

Delaware Recommended Curriculum

Teaching Civics with Primary Sources Grant Project

This lesson has been created as an exemplary model for teachers in (re)design of course curricula. An exemplary model lesson has undergone a rigorous peer review and jurying process to ensure alignment to selected Delaware Content Standards.

Lesson Title: **The Formation of Political Parties**

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Content Area: **Social Studies / Civics**

Grade Level: **9**

Summary of Lesson: Students will work in groups to investigate a case study to help answer the question “Why do political parties form?” Students will have an opportunity to compare case studies to help form some generalizations.

Estimated Time to Complete: Two Blocks or Three to Four Standard Classes

Resources Needed:

- Document Case Study Packets [see Resource #5]
- Graphic Organizer [see Resource #2]
- Semantic Feature Analysis [see Resource #4]
- Transfer Task and Rubric [see Resource #1]

Stage 1 – Desired Results

What students will know, do, and understand

Delaware Content Standards:

Civics Standard Two 9-12A

Big Ideas

- Minor parties often arise due to dissatisfaction with existing parties.
- Minor parties are often focused on one issue or a small number of issues.
- Parties may arise because of changing economic, social, or political conditions.
- Political parties serve as unifying or organizing factor. People come together to form parties because they are unified around an issue(s) or idea(s) and come to realize that conditions in a democracy (majority rule) favor working in groups as opposed to working alone.
- In the United States, minor parties are also sometimes referred to as Third Parties.

Unit Enduring Understandings

Political scientists generally agree that political parties will inevitably arise in any democracy as a political culture based on the principal of majority rule practically demands that people work in groups to accomplish their goals, get elected to office, advance public policy, and so on. However, new parties appear on occasion to challenge dominant parties. Some of these reasons include dissatisfaction with existing parties, a singular focus on one issue, a response to changing economic conditions, or to promote a particular candidate not endorsed by a major party.

Unit Essential Question

- Under what conditions do political parties rise?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will know...

- Specific information about their case study.
- Under what conditions specific political parties arose.

Students will be able to...

- Synthesize information from several case studies.
- Form generalizations based on several case studies.
- Write an informative essay in which they answer the essential question.

Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence

Evidence that will be collected to determine whether or not Desired Results are achieved.

Transfer Task:

The Formation of Political Parties

Background

The formation of the modern-day Tea Party and broader awareness of American political history has impacted the thinking of leaders in the two major parties (Republicans and Democrats). Specifically, the leaders of both parties are increasingly concerned about (1) challenges to the two party system and (2) their parties' influence over American politics.

There is an increasing awareness that young voters feel increasingly ignored and low voter turnout is viewed as a powerful sign of their dissatisfaction with American politics. Teen voters have the lowest participation rate of any age group in the United States. Nationally, a fledgling "Teen Party" is being organized by a very small group of disgruntled youth in American high schools. The concern is that this Teen Party may follow the Tea Party's lead and emerge as a significant threat to one or both major parties.

Directions

Now that you have developed some expertise on the rise of parties in U.S. history, the _____ (Democrat or Republican) Party has hired you as a consultant. They want to better understand:

- a. The extent to which teens are dissatisfied with the two existing parties and whether this new "Teen Party" might "catch fire." Which issues are of special concern to teens and how seriously are teens taking them?
- b. What might their party might do to reduce chances that the "Teen Party" might actually evolve into a new party and challenge their influence over American politics?

Use your knowledge of American political party history and understanding of issues that are important to teenagers to prepare a bulleted, brief (no more than a single, double-spaced page) that addresses points "a" and "b" above, and that provides specific recommendations to the _____ Party leadership that are informed by your analysis of American political parties.

Note: The party leadership insists that information you provide about teen issues should be evidence-based (i.e., based on a survey of teens in your school rather than on personal perceptions or beliefs).

Stage 3 – Learning Plan

Design learning activities to align with Stage 1 and Stage 2 expectations.

Lesson One:

Note about time: This lesson can be structured over 1-2 blocks depending on what works best. The warm-up, intro, and case studies took about one block in field testing.

Essential Question

- Under what conditions do political parties rise?

Instructional Strategies

Phase I: Gathering Information

Warm-Up/Do Now: Do the two major political parties in the United States (Democrats and Republicans) reflect the views of all Americans? [Support your answer with details.]

The prompt is intended to get students to thinking about how parties may not reflect the views of all Americans. Possible reasons why not may include that the United States is diverse so two parties cannot possibly represent everyone; that the party platform includes a large number of issues and people may not agree with a party on all issues; and the parties are exclusive.

Next, ask students what Americans might do if they feel that the existing political parties do not best represent them? Students may provide possible responses that include "don't join a party," "don't vote," and "form their own party."

After discussing the Do Now questions, tell students that you will be showing a "Political Party Rap" music video. While watching, students should be paying attention to the concept of a third party and why a third party is formed.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtGgreHgvfo&list=PLN_VEYjh8gCByLq9iBB_yP4Qyhh95DMyH

Debrief: Ask students to explain the concept of "third party" and why third parties form.

Phase II: Extending and Refining

STEP 1: Case Study

Mini-Lecture: Introduce the lesson. Tell students that, generally speaking, political scientists have concluded that political parties will form in any democracy that is guided by the principle of majority rule. In such a society, individuals must organize into groups form majorities that can win elections and get laws passed. Throughout American history, various political parties have formed for more specific reasons, and the goal of this lesson is to conduct political party case studies so that we can gain a fuller understanding of why parties form.

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Say, "Today we will work in small groups to investigate the rise of political parties in U.S. history. You will be assigned to a group, and each group will be assigned one political party to investigate. The investigations will be guided by the following question: Under what conditions do political parties form?"

Place students in small groups and distribute folders containing copies of documents relating to the political party to which each group is assigned.

Tell students that their tasks are to:

- Analyze the documents in their folder.
- Create a poster that provides information about your political party and describes the conditions under which the party rose.

Gallery Walk: Tell students, "You will now participate in a gallery walk where you will have a chance to view other groups' posters to learn more about why parties form. By the end of the class, you should have answers for the question: *Under what conditions do political parties form?*"

There are six case studies prepared so, based on the class size, you may choose to use all or some of these. Groups of three are ideal for this activity. If your class size is larger, you may want to have some case study groups duplicated.

As a class, review the requirements for the poster **[see Resource #1]**.

Content of Poster: Your poster should include the following information...

- Political party name.
- Party platform/key issue(s).
- Dates/time period.
- Why did the party form/start?

Poster Requirements

- Well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions.
- Concrete details, quotations, or other information from the documents.
- Headings/titles/subtitles.
- Graphics/images.

Students should take about 25 minutes to read their documents and create their posters. Circulate to make sure that all members are engaged.

STEP 2: Gallery Walk

Students should hang their posters around the room so groups can circulate easily.

Distribute copies of **Resource #2**. Ask students to circulate around the different poster, moving from one to the next when instructed. Explain to students that they should each be completing the Resource #2 Graphic Organizer as they visit. This graphic organizer will become instrumental in the transfer task, so it is important that students complete it thoroughly.

Note: In field testing we used the gallery walk method. Each group needed between two to

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three minutes at each poster to complete their graphic organizer. This seemed to be enough for the students to find the necessary pieces of information. However, a stay and stray method would also work well. If you are unfamiliar with the stay and stray technique, several tutorials are available online including:
<http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/two-stray-one-stay>.

