1. LiangJian –Chapter 3 - Theories of Democratic Government
2. Summary notes.

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| Section Title | Summary of key ideas/ definition of key terms | Constitutional/ Court connections |
| Power and Authority | 1. Power is the ability to get another to act in accord with one’s intentions
2. Authority is the legal right to use power
3. The right to exercise authority comes from legal or constitutional sources
4. The Constitutional Convention was an attempt to legitimize a more powerful national government
5. The legitimacy of government is based on the concept of democracy
6. Democracy have even extended its tenets to other institutions of public life, such as school, and churches
 | 1. The right to exercise authority comes from legal or constitutional sources
2. The Constitution is almost universally accepted as a source of legitimacy
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| The Meaning of Democracy | **1.Democracy has at least two widely used meanings**1. First meaning is simply “the rule of the many”
2. The second meaning is representative democracy, which is leader gain office and power by means of a competitive contest for the votes of people.

**2. Representative government has many inherent problems.**1. a) It prospers only when certain conditions are met; the opportunity for leadership completion must be present and political party must be allowed compete
2. Deciding which offices should be elected and which appointed
3. The number of candidates allowed to compete before choices become hopelessly confused
4. Who should pay for campaigns is often an issue
5. **The Framers of the Constitution clearly favored representative democracy**
6. Influenced by philosophers who had discuss democracy across the country
7. Influenced by John Locke, who argued that a good government must exist with the consent of the governed and the people.
8. Advantages of representative democracy
9. Mediate, not mirror, popular opinion
10. A way to control both a tyrannical majority and self-interested officeholders
 | 1. Separation of powers
2. Citizens participate to make policies
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| Distribution of Political Power | 1. In democracy, policy will reflect the views of those people who are sufficiently motivated to participate actively in policy making
2. Political elite represents the actual distribution of power in making and implementing policy
3. Political elites possess a disproportionate share of power
4. **Political scientist have at least four views to explain political elites’ actions”**
5. Class view: View that the government is dominated by capitalists
6. Power elite view: View that the government is dominated by a few top leaders, most of whom are outside of government
7. Bureaucratic view: View that the government is dominated by appointed officials
8. Pluralist view: the belied that competition among all affected interests shapes public policy
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| Political Change | 1. **Domestic affairs**
2. In the 1920s the general view was that the federal government should play a minimal role in people’s lives
3. From 1930s through the 1970s, the general view was that the federal government should attempt to solve many economic and social problems
4. From 1981 to 1988, Ronald Reagan began to reverse this trend by cutting taxes spending less on social programs.
5. **Foreign affairs**
6. Originally the policy was a response to the actions of France and England.
7. By the 1840s, the policy shift to Mexico and Canada
8. In the late 1890s, it deals with the Caribbean and the Pacific
9. Changes from isolated country to a role as an international leader after WW II.
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