

# American Government <sup>1</sup>




## CHAPTER 11 Structure and Functions of the Executive Branch





# The Federal Bureaucracy

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- **What is a bureaucracy?** 
- **What are the major elements of the federal bureaucracy?** 
- **How are groups within the federal bureaucracy named?** 
- **What is the difference between a staff agency and a line agency?**

# What Is a Bureaucracy?

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**Three features distinguish  
bureaucracies:**

**1. Hierarchical authority.**

**Bureaucracies are based on a pyramid structure with a chain of command running from top to bottom.**

# What Is a Bureaucracy? (continued) 4

Three features distinguish  
bureaucracies:

2. *Job specialization.* Each **bureaucrat**, or person who works for the organization, has certain defined duties and responsibilities.

# What Is a Bureaucracy? (continued) 5

## Three features distinguish bureaucracies:

3. *Formalized rules.* The bureaucracy does its work according to a set of established regulations and procedures.

# Major Elements of the Federal Bureaucracy

The federal bureaucracy is all of the agencies, people, and procedures through which the Federal Government operates.

- **The President is the chief administrator of the Federal Government.**

# Major Elements of the Federal Bureaucracy (continued)

The federal bureaucracy is all of the agencies, people, and procedures through which the Federal Government operates.

- In order to enact and enforce policy, Congress and the President have created an **administration**—the government's many administrators and agencies.

# Major Elements of the Federal Bureaucracy (continued)

The federal bureaucracy is all of the agencies, people, and procedures through which the Federal Government operates.

- **The chief organizational feature of the federal bureaucracy is its division into areas of specialization.**



# The Name Game

- The name *department* is reserved for agencies of the Cabinet rank.
- Outside of *department*, there is little standardization of names throughout the agencies.

# The Name Game (continued) 10

- **Common titles include *agency, administration, commission, corporation, and authority.***

## Staff Agencies

- **Staff agencies** serve in a support capacity.
- They aid the chief executive and other administrators by offering advice and other assistance in the management of the organization.

## Line Agencies

- **Line agencies** perform tasks for which the organization exists.
- **Congress and the President give the line agencies goals to accomplish, and staff agencies help the line agencies accomplish them.**

# Review

**1. All of the following are characteristics of bureaucracies EXCEPT**

**(a) hierarchical authority.**

**(b) formalized rules.**

**(c) lack of formal organization.**

**(d) job specialization.**

# Review

- 2. Staff agencies are created to**
  - (a) act as congressional watchdogs on executive agencies.**
  - (b) aid other agencies in completing their goals.**
  - (c) serve as a check on the Supreme Court.**
  - (d) fulfill a specific task or function.**

# **The Executive Office of the President 15**

- **What is the Executive Office of the President?**
- **What are the duties of the White House Office and the National Security Council?**
- **What are the additional agencies in the Executive Office of the President that assist the President?**

# **The Executive Office of the President**

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- **The Executive Office of the President (the EOP) is an umbrella agency of separate agencies.**
- **The EOP serves as the President's right arm, staffed by most of the President's closest advisors and assistants.**
- **The EOP was established by Congress in 1939.**



# **The White House Office and National Security Council**

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## **The White House Office**

- **The White House Office is comprised of the President's key personal and political staff.**
- **Staff positions in the White House Office include chief of staff, assistants to the President, press secretary, the counsel to the President, and the President's physician.**

