

# **THE ESSENTIALS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

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The essentials of American government by Francis Newton Thorpe

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**FRANCIS NEWTON THORPE**

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AMERICAN  
GOVERNMENT**



# The Essentials of American Government

By

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The principle of representation is the pivot on which the American and all other Republics move.

—*The Federalist*, LXIII.

“For one may not imagine man’s unjust decrees to be laws; all men defining law to arise out of the fountain of justice.”

—Cicero, *De Legibus*, I.

“The wise man is the State.”—Emerson, *Politics*.



## SUGGESTIONS

It is somewhat presumptuous to attempt to reduce American Government to its essential principles. The subject is difficult—more or less technical and quite beyond the compass of any one book. Therefore, in writing the present volume, the author cites many books in which the matter under immediate consideration is discussed at length. The rule of rules for the student of American government is *Multum*, not *Multa*. There is peril, if only the principle be considered, that what knowledge is gained will be an acquaintance with abstractions; if the example, or illustration alone is considered, the peril is of a memory of facts more or less temporary, or isolated. Government is essentially organic in nature and must be studied as an organism.

In order to make possible a fair knowledge of our government in its various forms or applications, a person should have experience in its