

Political Parties

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PLSC 1

Road map

- Quiz 2 review
- Where do parties come from?
- What purpose do they serve?
 - Party-in-government
 - Party-in-electorate
- What is political polarization?

Quiz 2 Review

Most Missed Questions

- Impeachment - not removal from office
- Positive and normative rights (not positive and negative)
- States set time, manner, place of elections UNLESS Congress intervenes
- Many missed at least one policy that INCREASES the cost of voting

Question

What roles do parties play in politics/government?

The Collective Action Problem

How do we solve problems collectively? How are people's interests expressed?

- Political parties - Broad
- Interest groups - Narrow

Reality and Skepticism at the Founding

- *Federalist 10* - Factions inevitable
- Parties not in the Constitution
- Federalists and Anti-Federalists (not parties, but factions)
- Washington decries parties in 1796
- Parties form in Congress and elect Presidents
- Federalists and Democratic-Republicans

Motivating Issues

Aldrich 1995

- ① Location of the capital (North or South)
- ② Hamilton's plan to assume war debt
- ③ Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison marshaled supporters for a compromise
- ④ Capital in south, assumption of debt
- ⑤ Unstable majorities transition into parties

Role of Parties-In-Government

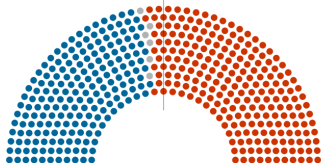
Informal institutions that provide necessary structure to our system of government

115TH CONGRESS

2017-2018

218 seats for majority

193 235

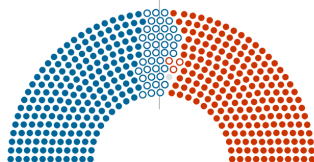


116TH CONGRESS

2019-2020

218 seats for majority

234 200



○ Seats flipped R to D (39) ○ Seats flipped D to R (3)

Figure: Source: NACO

Why Two Parties?

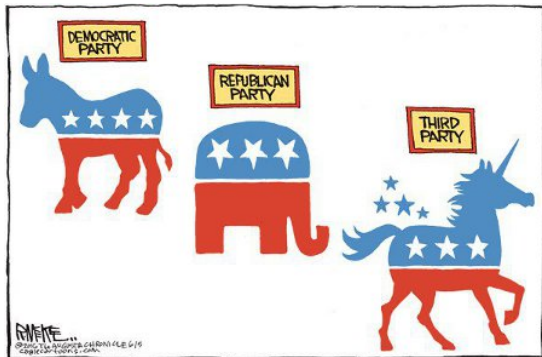


Figure: Source: [Link](#)

Video

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

Why Two Parties?