Resource #3 offers a sample answer key for Resource #2 **[see Resource #3]**.

Generalize: Once the class has completed the stay and stray, debrief by asking, "How do these case studies help us understand the conditions in which political parties form?"

Optional Activity: At this point, you could opt to use the Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA) **[see Resource #4]** as either a summative or formative grade. It could serve as an exit ticket or homework based on the timing of your class. It also could be used as a warm-up activity for the next class. *Note: In field testing we did not have enough time to complete the SFA and have a debriefing after the exercise at the end of the first block, so I opted to debrief the class with a discussion.*

Phase III: Application

Students will complete the transfer task in which they prepare a briefing to the Democrats or Republicans regarding the formation of a new "Teen Party."

Common Core State Standards

INFORMATIVE:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.2.A

Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.2.B

Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.2.D

Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic and convey a style appropriate to the discipline and context as well as to the expertise of likely readers.

Resource #1

Political Parties Case Study Tasks

Introduction

You will be working in a small group to study a series of documents. You are trying to answer the following question: ***Why did this political party form?*** Your documents will help answer this question, so read through them carefully!

Task

Create a poster that educates your fellow students about the reasons why the party featured in your group's document formed.

Content of Poster

Your poster should include the following information...

- Political party name.
- Party platform/key issue(s).
- Dates/time period.
- Why/under what conditions did the party form/start?

Poster Requirements

- Well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions.
- Concrete details, quotations, or other information from the documents.
- Headings/titles/subtitles.
- Graphics/images.

Case Study Steps:

1. Review the poster requirements.
2. Review your document packet.
3. Read through each document packet and as a group and pull out the information that will be used on your poster.
4. Assemble the poster. Other groups will be studying your poster, so it should be clear, tidy, and attractive. Most importantly, you need to be using evidence from your documents.

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Resource #2

Step 1

Graphic Organizer: The Rise of Political Parties

Complete the graphic organizer as you visit each poster.

Political Party	Year(s)	Key Issues	Why Formed?
Free Soil Party			
American Party (The Know Nothings)			
Whig Party			
People's Party (The Populists)			
The Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party)			
The Tea Party			

STEP 2

Look for common themes:

- 1. Review the fourth column of the graphic organizer. What are some common themes among the reasons that political parties form?**

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Resource #3: Teacher's Guide to Resource #2

Students may also provide other responses. These serve to provide the teacher with some basic background on the parties and some of the reasons why they were formed.

Political Party	Year(s)	Key Issues	Why Formed?
Free Soil Party	1848–1854	Opposed to the Expansion of Slavery	In 1848 the Democratic Party refused to adopt the Wilmot Proviso. Any Democrats and Whigs who supported it formed the Free Soil Party.
American Party (The Know Nothings)	1845–1860	Nativism, Anti-Catholicism, Temperance, Republicanism, Protestantism	In part, a reaction to large numbers of Irish and German Catholic immigrants. Also, as the Whig Party lost power and eventually collapsed, some people were open to supporting other parties.
Whig Party	1833–1860	Pro Federalism Pro Economic Protectionism	Formed in reaction to Andrew Jackson's expansion of presidential power ("King Jackson"). Identified with the values of Jefferson and wanted a more balanced government.
People's Party (The Populists)	1891–1908	Populism Agrarian Free Silver	Grew out of economic struggles from farmers in the South and Mid-West. Also grew out of a belief that the two major parties, Democrats and Republicans, were controlled by elites.
The Progressive Party (Bull Moose Party)	1912–1916	Progressivism Populism (e.g., called for eight-hour workday, minimum wage for women, etc.)	TR was disappointed with Taft's presidency and decided to run again. The Republican Party nominated Taft so his supporters formed its own party.
The Tea Party	2007–Present	No Centralized Agenda Conservative	Not entirely understood yet. Some believe it was an off-shoot of Ron Paul's failed presidential bid.

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Resource #4: Semantic Feature Analysis

Directions: The top row on the chart below describes reasons why political parties might rise or fall. The right-hand column lists political parties in American history that rose and, in most cases, fell apart. Read across each row (political party) and place checks in the boxes where the reason for a party's rise or fall applies to each party.

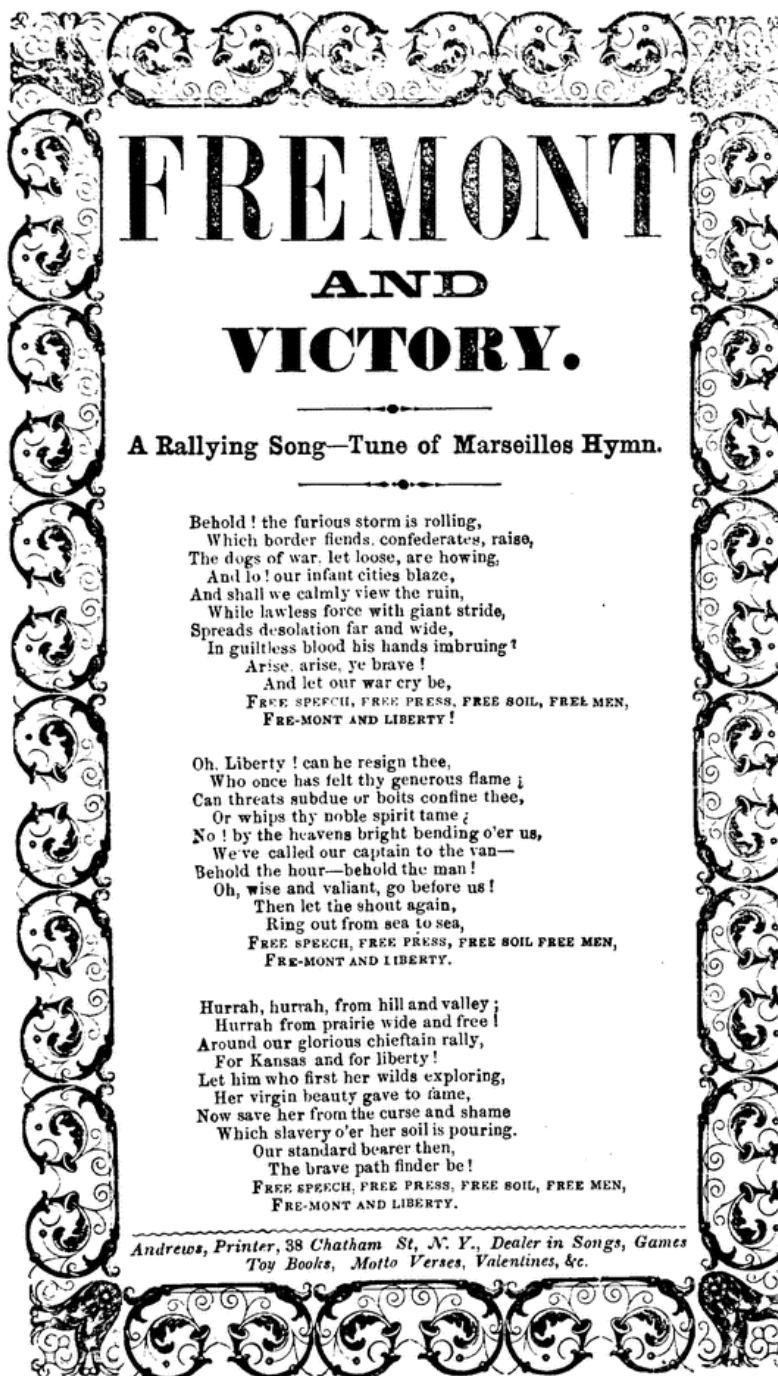
<div>Reasons for Rise or fall → of Parties</div> <div>Parties ↓</div>	Loss of Dynamic Leader	Existing Parties Fail to Address Needs	Groups Needed to Get Things Accomplished
Free Soil Party			
American Party			
Whig Party			
People's Party			
Progressive Party			
Tea Party			

Resource #5: Case Study Documents

FREE SOIL PARTY

Document 1:

Source: 1856 Campaign Song



FREMONT AND VICTORY.

