

Ch 5: Political Parties

EQ #6- What do political parties
in the U.S. do?

What is a two-party system?

What is a Political Party?

- **In the U.S.**, is a group who seeks to control government by winning elections and holding public office
- **Example: Democrats & Republicans**
- **Independents** in the US usually vote for a Democrat or Republican so AREN'T CONSIDERED A THIRD PARTY

Political parties outside the U.S.

- Outside the U.S., parties are **ideologically** focused NOT **election** focused
- They are groups with shared values and beliefs—the environment, opposition to abortion...

Political parties outside U.S.

- The US has a 2-party system (Democrats & Republicans)
- This is **unusual / uncommon**
- There are more than two parties in most democracies world-wide.
- In other countries, smaller parties work together to form **coalitions**—a large group of people with various interests who take action to reach common goals.

In the U.S., What do Parties Do?

- In the U.S.' TWO-party system, political parties do FIVE major things
- **1. Nominate**
- **2. Inform**
- **3. Screen candidates**
- **4. Run the government**
- **5. Safeguard democracy**



Functions of Political Parties

- **Watchdog Function:** Party out of power scrutinizes and criticizes the actions of government officials; They force officials to be more responsive to public
- **Informer-Stimulator Function:** Parties take stand on issues and criticize their opponents; They use the media to perform their educational function
- **Nominating Function:** Parties recruit and choose candidates; They provide nominees with a solid support base
- **Government Function:** Parties appoint state and national officials on a partisan basis; They encourage cooperation between the branches
- **Seal of Approval Function:** Parties try to nominate people that are qualified and of good character; They work to ensure the elected officials perform their duties well

Five Things Parties Do

#1: The Nominating Function*

- Parties recruit good candidates
- The MOST important goal of political parties is to *name candidates for office and WIN elections.*
- This gives parties political power
- It helps them pass their goals into law

Five Official Functions

#2: Informer-Stimulator/Motivator Function

- Parties inform citizens and stimulate interest in politics.
- They do this through campaigns, rallies and party conventions.

Five Official Functions

#3: Seal of Approval Function

- Parties screen and approve candidates to ensure they are qualified.
- They assess experience, diversity, good character and more.

Five Official Functions

#4: Governmental Function

- Party members hold office and carry out the business of governing
- They suggest legislation and policies
- They exert power and often vote on basis of party values

What Do Parties Do?

#5: The Watchdog Function

- The political party in the minority (out of power; Democrats) monitors the other party in power (Republicans).
- Looks for **unethical behavior**
- Can force compromise on key issues
- Provides a check on other party



WATCHDOG
for Xcode

5. Watchdog Function

- Today the Senate and Executive branch are controlled by the Republicans.
- Democrats control the HOUSE and can voice minority views and challenge Republican's agenda.
- Can make compromise difficult

Activity- What is your political ideology?

- **Political Party Quiz.** Pew Research. Go to website and take the quiz.
- **Answer all questions** by choosing the answer you agree with more...
- **Write up reflection in your INB.** Where did you end up? Are you surprised? Do you agree? Explain. What do you think the labels mean?

Tuesday

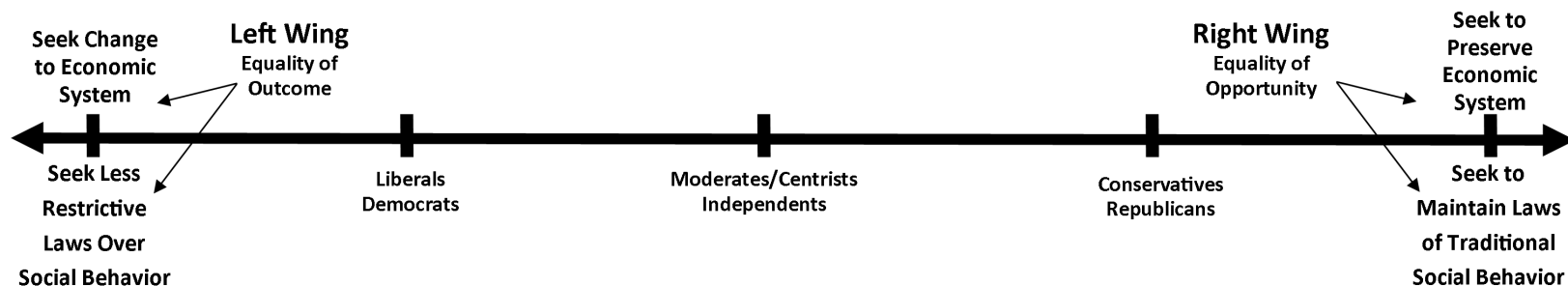
- What is political ideology?
- What is your political ideology so far?
- What do the terms “liberal” and “conservative” mean?

