

**TOPIC 5.3 Political Parties**

Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy-makers.

- Describe linkage institutions.
- Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government.

**LINKAGE INSTITUTIONS**

- Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to c\_\_\_\_\_ their preferences to policy-makers:
- What are some examples of linkage institutions?
  - E\_\_\_\_\_
  - I\_\_\_\_\_ Groups
  - Political P\_\_\_\_\_
  - Mass M\_\_\_\_\_
- How do you let the government know about your opinions and beliefs?

Describe the linkage institutions

**WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?**

Def: A political party is an organized group of people who have the same i\_\_\_\_\_, or who otherwise have the same political p\_\_\_\_\_, and who field c\_\_\_\_\_ for elections, in an attempt to get them e\_\_\_\_\_ and thereby i\_\_\_\_\_ the party's agenda.

**Logos of U.S. Political Parties / Alphabetical**



Party-in-Government	Party in the Electorate	Parties as Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Party leaders occupy positions in presidency, Congress, state governors, state legislatures, and local governments (though sometimes these are non-partisan positions)</li> <li>Party platform – a set of positions/policies objectives that members of political party agree to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Voted on at the convention</li> <li>— When they win, they begin the process of governing based largely on the stated platform</li> </ul> </li> <li>Party leadership committee is responsible for raising money and serves as spokesperson</li> <li>Recruitment – the process through which political parties identify potential candidates</li> <li>Parties help handle the costs and burdens of campaign</li> <li>Maintain voter demographics to target in elections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Party identification – the degree to which a voter is connected to and identified by a particular political party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Parties influence voter choice</li> <li>— “R” or “D” is a cue on ballot</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Straight-ticket voting</b> - Voting for all of the candidates on the ballot from one particular party</li> <li>Growing number of independents has led to less party-line voting and more straight-ticket voting – voting for candidates from different parties in the same election</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unite people with shared social, economic, ideological goals</li> <li>Find and support candidates for office and win elections</li> <li>Engage and mobilize voters</li> <li>Raise money, develop media strategy</li> <li>National party organizations exist to create a streamlined voice (platform) for the party and get members elected</li> <li>Organizations have growing influence over candidates compared to parties</li> </ul>

### WHAT ARE THE MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES?

- Organize the competition by designating candidates to run under their label
  - A party's ability to organize the competition is influenced by how states organize their ballots or the type of elections they provide
    - The party column ballot makes it easier for voters to vote a straight ticket
    - The office block ballot makes it harder to cast a vote for all the candidates of a single party
- Unite the electorate/voters
- Nominate candidates
  - Previously: caucuses >> nominating conventions
  - Now: primary elections
  - With advent of primary, nominating function now seriously limited.
- Control over many of these functions has been diminished
- Provide “limited opposition”
- Act as Moderating Influence on Government
  - To win elections, parties must usually nominate moderate candidates who appeal to the vast center of the American electorate. Far left elements squeezed out.
  - Criticism: To appeal to such a wide variety of party members, parties must avoid taking strong stands
  - Inform public about political issues through party platforms

Political parties are organized at the local, state, and national levels. This doesn't mean, however, that there is a S\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ within the party; indeed, local and state party organizations often function quite i\_\_\_\_\_ from the national organization. Because of different state l\_\_\_\_\_, parties operate differently from state to s\_\_\_\_\_.

- Agents of political socialization- process in which p\_\_\_\_\_ develop their p\_\_\_\_\_ values, beliefs, attitudes and ideology
- L\_\_\_\_\_ mechanism between p\_\_\_\_\_ and g\_\_\_\_\_.
- Provide Patronage-term is used to describe political patronage, which is the use of state r\_\_\_\_\_ to reward i\_\_\_\_\_ for their e\_\_\_\_\_ support.
- R\_\_\_\_\_ voters, mobilize voters, and get them to the polls
- Raise and spend campaign f\_\_\_\_\_
- D\_\_\_\_\_ importance w/advent of “candidate-centered” campaigns.
- Simplify decisions for voters: provide “shorthand” through which busy and uninterested voters can base a voting decision, use of “p\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_” by voters.
- Inform public about political issues through party p\_\_\_\_\_

*Few people check platforms, which in any case are often broadly worded, i.e., like train platforms: “something to get on rather than something to stand on.”*

Explain how political parties serve as a linkage institution.

Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government

How does the competition between political parties further representative democracy?

## TOPIC 5.4 How & Why Political Parties Change & Adapt

### RISE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

#### OUR FIRST PARTIES

- Dangers of factions mentioned by Madison in Federalist #10 and Washington's warning about the "baneful effects of the spirit of party."
- Parties became necessary to get things done, e.g., Hamilton's financial plan and support for Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase.
- Necessity of an institution that u\_\_\_\_\_ government in order to o\_\_\_\_\_ the systems of separation of powers and checks and balances that divide government.

**Historical development: The Six Party Systems in American history. Realignment occurs roughly every 36 years or so.**

- 1796-1820: 1<sup>st</sup> party system
  - Federalists v. Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans
  - 1824-1856: 2<sup>nd</sup> party system
  - Jacksonian Democrats v. Whigs
  - 1860-1892: 3<sup>rd</sup> party system
  - Republican dominance as the party against slavery and the party that put the Union back together.
  - 1896-1928: 4<sup>th</sup> party system
  - Second period of Republican dominance with its coalition of big business and the working classes against the Democratic rural interests.
  - 1932-1964: 5<sup>th</sup> party system
  - Democratic dominance begun under FDR and the New Deal. FDR's grand coalition included urban dwellers, labor unions, Catholics, Jews, the poor, Southerners, Blacks, farmers.

Control of government has shifted back and forth between the parties in periods of r\_\_\_\_\_, which is a major shift in a\_\_\_\_\_ to the political p\_\_\_\_\_ that is often driven by changes in the issues that u\_\_\_\_\_ or d\_\_\_\_\_ voters. Periods of r\_\_\_\_\_ may be ushered in by c\_\_\_\_\_ elections, a major national election that s\_\_\_\_\_ the balance of power between the two parties. Periods when one party wins most national elections are called p\_\_\_\_\_ eras. Political scientists debate the boundaries of major eras in party control and how decisive a particular election was in signaling a change in those boundaries.

**Party coalition-** g\_\_\_\_\_ of voters who support a political party over time.

**Realignment-** when the groups (c\_\_\_\_\_) of people who support a political party s\_\_\_\_\_ their a\_\_\_\_\_ to a different political party.

**Critical Election-** a major national election that signals a c\_\_\_\_\_ in the balance of p\_\_\_\_\_ between the two parties.

**Dealignment-** process whereby a large portion of the e\_\_\_\_\_ abandons its previous partisan affiliation without developing a new one to replace it. Rise of i\_\_\_\_\_

