“And That’s The Way It Is”

Video Transcript

Legendary newsman Walter Cronkite, who was once called “the most trusted man in America,” anchored the CBS Evening News from 1962-1981. Each night, he ended his newscast with the phrase, “and that’s the way it is.”

The world is changing faster than ever. The “knowledge doubling curve,” as it’s commonly known, was created by Buckminster Fuller in 1982. To put this in context, in 1900, human knowledge doubled at the seemingly amazing speed of every 100 years. By the end of 1945, this had changed to every 25 years. And now? The estimate is every 13 months, with the human race quickly on its way (with the help of the Internet) to every 12 hours!

This knowledge — and the enmeshment of knowledge with the societies, cultures, and politics brought about by this ever-shrinking world — has brought major changes to the roles played by governments and individuals. This globalization has not occurred without impacting the countries, their citizens, and their governments.

Yet, the government of the United States — one of the most complex, confusing, and even frustrating entities man has ever created — continues to function effectively and efficiently in this radically and swiftly changing world environment.

Learning the intricacies of the U.S. government can introduce you to both the strengths and limitations of the American democracy. Remember, when the Constitution was written, the United States consisted of the original 13 states and covered not much more than the Atlantic seaboard of North America. Now, over 220 years later, there are over 350 million people living in 50 states, encompassing almost the entire North American continent. This original Constitution has only been modified 27 times in over 220 years! From a weak, second-class upstart to the most powerful military, economic, and political power the world has ever seen, this government — this Constitution — has been sufficient to say the least, even in a shrinking world doubling in knowledge at blinding speeds.
Americans share a mutual sense of love, frustration, irritation, and admiration of this unique, never-to-be-duplicated government. As time goes on, may the Stars and Stripes wave on. As Walter Cronkite would say, “...and that’s the way it is.”

About this transcript:

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