BACKGROUND: *It had formerly been the practice to use phrase headings of the type [. . .]
policy (for example, **Urban policy**, **Housing policy**) or of the type [. . .] and state (for example,
Education and state, **Theater and state**) to designate government policy on the topic in question.
In 1980, the subdivision –Government policy (May Subd Geog) was made a free-floating
subdivision to be used in lieu of establishing phrase headings of this type.   This instruction
sheet provides guidelines for assigning the subdivision –Government policy (May Subd Geog)
under topical headings and under headings for classes of persons or ethnic groups for works
describing the course of action selected by national, state, or local governments to guide
decision making and programs pertaining to the topic, class of persons, or ethnic group.*

1. Use of the free-floating subdivision.   Use the subdivision **–Government policy** *(May Subd
Geog)* as described above under any heading for which a corresponding phrase heading has not
already been established.   *Examples:*

> *Title: Final report, the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.*
> ```
>         650 #0 $a Older people $x Government policy $z United States
>                 $v Congresses.
> ```

> *Title: Overview of state policies related to adolescent parenthood.*
> ```
>         650 #0 $a Adolescent parents $x Government policy $z United
>                 States $x States.
> ```

> *Exception:*   Do not use **–Government policy** under headings designating activities that
> are inherently governmental in nature, for example, **City planning**; **Finance, Public**;
> **Crime prevention**.

2. Use of existing phrase headings.   Continue to use existing headings that have been
established in the form **[. . .] policy** or **[. . .] and state**.   Do not, however, propose new
headings of this type.

3. Free-floating subdivisions for specific types of policy.   Some phrase headings for policy are
not authorized for geographic subdivision because corresponding subdivisions are used under
names of places, for example, **–Cultural policy**, **–Commercial policy**, **–Economic policy**,
–Military policy, **–Population policy**, **–Social policy**.   See H 1140 for the complete list of
free-floating subdivisions used under names of places.

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4.   *Chronological subdivision.*   The subdivisions –Economic policy and –Social policy may be subdivided chronologically.   Establish each use of a chronological subdivision.

Do not chronologically subdivide **–Government policy**, **–Commercial policy**, **–Cultural policy**, **–Military policy**, or **–Population policy**. Assign additional headings to bring out a specific time period.