A Rallying Song—Tune of Marseilles Hymn.

Behold ! the furious storm is rolling,
Which border fiends, confederates, raise,
The dogs of war, let loose, are howling,
And lo ! our infant cities blaze,
And shall we calmly view the ruin,
While lawless force with giant stride,
Spreads desolation far and wide,
In guiltless blood his hands imbruing ?
Arise, arise, ye brave !
And let our war cry be,
FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE SOIL, FREE MEN,
FRE-MONT AND LIBERTY !

Oh, Liberty ! can he resign thee,
Who once has felt thy generous flame ;
Can threats subdue or bolts confine thee,
Or whips thy noble spirit tame ;
No ! by the heavens bright bending o'er us,
We've called our captain to the van—
Behold the hour—behold the man !
Oh, wise and valiant, go before us !
Then let the shout again,
Ring out from sea to sea,
FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE SOIL FREE MEN,
FRE-MONT AND LIBERTY.

Hurrah, hurrah, from hill and valley ;
Hurrah from prairie wide and free !
Around our glorious chieftain rally,
For Kansas and for liberty !
Let him who first her wilds exploring,
Her virgin beauty gave to fame,
Now save her from the curse and shame
Which slavery o'er her soil is pouring.
Our standard bearer then,
The brave path finder be !
FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE SOIL, FREE MEN,
FRE-MONT AND LIBERTY.

*Andrews, Printer, 38 Chatham St., N. Y., Dealer in Songs, Games
Toy Books, Motto Verses, Valentines, &c.*

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Document 2:

Source: Free Soil Campaign Banner from Nathaniel Currier firm – Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b50339>.
Print shows a campaign poster for Free Soil Party candidates Martin Van Buren and Charles Francis Adams in the presidential race of 1848, under slogan "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Speech."



Document 3:

Source: Excerpts from the Free Soil Party Platform (1848)

Web Version: <http://dig.lib.niu.edu/teachers/politics-platform-e.html>

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Whereas, We have assembled in Convention, as a union of freemen, for the sake of freedom, forgetting all past political differences in a common resolve to maintain the rights of free labor against the aggressions of the Slave Power..

And Whereas, The political Conventions recently assembled at Baltimore and Philadelphia, the one stifling the voice of a great constituency, entitled to be heard in its deliberations, and the other abandoning its distinctive principles for mere availability, have dissolved the National party organizations heretofore existing, by nominating for the Chief Magistracy of the United States, under the slaveholding dictation, candidates, neither of whom can be supported by the opponents of Slavery Extension without a sacrifice of consistency, duty and self-respect;

And whereas, These nominations so made, furnish the occasion and demonstrate the necessity of the union of the people under the banner of free Democracy, in a solemn and formal declaration of their independence of the slave power, and of their fixed determination to rescue the Federal Government from its control;

Resolved, therefore, That we, the people here assembled, remembering the example of our fathers, in the days of the first Declaration of Independence, putting our trust in God for the triumph of our cause, and invoking his guidance in our endeavors to advance it, do now plant ourselves upon the National platform of Freedom in opposition to the sectional platform of Slavery.

Resolved, That Slavery in the several States of this Union which recognize its existence, depends upon State laws alone, which cannot be repealed or modified by the Federal Government, and for which laws that government is not responsible. We therefore propose no interference by Congress with Slavery within the limits of any State.

Resolved, That the Proviso of Jefferson, to prohibit the or existence of Slavery after 1800, in all the Territories of the United States, Southern and Northern; the votes of six States and sixteen delegates, in the Congress of 1784, for the Proviso, to three States and seven delegates against it; the actual exclusion of Slavery from the Northwestern Territory, by the Ordinance of 1787, unanimously adopted by the States in Congress; and the entire history of that period, clearly show that it was the settled policy of the Nation not to extend, nationalize or encourage, but to limit, localize and discourage Slavery; and to this policy, which should never have been departed from, the Government ought to return...

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Convention, Congress has no more power to make a Slave than to make a King; no more power to institute or establish Slavery than to institute or establish a Monarchy: no such power can be found among those specifically conferred by the Constitution, or derived by just implication from them.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the Federal Government to relieve itself from all responsibility for the existence or continuance of slavery wherever the government possesses constitutional authority to legislate on that subject, and it is thus responsible for its existence.

Resolved, That the true, and in the judgment of this Convention, the only safe means of preventing the extension of Slavery into Territory now Free, is to prohibit its extension in all such Territory by an act of Congress.

Resolved, That we accept the issue which the Slave power has forced upon us; and to their demand for more Slave States, and more Slave Territory, our calm but final answer is, no more Slave States and no more Slave Territory. Let the soil of our extensive domains be kept free for the hardy pioneers of our own land, and the oppressed and banished of other lands, seeking homes of comfort and fields of enterprise in the new world.

Resolved, That the bill lately reported by the committee of eight in the Senate of the United States, was no compromise, but an absolute surrender of the rights of the Non-Slaveholders of all the States; and while we rejoice to know that a measure which, while opening the door for the introduction of Slavery into Territories now free, would also have opened the door to litigation and strife among the future inhabitants thereof, to the ruin of their peace and prosperity, was defeated in the House of Representatives, its passage, in hot haste, by

