

**THE GOVERNMENT CLASS BOOK:  
A YOUTH'S MANUAL OF  
INSTRUCTION IN THE PRINCIPLES  
OF CONSTITUTIONAL  
GOVERNMENT AND LAW**

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The government class book: a youth's manual of instruction in the principles of constitutional government and law by Andrew W. Young & Salter S. Clark

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**ANDREW W. YOUNG & SALTER S. CLARK**

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THIS

# GOVERNMENT CLASS BOOK.

*A Youth's Manual of Instruction in the Principles of  
Constitutional Government and Law.*

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PART I. PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT;

- I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT.
- II. GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE.
- III. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

PART II. PRINCIPLES OF LAW;

- I. COMMON AND STATUTORY LAW (OR MUNICIPAL LAW).
  - II. INTERNATIONAL LAW.
- 

BY ANDREW W. YOUNG,

*Author of "American Statesman," "Citizen's Manual of Government  
and Law," etc., etc.*

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NEW EDITION,

THOROUGHLY REVISED

BY SALTER S. CLARK.

*Counsellor at Law.*

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## PREFACE.

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THERE is probably none to deny that the study of the principles of political science is a necessary part of a liberal education. But in a country where the people govern themselves we believe it is more than this: it is a necessary part of a common-school education. In the United States there is the strongest reason for this, for here not only do high and low alike elect their own law-makers and rulers, but they also establish their own constitutions and determine even the fundamental principles upon which they shall be governed. The danger of entrusting such power to the ignorant has not failed of illustration here, and lately. But having universal suffrage—for good or evil—there is but one resource, to teach the people how to govern themselves.

NOR is a knowledge of the principles of legal science less necessary to every person. The laws of man know as little of mercy as the laws of nature, in that they never admit ignorance as an excuse for wrong. It is a proof of the essential justice of our system of jurisprudence, that so many pass safely through life, totally ignorant of the law, and relying merely upon their own sense of what should be. And yet every day gives proof that ignorance is always dangerous. The study of such a work will not make a youth a lawyer, but it will fix in his mind a system of broad principles, which cannot fail to be useful practically.

Though these facts are self-evident, this study has been heretofore strangely neglected. The aim of this book, in supplying a want believed to exist, is to present, in such form as to be used chiefly as a text-book for schools, a broad and comprehensive view of the principles of government and law in the United States (which are substantially the same throughout the country), and thus to teach the young the varied rights and duties of a citizen in relation to his government and his fellow-citizens.

The book is divided into two parts.

Part I., *Principles of Government*, is devoted (after a few chapters upon general principles), first, to government by the State, and second, to government by the Nation. It is here that the book is believed to have its chief advantage over others of its kind. In all that we have examined, either one or the other of these subjects has been neglected. Many youth have grown to manhood with so little appreciation of the political importance of the State, as to believe it nothing more than a geographical division; others have placed the State too high and failed to realize the power and dignity of the Nation. In reality, the National Government, on the one hand, is of far greater historic interest and permanent political importance, as really governing the future freedom or serfdom of the race. On the other hand, the State, which says whether the particular individual shall vote, what rights of property he shall have, and what shall be the punishment for his crimes, enters far more into the daily affairs of the single citizen, touches him at more points, and is therefore of greater temporary interest. Both subjects should be studied, and it is of especial importance at this time that their relation to each other should be clearly presented to the youth of the land, for State rights and National rights have not yet finished their conflict.



Part II., *Principles of Law*, contains also two divisions, the first one presenting the main principles which govern the rights and duties of man to man in his every-day life, his varied rights connected with personal security, liberty, and property; and the second giving the rules by which the relations of nations to each other are regulated.

Thus the volume presents a general view of the position of the citizen in all the relations he may sustain in this country: to his fellow-citizen, to his State, to his Nation, and to foreign nations. Throughout the book the purpose has been to omit all details, so as not to injure the effect of the principle, even where a small untruth is implied for the sake of a larger truth.

The present revision has, it is thought, made extensive improvement, by changes and additions which the great events of the last few years have rendered necessary, by pursuing a more natural and logical order, with proper subordination of topics, by confining each paragraph of the chapter to a single subject and supplying it with a title, and by the addition of schemes, where appropriate, to be used as blackboard exercises, and of review questions for the use of both pupil and teacher. It is confidently hoped that the book in this revision may find as much favor as has been kindly shown it in the past.

S. S. C.

NEW YORK, June 21, 1880.

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