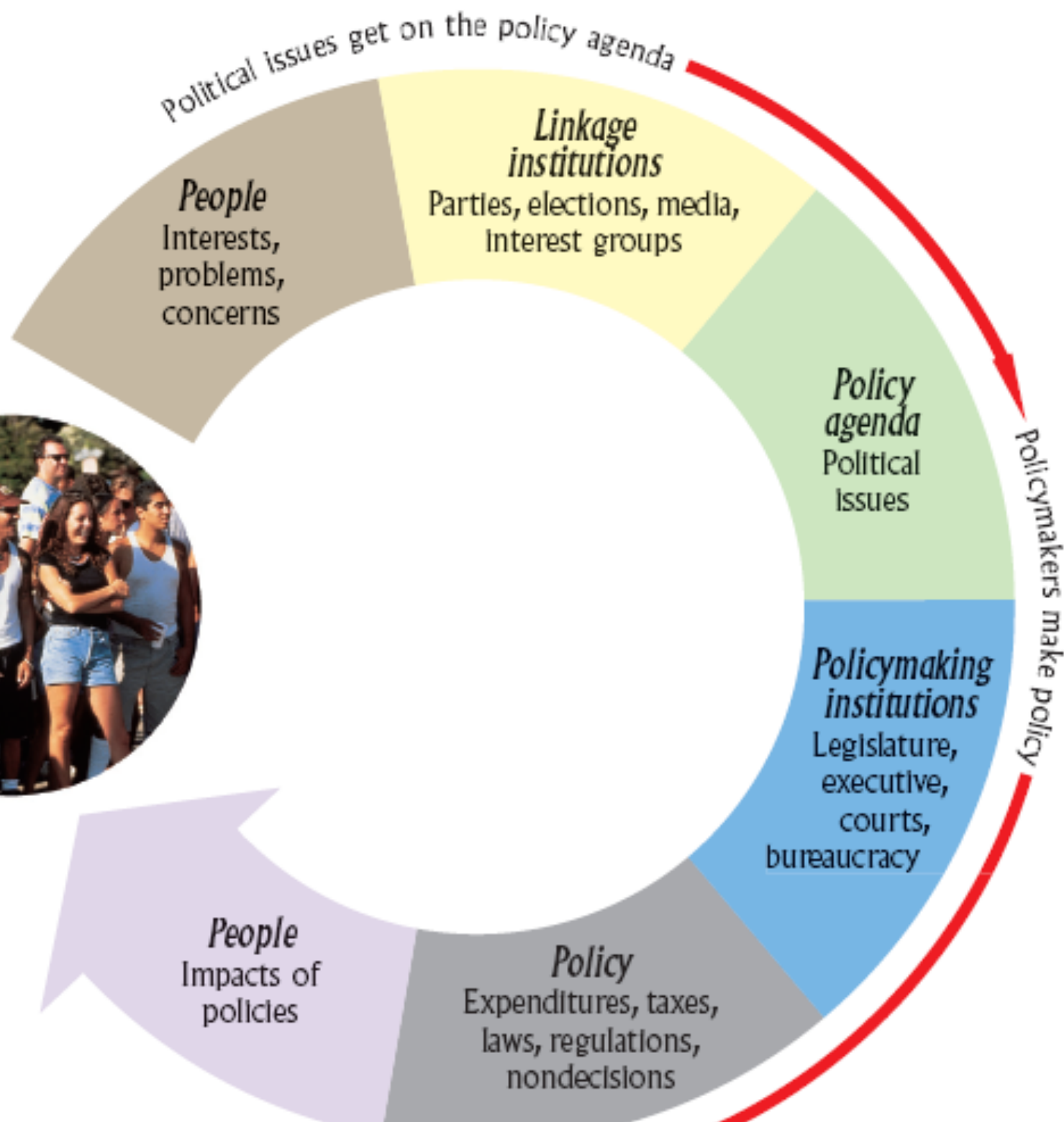


Chapter 1

Policy and Democracy



The Policymaking System

People Shape Policy

People have interests, problems, and concerns.

The four linkage institutions are political parties, elections, mass media, and interest groups

The Policymaking System

People Shape Policy (cont.)

Policy agenda is the issues that attract the serious attention of public officials.

The four policymaking institutions are the **legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, and the bureaucracy.**



The Policymaking System

Policies Impact People

Public policy is a choice that government makes in response to a political issue.

Policy impacts are the effects a policy has on people and problems

Democracy

Three Contemporary Theories of American Democracy

Pluralist Theory is a theory of government and policies emphasizing that politics is mainly a competition among groups, each one pressing for its own preferred policies. Groups must bargain and compromise to get policies.

Democracy

Three Contemporary Theories of American Democracy (cont.)

Elite and Class Theory contends that societies are divided along class lines and that an upper-class elite will rule. Policies benefit those with money and power.

Democracy

Three Contemporary Theories of American Democracy (cont.)

Hyperpluralism is a theory of government and politics contending that groups are so strong that government is weakened.

Confusing and contradictory policies result from politicians trying to placate every group.