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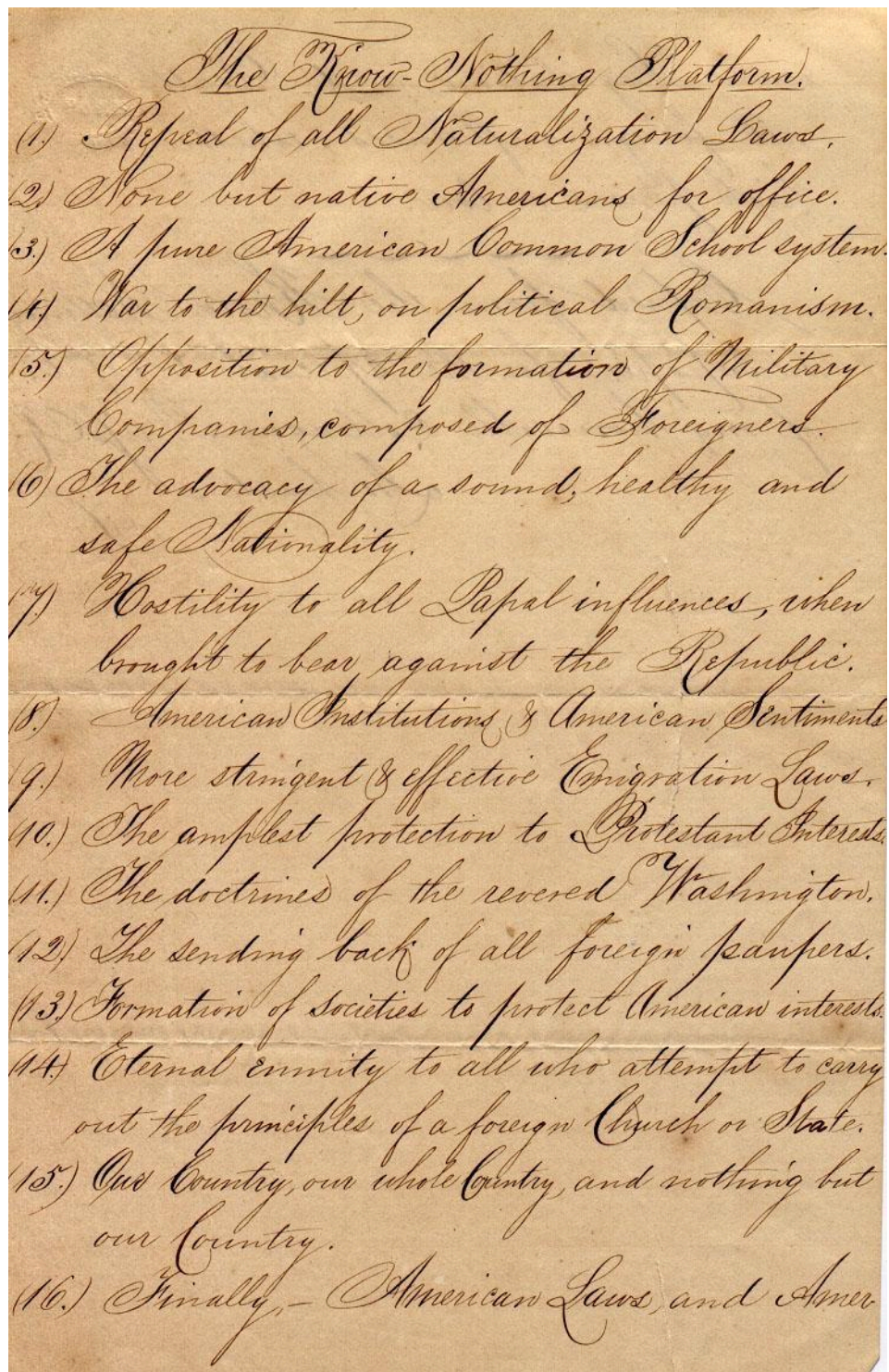
a majority, embracing several senators who voted in open violation of the known will of their constituents, should warn the people to see to it, that their representatives be not suffered to betray them. There must be no more Compromises with Slavery; if made they must be repealed.

Resolved, That we demand freedom and established institutions for our brethren in Oregon, now exposed to hardships, peril and massacre by the reckless hostility of which the Slave Power to the establishment of Free Government for Free Territories; and not only for them, but for our new brethren in California and New-Mexico...

The American Party ("Know Nothings")

Document 1:

Source: The Know Nothing Platform 1856, Document in the Duke University Special Collections Library: <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/americanvotes/know-nothing.html>



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The Know-Nothing Platform 1856

- (1) Repeal of all Naturalization Laws.
- (2) None but Americans for office.
- (3) A pure American Common School system.
- (4) War to the hilt, on political Romanism.
- (5) Opposition to the formation of Military Companies, composed of Foreigners.
- (6) The advocacy of a sound, healthy and safe Nationality.
- (7) Hostility to all Papal influences, when brought to bear against the Republic.
- (8) American Constitutions & American sentiments.
- (9) More stringent & effective Emigration Laws.
- (10) The amplest protection to Protestant Interests.
- (11) The doctrines of the revered Washington.
- (12) The sending back of all foreign paupers.
- (13) Formation of societies to protect American interests.
- (14) Eternal enmity to all those who attempt to carry out the principles of a foreign Church or State.
- (15) Our Country, our whole Country, and nothing but our Country.
- (16) Finally, -American Laws, and American Legislation, and Death to all foreign influences, whether in high places or low

"Copied from the "Know Nothing" newspaper, for the special benefit of my honorable colleague, Miss R In haste----S"

Document 2:

Source: Abraham Lincoln on the Know Nothing Party (*Digital History ID 301*)

Author: Abraham Lincoln

Date: 1855

As late as 1850, the two party system was, to all outward appearances, still healthy. Both the Democrats and Whigs were able to attract support in every section and neither party was able to win more than 53 percent of the popular vote. Then, in the space of just five years, the two-party system disintegrated in response to two issues: foreign immigration and the reemergence of the issues of slavery expansion.

A massive wave of immigration from Ireland and Germany after 1845 led to an outburst of anti-foreign and anti-Catholic sentiment. Between 1846 and 1855, three million foreigners arrived in America. Nativists--ardent opponents of immigration--capitalized on deep-seated Protestant antagonism toward Catholics and working-class fear of economic competition from cheaper immigrant labor. Nativists charged that Catholics were responsible for a sharp increase in poverty, crime, and drunkenness, and were subservient to a foreign leader, the Pope.

In 1849, native-born Protestant workingmen formed a secret fraternal organization, "The Order of the Star-Spangled Banner," which became the nucleus of a new political party known as the Known-Nothing or American party. The party received its name from the fact that, when members were asked about the party's workings, they were supposed to reply, "I know nothing."

The Know Nothings attracted support not only from nativists, but from large numbers of northern free soilers and southern Whigs. By 1855, the party had captured control of all New England except Vermont and Maine and was the dominant opposition party to the Democrats in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The party platform included a 21-year residency period before immigrants could become citizens and vote, limitations on office-holding to native-born Americans, and restrictions on the sale of liquor.

One Northerner who spoke out against the Know Nothings was Abraham Lincoln, who eloquently argued that the party's nativist platform was a violation of the country's republican principles.

Document:

I am not a Know-Nothing. How could I be? How can any one who abhors the oppression of Negroes be in favor of degrading classes of white people? Our progress in degeneracy appears to me pretty rapid. As a nation we began by declaring "all men are created equal." We now practically read it, "all men are created equal, except Negroes." When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read "all men are created equal, except Negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics." When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty--to Russia, for example, where despotism can be taken pure and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.

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The Populist Party

Document 1:

Source: Swallowed! <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010651311/>

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Document 2:

Source: Campaign Poster, 1892: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pga.01400/>

The Political Crisis of the 1890s

Populism

Digital History ID 3127

A little more than a century ago, a grassroots political movement arose among small farmers in the country's wheat, corn, and cotton fields to fight banks, big corporations, railroads, and other "monied interests." The movement burned brightly from 1889 to 1896, before fading out. Nevertheless, this movement fundamentally changed American politics.

The Populist movement grew out of earlier movements that had emerged among southern and western farmers, such as the Grangers, the Greenbackers, and the Northern, Southern, and Colored Farmers Alliances. As early as the 1870s, some farmers had begun to demand lower railroad rates. They also argued that business and the wealthy--and not land--should bear the burden of taxation.

Populists were especially concerned about the high cost of money. Farmers required capital to purchase agricultural equipment and land. They needed credit to buy supplies and to store their crops in grain elevators and warehouses. At the time, loans for the supplies to raise a crop ranged from 40 percent to 345 percent a year. The Populists asked why there was no more money in circulation in the United States in 1890 than in 1865, when the economy was far smaller, and why New York bankers controlled the nation's money supply.

