

**A MANUAL OF CIVIL  
GOVERNMENT; DESIGNED  
ESPECIALLY FOR USE IN THE  
SCHOOLS OF NEW YORK STATE**

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A manual of civil government; Designed especially for use in the schools of New York State by Henry C. Coon

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State Capitol at Albany.

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A MANUAL  
OF  
Civil Government

*Designed especially for use in the  
Schools of New York State*

BY

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## **Analysis of Contents.**

### **CHAPTER I.**

Definitions and General Principles.

### **CHAPTER II.**

History of the Constitution of the United States.

### **CHAPTER III.**

The Government of the United States.

Sec. 1—Legislative. Sec. 2—Executive. Sec. 3—Judiciary.

### **CHAPTER IV.**

History of the Constitution of New York.

### **CHAPTER V.**

Civil Polity or Government of New York.

Sec. 1—Town and its Divisions. Sec. 2—County. Sec. 3—  
Legislature of the State. Sec. 4—Executive of the State.  
Sec. 5—Judiciary of the State. Sec. 6—Juries. Sec. 7—  
Villages and Cities.

### **CHAPTER VI.**

Miscellaneous Topics.

Sec. 1—Constitutional and Legal Terms. Sec. 2—Crimes.  
Sec. 3—Commercial and Business Terms.

### **CHAPTER VII.**

Declaration of Independence.

### **CHAPTER VIII.**

Constitution of the United States.

### **CHAPTER IX.**

Constitution of New York State.



## PREFACE.

The essentials of Civics or Civil Government should be understood by every citizen and should be taught in all our schools. This manual has been developed from notes given to classes, and plans formed while the author was teaching the subject in Alfred University, and contains a brief statement of general principles; the history of the constitutions and elements of the governments of the United States and New York, with their constitutions, and such definitions of terms as seem necessary.

These can be expanded or abridged by the teacher to meet the needs of the various classes. The subject matter has been obtained from many sources, and has been revised to conform to the new constitution of the State of New York, and the laws of 1897. In offering this book to the public, the author has yielded to the earnest and oft repeated solicitations of students and teachers, and inasmuch as the value of a clear and widespread knowledge of this subject cannot be overestimated, this volume is submitted with the hope that it may contribute something to this end. The author wishes to acknowledge his obligations to L. C. Rogers, D. D., Professor of Political Science and History in Alfred University, for help in reading the proof and for many valuable suggestions; also to H. A. Baker, Esq., Hornellsville N. Y., and Chas. Stillman, Esq., of Alfred, Secretary of the Board of Supervisors of Allegany county, for helps on legal questions.

The author received his first inspiration in this subject from the study of "Young's First Government Class Book," and many valuable suggestions from his subsequent works.

ALFRED, N. Y., 1897.

HENRY C. COON.

# A Manual of Civil Government.

## CHAPTER I.

### DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

"CIVICS" (Latin, *civis*—a citizen). The body of knowledge or science which devotes itself to the consideration of citizenship relations, including the reciprocal relations of government and citizenship. Civics seeks to properly co-ordinate, as parts of an integral science, the essential truths with which the citizen must be familiar in order to the best use of his powers and privileges. It includes

I. ETHICS. The doctrine of duties in society. In other words, the study and setting forth of the conditions in human character which are essential to the welfare of the citizen, society and government. As right character is the natural source of right actions, the science of civics first concerns itself with the facts which underlie and account for these essential characteristics of the good citizen.

II. CIVIL POLITY. Governmental methods and machinery; suffrage, rights and obligations, the qualifications and duties of public officials; executive, legislative and judicial affairs, and all other matters having relation to the orderly and proper administration of government.

III. LAW. The principles and facts of the law in application most directly involving the interest of society, and especially of the citizen and the government.

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\* Divisions, as given by Henry Randall Waite, President of The American Institute of Civics, in "Political Science News."

IV. **ECONOMICS.** The principles or laws which explain the production, distribution and ownership of that which constitutes, or is technically called, wealth.

V. **SOCIOLOGY.** The science of society in all its relations, and the care of the dependent, defective and delinquent classes.

VI. **HISTORY.** Collateral facts illustrative of tendencies and results growing out of given conditions, considered in connection with ethic, civil polity, law, sociology, and economics."

**GOVERNMENT** (from the Latin, *gubernare*) is control. Government is the instrument or agent which society uses to secure justice and progress. It is used in two senses: 1st. It consists of customs, rules or laws commanding what society wishes to have done, and forbidding what it does not wish to have done. 2d. It consists of the rulers or officers whose business it is to have these rules or laws enforced.

Divine government is the control of God over his creatures.

Family government is the control of parents over their children and other members of the family.

School government is the control of the teacher over the scholars, aided by the trustee when necessary.

Civil government is the control of the state or nation over its citizens or inhabitants, or according to Alden, "the powers and laws established by which the will of the state is expressed and executed."

Three things are necessary for the maintenance of a good government:

- 1st. Intelligence to determine what is right.
- 2d. A will to choose the right.