The Challenge of Democracy: Government in America by Jerry Goldman

The Seventh Edition of The Challenge of Democracy maintains the framework that explores two themes: freedom, order, and equality as political values; and the majoritarianism vs. pluralism debate, but also examines the impact that globalization has on the American political system. In the Post 9/11 Update, the authors examine the September 11 attacks and their impact on American politics. These updates will reflect the thematic framework of the text and be integrated throughout this updated version. In-text icons integrate the Real Deal UpGrade CD-ROM with the text and internet exercises.

Politics in a Changing World boxed features appear in every other chapter and highlight how American politics affect the world and how the worlds politics affect the United States. Can You Explain Why? features challenge students to use critical-thinking skills to explain a political paradox. Politics in a Changing America features highlight changes in the political opportunity and participation of minority groups. Compared with What boxes ask students to evaluate facets of the American political system in relation to those of other countries.

My Personal Review:
This is an excellent 'first look' deeper into American politics, and should be required reading for Poli Sci 101 classes. What separates 'Challenge of Democracy' from most other 'beginner's' political science books is its unabashed but un-partisaned look at the workings of the American political system from the inside out and the outside in. The title alone suggests that Democracy is not a one way street from the Hill down, but something which needs to be constantly nurtured and protected from going astray. The 'challenge' is also in using our political system as a tool to maintain our freedoms and as a vehicle for change to enable us more freedoms and at the same time greater security. In short, 'The Challenge of Democracy' will get one thinking deeper about the inner-workings and dynamics of the American political system by focusing on a broader spectrum of its use, abuse, and everyday applications.