After nearly two decades of falling crop prices, and angered by the unresponsiveness of two political parties they regarded as corrupt, dirt farmers rebelled. In 1891, a Kansas lawyer named David Overmeyer called these rebels Populists. They formed a third national political party and rallied behind leaders like Mary Lease, who said that farmers should raise more hell and less corn. The Populists spread their message from 150 newspapers in Kansas alone.

Populist leaders called on the people to rise up, seize the reins of government, and tame the power of the wealthy and privileged. Populist orators venerated farmers and laborers as the true producers of wealth and reviled blood-sucking plutocrats. Tom Watson of Georgia accused the Democrats of sacrificing "the liberty and prosperity of the country...to Plutocratic greed," and the Republicans of doing the wishes of "monopolists, gamblers, gigantic corporations, bondholders, [and] bankers." The Populists accused big business of corrupting democracy and said that businessmen had little concern for the average American "except as raw material served up for the twin gods of production and profit." The Populists blamed a protective tariff raised prices by keeping affordable foreign goods out of the country.

The party's platform endorsed labor unions, decried long work hours, and championed the graduated income tax as a way to redistribute wealth from business to farmers and laborers. The party also called for an end to court injunctions against labor unions. "The fruits of the toil of millions," the Party declared in 1892, "are boldly stolen to build up the fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind." The Populists also called for a secret ballot; women's suffrage; an eight-hour workday, direct election of U.S. Senators and the President and Vice President; and initiative and recall to make the political system more responsive to the people.

The party put aside moral issues like prohibition in order to focus on economic issues. "The issue," said one Populist, "is not whether a man shall be permitted to drink but whether he

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shall have a home to go home to, drunk or sober." A significant number of Populists were also willing to overcome racial divisions. As one leader put it, "The problem is poverty, not race."

In the 1892 presidential election, Populist candidate James Weaver of Iowa received a million votes and 22 electoral votes. Five Populist Senators and ten Representatives were elected, along with three governors, and 1,500 state and county officials.

The Populists embraced government regulation to get out from the domination of unregulated big business. The platform demanded government ownership of railroads, natural resources, and telephone and telegraph systems. Even more radically, some Populists called for a coalition of poor white and poor black farmers.

Populism had an unsavory side. The Populists had a tendency toward paranoia and overblown rhetoric. They considered Wall Street an enemy. Many Populists were hostile toward foreigners and saw sinister plots against liberty and opportunity. The party's 1892 platform described "a vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents and is rapidly taking possession of the world." After their crusade failed, the embittered Georgia Populist Tom Watson denounced Jews, Catholics, and African Americans with the same heated rhetoric he once reserved for "plutocrats."

But in the early 20th century, many of the Populist proposals would be enacted into law, including the secret ballot; women's suffrage; the initiative, referendum, and recall; a Federal Reserve System; farm cooperatives, government warehouses; railroad regulation; and conservation of public lands.

The Populists also provided the inspiration for later grassroots movements, including the Anti-Saloon League, which helped make Prohibition a part of the Constitution; and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), which persuaded millions of auto workers, stevedores, and steel workers to unionize with its call for industrial democracy.

Populist rhetoric still plays an important role in contemporary American politics. Politicians speak the language of populism whenever they defend ordinary people against entrenched elites and a government dominated by special interests. During the 1930s, Franklin Roosevelt hailed "the forgotten man" and railed against "economic royalists" and in 1992 Bill Clinton ran for the presidency by pledging to "put people first."

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Document 4:

Source: From "People's Party Platform," *Omaha Morning World-Herald*, 5 July 1892

Populist Party Platform (1892)

The People's party, more commonly known as the Populist party, was organized in St. Louis in 1892 to represent the common folk—especially farmers—against the entrenched interests of railroads, bankers, processors, corporations, and the politicians in league with such interests. At its first national convention in Omaha in July 1892, the party nominated James K. Weaver for president and ratified the so-called Omaha Platform, drafted by Ignatius Donnelly of Minnesota.

Assembled upon the 116th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's Party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessing of Almighty God, put forth in the name and on behalf of the people of this country, the following preamble and declaration of principles:

Preamble

The conditions which surround us best justify our cooperation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, the Legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench.¹

The people are demoralized; most of the States have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation and bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right to organize for self-protection, imported pauperized labor beats down their wages, a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are badly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind; and the possessors of these, in turn, despise the Republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bond-holders; a vast public debt payable in legal-tender currency has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effort to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, ever issue but one. They propose to drown the

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outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives, and children on the altar of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of the grand general and chief who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the Republic to the hands of the "plain people," with which class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the National Constitution; to form a more perfect union and establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. . . .

Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is not precedent in the history of the world; our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must, within a few weeks or months, be exchanged for billions of dollars' worth of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange; the results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform. We believe that the power of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teaching of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice, and poverty shall eventually cease in the land. . . .

Platform

We declare, therefore—

First.—That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second.—Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civil labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Third.—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people must own the railroads; and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil-service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

FINANCE.—We demand a national currency, safe, sound, and flexible issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; a just, equitable, and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent, per annum, to be provided as set forth in the

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sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or a better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

1. We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.
2. We demand that the amount of circulating medium² be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.
3. We demand a graduated income tax.
4. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all State and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

TRANSPORTATION.—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people. The telegraph and telephone, like the post-office system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

LAND.—The land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Expressions of Sentiments

Your Committee on Platform and Resolutions beg leave unanimously to report the following: Whereas, Other questions have been presented for our consideration, we hereby submit the following, not as a part of the Platform of the People's Party, but as resolutions expressive of the sentiment of this Convention.

1. RESOLVED, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections and pledge ourselves to secure it to every legal voter without Federal Intervention, through the adoption by the States of the unperturbed Australian or secret ballot system.
2. RESOLVED, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic industries of this country.
3. RESOLVED, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors.
4. RESOLVED, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world and crowds out our wage-earners; and we denounce the present ineffective laws against contract labor, and demand the further restriction of undesirable emigration.
5. RESOLVED, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workingmen to shorten the hours of labor, and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on Government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to the said law.

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6. RESOLVED, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition. . . .
7. RESOLVED, That we commend to the favorable consideration of the people and the reform press the legislative system known as the initiative and referendum.
8. RESOLVED, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of President and Vice-President to one term, and providing for the election of Senators of the United States by a direct vote of the people.
9. RESOLVED, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose.
10. RESOLVED, That this convention sympathizes with the Knights of Labor and their righteous contest with the tyrannical combine of clothing manufacturers of Rochester, and declare it to be a duty of all who hate tyranny and oppression to refuse to purchase the goods made by the said manufacturers, or to patronize any merchants who sell such goods.