# **The White House Office and National Security Council**

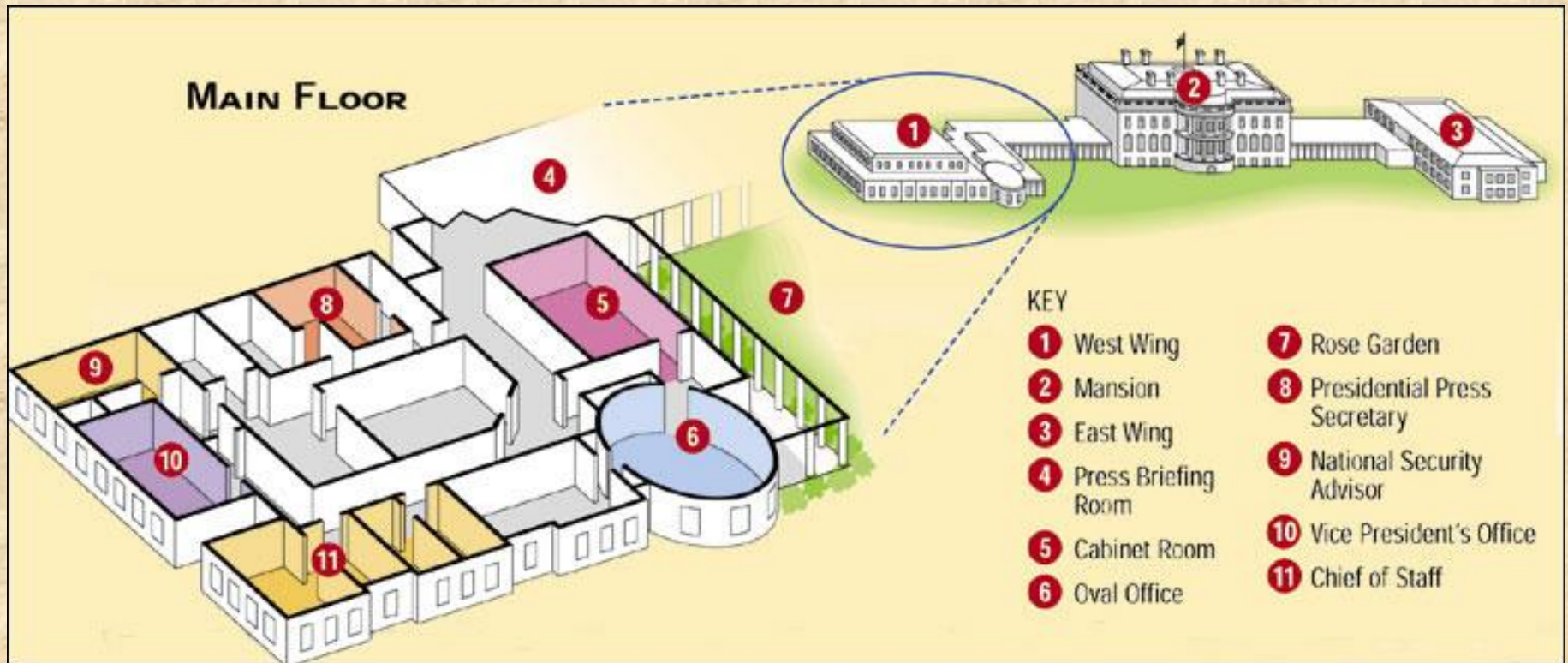
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## **The National Security Council**

- **The National Security Council (NSC) acts to advise the President on all domestic, foreign, and military matters that relate to the nation's security.**
- **Members include the Vice President and the secretaries of state and defense.**

# The West Wing of the White House 19

The President's closest advisors work in the West Wing of the White House, near the oval office.



# **Additional Agencies**

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## **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**

- **The OMB's major task is the preparation of the federal budget, which the President must submit to Congress.**

## **Office of National Drug Control Policy**

- **Established in 1989, this agency's existence dramatizes the nation's concern over drugs.**

## **Council of Economic Advisers**

- **The Council of Economic Advisers consists of three of the country's leading economists, and acts as the President's major source of information and advice on the nation's economy.**

- 1. All of the following are correct about the Executive Office of the President (the EOP) EXCEPT that the EOP**
  - (a) is an umbrella agency consisting of several agencies.**
  - (b) serves as the right arm to the President.**
  - (c) acts as a body of equal power to the President.**
  - (d) aids the President in his execution of federal power.**

- 2. The National Security Council serves as**
- (a) the President's advisory board on all matters of national security.**
  - (b) a watchdog commission for the Central Intelligence Agency.**
  - (c) the civilian command component of the military.**
  - (d) none of the above.**

# **The Executive Departments** 24

- **What are the origins of the executive departments, and how did they develop?**
- **How are members of the Cabinet chosen?**
- **What role does the Cabinet play in the President's decisions?**



# Executive Departments

The **executive departments**, often called the Cabinet departments, are the traditional units of federal administration.

