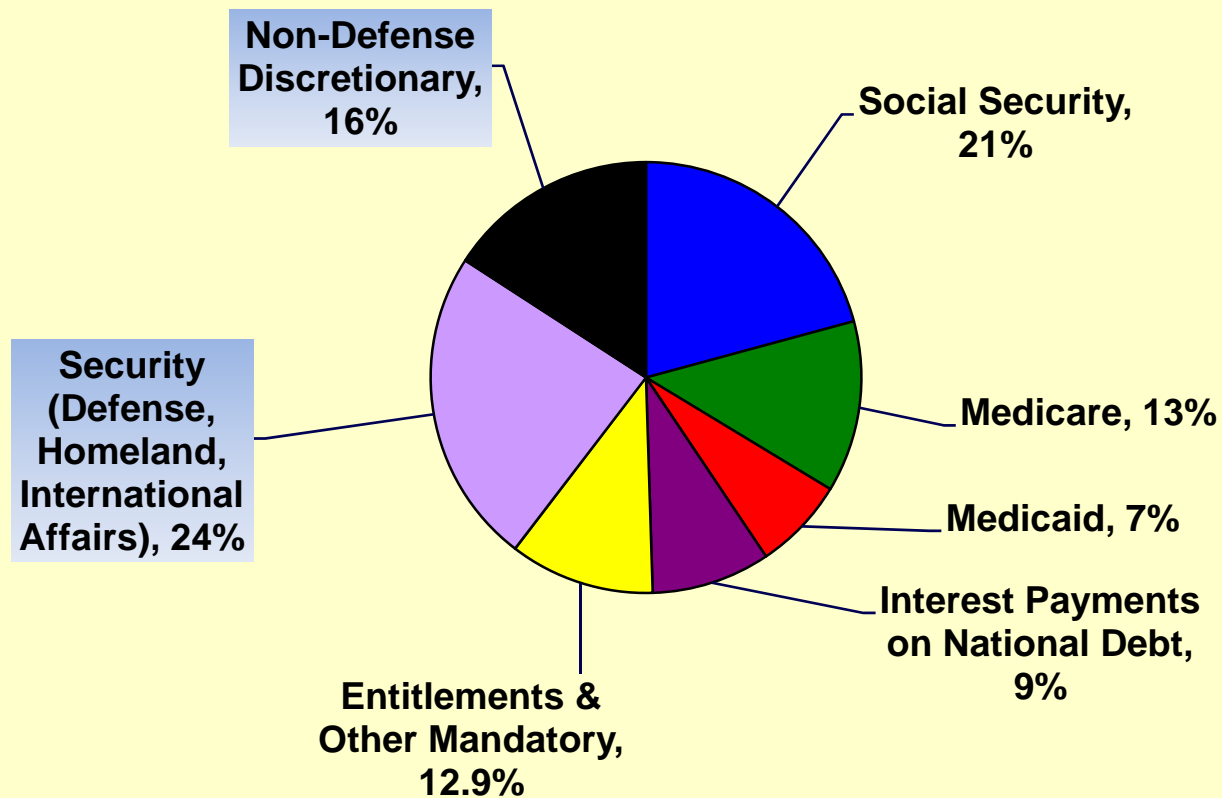
Figure 3-4 The Postwar Growth of Government Occurred at the Local Level

Number of public civilian employees (millions)

