

# AP GOV

## POLITICAL PARTIES

### REVIEWED!

Government in America (Pearson) Chapter 8

American Government: (Wilson) Chapter 9  
Institutions & Policies

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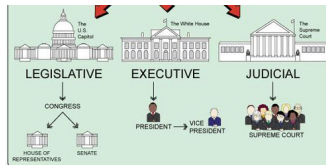
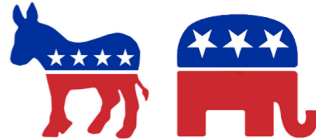
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### LET'S PARTY

- A **political party** is a group trying to win elections and control the government
- Party membership: open and fluid
- Party as an organization: national, state, and local offices and staff
- Party in government: elected officials who hold political office




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### Tasks of the Parties

- Important point: political parties are an example of a **linkage institution**
- Parties **select/recruit candidates** to run for office
  - Back in day party leadership used to nominate candidates
  - Now party membership vote for nominees in **primary elections**
- Parties run campaigns
  - Campaign management (media strategy & fundraising)
- Parties articulate policies and **platforms**
  - Mobilization and education of voters
- Parties coordinate policymaking between executive and legislative branches

POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGNING  
POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGNING  
POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGNING

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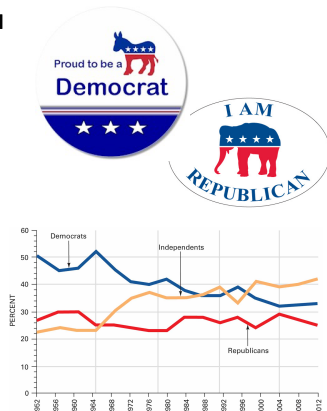
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## THE PARTY IN THE ELECTORATE

- Preference for one political party over another is known as **party identification**
- Increasing number of voters identify as **"Independents"**
- **Straight ticket voting:** voter chooses candidates from the same political party for every office up for election
- **Ticket splitting:** vote for different political parties for different political offices



## PARTY ORGANIZATION: Grass Roots to D.C.

- Political party organization exist at the local, state, and national level
- **Local parties** were once the main party organization
  - Urban political machines got out the vote and rewarded voters for their support
    - NY: Boss Tweed
  - Jobs given to supporters / campaign contributors (**patronage**)
  - Progressive Era reforms required jobs be "merit based"
- **State party organizations** decide the rules for voting
  - **Open primary:** all voters can vote in the election
    - Do NOT have to be registered with the political party to vote for the candidate
  - **Closed primary:** must be registered party member to vote



## PARTY ORGANIZATION: NATIONAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

- **National convention** takes place every 4 years to formally nominate the presidential candidate and to adopt the party platform
- **National committee** is run by a National Chairperson who manages the operations of the party
  - Hires staff
  - Raise money
  - Represent party in the media
  - Daily duties of the party



### THE PARTY IN GOVERNMENT PROMISES & POLICY

- The political party in power will have the most influence over **public policy**
- **Coalition** are individuals and groups that support a party based on the party's performance in office.
- Oftentimes campaign promises are not kept
  - LBJ: Vietnam
  - Bush #1: taxes
- Major factor- losing control of legislative branch




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### PARTY ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

I SAID NO POLITICAL PARTIES



YOU HAD ONE JOB

- No mention of political parties in the Constitution
- Washington issued a warning about political parties in his "Farewell Address"
- Many other democratic countries have more than two parties
- For most of American history a **two-party system** has been the norm

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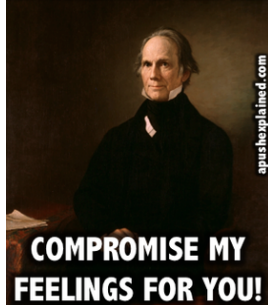
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### PARTY ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

- 1796-1824: **1<sup>st</sup> Party System**- Federalist vs. Democratic-Republicans
  - **Federalist** (Hamilton)
    - Favored a strong central government (BUS issue)
  - **Democratic-Republicans** (Jefferson)
    - Favored strong state government, weaker national
    - Agrarian
  - **Election of 1800**: loyal opposition and rotation of power
- 1828-1856: **2<sup>nd</sup> Party System**- Whigs vs. Democrats
  - **Democrats** (Jackson)
    - Expanded suffrage for white males
      - Elimination of property requirements for voting
  - **Whigs** (Henry Clay)
    - Formed in opposition to Jackson

NOT EVEN HENRY CLAY CAN



COMPROMISE MY  
FEELINGS FOR YOU!

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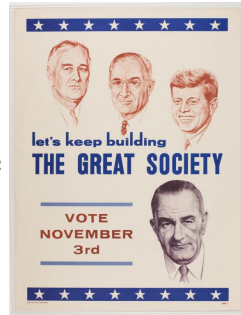
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## PARTY ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

- 1860-1928: **Republicans & Democrats**
  - 1850s the **Republican Party** formed in opposition to the expansion of slavery
    - Post Civil War: Favored high tariffs, internal improvements, etc.
  - **Democrats** control the south & urban areas
- 1932-1964: **New Deal Coalition**
  - Great Depression and the election of 1932 led to a shift in party loyalties
  - Democratic party under FDR supported **increased government involvement**
  - **New Deal coalition**: urban residents, unions, the poor, African Americans, etc.
  - New Deal coalition kept Democrats in power
    - Lyndon Johnson's Great Society
    - Battle over Vietnam War and civil rights policies- Fractured the New Deal coalition




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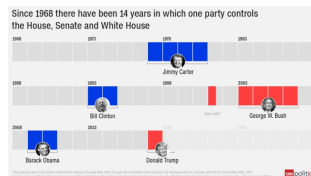
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## PARTY ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

- 1968-Present: **Southern Realignment**
  - Nixon wins Presidency in 1968
    - Support for states' rights, law and order, strong military
  - Southern white voters left Democrats ever since Democrats supported civil rights in 1948
  - Partisan realignment in the Southern states
- Era of **Divided Party Government**
  - Different parties control the executive and legislative branches
- **Political Dealignment**: voters moving away from both parties




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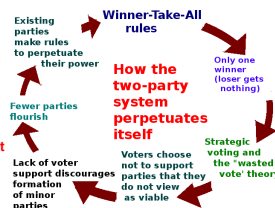
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## 3rd PARTIES IN AMERICAN POLITICS

- Even though we have a two party dominated system, **third parties** do exist
- **Three types of 3rd parties**:
  - Causes parties: promote a certain issue (prohibition, anti-abortion, etc.)
  - Offshoots of major parties: Teddy ran in 1912 under the Progressive Party
  - Individual aspirations: party that forms around a individual trying to get elected
- Third Parties rarely win office, but can impact the outcome and shape the debate
  - Split the vote
  - Force issues into the national debate
- Why only two parties?
  - U.S. has a **winner-take-all system**, first past the post, etc.)
  - Other countries have **proportional representation**




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## UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL PARTIES

- The issue of political parties is extraordinarily complex
- **Responsible party model** is the belief that the majority party present a distinct, comprehensive governing program and commit toward its implementation
  - Majority party would accept responsibility for its policies
- **Reality:** political parties are tremendously complex and oftentimes do not agree on party platforms
  - Southern Democrats are much more conservative than Northern counterparts (“**Blue Dog Democrat**”)
  - Party leadership is weak in the U.S. making it hard to enforce party unity and voting




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