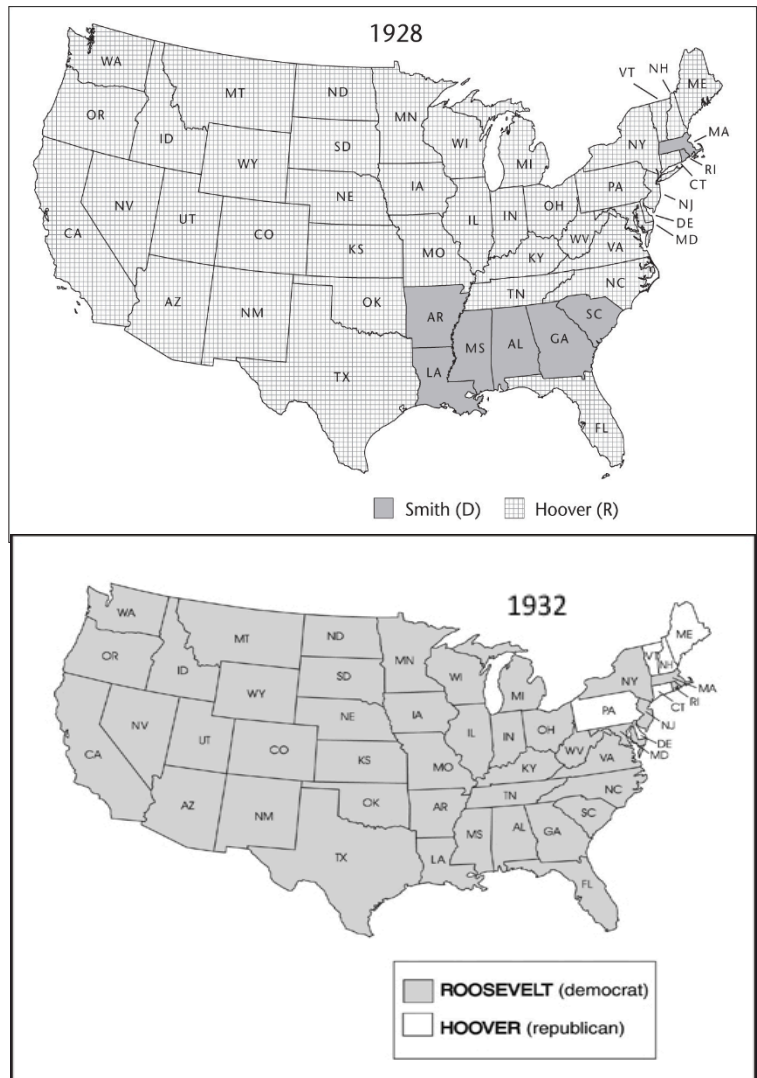
**Party Era-** time period when o\_\_\_\_\_ party wins m\_\_\_\_\_ national e\_\_\_\_\_.

Historical development: the Six Party Systems in American history. R \_\_\_\_\_ occurs roughly every 36 years or so.

- 1968-present: 6<sup>th</sup> party system
  - Era of D \_\_\_\_\_ Government and D \_\_\_\_\_
    - Much split ticket voting
    - Presidents of one party (typically Republican) with Congresses of the opposite party (typically Democratic).
    - An era of party dealignment, as voters are moving away from both parties and are increasingly independent.
    - Nixon (“Southern strategy”) and Reagan built a coalition of disenchanted white suburban middle class, Southern white Protestants, big business
    - Clinton won twice in part because of his resurrection of FDR’s grand coalition, especially Southern middle class moderates (“Reagan Democrats”). Women’s votes were also decisive.
    - Election of 2000 gave us a Republican president who won only a minority of popular votes, a 50-50 Senate (which became a 50-49-1 Democratic Senate after Jeffords defection), and a House w/a narrow Republican majority

### What Realignment Looks Like

Compare these maps of the presidential election of 1928 (top) and the election of 1932 (bottom). This is a clear example of realignment, as a huge number of voters switched their affiliation from Republican (red) to Democrat (blue)



## DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

AMER @cartoonists.com/178



We didn't ask, "Which end EATS..."

Democrats, 2 Independents (116<sup>th</sup> Congress)

Creates g\_\_\_\_\_ and nothing gets done

- Since 1953, we have had d\_\_\_\_\_ government twice as often as we have had one party in control of both legislative and executive branches

- Republican P\_\_\_\_\_ and a Democratic C\_\_\_\_\_ (control of even one house) or Democratic President & Republican Congress (control of even one house)

- Relative party strengths

— National Government

2019-2021

- President: Republican
- House: 232 Democrats, 197 Republicans, 1 Independent, 5 vacancies (116<sup>th</sup> Congress)

- Senate: 53 Republicans, 45

## REALIGNMENT AND CRITICAL ELECTIONS

### • Realignment

– Sharp changes in issues, party leaders, the regional and demographic bases of power of the two parties, and structure or rules of the political system resulting in a new political power structure.