- Each department is headed by a **secretary**, except for the Department of Justice, whose work is directed by the **attorney general**.
- Each department is made up of a number of subunits, both staff and line.
- Today, the executive departments vary a great deal in terms of visibility, size, and importance.

# The Cabinet

- **The Cabinet is an informal advisory body brought together by the President to serve his needs.**
- **By tradition, the heads of the executive departments form the Cabinet.**

# The Cabinet

- **The President appoints the head of each of the executive departments, which are then subject to Senate approval.**
- **Cabinet members serve as both head of their respective departments and as advisors to the President.**

# Review

- 1. All heads of the executive departments are known as secretaries except for the**
  - (a) head of the Department of Justice—the attorney general.**
  - (b) head of the Department of Defense—the supreme general.**
  - (c) head of the Department of the Treasury—the treasurer.**
  - (d) chief of the Department of the Interior—the forest ranger.**

- 2. Members of the Cabinet act as heads of their departments as well as**
- (a) advisors to the President.**
  - (b) congressional liaisons.**
  - (c) heads of the branches of the armed forces.**
  - (d) none of the above.**

# Independent Agencies

- **Why does the government create independent agencies?**
- **What are the characteristics of independent executive agencies and independent regulatory commissions?**
- **How are government corporations structured?**

# Why Independent Agencies?

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**The independent agencies are created by Congress and located outside the executive departments.**

# **Why Independent Agencies?**

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**Independent agencies have been formed for numerous reasons, including:**

- being assigned a task or function that does not fit well within the existing departmental structure;**
- protecting the agency's purposes from the influence of both partisan and pressure politics;**
- being created outside the departmental structure by accident.**



# **The Independent Executive Agencies**

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- **The independent executive agencies include most of the independent agencies.**
- **The most important difference between the independent executive agencies and the 14 executive departments is that they simply do not have Cabinet status.**

# The Independent Executive Agencies

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- **Examples of independent executive agencies include NASA, the General Services Administration, and the EPA.**
- **Some independent executive agencies are far from well-known, such as the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.**

# Independent Regulatory Commissions

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- **The independent regulatory commissions stand out among the independent agencies because they are largely beyond the reach of presidential direction and control.**

# Independent Regulatory Commissions

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- **Term length of members and staggering of member appointments keep these commissions from falling under control of one party.**

# Independent Regulatory Commissions

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- **The regulatory commissions are quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial, meaning that Congress has given them certain legislative-like and judicial-like powers.**

# The Government Corporations 38

- **Government corporations are also within the executive branch and subject to the President's direction and control.**
- **Government corporations were established by Congress to carry out certain business-like activities.**

# **The Government Corporations** 39

- **There are now over 50 government corporations, including the U.S. Postal Service, Amtrak, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.**

# Review

- 1. Independent agencies are formed for all of the following reasons EXCEPT**
  - (a) to create an agency immune from the system of checks and balances.**
  - (b) their function pertains to a peculiar or sensitive task.**
  - (c) their function does not fit within the structure of the executive departments.**
  - (d) keeping their function out of the influence of partisan or pressure politics.**



**2. The U.S. Postal Service is an example of**

- (a) an independent regulatory commission.**
- (b) a Cabinet department.**
- (c) an independent executive agency.**
- (d) a government corporation.**

# The Civil Service

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- **How did the civil service develop?**
- **What are the characteristics of the current civil service?**
- **What restrictions are placed on the political activity of members of the civil service?**

# Development of the Civil Service 43

The **civil service** is that group of public employees who perform the administrative work of government, excluding the armed forces.

- The use of **patronage**—the practice of giving government jobs to supporters and friends—was in use throughout most of the nineteenth century.