1. A valuable white fur adorning the robes of some judges.

2. Currency and/or coin.

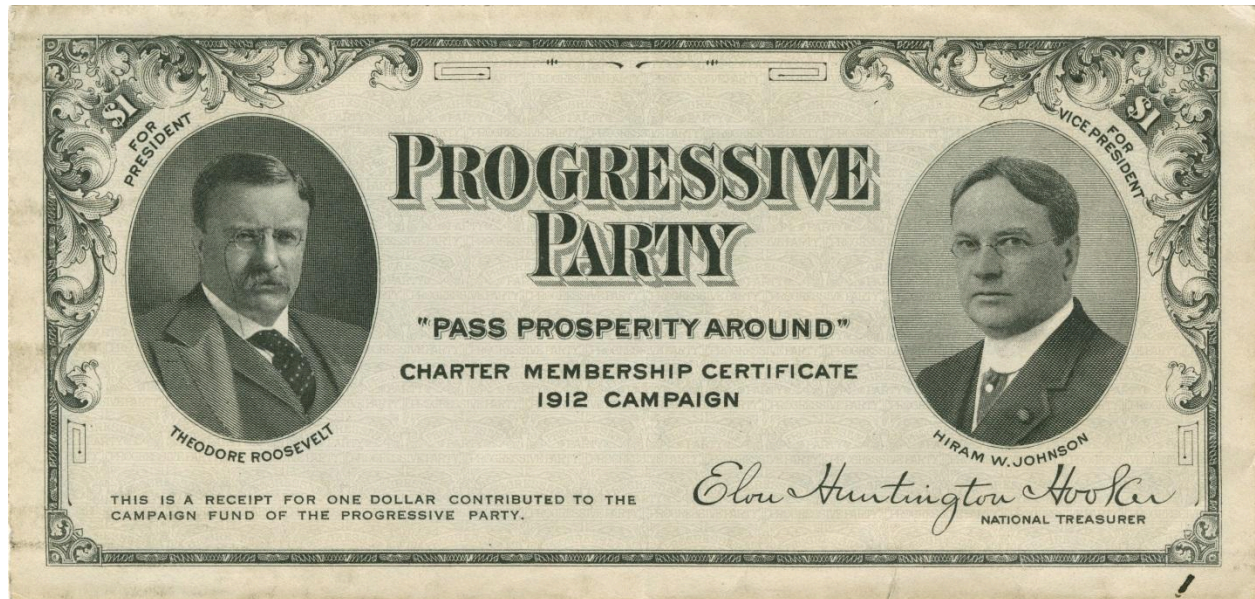
[From "People's Party Platform," *Omaha Morning World-Herald*, 5 July 1892.]

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Progressive Party

Document 1:

Source: *Progressive party membership certificate*. 1912. Prints and Photographs division. Library of Congress.



Additional information: Political flyer for the Progressive Party. 1912. Unknown artist.

This is a flyer in the form of a one-dollar bill, bearing a photo of Theodore Roosevelt, who was running for president and governor of California, and Hiram W. Johnson, who was Roosevelt's vice presidential candidate on the Progressive Party ticket in the 1912 campaign. The slogan on the flyer reads, "Pass Prosperity Around." The Progressive Party formed after a split with the Republican Party, who nominated sitting President William Taft. Although Roosevelt won more votes than Taft, he lost the election of 1912 to the Democratic nominee, Woodrow Wilson.

Document 2:

Source: Digital History:

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/teachers/modules/progressivism/index.cfm>

Learn about the Progressive Era

★ Introduction

By the beginning of the twentieth century, muckraking journalists were calling attention to the exploitation of child labor, corruption in city governments, the horror of lynching, and the ruthless business practices employed by businessmen like John D. Rockefeller.

At the local level, many Progressives sought to suppress red-light districts, expand high schools, construct playgrounds, and replace corrupt urban political machines with more efficient system of municipal government. At the state level, Progressives enacted minimum wage laws for women workers, instituted industrial accident insurance, restricted child labor, and improved factory regulation.

At the national level, Congress passed laws establishing federal regulation of the meat-packing, drug, and railroad industries, and strengthened anti-trust laws. It also lowered the tariff, established federal control over the banking system, and enacted legislation to improve working condition.

Four constitutional amendments were adopted during the Progressive era, which authorized an income tax, provided for the direct election of senators, extended the vote to women, and prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

★ Background

Progressivism is an umbrella label for a wide range of economic, political, social, and moral reforms. These included efforts to outlaw the sale of alcohol; regulate child labor and sweatshops; scientifically manage natural resources; insure pure and wholesome water and milk; Americanize immigrants or restrict immigration altogether; and bust or regulate trusts. Drawing support from the urban, college-educated middle class, Progressive reformers sought to eliminate corruption in government, regulate business practices, address health hazards, improve working conditions, and give the public more direct control over government through direct primaries to nominate candidates for public office, direct election of Senators, the initiative, referendum, and recall, and women's suffrage.

The Whig Party

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Document 1:

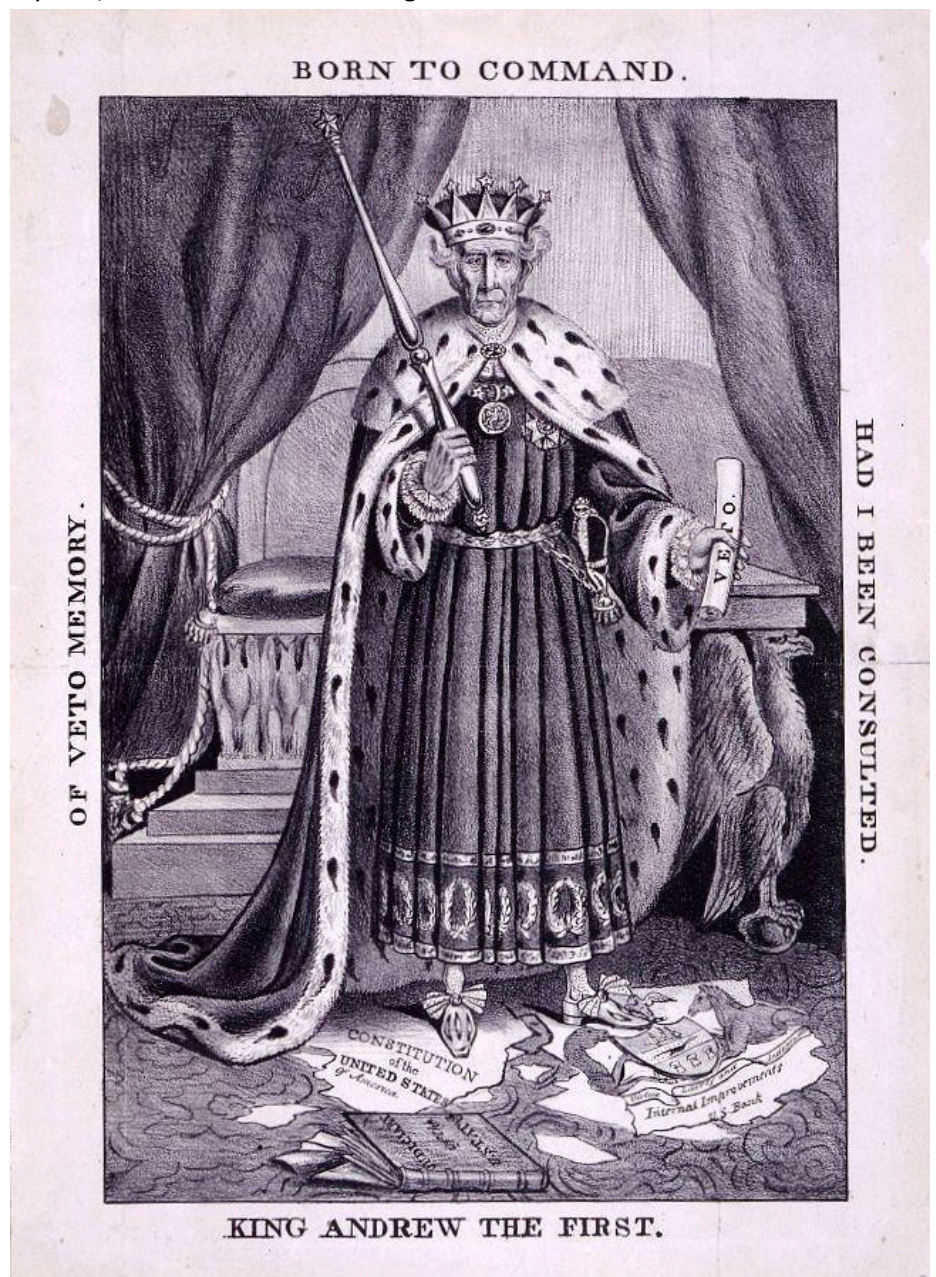
Source: Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661753/>

Title: King Andrew the First

Date Created/Published: [New York? : s.n.], 1833.