Warm-Up – Political Parties

1. Name the TWO major parties in the US.
2. Which party is generally more **liberal** and which is generally more **conservative**?
3. Describe THREE jobs or functions that political parties in the U.S. fulfill.
4. Which political party role is MOST important? Why?
5. Which party, if any, do you feel more aligned with? Why do you think so?

What is Political Ideology?

- **Political Ideology** – The beliefs and values a voter has about what government should or shouldn't do
- Is generally thought to be on a spectrum from Liberal (left) – Conservative (right).
- Most Americans are Moderate (between).



ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A POLITICAL SPECTRUM



RADICAL
Favors extreme changes to create an altered or entirely new social system.

LIBERAL
Believes that government must take action to change economic, political, and ideological

MODERATE
Holds beliefs that fall between the liberal & conservative views, usually including both.

CONSERVATIVE
Seeks to keep in place the economic, political, and social structures of society.

REACTIONARY
Favors extreme changes to restore society to an earlier, more conservative state

What is political socialization?

- **Political Socialization-** The influences on us as we develop our political ideology.
- Biggest influences-
 - Family (greatest)
 - School
 - Media
 - Peers

What do you think it means

- To be **conservative**...?
- To be moderate....?
- To be **liberal**...?
- Let's brainstorm and discuss these labels!



What do political party labels mean?

Left- Liberal, Democrat

Right- Conservative; Republican

Film Clip- Political Ideologies

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIQ5fGECmsA>

Right / Conservative/ Republican

Beliefs

- Government should play a minimal role in citizens' lives (on both **social & economic** issues)
- Believes in individual freedom
- Believes in equal *opportunity* for all
- Smaller national government & stronger state government
- Liberty over equality?

Left / Liberal / Democrat

BELIEFS

- Government should play a **large role** in social and economic issues to solve problems and ensure fairness.
- Believes in **equality for all**
- **All** citizens should have **access to healthcare, housing, food, education;** gov't should help.
- Equality over liberty?

Other Views

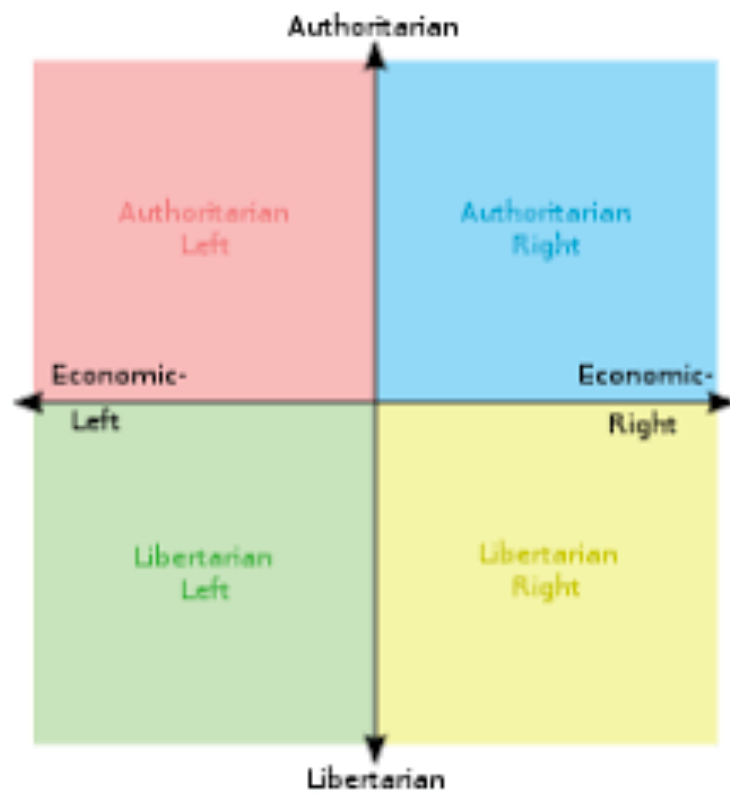
- Liberals and conservatives often disagree about the proper role of government in daily lives.
- **Libertarian-** Minimal government control of both economic and social issues
- **Totalitarian-** complete government control of economic and social issues

Activity- Liberal or Conservative?

