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# **Government and Politics in the United States**

**Gutteau William Backus**

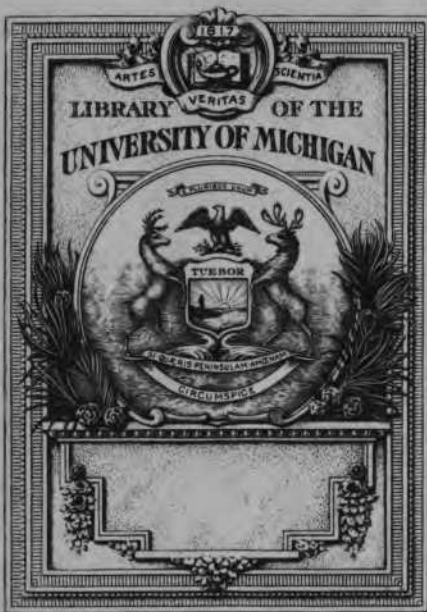
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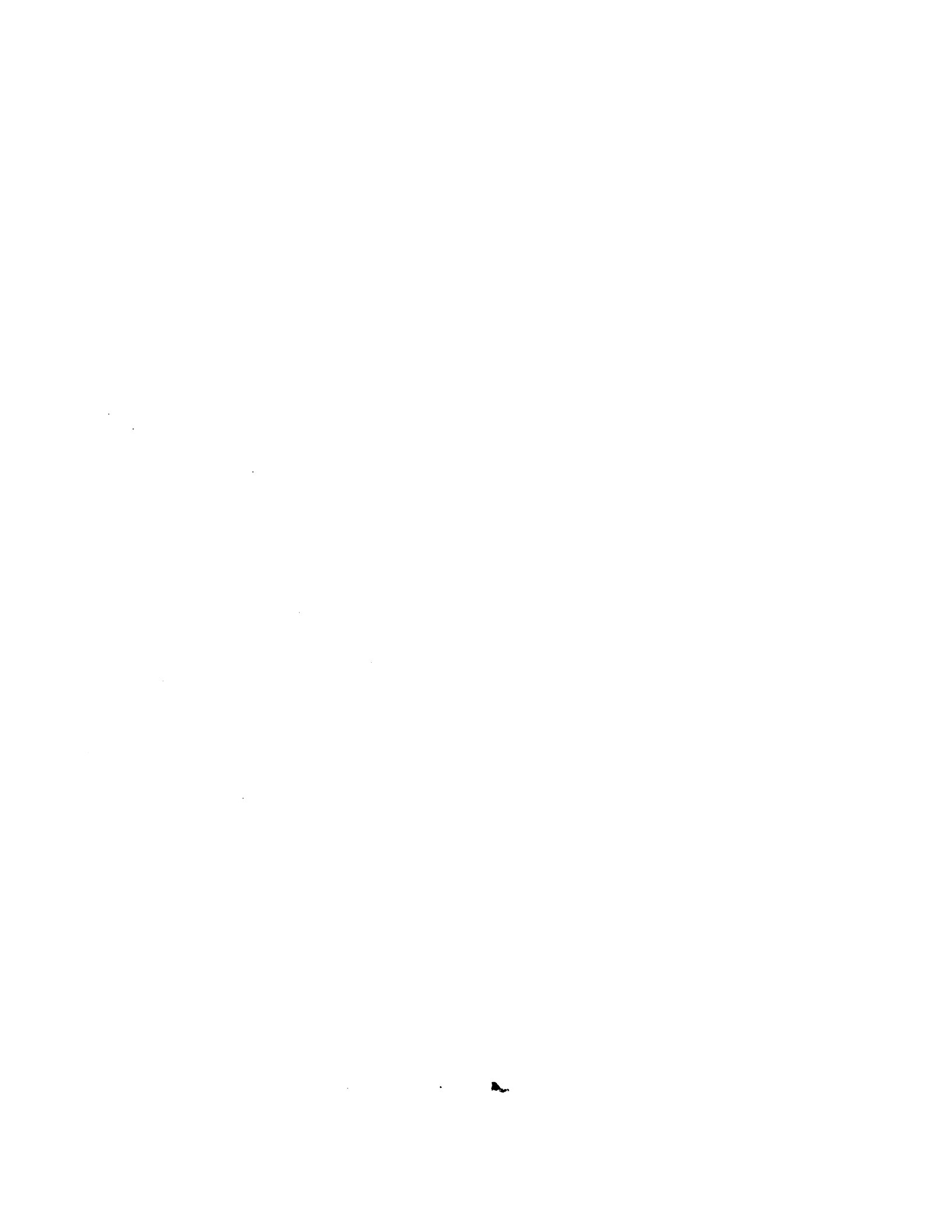
**Author: Guitteau William Backus**

