



# THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY: ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY: POLITICS & ADMINISTRATION



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## Small Government & the Patronage System

- Federal bureaucracy started small (3000 employees in the year 1800).
- Role mainly focused on defense and foreign affairs, currency, interstate commerce, and mail delivery.
- Management and national government only entrusted to distinguished men (men of education and political experience from mostly socially prominent families).
- Andrew Jackson believed ordinary good citizens should administer government and administrators should rotate to ensure fresh ideas.

## Growth in Government & the Merit System

- Rapid change of the country meant rapid change in bureaucracy.
- The Industrial Revolution saw massive economic shift and need for government assistance.
- In 1889, the Department of Agriculture was established to answer the needs of farmers.
- In 1903, Congress established the Department of Commerce and Labor to “promote the mutual interests” of the nations firms and workers.

# GROWTH IN GOVERNMENT & MERIT SYSTEM

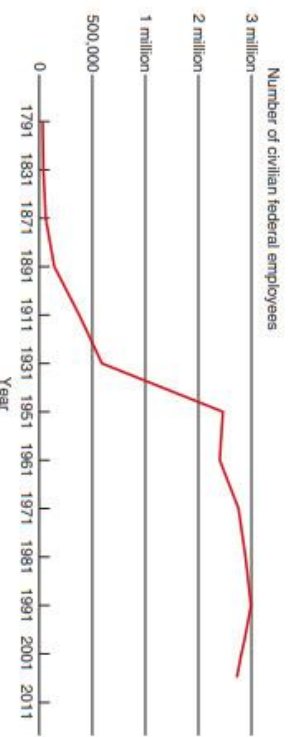


Figure 13-2 from Federal Bureaucracy: Administering the Government

“By 1930, federal employment reached 600,000, a six fold increase from the 1880’s”-Patterson, 2009, p. 382

## ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION...

**Patronage System:** An approach to managing the bureaucracy whereby appointees are assigned as a reward for rendered political service and partisan loyalty.

**Spoils System:** Granting public office to individuals in return for political favors.

**Merit System (Civil Service):** Competitive examinations or special qualifications are considered when appointing government positions.