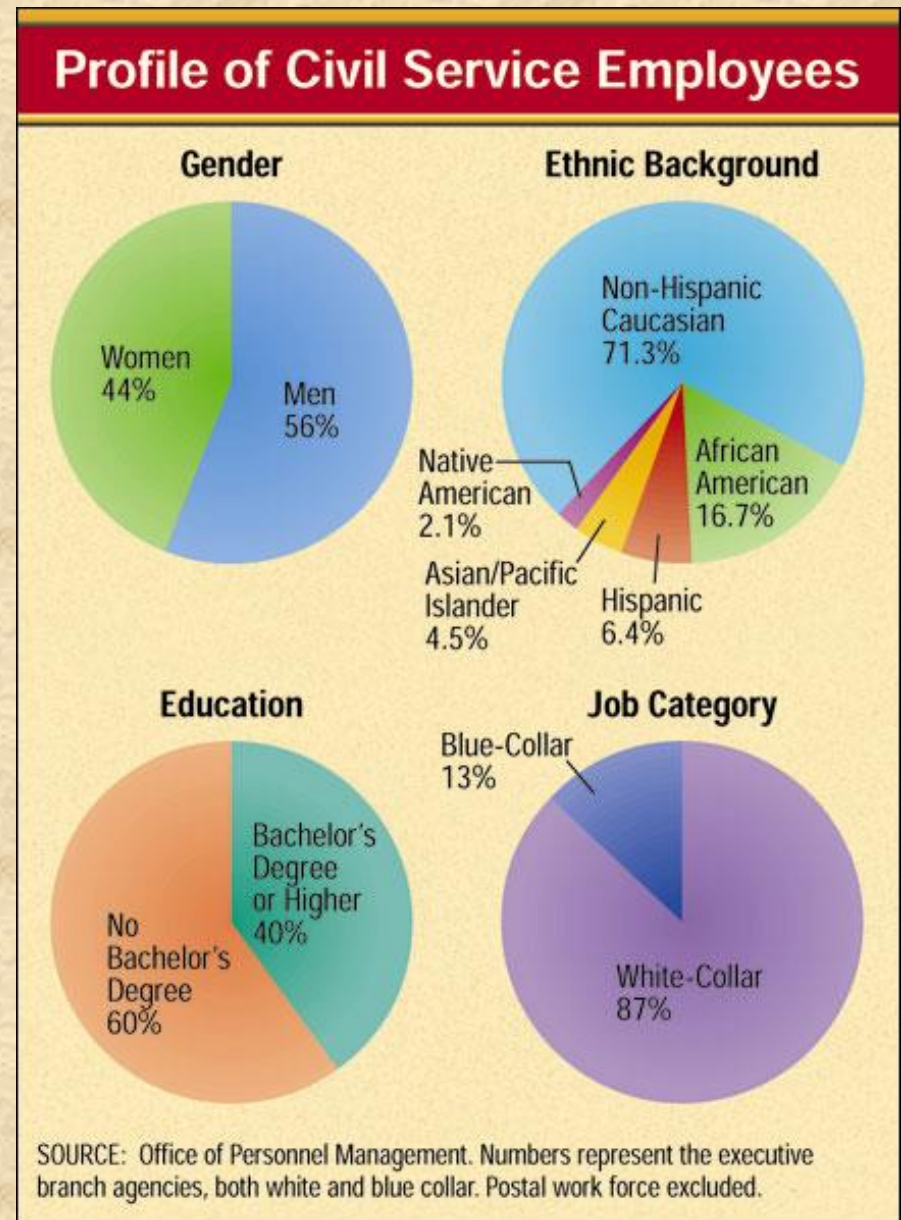
**The civil service is that group of public employees who perform the administrative work of government, excluding the armed forces.**

- **The Pendleton Act, also known as the Civil Service Act of 1883, laid the foundation of the present federal civil service system, and set merit as the basis for hiring in most civil service positions.**

