**Chan**

**Chapter: 9 Interest Groups (pgs. 157 – 162)**

Interest Groups: Is a group, however loosely or tightly organized, that is determined to encourage or prevent changes in public policy without trying to be elected.

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| **Section Title** | **Summary of key ideas / definition of key terms** | **Constitutional / Court connections** |
| The Growth of Interest Groups  A. Factors that help explain the rise of interest groups | Interest groups have existed since the country was founded. Sons of Liberty are early example of interest groups and such as of Federalist and Anti-federalists struggling over the ratification of the Constitution.     1. **Broad economic development-**As the economy evolves, new interests are created and old interest needs to be redefined. 2. **Government Policy-**Public policy has often fostered new interest groups. 3. **Emergence of strong leader-**Magnetic leaders who are willing to make personal sacrifices draw an organized following that often develops into an interest group. 4. **The expanding roles of government-**As the scope of government activities continues to swell, more organized groups are monitoring those activities. | In the constitution, it does not include anything about interest groups. But there are many regulations on interest groups, such as the amount of money they can contribute.  A famous Supreme Court Case:  Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission |
| Kinds Of Interest Groups  A. Two categories of interest group. | Broadly defined, an interest group is any organization that seeks to influence public policy. Most groups fall into one of two categories.  Institutional Interests  Individual interests are individuals or organizations that represent other organizations.  Membership Interests  These groups depend on Americans joining their cause through membership dues and other donations. |  |
| Interest Groups In Action | Interest groups engage in a wide range of activities that include the following:   1. **Supplying credible information-**Legislators are policy generalists who must vote on a staggering number of complicated issues 2. **Raising public support-**Traditionally interest groups have favored face-to-face contact between lobbyist and politician. 3. **Creating PACs and making campaign contributions-**Although giving money is perhaps the least effect way to influence politicians, it is a very common activity among interest groups. 4. **Employing former government officials-**Hundreds of people have left government jobs to work as lobbyist. 5. **Seizing opportunities through protest and disruption-**Although protest, picketing, and violence have always been a part of American politics, they have generally been considered more acceptable since the 1960s. 6. **Leading litigation-**Interest groups have financed and provided legal representation in many landmark Supreme Court cases. |  |
| Side notes. | * Interest group activity is a form of political speech and is protected by the First Amendment * Interest group need money to operate effectively * Membership-based groups rely heavily on membership dues * Foundation grants are responsible for financing many groups * Federal grants are provided to groups that are engaged in a project of public interest |  |