• A "critical" election usually serves as the basis for r\_\_\_\_\_.

### • Characteristics

- Intense electoral involvement by the voters
- Disruptions of traditional voting patterns
- Changes in the relations of power within the community
- The formation of new and durable electoral groups

• Four critical (or realigning) elections (each realignment lasts roughly 36 years)

- 1824: Andrew Jackson and the Democrats
- 1860: The Civil War and the rise of the Republicans (slavery issue fixed new loyalties in the popular mind)
- 1896: A Party in transition (economic issues shifted loyalties)
- 1932: Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal alignment (economic depression triggered new coalition for Democrats)
- 1968: Nixon?



## DEALIGNMENT

**Definition:** Process whereby a large portion of the electorate a\_\_\_\_\_ its previous partisan affiliation without developing a new one to replace it. It is contrasted with realignment.

### • We are experiencing dealignment

- People have a\_\_\_\_\_ both parties to become i\_\_\_\_\_
- However, most Independents are really p\_\_\_\_\_ in their voting behavior and attitudes

• D\_\_\_\_\_ has led to ticket s\_\_\_\_\_ in recent times

### • Other factors that have weakened the parties and contributed to dealignment

- C\_\_\_\_\_ -centered campaigns (especially after FECA) - people vote for the "man" and not the party
- Public disenchantment with parties and politics during the 60's
- Growth of i\_\_\_\_\_ groups – have taken on some party functions
- Development of m\_\_\_\_\_ media – candidates rely on media rather than p\_\_\_\_\_ organization to get message across
- Growth of political i\_\_\_\_\_
- Trend to "vote the man, not the party" and rise of ticket splitting (voting for candidates from both political parties)

### • Counter arguments to dealignment theory:

- Even though % of independents has increased, 2/3 of "independents" are actually "leaners." They are, in effect, "closet Democrats" and "closet Republicans."

### Political parties have changed/adapted since they were first formed.

- They have had to adapt to c\_\_\_\_\_ - centered campaigns.
  - Candidates now increasingly create their own b\_\_\_\_\_, relying less on party symbols and messaging.
  - Name r\_\_\_\_\_, handsome, glib...is well known and films well!
- P\_\_\_\_\_ has made it difficult for the old methods of parties to remain successful
- Voters now dislike other side more than they like showing support for their own side
- Candidates in 2016 forced the party establishment to focus on new issues C\_\_\_\_\_ -Centered Campaign
- A trend in which candidates develop their own strategies and raise money with less influence from the p\_\_\_\_\_ elite
- Party status for picking nominees not as p\_\_\_\_\_ anymore

### TOPIC 5.5 Third-Party Politics

#### Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent candidate success

- In comparison to proportional systems, w\_\_\_\_\_ -take-all voting districts serve as a structural b\_\_\_\_\_ to third-party and independent candidate success.
- The i\_\_\_\_\_ of third-party agendas into p\_\_\_\_\_ of m\_\_\_\_\_ political parties serves as a barrier to third-party and independent candidate success

### MINOR (THIRD) PARTIES

#### TYPES

- **Economic Protest Party-** Populist Party
- **Ideological**
  - Communist Party, Libertarian Party
- **Single issue**
  - Free Soil opposed the spread of slavery
  - Right to Life opposes abortion
  - Know Nothings opposed Irish-Catholic immigration
- **Parties centered around a strong personality (S\_\_\_\_\_ Party)**
  - Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party
  - George Wallace's American Independent Party
  - Ross Perot's Reform Party

### MINOR (THIRD) PARTIES

#### CONTRIBUTIONS OF THIRD PARTIES

- Raise i\_\_\_\_\_ that other parties must address, and often i\_\_\_\_\_ into their own party platforms. "Champions not of lost causes, but of causes yet to be won" (e.g., Populist Party: direct election of senators, income tax, etc.)
- Voice for the f\_\_\_\_\_ elements in society
- Safety v\_\_\_\_\_ for d\_\_\_\_\_ in society

#### EFFECTS OF THIRD PARTIES

- Rarely w\_\_\_\_\_ elections
- Influence the outcome of presidential elections (e.g., 1968, 1992, 2000): "s\_\_\_\_\_ role"- Third parties may take v\_\_\_\_\_ from the major two p\_\_\_\_\_ affecting the outcome of the e\_\_\_\_\_.

