

American Government 1

CHAPTER 17 Political Parties





What Is a Party?

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- A political party is a group of persons who seek to control government by winning elections and holding office.



What Is a Party? (continued) 4

- The two major parties in American politics are the Republican and Democratic parties.
- Parties can be principle-oriented, issue-oriented, or election-oriented. The American parties are election-oriented.





Senator Timothy Scott



What Do Parties Do?

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- Nominate Candidates — Recruit, choose, and present candidates for public office.
- Inform and Activate Supporters — Campaign, define issues, and criticize other candidates.
- Act as a Bonding Agent — Guarantee that their candidate is worthy of the office.



What Do Parties Do? (continued) 7

- **Govern** — Members of government act according to their **partisanship**, or firm allegiance to a party.



- **Act as a Watchdog** — Parties that are out of power keep a close eye on the actions of the **party in power** for a blunder to use against them in the next election.



Review

1. A political party can be
 - (a) principle-oriented.
 - (b) issue-oriented.
 - (c) election-oriented.
 - (d) all of the above.



Review

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2. Political parties fulfill all of the following functions EXCEPT

(a) acting as watchdog.

(b) informing and activating supporters.

(c) supplying all campaign funding.

(d) governing by partisanship.



Why a Two-Party System? ¹¹



1. The Historical Basis

The nation started out with two-parties: *the Federalists* and *the Anti-Federalists*.

Why a Two-Party System? 12

2. The Force of Tradition



America has a two-party system because it always *has* had one.

Minor parties, lacking wide political support, have never made a successful showing, so people are reluctant to support them.



Senator Lindsey Graham



3. The Electoral System



Certain features of government, such as single-member districts, are designed to favor two major parties.

Why a Two-Party System? (continued)

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4. Ideological Consensus



Most Americans have a general agreement on fundamental matters. Conditions that would spark several strong rival parties do not exist in the United States.



Multiparty Systems

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Advantages

- Provides broader representation of the people.
- More responsive to the will of the people.
- Give voters more choices at the polls.



Multiparty Systems (continued) 18



Disadvantages

- Cause parties to form coalitions, which can dissolve easily.
- Failure of coalitions can cause instability in government.