- Duverger's Law
- Single-member districts
- Proportional representation

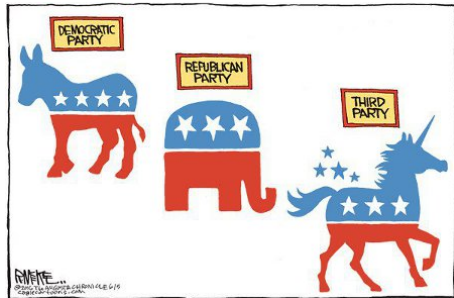


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Party History

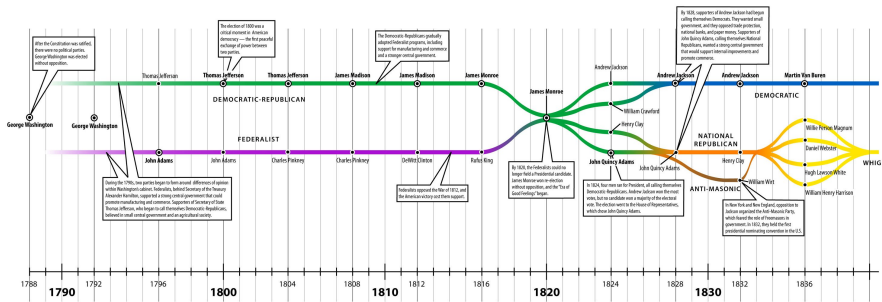


Figure: Source: Marty Duren

Party History

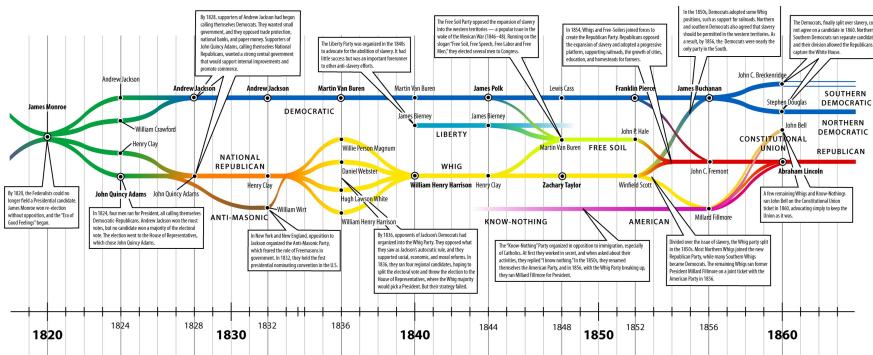


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Party History

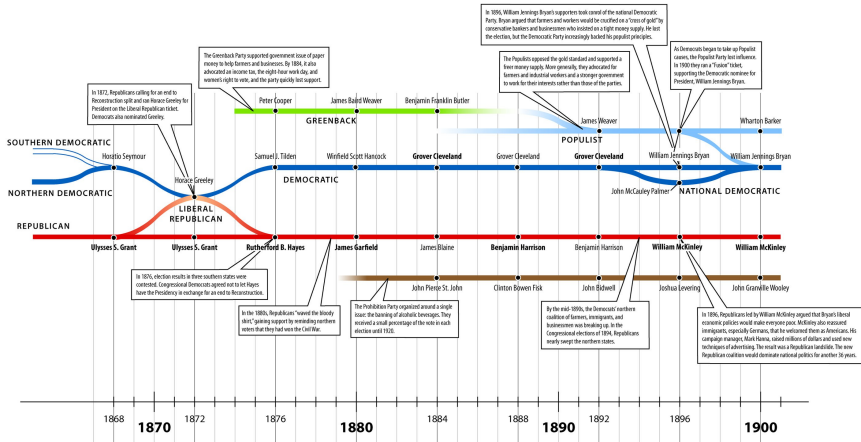


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Party History

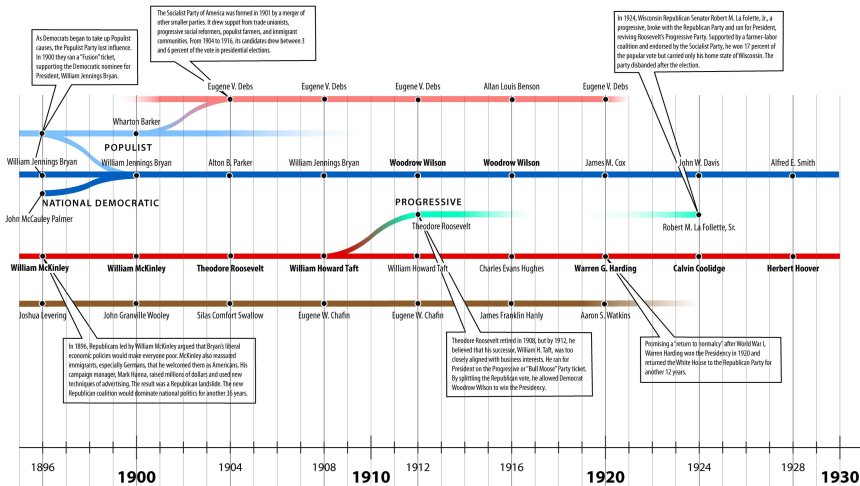


Figure: Source: Marty Duren

More than Duverger

Other Reasons for Two Parties

- Electoral College (plurality voting)
- Ethnic geographic dispersion
- Local election laws - often biased toward parties

Poll

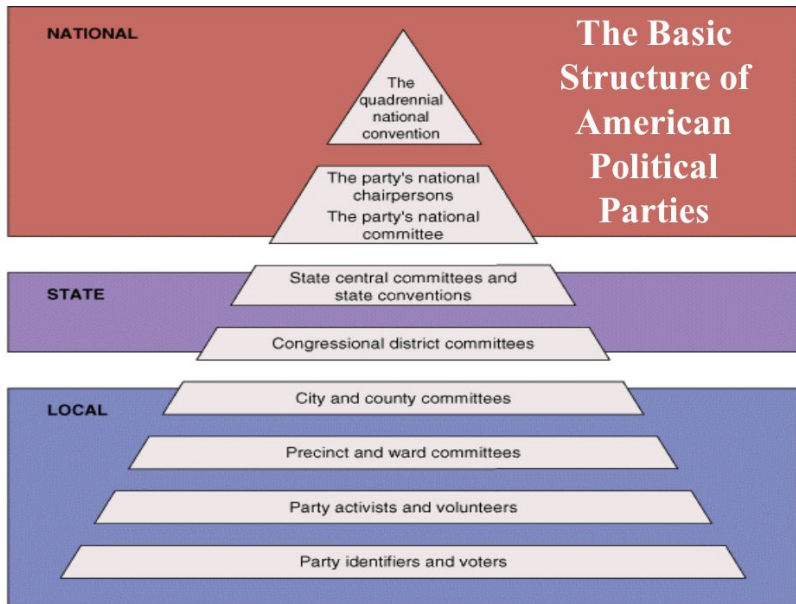
Are you a registered member of the following:

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Third Party
- Independent
- Not registered to vote

Party in the Electorate

- Party identifiers - range in strength of support for a party
- Party unidentified (“independents”) - based on stable voting patterns
- Party ID vs. membership

Party Structure



Strong vs. Weak Parties

Strong

- Responsible Party
- Common platform
- Candidates run as team
- Party discipline
- Party voting
- Unified national party

Weak Parties

- Loose coalition of groups
- Diversity of views
- Candidates run separately
- Low discipline
- Split-ticketing
- Regional diversity

Which is better?

Result of Weak Parties



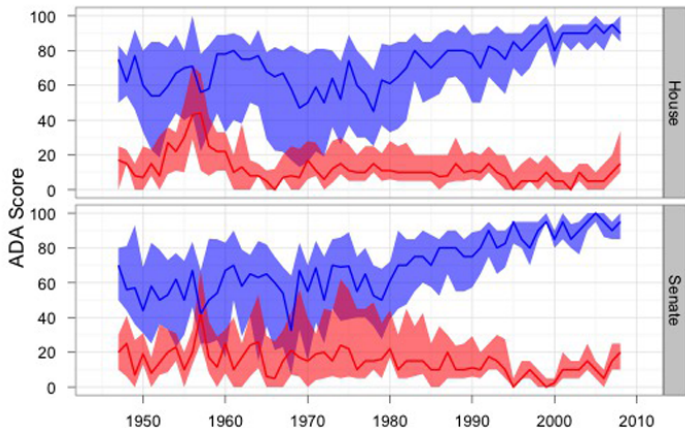
Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0TE5TWYP-I

Causes

- Party sorting
- Media - nationalized news, partisan bias
- Gerrymandering

Consequences



What does this mean for our politics?