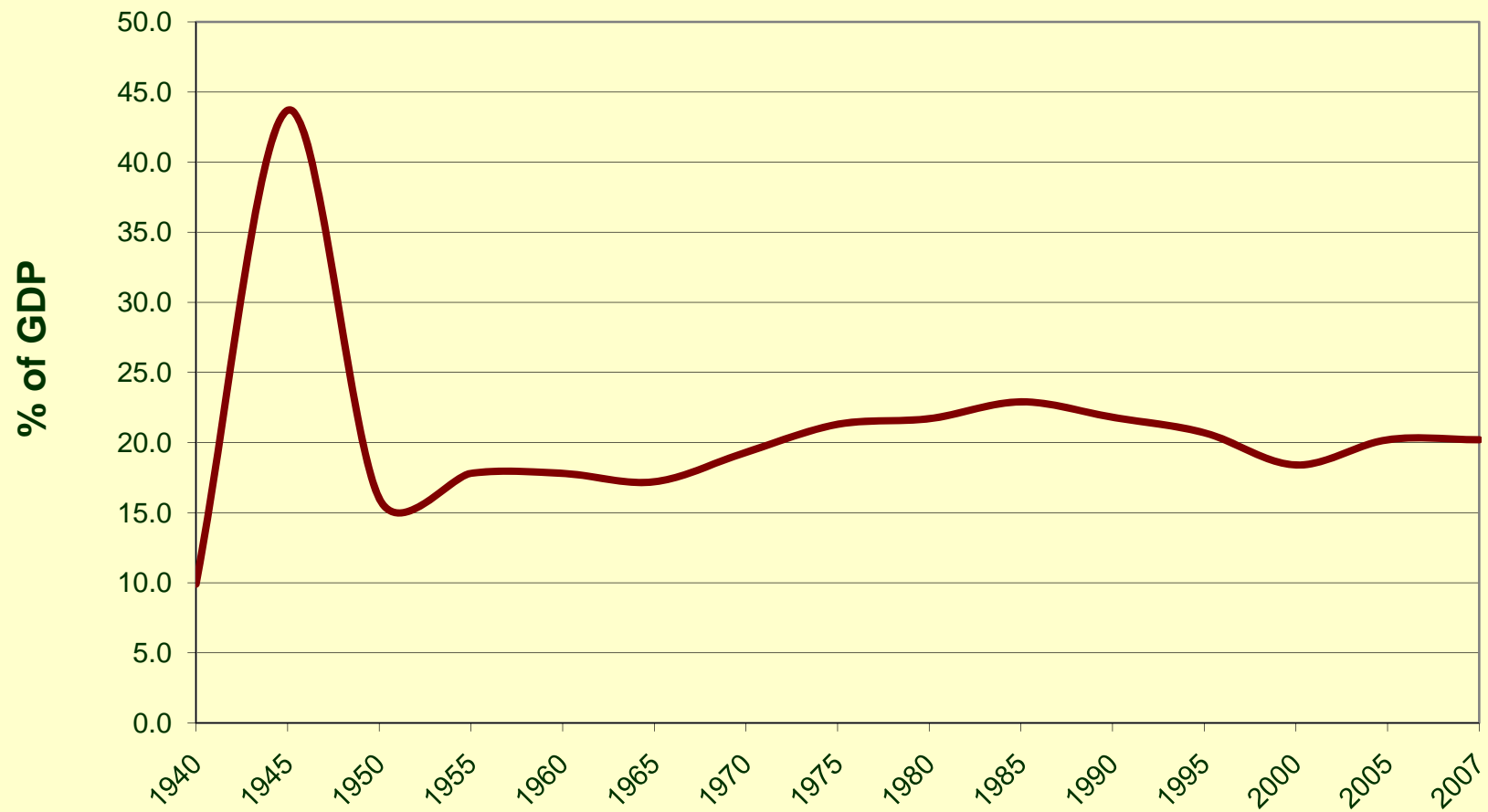


Sources: 1949, 1952, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969–1988: U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, *Significant Features of Fiscal Federalism*, 1990, vol. 2 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 1990), 177; 1989–1992: 1994, 151; other years: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Series Y189–198 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975), 1100; Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2000* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2000), Tables 524 and 525; *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2004), Table 453.