- Use your card to vote on whether the statement read is a LIBERAL or CONSERVATIVE belief

Wednesday

- Activity- Political Ideology Grid
- EQ #7-
- Why do we have a TWO Party System in the U.S.?
- How does a TWO Party System work?



Activity- Political Ideology Grid

EQ #7- Why does the US have a Two-Party System?

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of a Two-Party System?

WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAD A PARLIAMENT?

PREDICTED PARLIAMENT*

TOTAL SEATS **435**



113

124

37

49

112

LEFT

CENTRE-LEFT

CENTRE-RIGHT

RIGHT

POPULIST

“Social Democratic Party”

“Liberal Party”

“Conservative Party”

“Christian Coalition”

“People’s Party”

BERNIE SANDERS
26% of vote

HILLARY CLINTON
28%

JOHN KASICH
8%

TED CRUZ
11%

DONALD TRUMP
26%

Sources: YouGov; CPS; *The Economist*
Pic credits: AP; AFP; Getty Images; Reuters

*based on April 22-26th 2016 polling; seats allocated proportionally by census region (North, Midwest, South, West)

The Economist

Why does the US have a Two Party System?

- The US has almost always had a two-party system.
- This means **the TWO major parties are assured of winning most elections.**
- Minor party candidates have little chance of winning an election

Read the Handout

- What is a faction?
- Did the Founders want parties to develop?
Why or why not?
- Why did they?
- When did the current major parties develop?

Reasons for TWO-Party System in the U.S.

1. History

- The fight over ratification of the Constitution led to our first two parties:
- Federalists (pro Constitution) vs.
- Anti-Federalists (anti Constitution without BOR)
- Anti-Federalists insisted on Bill of Rights being added!

Reasons for TWO-Party System in the U.S.

2. Tradition

- Our nation started with 2 parties and people accept the system.
- It is difficult to change the two-party system due to our tradition of having it in the beginning.



Reasons for TWO-Party System in the U.S.

3. Election system

- Our system of elections favors the 2-party system.
- US has Single-member districts or Winner-take-all elections.
- These are contests where only ONE candidate can win;
- Voters want their vote to count so they vote major party.

What is the cartoon's thesis?



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Reasons for TWO-Party System in the U.S.

4. Consensus

- Although U.S. is diverse, most Americans generally agree on big issues.
- If there is unrest or minor party appeal on an issue, major parties often adopt popular ideas from minor parties.

Our First Two Political Parties

Federalists

- Favored strong central government and a strong President.
- Favored ratifying the Constitution
- Led by Hamilton, Washington, Madison

Anti-Federalists

- Feared a strong central government would compromise individual rights; demanded Bill of Rights
- Wanted stronger state governments
- Did NOT favor ratifying the Constitution but accepted it after the Bill of Rights was added

Reading

- Read the article about the US Two-Party System.
- Underline FIVE key points as you read.
- DISCUSS a SUMMARY of this article at the end. Include at least THREE ideas. Be specific.

Debrief– Why do we have a Two Party System?

- 1. The U.S. initially began with a two-party system in 1787. Why? Who were the parties?
- 2. What is a **single-member district**? How does this help perpetuate our two-party system in the U.S.?
- 3. What other reasons do we have a two-party system?
- 4. Describe TWO advantages of our two-party system.

What are the Advantages of a Two-Party System?

- *With only two parties having a clear chance to win elections, it's easier for voters to make a choice.
- *Two-party systems are more stable with loyal voters over time; prevents sudden power shifts
- *Parties must represent a wide-range of views and interests in order to maintain power. This often makes them **centrist**.

Disadvantages to a Two-Party System

- What are the key disadvantages to a two-party system?

Disadvantages to a Two-Party System

1. Parties are moderate and lack a strong stance on issues.
2. Strong conservative and liberal views are often rejected, alienating voters.
3. Change is slow.