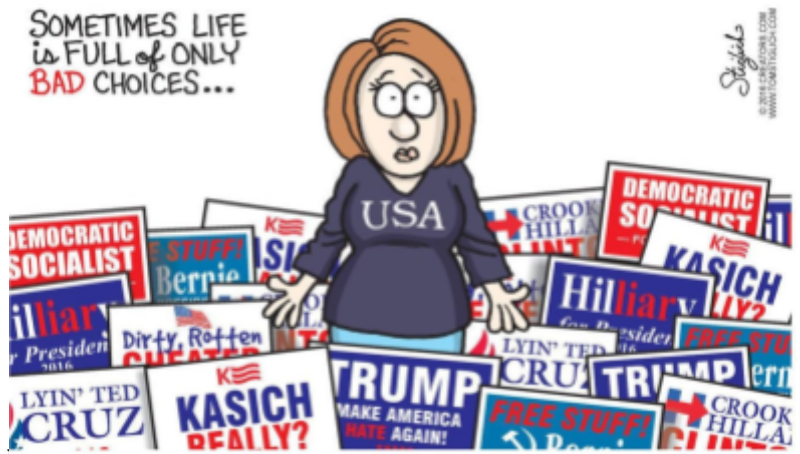
#### CONTRIBUTIONS OF THIRD PARTIES

- Raise i\_\_\_\_\_ that other parties must a\_\_\_\_\_, and often i\_\_\_\_\_ into their own party platforms. "Champions not of lost causes, but of causes yet to be won" (e.g., Populist Party: direct election of senators, income tax, etc.)
- Voice for the fringe elements in society
- Safety valve for discontent in society

#### EFFECTS OF THIRD PARTIES

- Rarely win elections

- Influence the outcome of presidential elections (e.g., 1968, 1992, 2000): “spoiler role”- Third parties may take votes from the major two parties affecting the outcome of the election. **S\_\_\_\_\_ ROLE**



**OBST**

- Two-party tradition (because of s\_\_\_\_\_ -member legislative districts)
- In comparison to p\_\_\_\_\_ systems, winner-take-all voting districts serve as a structural barrier to third-party and independent candidate success
  - Single-member, w\_\_\_\_\_ -take-all, plurality district system for congressional seats, as opposed to the multi-member, proportional system that is common in other countries
- E\_\_\_\_\_ College's W\_\_\_\_\_ -Take-All system: Perot won 19% of the vote in 1992 but had z\_\_\_\_\_ electoral votes.
- Getting candidates on the ballot
  - Democrat and Republican candidates are a\_\_\_\_\_ placed on state ballots
  - Minor party candidates must persuade registered voters to sign p\_\_\_\_\_ in order to have their names placed on the ballot
- M\_\_\_\_\_
- M\_\_\_\_\_ coverage
- Exclusion from TV debates



## INCORPORATION OF THIRD-PARTY AGENDAS

The two major parties frequently i\_\_\_\_\_ the platforms of third parties into their o\_\_\_\_\_ platforms; voters who identified with a third-party issue will often **vote for a m**\_\_\_\_\_ party candidate who has a \_\_\_\_\_ that issue because major parties are more likely to succeed.