Medium: 1 print : lithograph on wove paper ; 31.7 x 21.4 cm. (image)

Summary: A caricature of Andrew Jackson as a despotic monarch, probably issued during the Fall of 1833 in response to the President's September order to remove federal deposits from the Bank of the United States. The print is dated a year earlier by Weitenkampf and related to Jackson's controversial veto of Congress's bill to recharter the Bank in July 1832. However, the charge, implicit in the print, of Jackson's exceeding the President's constitutional power, however, was most widely advanced in connection not with the veto but with the 1833 removal order, on which the President was strongly criticized for acting without congressional approval. Jackson, in regal costume, stands before a throne in a frontal pose reminiscent of a playing-card king. He holds a "veto" in his left hand and a scepter in his right. The Federal Constitution and the arms of Pennsylvania (the United States Bank was located in Philadelphia) lie in tatters under his feet. A book "Judiciary of the U[nited] States" lies nearby. Around the border of the print are the words "Of Veto Memory," "Born to Command" and "Had I Been Consulted."



Document 2:

Source: Minor/Third Party Platforms: "Whig Party Platform of 1844," May 1, 1844. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*.
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=25852>

POLITICAL PARTY PLATFORMS

Parties Receiving Electoral Votes: 1840 - 2012

Whig Party Platform of 1844

May 1, 1844



Resolved, That, in presenting to the country the names of Henry Clay for president, and of Theodore Frelinghuysen for vice-president of the United States, this Convention is actuated by the conviction that all the great principles of the Whig party—principles inseparable from the public honor and prosperity—will be maintained and advanced by these candidates.

Resolved, That these principles may be summed as comprising, a well-regulated currency; a tariff for revenue to defray the necessary expenses of the government, and discriminating with special reference to the protection of the domestic labor of the country; the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands; a single term for the presidency; a reform of executive usurpations;—and, generally—such an administration of the affairs of the country as shall impart to every branch of the public service the greatest practicable efficiency, controlled by a well regulated and wise economy.

Resolved, That the name of Henry Clay needs no eulogy; the history of the country since his first appearance in public life is his history; its brightest pages of prosperity and success are identified with the principles which he has upheld, as its darkest and more disastrous pages are with every material departure in our public policy from those principles.

Resolved, That in Theodore Frelinghuysen we present a man pledged alike by his revolutionary ancestry and his own public course to every measure calculated to sustain the honor and interest of the country. Inheriting the principles as well as the name of a father who, with Washington, on the fields of Trenton and of Monmouth, perilled life in the contest for liberty, and afterwards, as a senator of the United States, acted with Washington in establishing and perpetuating that liberty, Theodore Frelinghuysen, by his course as Attorney-General of the State of New Jersey for twelve years, and subsequently as a senator of the United States for several years, was

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always strenuous on the side of law, order, and the constitution, while as a private man, his head, his hand, and his heart have been given without stint to the cause of morals, education, philanthropy, and religion.

APP Note: The American Presidency Project used the first day of the national nominating convention as the "date" of this platform since the original document is undated.

Citation: Minor/Third Party Platforms: "Whig Party Platform of 1844," May 1, 1844. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=25852>.

Document 3:

Source: Digital History:

Digital History ID 3548

Jacksonian Democracy

The Whigs

Although it took a number of years for Jackson's opponents to coalesce into an effective national political organization, by the mid-1830s the Whig party, as the opposition came to be known, was able to battle the Democratic party on almost equal terms throughout the country.

The Whig party was formed in 1834 as a coalition of National Republicans, Anti-Masons, and disgruntled Democrats, who were united by their hatred of "King Andrew" Jackson and his "usurpations" of congressional and judicial authority, came together in 1834 to form the Whig party. The party took its name from the seventeenth-century British Whig group that had defended English liberties against the usurpations of pro-Catholic Stuart Kings.

In 1836 the Whigs mounted their first presidential campaign, running three regional candidates against Martin Van Buren: Daniel Webster, the senator from Massachusetts who had substantial appeal in New England; Hugh Lawson White, who had appeal in the South; and William Henry Harrison, who fought an Indian alliance at the Battle of Tippecanoe and appealed to the West and to Anti-Masons in Pennsylvania and Vermont. The party strategy was to throw the election into the House of Representatives, where the Whigs would unite behind a single candidate. Van Buren easily defeated all his Whig opponents, winning 170 electoral votes to just 73 for his closest rival.

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Following his strong showing in the election of 1836, William Henry Harrison received the united support of the Whig party in 1840. Benefiting from the Panic of 1837, Harrison easily defeated Van Buren by a vote of 234 to 60 in the electoral college.

Unfortunately, the 68-year-old Harrison caught cold while delivering a two-hour inaugural address in the freezing rain. Barely a month later he died of pneumonia, the first president to die in office. His successor, John Tyler of Virginia, was an ardent defender of slavery, a staunch advocate of states' rights, and a former Democrat, whom the Whigs had nominated in order to attract Democratic support to the Whig ticket.

A firm believer in the principle that the federal government should exercise no powers other than those expressly enumerated in the Constitution, Tyler rejected the entire Whig legislative program, which called for reestablishment of a national bank, an increased tariff, and federally funded internal improvements.

The Whig party was furious. An angry mob gathered at the White House, threw rocks through the windows, and burned the president in effigy. To protest Tyler's rejection of the Whig political agenda, all members of the cabinet but one resigned. Tyler became a president without a party. "His Accidency" vetoed nine bills during his four years in office, more than any previous one-term president, frustrating Whig plans to recharter the national bank and raise the tariff while simultaneously distributing proceeds of land sales to the states. In 1843 Whigs in the House of Representatives made Tyler the subject of the first serious impeachment attempt, but the resolutions failed by a vote of 127 to 83.

Like the Democrats, the Whigs were a coalition of sectional interests, class and economic interests, and ethnic and religious interests.

Democratic voters tended to be small farmers, residents of less-prosperous towns, and the Scots-Irish and Catholic Irish. Whigs tended to be educators and professionals; manufacturers; business-oriented farmers; British and German Protestant immigrants; upwardly aspiring manual laborers; free blacks; and active members of Presbyterian, Unitarian, and Congregational churches.