One-Party Systems

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Types of One-Party Systems

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graph TD; A[Types of One-Party Systems] --> B[One Party Systems where only one party is allowed.]; A --> C[Modified One-Party Systems where one party regularly wins most elections]; B --> D[Example: Dictatorships such as Stalinist Russia]; C --> E[Example: Republican North and Democratic South until the 1950s.]
```

One Party Systems where only one party is allowed.

Example:

Dictatorships such as Stalinist Russia

Modified One-Party Systems where one party regularly wins most elections

Example:

Republican North and Democratic South until the 1950s.

Party Membership Patterns

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Factors that can influence party membership:

<i>Family</i>	<i>Major events</i>
<i>Economic Status</i>	<i>Religion</i>
<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Age</i>



John Roberts
Chief Justice of the
Supreme Court



Section 2 Review

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1. When Democrats and Republicans cooperate with one another, they are acting in a _____ way.

- (a) strange
- (b) pluralistic
- (c) bipartisan
- (d) typical





Section 2 Review

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2. The outlook of the two parties could be described as

(a) “too little, too late.”

(b) “middle of the road.”

(c) “a day late and a dollar short.”

(d) “jumping on the bandwagon.”



The Nation's First Parties

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Federalists

- **Led by Alexander Hamilton**
- **Represented wealthy and upper-class interests**
- **Favored strong executive leadership and liberal interpretation of the Constitution**





Anti-Federalists



- **Led by Thomas Jefferson**
- **Represented the “common man”**
- **Favored Congress as the strongest arm of government and a strict interpretation of the Constitution**

American Parties: Four Major Eras 27

The Three Historical Eras

The Era of the Democrats, 1800—1860

- Democrats dominate all but two presidential elections.**
- The Whig Party emerges in 1834, but declines by the 1850s, electing only two Presidents.**
- The Republican Party is founded in 1854.**





American Parties: Four Major Eras (continued)

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The Three Historical Eras

The Era of the Republicans, 1860—1932

- Republicans dominate all but four presidential elections.**
- The Civil War disables the Democratic Party for the remainder of the 1800s.**



American Parties: Four Major Eras (continued)

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The Three Historical Eras

The Return of the Democrats, 1932—1968

- Democrats dominate all but two presidential elections.
- Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected President four times.





Representative Jeff Duncan
Third Congressional District of South Carolina

American Parties: Parties Today ³²



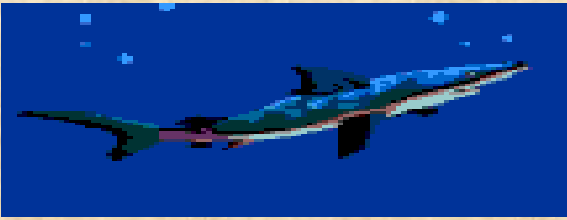
The Start of a New Era: The Era of Divided Government



Since 1968, neither Republicans nor Democrats have dominated the presidency and Congress has often been controlled by the opposing party.



American Parties: Parties Today 33



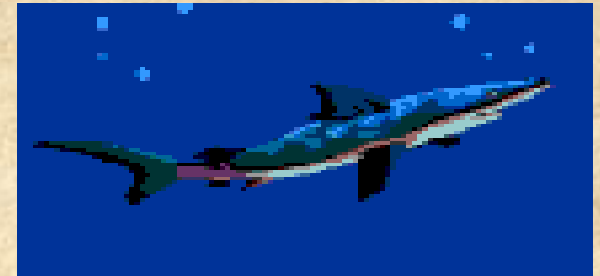
1968–1976



Republicans hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by *Democrats*



1976–1980



Democrats hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by *Democrats*



**Mayor Terence Roberts
of Anderson**

American Parties: Parties Today

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(continued)

1980 – 1992

Republicans hold the presidency

Senate controlled by *Republicans* 1980-1986,
controlled by *Democrats* from 1986 to 1994

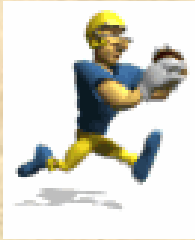
1992 – 2000

Democrats hold the presidency

Congress controlled by *Republicans*, 1994
to present

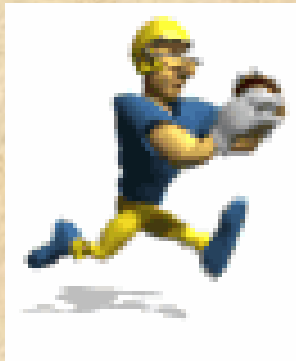
American Parties: Parties Today (continued)

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2000 - 2008

Republicans hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by *Republicans*.



2008

Democrats hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by *Democrats*.



Section 3 Review

1. The nation's first two parties were
 - (a) the Democrats and the Republicans.
 - (b) the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.
 - (c) the Democratic-Republicans and the Republican-Democrats.
 - (d) the Federalists and the Republicans.

Section 3 Review

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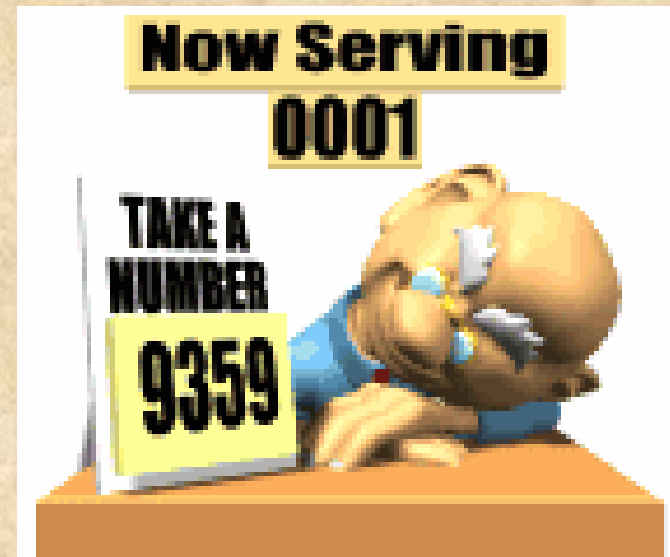
2. The Republican Party dominated the presidency from

(a) 1932–1968.

(b) 1860–1932.

(c) 1800–1860.

(d) 1783–1800.





Types of Minor Parties