- The i\_\_\_\_\_ of third-party a\_\_\_\_\_ into platforms of major political parties serves as a b\_\_\_\_\_ to third-party and independent candidate success

### WHY ARE PARTIES LOSING POWER?

- **Parties lack s**\_\_\_\_\_ **rank-and-file membership/lack strong g**\_\_\_\_\_ **roots organization**
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ can join merely by r\_\_\_\_\_
  - No duties or dues
  - Most a \_\_\_\_\_ occur only at e \_\_\_\_\_ time
  - Most Americans are mere spectators, rather than p \_\_\_\_\_, in party activity
  - Small p \_\_\_\_\_ of “Strong Democrats” and “Strong Republicans”
  - Increase in percentage of I \_\_\_\_\_ (though most of these are “leaners”)
- **Parties have lost many of their traditional functions, or these functions have been weakened:**
  - Nomination of candidates (now done by p \_\_\_\_\_ elections)
  - Funding of political campaigns (trend towards candidate-c \_\_\_\_\_ campaigns).
  - Unifying govt. (we often have d \_\_\_\_\_ government, and intra-party conflict can be strong).
  - Providing p \_\_\_\_\_ (jobs now filled by C \_\_\_\_\_ Service)
- **Weak party discipline**
  - S \_\_\_\_\_ ticket voting (voting for some candidates from one party and candidates from another party). Voters feel less l \_\_\_\_\_ to parties.
  - Few p \_\_\_\_\_ for politicians who s \_\_\_\_\_ from the party line. Since candidates are nominated by the p \_\_\_\_\_ rather than by the party bosses, candidates feel l \_\_\_\_\_ beholden to the p \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Candidates finance their campaigns on their own rather than rely upon the parties -> more willing to stray from the party line
- **I** \_\_\_\_\_ **-party divisions**
  - Between party regulars and candidate loyalists/issue advocates.
  - Between Democratic liberals and moderates (e.g. “Blue Dogs” in Congress).
  - Between Republican conservatives and moderates.

### FACTORS THAT HAVE WEAKENED THE PARTIES

- C \_\_\_\_\_-centered campaigns (esp. after FECA).
- Rise of campaign c \_\_\_\_\_ to take over many of the functions of parties.
- Public disenchantment with parties and politics during the 60s.
- Growth of i \_\_\_\_\_ groups -- have taken on some party functions.
- Development of m \_\_\_\_\_ media -- candidates rely on media rather than party organization to get message across. The i \_\_\_\_\_, especially, has become important for candidate fund raising, candidate web sites, candidate Facebook profiles, candidate advertising on web sites. Candidates can do these themselves and do not need the parties for these things.

### IMPACT OF PARTIES ON GOVERNMENT

#### CONGRESS

- M \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_ controls all committees.
- M \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_ has chairmen on all committees.
- M \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_ controls key leadership positions.
- Staffers are partisan.

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Nearly all appointments to White House staff are p\_\_\_\_\_ . Many go to people from election campaigns.
- Nearly all appointments to top positions in other parts of Executive branch are p\_\_\_\_\_ .
- Development of C\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ System has greatly r\_\_\_\_\_ party influence over the bureaucracy. Jobs now based on merit and not on party patronage.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Nearly all appointments are p\_\_\_\_\_