Party Affiliation Trends

- **Affiliation-** Citizens who register or identify as Democrats or Republicans.
- **Trends-**
- the # of independents / unaffiliated, is now higher than both D's or R's
- Today, in U.S. 39% identify as Independents, 32% as D's & 23% as R's.
- This is the highest % of Independents in over 75 years of polling.

What is a Political Party Era?

There have been four distinct political eras in U.S. history

These are historical times when ONE party has controlled national government

- **Era of the Democrats, 1800-1860**
- **Era of Republicans, 1860-1932**
- **Return of Democrats, 1932-1968**
- **New Era, 1968-present**

Political Party Comparison Project

- Everyone does their OWN project but feel free to work together to share information.

Current Era, 1968-Present

- The current era has been one of divided or shared government
- **Divided government:** no one party controls both legislative and executive branches
- **Gridlock:** A result of divided government; less gets done because of disagreement between legislature and president

Political Typology Quiz

ACTIVITY

- Take the Political Typology Quiz on-line to find out more about your political views and party identification.
- **“Political Typology Quiz”**
- <http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/>

Reflection Q's (INB)

1. Describe the results of your quiz by identifying your “label”. What are the common beliefs of this **typology**?
2. Do you think this is accurate of your thinking? Explain.
3. What percent of the US population thinks like you?
4. What is the distribution of all typologies in the U.S. Any surprises? Explain.

EQ #8 - How do Minor/Third Parties affect our Two-Party System?

- What is a minor / third party?

Read about Minor Parties

- Read the first TWO pages.
- Mark up answers to the following...
- 1. What is a minor / third party? Cite examples in US politics today.
- 2. Why do they form?
- 3. How are they successful?
- 4. What keeps them from being highly successful?

What is a minor / third party?

A minor / third party is...

- Any party that is NOT D or R
- Does NOT include Independents / unaffiliated
- A party that operates in opposition to the major parties
- May be ideologically based
- RARELY win elections

Minor Parties- Four Types

1. Ideological Parties

- Take a strong stance on social, economic or political issues;
- They're ideals that are NOT mainstream
- Don't win elections but stay around a long time
- Examples: Socialist party, Communist, Green party

Minor Parties- Four Types

2. Single-Issue

- Focus on ONE issue; often moral issue
- Often fade away when issue is resolved or major party takes the issue on
- Examples: Right to Life party, Free Soil, Temperance Party

Minor Parties- Four Types

3. Economic Protest

- Arises during difficult economic times
- Appeals to those angry about \$ issues and upset with the way major parties are dealing with the issues
- Examples: Greenback (later Populist), Tea Party

Minor Parties- Four Types

4. Splinter Parties

- Have broken away from one of the major parties
- Often with a strong leader who was snubbed by major party
- Examples: Bull Moose, Dixiecrats

How do Minor Parties affect elections?

- Minor parties are important even though they are unlikely to win elections
- Minor Parties play TWO key roles-
 1. **Critic / innovator** because they take strong stands on issues (unlike the major parties)
 2. **“Spoiler”** role- may take away votes from major parties, even causing defeat (Gore’s loss in 2000)

How are Political Parties Organized?

- The two major parties are NOT highly structured; there are many local differences by state and region.

What are the **THREE** parts of Political Parties?