# The Civil Service Today

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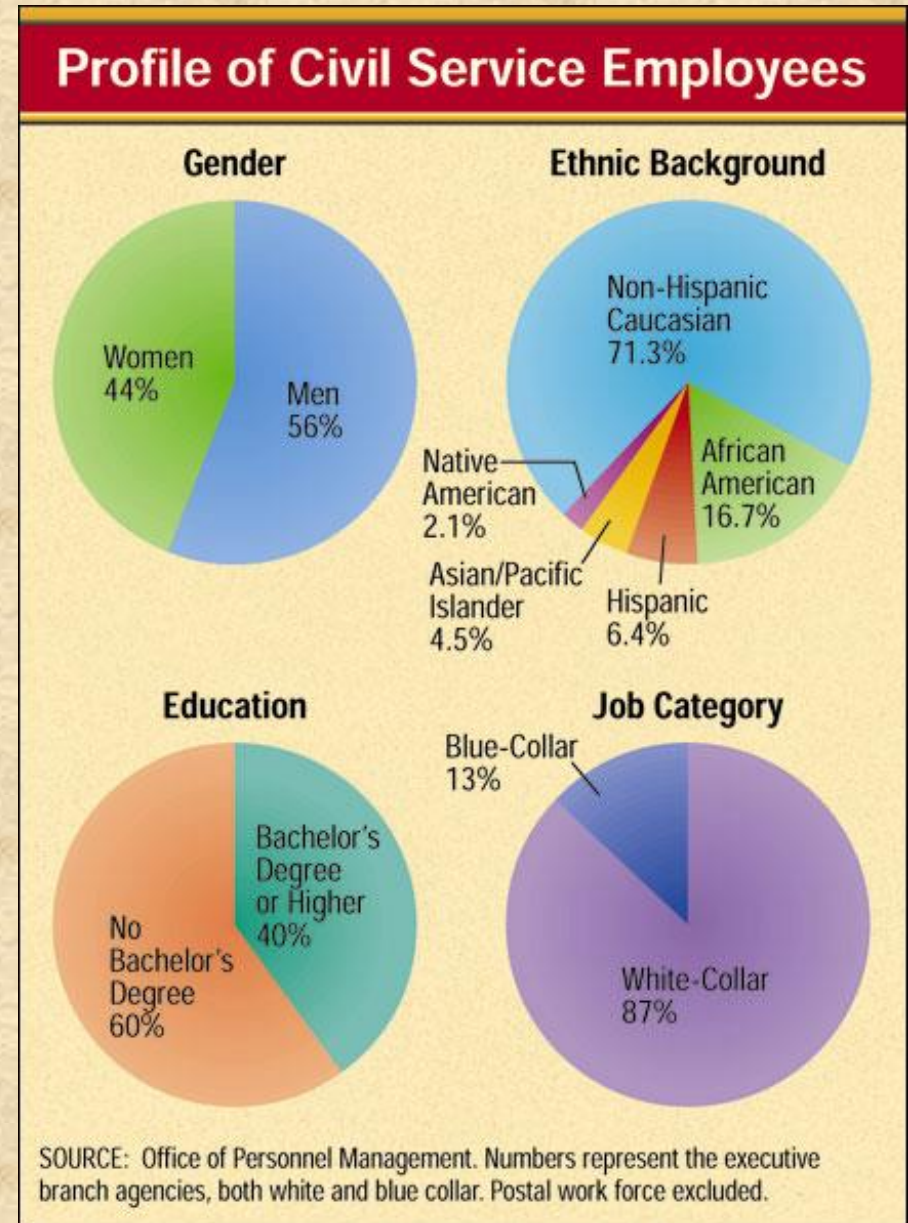
- **The Office of Personnel Management is the central clearinghouse in the federal recruiting, examining, and hiring process.**



