

5. Political Parties

1. Definition

- **Political organization** seeking to influence gov policies
- Nominating candidates
- Seeking to win elections
- Identifies **three groups** of individuals
 - (1) Office holders & candidates running under party's banner
 - (2) Workers & activists staffing party's formal organization
 - (3) Voters considering themselves to be associated with party
- **Party identification**
 - : Voters who consider a party as their own
 - : Voters support a party most

2. Evolution of American Party Democracy

- Negative in the 1780s – early 1800s
- No broad-based party organizations to mobilize popular support
: Mischief of faction
- **George Washington** 1796 farewell address
[The new nation will be in the most solemn manner
against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.]

1) Early Parties

- Parties grew by the enormous **increase** in voters between 1820-40.
- Electors rose from 300,000 to 2 million.
- US expanded westward

- Most states cancelled **property requirements** for voting
- From state legislative selection of presidential electors
→ to **popular election** of electoral college members
- Small caucuses of congressional party leaders nominated candidates.
→ Party **conventions** nominated candidates.

2) Federalist

: support strong central gov

: George Washington

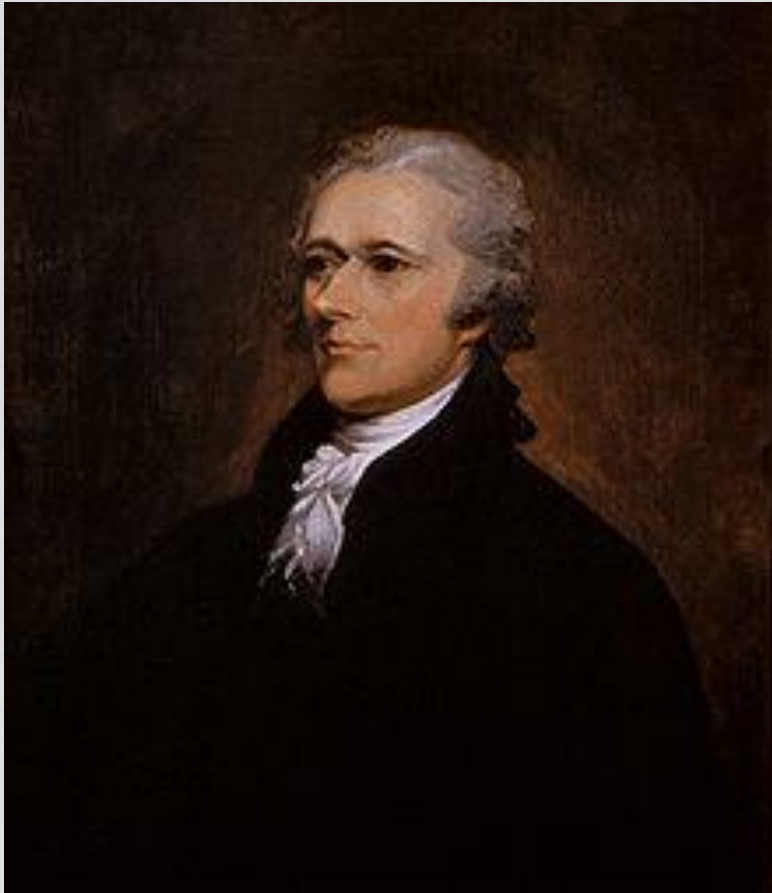
: [Alexander Hamilton](#)

: New Englanders (North)

- Federalist

→ National Republican Party

→ Whig Party (1833-1856) → **Republican Party (GOP)**



Alexander Hamilton

1st United States Secretary of the Treasury
(in office September 11, 1789 – January 31,
1795)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hamilton)



Alexander Hamilton

in the Uniform of the New York
Artillery by Alonzo Chappel (1828–1887)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hamilton)

- : Whigs could not show any solution to slavery
- : Whigs replaced by new Republican Party
- : **Republican Party** became popular through anti-slavery.
- : Abraham Lincoln became president in 1860.