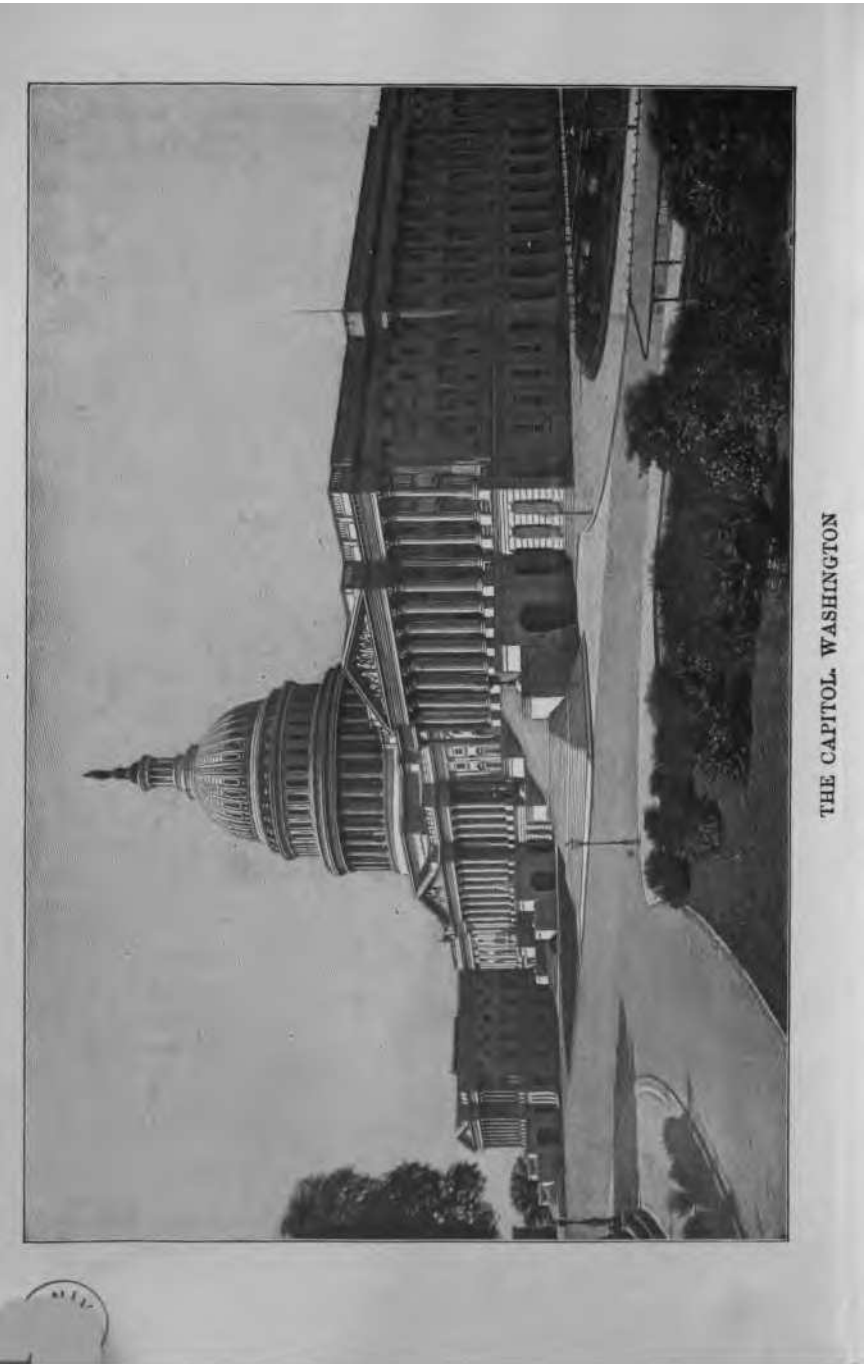
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THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Problems in American Democracy**