The Whig coalition included supporters of Henry Clay's American System, states' righters, religious groups alienated by Jackson's Indian removal policies, and bankers and businesspeople frightened by the Democrats' anti-monopoly and anti-bank rhetoric.

Whereas the Democrats stressed class conflict, Whigs emphasized the harmony of interests between labor and capital, the need for humanitarian reform, and leadership by men of talent. The Whigs also idealized the "self-made man," who starts "from an humble origin, and from small beginnings rise[s] gradually in the world, as a result of merit and industry." Finally, the Whigs viewed technology and factory enterprise as forces for increasing national wealth and improving living conditions.

In 1848 and 1852 the Whigs tried to repeat their successful 1840 presidential campaign by nominating military heroes for the presidency. The party won the 1848 election with General Zachary Taylor, an Indian fighter and hero of the Mexican War, who had boasted that he had never cast a vote in a presidential election. Like Harrison, Taylor confined his campaign speeches to uncontroversial platitudes. "Old Rough and Ready," as he was known, died after just 1 year and 127 days in office. Then, in 1852, the Whigs nominated another Indian fighter and Mexican War hero, General Winfield Scott, who carried just four states for his

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dying party. "Old Fuss and Feathers," as he was called, was the last Whig nominee to play an important role in a presidential election.

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The Tea Party

Document 1:

Source: Tea Party Federation Heading: <http://www.thenationalteapartyfederation.com/>

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Document 2:

Source: Screen Shot from www.thecontract.org on 4/29/2014.

CONTRACT *from* AMERICA

We, the citizens of the United States of America, call upon those seeking to represent us in public office to sign the Contract from America and by doing so commit to support each of its agenda items and advocate on behalf of individual liberty, limited government, and economic freedom.

1. Protect the Constitution
2. Reject the EPA's Overreach
3. Demand a Balanced Budget
4. Enact Fundamental Tax Reform
5. Restore Fiscal Responsibility & Constitutionally Limited Government
6. End Runaway Government Spending
7. Defund, Repeal, & Replace Government-run Health Care
8. Pass an 'All-of-the-Above' Energy Policy
9. Stop the Pork
10. Protect American's Privacy
11. Stop Unconstitutional Executive Branch Power

Get Involved!
CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED

Document 3:

Source: <http://www.teaparty.org/about-us/>

The Tea Party: About Us



The Tea Party is a grassroots movement that calls awareness to any issue which challenges the security, sovereignty, or domestic tranquility of our beloved nation, the United States of America. From our founding, the Tea Party represents the voice of the true owners of the United States: WE THE PEOPLE.

TeaParty.org was created on: September 2nd, 2004. Many claim to be the founders of this movement; however, it was the brave souls of the men and women in 1773, known today as the Boston Tea Party, who dared to defy the greatest military might on earth. We are the beneficiaries of their courage.

The Tea Party includes those who possess a strong belief in the foundational Judeo-Christian values embedded in our great founding documents. We believe the responsibility of our beloved nation is etched upon the hearts of true American Patriots from every race, religion, national origin, and walk of life sharing a common belief in the values which made and keep our beloved nation great. This belief led to the creation of the modern-day Tea Party.

Many Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, and Independents identify with the premises set forth by the Tea Party Movement, which is striking a chord and ringing true with the American Spirit.

We stand by the Constitution as inherently conservative. We serve as a beacon to the masses that have lost their way, a light illuminating the path to the original intentions of our Founding Fathers. We must raise a choir of voices declaring America must stand on the values which made us great. Only then will the politically blind see and deaf hear!

By joining the Tea Party, you are taking a stand for our nation. You will be upholding the grand principles set forth in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

15 Non-negotiable Core Beliefs

1. Illegal aliens are here illegally.
2. Pro-domestic employment is indispensable.
3. A strong military is essential.
4. Special interests must be eliminated.
5. Gun ownership is sacred.
6. Government must be downsized.
7. The national budget must be balanced.
8. Deficit spending must end.
9. Bailout and stimulus plans are illegal.
10. Reducing personal income taxes is a must.
11. Reducing business income taxes is mandatory.
12. Political offices must be available to average citizens.
13. Intrusive government must be stopped.
14. English as our core language is required.
15. Traditional family values are encouraged.

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The Tea Party Movement

Reminiscent of Tiananmen Square where a few stood to defy tyranny and demand liberty and democracy, a few patriots stood in protest representing the American people. We were more than lowly protestors; we were the type of Americans the Founding Fathers envisioned over 200 years ago as true Patriots of courage and valor.

TeaParty.org and soon other fearless Patriots began to join in our solitary stance; The Tea was brewing! Young and old, wealthy and poor, patriots of all colors and backgrounds began to rally with a new energy, an energy reminiscent of pictures in old American History books. Word of mouth began to spread. Citizens began calling loved ones, proclaiming, **"We The People Rule!"** Many blogged on their laptops, or messaged family and friends. The energy began to sweep across the nation.

The media began to take notice. America was deeply moved, right down to her soul. A new voice began to speak, and a new hope was spawned. Gathering crowds grew from hundreds to thousands, and then swelled to the millions.

As citizens became increasingly frustrated by "politics as usual," patriots across America began seeking a new voice, one that echoes from the pages of history. What would we name this voice? It soon became obvious, for our very own heritage held the key to unleashing the American Spirit. The Tea Party was the perfect choice. The Tea Party concept was far superior because it removed all the obstacles of party lines along with the baggage of confused issues, and focused only on a few key points.

From this humble beginning a movement was born. The Tea Party Movement, born from obscurity, without funding, without planning, is a spontaneous force shaking the very glass foundation of the oligarchy that rules in our name, but without our blessing.

We took our stand, thousands joined, and then millions assembled across our beloved nation. Today, tens of millions of Patriot voices resonate in unison **"We The People Rule!"** In spite of ongoing hateful ridicule from socialists and leftists, we stood our post, day by day, month by month and now year in and year out. We will not stop.

Needless to say, this Tea Party Movement has grown far beyond belief, from a handful of brave Patriots to tens of millions. Many have been declared as the founder of the modern-day Tea Party; to that we can say: "The true founders of the Tea Party were the brave Patriots who dared challenge the status quo in 1773; we are merely their beneficiaries."

A word from TeaParty.Org

Many of America's dilemmas lay squarely on the shoulders of We The People. Meanwhile, economic issues burden small businesses. However, we must not define ourselves by the calamities in our lives, but by our resolve to pick up the pieces and move on. The power of a few can change a nation, save a people and illuminate a generation.

Commonsense, Conservative, Constitutional Self-Governance Is Our Mode Of Operation. Yes, we are a Christian nation. However, you do not have to be a Christian to enjoy freedom. The Tea Party welcomes all red-blooded U.S. Citizens.

TeaParty.org is the only Tea Party organization praised by Dr. Michael Savage in his book, Trickle Up Poverty, pages 18 through 24. The book is highly recommended!

We may be old fashioned, but we believe it is not foolish to pledge our lives, liberty and sacred honor to the greatest nation that ever was or ever will be. The nation of the people,

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by the people and for the people, to that we shall strive to carry forward the mantle of the Tea Party, keeping alive the voice of freedom.

May God Bless America

Steve Eichler J.D.

C.E.O. of the Tea Party/TeaParty.org

See more at: <http://www.teaparty.org/about-us/#sthash.ZjnGfHi5.dpuf>

Source: <http://www.teaparty.org/about-us/>