

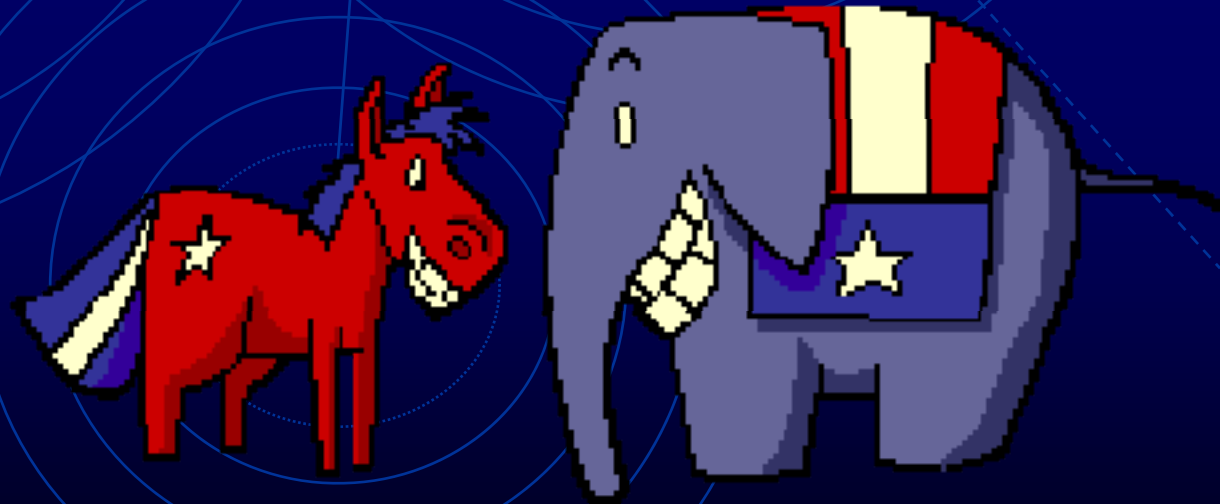
Political Parties

**I. Historical Development of American
Political Parties**

**II. The Role(s) of Parties in American
Democracy**

III. Third Parties

**IV. Still an Era
of Parties?**



Historical Development

- **Federalists v. Democratic-Republicans (1788-1824)**
 - **Democrats v. Whigs (1828-1852)**
 - **Democrats v. Republicans (1856-1892)**
 - **Era of Republican Dominance (1896-1932)**
 - **Era of Democratic Dominance (1932-1994)**
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- **Q: Why do party eras end?**
 - **Q: Where are we now?**

Party Affiliation

Q: Why do party eras end?

- **Realignment:** People slowly shifting their party loyalties over time.
- **Critical Election:** A sharp change in the existing pattern of party loyalties among groups of voters.
 - 1860: slavery
 - 1896: economy
 - 1932: depression
 - 2008 ????
- **Dealignment:** Trend that greater number of people feel no stable party affiliation; greater number of Independents.
 - Trends for dealignment in 1970-80s have since leveled off.

Q: Where are we now?

Parties: Definition and Activities

Political Party: a coalition of people who seek to control the machinery of government by winning elections.

Major Activities include:

A. Party Organization (to win elections)

1. Recruiting and Selecting Candidates
2. Organization and Money

B. Party in Government (cooperating to shape public policy)

C. Party in the Electorate (helping voters decide)

Third Parties in the 20th Century

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Electoral Votes (%)</u>	
Ross Perot (Reform)	1996	0	(8.5%)
Ross Perot (Reform)	1992	0	(18.9%)
John Anderson (Indep.)	1980	0	(6.6%)
George Wallace (Amer. Indep.)	1968	46	(13.5%)
Robert LaFollette (Progressive)	1924	13	(16.6%)
Theodore Roosevelt (Bull Moose)	1912	88	(27.4%)
Eugene V. Debs (Socialist)	1912	0	(6.0%)

NOTE: Only includes those receiving 5%+ votes.

Why only TWO parties?

- Electoral System:
Single Member Districts with Plurality Elections (Duverger's Law)
- Political Culture/Habit
- Catch-All Nature/Centrist Ideology of US Parties

Responsible Party Model

- Parties present clear and coherent programs to voters.
- Voters should choose candidates according to these programs.
- Winning party should carry out program in office.
- Voters should hold the government responsible at the next election for executing that program

PROBLEM: *Rarely works that way!!*