BY

**WILLIAM BACKUS GUTTEAU, Ph.D.**

*Director of Schools, Toledo, Ohio*

**WITH ILLUSTRATIONS**



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**TO THE  
BOYS AND GIRLS  
OF THE  
TOLEDO HIGH SCHOOLS**

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## PREFACE

Most teachers of Civics agree that the presentation of this subject should commence with local government, and then proceed to the study of the government of the State, and finally of the Nation. Not only is this the correct order historically, but by beginning with local government, the pupil first studies those governmental agencies with which he is most familiar. School district, township, and municipal governments are nearer to his daily life and experiences; and from this basis of civic facts he can proceed more readily to the study of State and federal government.

In presenting each of these fields of study, the same general plan of treatment has been followed: first, the origin of government has been briefly outlined, so that the relation of government to history may be understood; second, the structure or machinery of government has been described; and third, the functions or activities of government have been presented, special emphasis being laid upon this phase of the subject. This emphasis is in accordance with the legitimate demand that greater attention be given to the study of applied civics; and accordingly more than half of the chapters of the text are devoted to the work which governments perform.

In order to make the study of government concrete and vital, the largest possible use should be made of such material as town warrants, legislative bills, sample ballots, presidential messages, and the like. A detailed list of material for this purpose is given in Appendix "D." As a further aid to supplementary work, a suggestive list of questions and exercises has been placed at the end of each chapter, together with a chapter bibliography. These questions and exercises should be assigned to different members



of the class, in order that each pupil may learn to use the reference works cited, to distinguish between essential and relatively unimportant facts, and to prepare acceptable reports upon special topics.

A list of the works deemed indispensable for the school's reference library will be found in Appendix "E"; and if funds permit, many others should be included, chosen from the chapter bibliographies.

Members of the class should be encouraged to visit township, county, and municipal offices; and local officials should be invited to come before the class and describe the business of their departments. Added interest may be secured by organizing the class into a town meeting, or as a city council, State legislature, or branch of Congress. A bulletin board in the classroom for newspaper clippings pertaining to governmental affairs will prove both interesting and helpful.

The author of this text desires to express his sincere appreciation of the kindness of several friends in reading portions of the manuscript, and in aiding him with valuable suggestions and corrections. To Professor R. C. Brooks of the University of Cincinnati, he is indebted for reading the chapters on local government. Professor H. V. Ames of the University of Pennsylvania has examined the historical chapters, as well as those on the State and federal constitutions. Professor F. M. Taylor of the University of Michigan has read the chapters on finance. Professor J. W. Jenks of Cornell University has given many helpful suggestions concerning the discussion of the federal government. Professor G. W. Knight of the Ohio State University has done the same for the chapters on Relations of State and Federal Government, Political Parties, and Nominations and Elections. Professor Wilbur Siebert of the Ohio State University has read the chapters on the State Legislature, the State Executive, and the State's Economic Functions.

## PREFACE

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Professor Carl Kelsey of the University of Pennsylvania has given valuable suggestions concerning the discussion of Crimes and Charities. The chapters on the State and Federal Judiciary have been revised and greatly improved by my friends C. F. Watts and Lloyd T. Williams of the Toledo Bar. The graphical charts were prepared by Mr. George Dunn, of the Toledo Central High School.

While the author is of course solely responsible for all errors and shortcomings in the work, he feels a deeper sense of obligation and gratitude to these friends than he can express by a formal acknowledgment in a preface.

WILLIAM BACKUS GUITTEAU.

TOLEDO, OHIO,  
*January 9, 1911.*

## NOTE TO THE EDITION OF 1918

In the new edition of this book, the same emphasis has been placed as in former editions upon the actual workings of government. Especial attention has been given to the more recent activities of the federal government, as manifested in the organization of the Federal Reserve System, the Farm Loan Banks, the United States Tariff Commission, the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and the numerous boards and commissions created to meet the imperative needs of military defense. In the present edition, most of the smaller type has been reset in type of standard size, to meet the wishes of many teachers by whom this text-book has been so kindly received.

TOLEDO, OHIO,  
*July 10, 1918.*



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