

**AMSCO®**

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT® EDITION**

# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

## Topic: Third Party Politics

### Before you get started...

Third parties.

#### A. Types:

1. Doctrinal: apply a general philosophy to a wide variety of issues (e.g., Communist Party, Socialist Party).
2. Issue-oriented (e.g., Free Soil, Greenback, Prohibition).
3. Parties centered around a strong personality (e.g., Perot's Reform Party, TR's Bull Moose Party).

#### B. Contributions of third parties.

1. Raise issues that other parties must address, and often incorporate 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.).
2. Voice for the fringe elements in society.
3. Safety valve for discontent in society.

#### C. Effects of third parties.

1. Rarely win elections
2. Influence the outcome of presidential elections (e.g., 1968, 1992, 2000):

### At the end you should know ...

How do structural barriers impact third party and independent candidate's success?

### Resources ...

Wolfford pp. 543-548, [Video Clip 5.5](#), [Quizlet 5.5](#)

**Notes:**