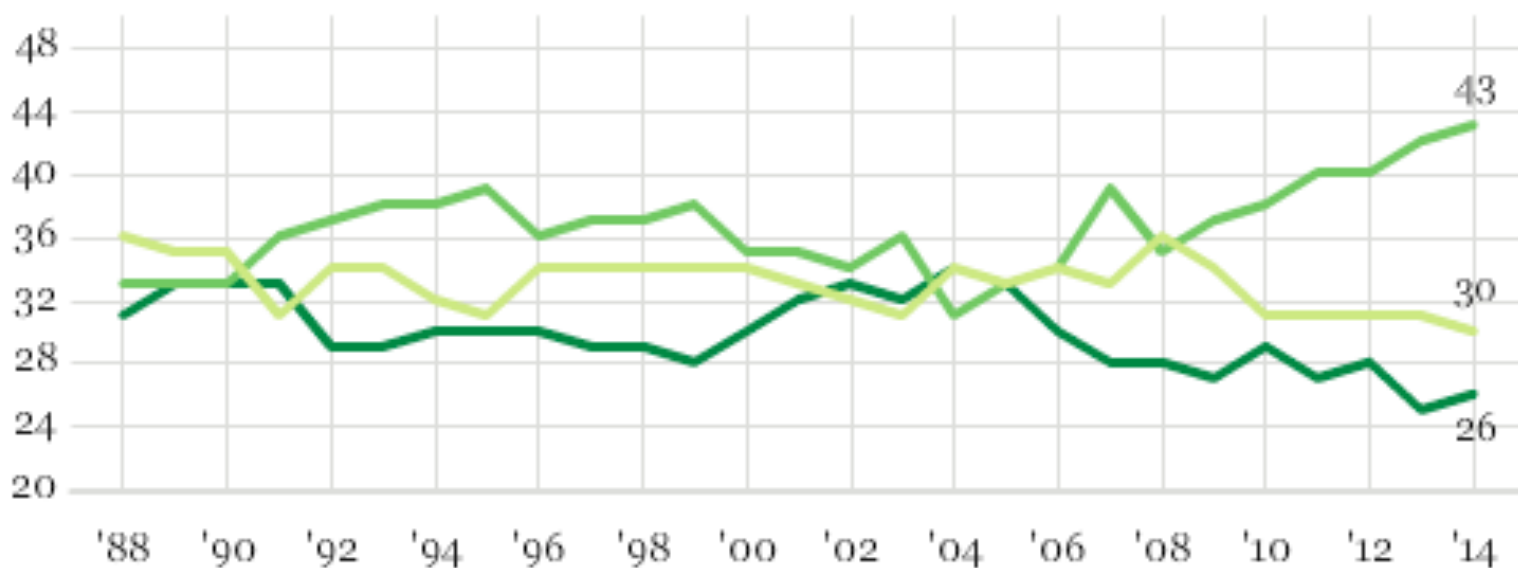
1. **The Electorate-** the Voters who identify as D's or R's
2. **The Organizers-** The national party leaders who work year round on behalf of the party.
3. **In Government-** The elected office holders.

Is Political Party Strength Declining?

- Are the major parties less important today? Maybe... WHY?
1. Numbers of registered Ds and Rs is down; there are now more Independents (moderates who do NOT consider themselves D or R) than Democrats or Republicans

U.S. Party Identification, Yearly Averages, 1988-2014

■ % Republican ■ % Independent ■ % Democrat



Based on multiple day polls conducted by telephone

GALLUP®

Party Affiliation by the Numbers

- **Registered Voters in US (2017)**

- About 200,000 MILLION Americans are registered to vote

- **31% are registered DEMOCRATS**

- **29% are registered REPUBLICANS**

- **38% are INDEPENDENTS**

*In 2016 Presidential Election, 57.9% of registered voters actually voted.

*Republicans had similar turnout as in 2012; Democrats turnout was much less than 2012.

Why is political party strength declining?

2. **Split-ticket voting:** Voting for candidates of different parties in the same election has increased.

-EXAMPLE- Vote for Trump (R) for President and Wyden (D) for Senator on same ballot.

Partisan

- A **partisan** is someone who is extremely loyal to his/her party.
- A strong Democrat or Republican
- Those who are **partisan**, vote for their party consistently.
 - **Partisan** politics- A lack of cooperation/work between Democrats and Republicans
 - **Bipartisan** politics- Cooperation between parties; someone who supports both parties on different issues/candidates.

What is Party Polarity?

- *Polarity*- like the poles on earth that are far apart.

Party polarity describes

- * The widening gap between Democrats and Republicans on issues.
- * The LACK of cooperation between the parties to work together to solve problems.
(example-Health Care)

EXIT- MINOR PARTIES

1. In the U.S., what is a **minor** (a.k.a. *third*) party? Define it.
2. Describe TWO ways that minor parties have an effect on politics in the US today.
3. Describe TWO ways minor parties are limited in their effect on elections.

Venn Diagram

- Compare and Contrast MAJOR and MINOR/THIRD Parties in the US system
 - Definitions
 - Goals of each
 - Pros / Cons
 - Examples...more!

MAJOR

MINOR

Venn Diagram

MAJOR

MINOR

Quizlet Activity

- Political Parties Quizlet Activity
- Get a computer and join the game
- Sign in using your first name; the game will make teams at random