```
graph TD; A[Types of Minor Parties] --> B[Ideological Parties]; A --> C[Single-issue Parties]; A --> D[Economic Protest Parties]; A --> E[Splinter Party]; B --> B1[Example: Libertarian Party]; C --> C1[Example: Free Soil Party]; D --> D1[Example: The Greenback Party]; E --> E1[Example: "Bull Moose" Progressive Party];
```

Ideological Parties

Example:
Libertarian
Party

Single-issue Parties

Example:
Free Soil
Party

Economic Protest Parties

Example: The
Greenback
Party

Splinter Party

Example:
“Bull Moose”
Progressive
Party

Minor Parties in the United States 42

Ideological Party



Single Issue Party



Economic Protest Party



Splinter Party



Why Minor Parties Are Important 43

Minor parties play several important roles:



“Spoiler Role”



- **Minor party candidates can pull decisive votes away from one of the major parties' candidates, especially if the minor party candidate is from a splinter party.**

Why Minor Parties Are Important (continued)

44

**Minor parties play several important
roles:**



Critic



- **Minor parties, especially single-issue parties, often take stands on and draw attention to controversial issues that the major parties would prefer to ignore.**

Why Minor Parties Are Important (continued)

45

**Minor parties play several important
roles:**



Innovator



- **Often, minor parties will draw attention to important issues and propose innovative solutions to problems. If these proposals gain popular support, they are often integrated into the platforms of the two major parties.**



Section 4 Review

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1. Types of minor parties in the United States include all of the following EXCEPT

(a) ideological parties.

(b) single-issue parties.

(c) regulatory parties.

(d) splinter parties.





Section 4 Review

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2. Ross Perot, who ran as a third-party candidate in 1992 and 1996, falls into which minor party category?

- (a) single-issue party**
- (b) splinter party**
- (c) economic protest party**
- (d) none of the above**





Both of the major parties are highly decentralized and fragmented.



Why?

- The party out of power lacks a strong leader.
- The federal system distributes powers widely, in turn causing the parties to be decentralized.



The Decentralized Nature of the Parties **(continued)**

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Both of the major parties are highly decentralized and fragmented.



Why?



- **The nominating process pits party members against one another because only one person can be chosen to be the party's presidential candidate.**





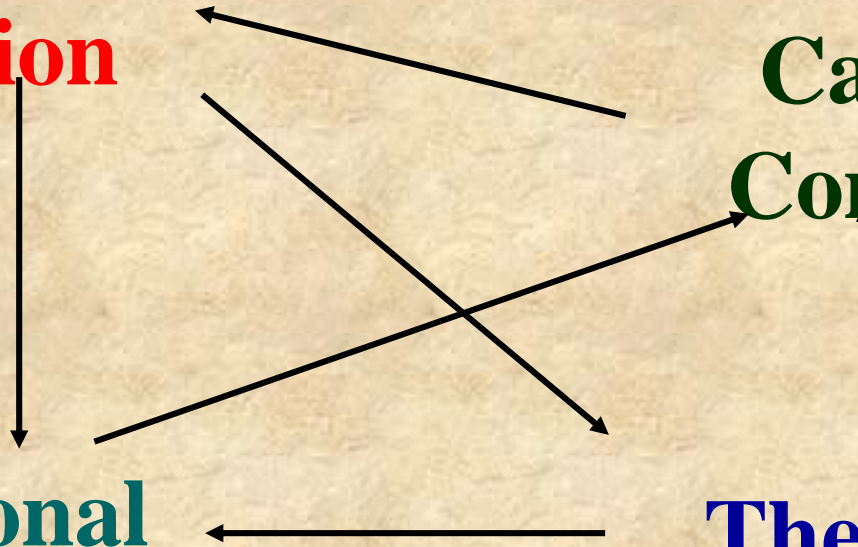
National Party Machinery 53

**The National
Convention**

**The Congressional
Campaign
Committees**

**The National
Chairperson**

**The National
Committee**

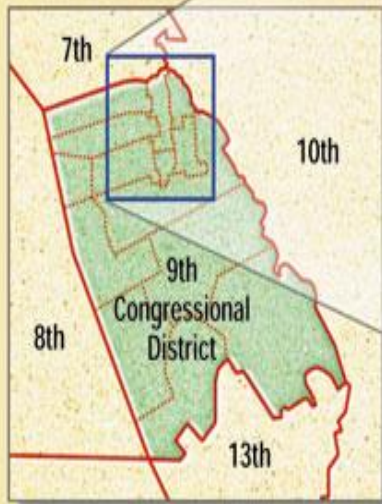


All four elements of both major parties work together loosely to achieve the party's goals.

State and Local Party Machinery

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States are divided into **congressional districts**.



In cities, districts are divided into **wards**.



Wards are divided into **precincts**.



In large cities, the smallest unit of party organization may be a single apartment building.





The Three Components of the Party 56

Party Components

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graph TD; A[Party Components] --- B[The Party Organization: Those who run and control the party machinery.]; A --- C[The Party in the Electorate Those who always or almost always vote for party candidates.]; A --- D[The Party in Government Those who hold office in the government.];
```

The Party Organization:

Those who run
and control the
party
machinery.

The Party in the Electorate

Those who always
or almost always
vote for party
candidates.

The Party in Government

Those who
hold office
in the
government.

The Future of Major Parties 57

Weakened connections to political parties:

For voters :

- **More people are unwilling to label themselves as “Democrats” or “Republicans”**
- **Split-ticket voting—voting for candidates of different parties for different offices at the same election**



The Future of Major Parties (continued) 58

Weakened connections to political parties:



For candidates:



- **Structural changes have increased conflict and disorganization within parties**
- **Changes in the technology of campaigning, especially the use of television and the Internet, have made candidates more independent of the party organization**

The Future of Major Parties (continued) 59

Weakened connections to political parties:



For candidates:



- **The growth of single-issue organizations provides candidates with another source of financial support**







Section 5 Review

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1. Where did the decentralized structure of the two major parties originate?
 - (a) with the Fourteenth Amendment
 - (b) popular opinion demanded decentralization
 - (c) the Federalist nature of the government
 - (d) all of the above





Section 5 Review



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2. All of the following are factors in the present, weakened state of parties EXCEPT

(a) split-ticket voting.



(b) changes in the technology of campaigning.



(c) scandal surrounding national conventions.



(d) the growth of single-issue organizations.