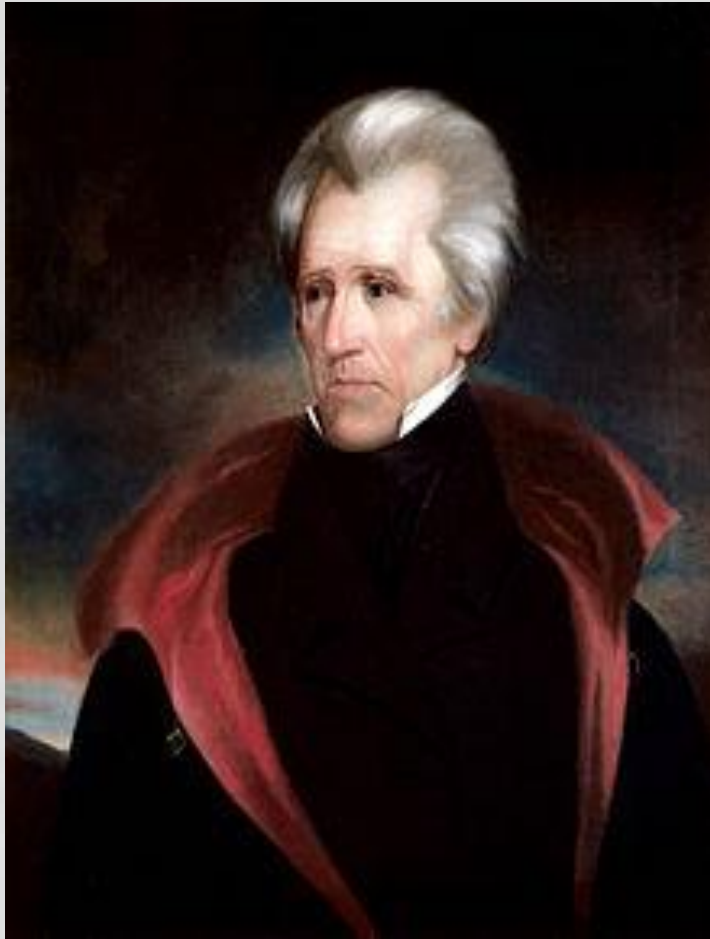
3) Anti-Federalist

- Anti-Federalist

→ Democratic Republican Party → **Democratic Party**
(**Andrew Jackson** in 1830s)

- : [Andrew Jackson](#) drew most of the newly enfranchised voters.
- : Thomas Jefferson (3rd P)
- : James Madison (4th P)
- : Southerners





Andrew Jackson

7th President

(In office March 4, 1829 – March 4, 1837)

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Jackson)



Battle of New Orleans

(Jan. 1815; Jackson's 5,000 soldiers
winning over 7,500 British)

4) Modern Era (1870s – 1920s)

- Emigration from Europe
- : Ireland, Italy & Germany
- : Big-city party organizations (**political machine**)
- : party $\hat{=}$ gov
- : Parties sponsored community events (parades + picnics).
- : Parties helped new immigrants settle in, gave food & housing to immigrants.
- : Parties offered opportunities for upward social mobility.
- : Offered social welfare services
- : **High party-line voting** & High voter turnout (75%)

5) Is Party Over? (1920 -)

= Party losing its importance in US politics

*Reasons of Reduced Importance of Parties

(1) Direct Primary

- Party nominees determined by qualified voters, not by party conventions
- Loosened tie between party nominee & party organization

(2) Civil service laws

- Removed much of patronage used by parties to reward their followers
- : Patronage = spoils system
- [Award jobs on the basis of party loyalty]

(3) Issue-oriented politics

- Cut across party lines

- : Focuses on specific issues

 - (civil rights, tax cutting, environments & abortion)

- : **Ticket-split**

 - (Vote for candidates of different parties in the same election)

(4) Television

- : Dominate US politics

- : Emphasizes candidate **personality**

 - rather than abstract concepts (party labels)

6) Nonetheless Parties still important

- Important vehicles for **mass participation** in a representative democracy
- : Expansion of suffrage orchestrated by parties
- Republican Party & Democratic Party still in strong **competition**.