# The Civil Service Today

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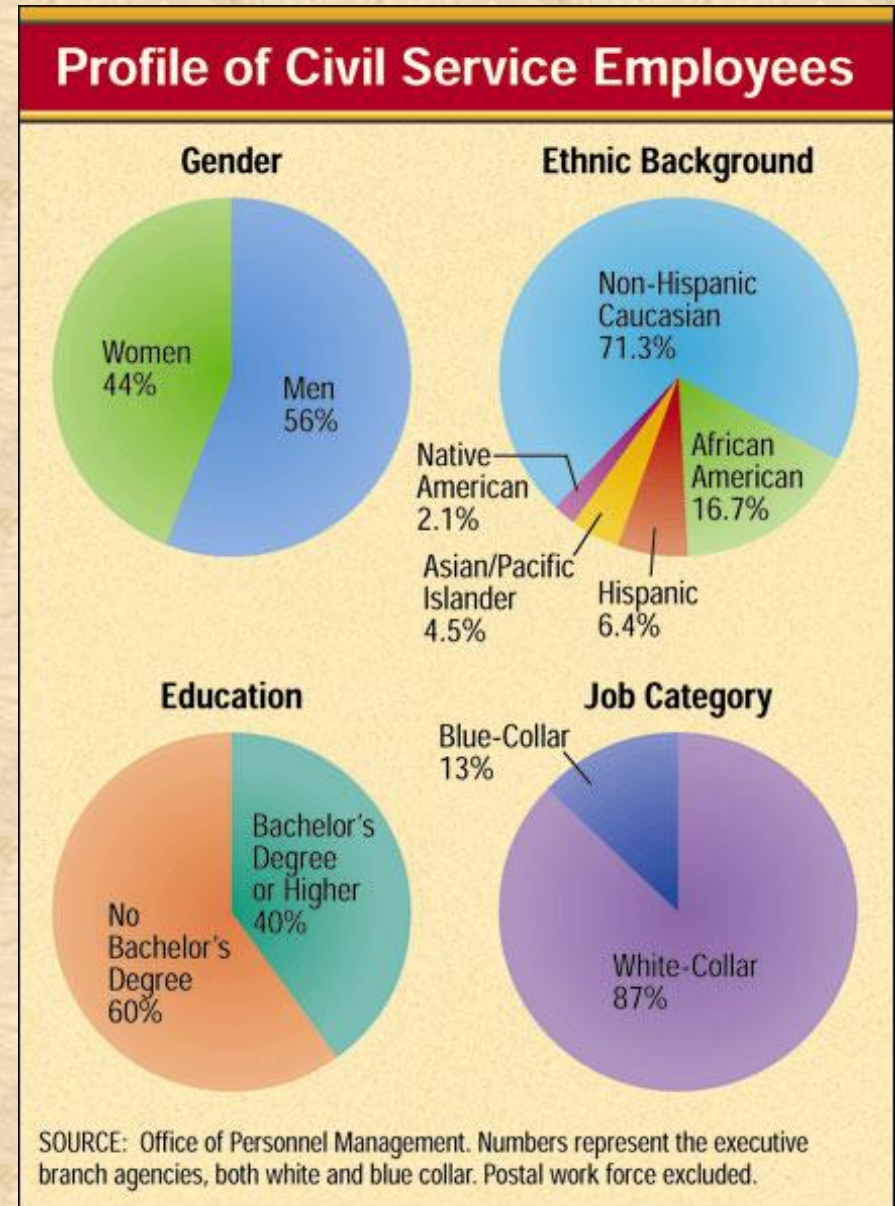
- **The Merit Systems Protection Board enforces the merit principle in the federal bureaucracy.**



# The Civil Service Today

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- Congress sets the pay and other job conditions for everyone who works for the Federal Government, except for postal employees.



**Several laws and a number of OPM regulations place restrictions on the political activities of federal civil servants:**

- **The Hatch Act of 1939 allows federal workers to vote in elections, but forbids them from taking part in partisan political activities.**



- **The Federal Employees Political Activities Act of 1993 relaxes many of the restrictions of the Hatch Act. It still forbids federal workers from:**
  - (1) running in partisan elections;**
  - (2) engaging in party work on government property or while on the job;**
  - (3) collecting political contributions from subordinates or the general public; or**
  - (4) using a government position to influence an election.**

# Review

## 1. The Pendleton Act established

(a) that the Supreme Court would regulate personnel decisions.

(b) that any U.S. citizen was guaranteed a civil service job.

(c) merit as the basis for hiring and other personnel actions in the civil service.

(d) the basis of the spoils system.

# Review

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**2. The U.S. Postal Service is an example of**

- (a) an independent regulatory commission.**
- (b) a Cabinet department.**
- (c) an independent executive agency.**
- (d) a government corporation.**