

# Political Science 10 – American Politics

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- Cobert Report

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- Average American exhibits little knowledge of political institutions, processes, leaders, and policy debates.

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- Thus, even average citizens can form meaningful political opinions/making voting decisions consistent with their underlying preferences

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- **Clinton Administration and the War Room.** Many people who work for presidents worked on their campaigns, and so are experienced in public relations

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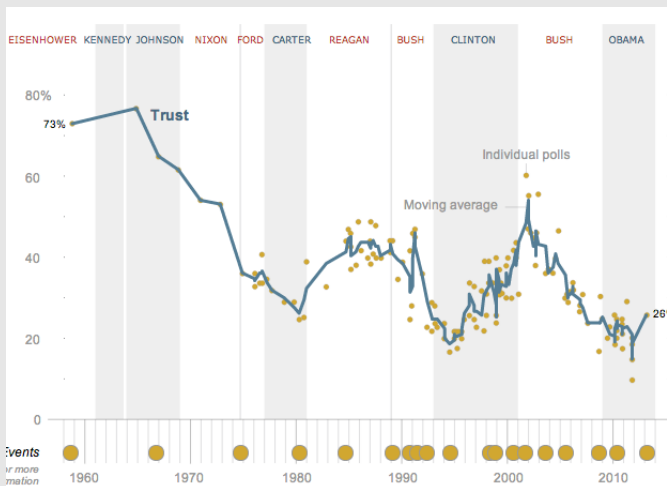
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- In 1964, on eve of Vietnam War, 77% of Americans expected gov’t to “do the right thing” most/all of the time. Ten years later that number fell to 36%.

# Trust in Government Time Series



## *Measuring Public Opinion: The Sample Survey*

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- **Random Digit Dial:** Ten digit numbers are randomly generated from a computer, and then called. Most national samples use this method



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- Federal assistance to the “poor” versus “welfare” evokes much different responses.

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- Selection Bias: The sample is not representative of the target population. Too many older people, too few minority voters. Can be a serious problem with likely voter models.