3. Roles of the American Parties

1) Mobilizing Support & Gathering

- Party affiliation very helpful to elected leaders
- : Leaders depend on support among their partisans **in times of trouble**
- : Party creates a **community of interest** that bonds many groups into a coalition

2) Force for Stability

- Parties want to win elections
- They try to moderate public opinion
- : Parties tame their own extreme elements by pulling them toward an **ideological center** in order to attract a majority of votes on Election Day

3) Unity

- Parties give glue that holds together many different elements of fragmented US gov & political agents.
- : Parties **link all institutions** of power to one another
- : Party affiliation is a basis for mediation laterally among branches & vertically among layers

4) Electioneering Function

- Election is democracy's flowers
- : Parties funnel interested **individuals into politics** & gov
- : Thousands of candidates **recruited** each year by two parties
- : Thousands of candidates' staff members also recruited

5) Party as Voting Cue & Issue Cue

- Voter's party identification acts as an important **filter** for information
- : Filter screens how he or she digests political news
- : Party identification offers a useful cue for voters

6) Policy Formulation

- National **party platforms** show major policies of parties
- : Every four years, each party writes a platform for presidential nominating conventions
- : About 2/3 of promises in victorious party's presidential platform mostly implemented
- : About 1/2 of promises in the losing party's "

4. One-Partyism & Third-Partyism

1) One-Partyism

- At state-level, two-party competition very limited
- ex) Democratic Party : deep South
(Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas & Maryland)
- ex) Republican Party: no purely Republican states any more
(Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont)

2) Minor Parties

- No minor party ever close to winning presidency
- : Just 5 third parties got more than 10% of popular vote for president

ex)(1) Farmer-backed Populists (1892)

(2) [Theodore Roosevelt's](#) Bull Moose Party (1912)

(3) Reform-minded Progressive Party (1924)

(4) Former Alabama Governor George Wallace's
American Independent Party (1968)

(5) [Ross Perot's independents](#) (1992)

- Third parties make electoral progress because of **failure of incorporation of new ideas** or **alienated groups** or nomination of **attractive candidates** as their standard bearers





Theodore Roosevelt

26th President of the United States
(In office September 14, 1901 – March 4, 1909)

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt)



The **battle between Taft and Roosevelt** bitterly split the Republican Party; Taft's people dominated the party until 1936.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt)



Henry Ross Perot

Born June 27, 1930 (1930-06-27)

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Perot)

- Third parties similar to falling stars

: They appear briefly & brilliantly but do not long remain visible

: US is the only Western nation without at least one significant enduring national third party.

3) Dualist theory

: Underlying binary nature to US politics

: Interest of politics inevitably pushes players into two great camps

ex)(1) Early conflict between Eastern financial interest
& Western frontiersmen

(2) Division of North & South

(3) Division of Urban & Rural areas

→ **Two-Partyism**

5. Presidential Party

- president $\hat{=}$ a party
 - : President naturally assumes role of party leader
 - : President's successes $\hat{=}$ his party's successes
 - : President's failures $\hat{=}$ his party's failures

1) Pro-Party President

- Some presidents take their party responsibilities more seriously than others.

Ex) **Woodrow Wilson & Franklin Roosevelt** were very party-oriented & dedicated to building their party electorally and governmentally.

2) Nonpartisan President

- **Dwight Eisenhower** elevated nonpartisanship to an art form
 - : Republican Party mired in minority status among the voters.
 - : He never really tried to transfer his high ratings to party

- **Jimmy Carter** also showed little interest in his Democratic Party.
 - : Carter & his top aides viewed the party as another extension of Washington establishment.
 - : They pledged to ignore the establishment.

3) Parties & State Government

- National parties organized around state units
 - : Basic structures of party & gov are much the same in Washington & state capitals

- : **Major national parties** are dominant political forces in all 50 states
- : No regional or state parties
- : But state parties quite autonomous

4) **Parties & Governors**

- Governors tend to have even **greater influence** over their parties' organizations & legislators than presidents.
- : Many governors have many more **patronage** positions at their command.
- : Material reward & incentives give governors added power with activists & office holders