Discretionary and Non-Discretionary Federal Spending, 2008

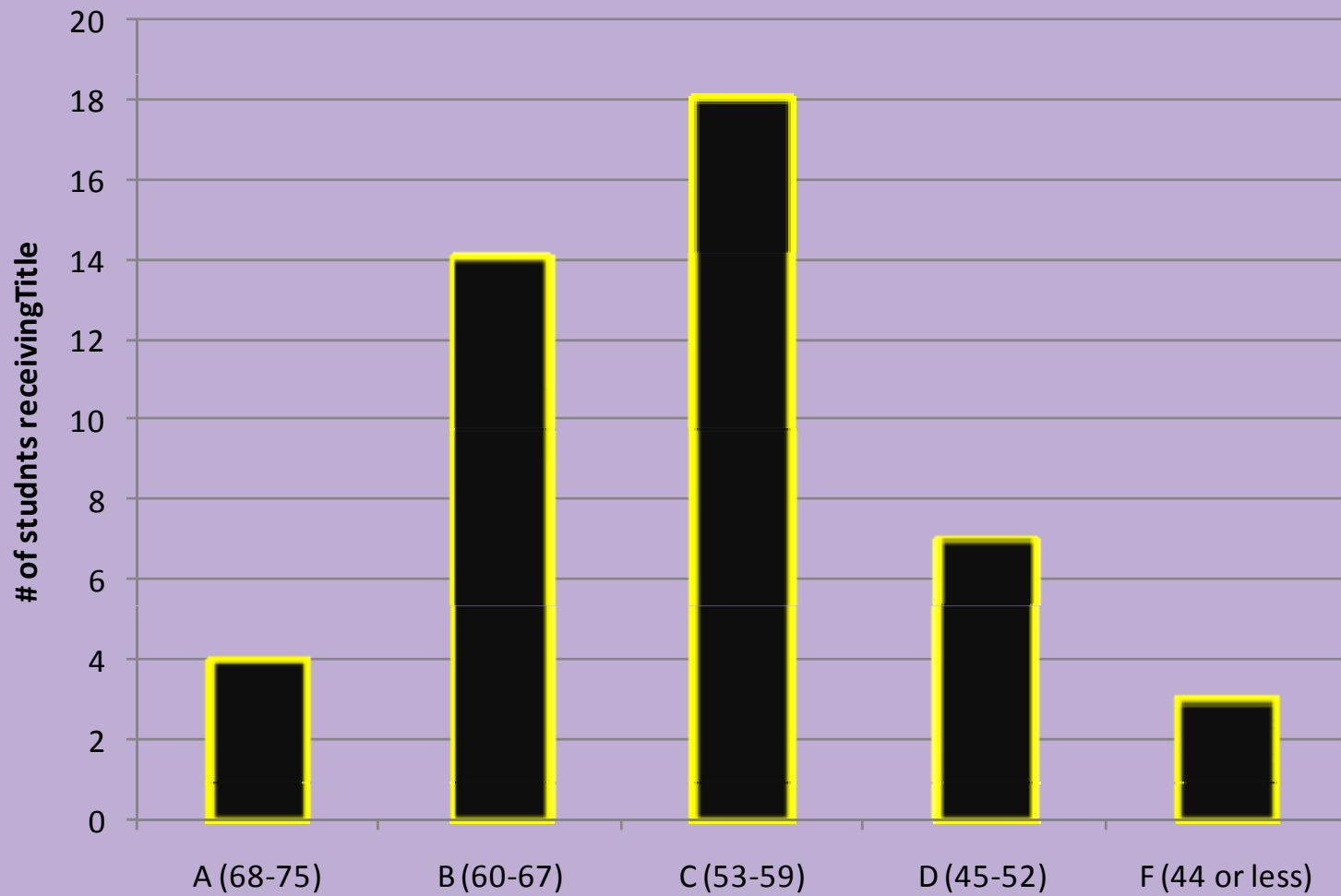


Federal Spending as a percentage of GDP



Source: Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

American Government Exam #1



AVG = 57.0 (76.1%)

Median = 57.5 (76.7%)