## INTO THE NEW CENTURY



### • A divided nation (Red States vs. Blue States) •

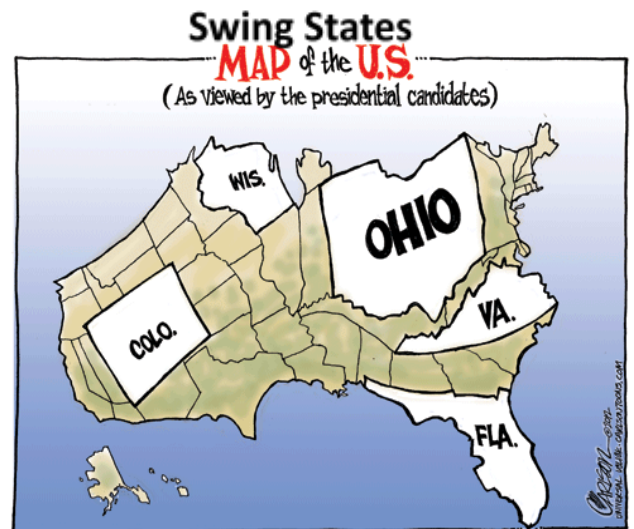
- Areas of party strength
  - S\_\_\_\_\_ : R\_\_\_\_\_ strength (very conservative)
  - G\_\_\_\_\_ Plains: Republican strength
  - R\_\_\_\_\_ Mountains: Republican strength
  - W\_\_\_\_\_ Coast: D\_\_\_\_\_ strength
  - N\_\_\_\_\_ England: D\_\_\_\_\_ strength
  - S\_\_\_\_\_ (Battleground, Bellwether) states- states where election outcome can go either way Repub or Dem
- Democrats attracted Hispanics, African Americans, union members, etc.
- GOP did well with white males, r\_\_\_\_\_, c\_\_\_\_\_, higher i\_\_\_\_\_ voters
- **Differences over tax cuts, social issues, privatization of Social Security**
- Party p\_\_\_\_\_ - the official statement of party policy - is a\_\_\_\_\_ by design
- Party platform positions r\_\_\_\_\_ help elect a presidential candidate, but can h\_\_\_\_\_ a candidate
- Differences at the national level between the two major parties were very sharp just before the Civil War and again during the New Deal
- Both major parties typically have been m\_\_\_\_\_, support a strong defense, a stable Social Security system, and economic growth

## PARTY SYSTEMS

- United States' electoral two-party system versus multiparty systems
- United States' winner-take-all system versus proportional representation in multiparty systems
- United States' two-party system tends to create centrist parties versus influence of extremists in multiparty systems
- Two-party systems lead to s\_\_\_\_\_ governments versus multiparty systems make governments u\_\_\_\_\_ (coalitions form and collapse)

## Swing States

US state where the two major political parties have s\_\_\_\_\_ levels of support among voters, viewed as i\_\_\_\_\_ in determining the overall result of a presidential e\_\_\_\_\_.



Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent candidate success

Identify the factors that have weakened political parties as described in this lesson.

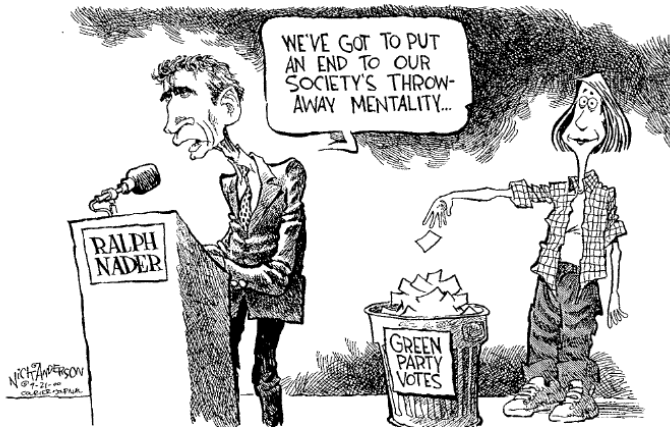
**FRQ Practice**

*In this rigged, two-party system, third parties almost never win a national election. It's obvious what our function is in this constricted oligarchy of two corporate-indentured parties—to push hitherto taboo issues onto the public stage, to build for a future, to get a young generation in, keep the progressive agenda alive, push the two parties a little bit on this issue and that.*

**—Ralph Nader,  
Presidential 2008 Candidate  
Green Party**

Use the quote and your knowledge of U.S. Government and Politics to answer parts A, B, and C.

- A. Describe the viewpoint expressed in the quote.
- B. Explain one reason why third parties seldom win national elections.
- C. Explain one reason why an individual might not vote for a third party, aside from the fact that third parties rarely win elections.



Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.

(a) Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.

(b) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.

(c) Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.