

Chapter 12 Political Parties

- American Two-Party System
2000 – Nader – pulls Gore votes
Bush carries Florida
Democrats & Republicans - about the same
Political gridlock-stalemate ?
- 1796-TJ Dem./Rep. vs. JA Fed.
TJ=VP to JA pres.
- 1804 prevent this with Constitutional Amendment?
- 1960's American image of parties starts to decline
- Political Party - united citizens under label-prone ideas and policies by recruiting, nominating, promoting, and electing candidates to control government.
- Conduct two central functions of democratic politics
 - 1) electioneering
 - 2) governingparties – not mentioned in the Constitution
- Parties in Democracy
org. seek common banners of ideas to control government-nominate and elect
only parties gain influence by sponsoring candidates
- election=represent means and ends of pol.
- Parties vital for three reasons:
 - 1) political linkage – voters to represent
 - 2) unify fragmented government coherence
 - 3) voice of opposition vs. those elected for government
- Three separate components:
 - 1) party org.
 - 2) party in government

3) party in electorate

- party org: most people think of this as the political party
top Dem. Nat. Commit? and Rep. Nat. party org.
- Party in government- all candidates of national, state, local office who have been elected.
- Party in electorate- ordinary citizens p.o. polls ID there type people think of themselves as Dem., Rep., Independent get party ID from parents generally = pol. soc.
to win need Independent plus own Base
- Responsible Party Model- tie party roles to voters and elected officials.
RPM:
 - 1) party presents coherent set of programs to voters
 - 2) candidates support parties' platforms
 - 3) voters choose based on party's program – like their ideas
 - 4) as governing party control own officials- accountability, clear alternatives hold officials accountable
- Do parties offer us a choice?
responsible party gov:
 - 1) offer real choice between different visions – “choice not echo”
 - 2) ideological range – some see NO difference
 - what parties stand for = their ideology, membership(?)
policies stand for
 - forces draw parties together
- ideology – Liberal vs. Conservative
Democrat vs. Liberal
Republican vs. Conservative
- 1960's S. Dem. vote more Rep.
S. today mostly Rep.
- party members

- party platforms – are different, they are promises
- Forces drawing parties together:
 - Most voters are moderates between two ideologies.
 - Most Rep. pro- social security & medicare/medicaid
 - Most Dem. now pro- balanced budget
- Clinton – stole Rep's social ideas
 - Dick Morris
- party activists – main players
 - strong ties to party – works in party activities
- 1988 Rep. made Liberals the left-wing crazies
- Dem. – got moderates – thus won
- 1992 – econ issues , 1996 – family values
 - parties chief campaign workers
 - control parties primaries – vote most here – give to candidates
 - PACs – fund raising of interest groups since 1980's – increased partnership in pol. gridlock
- party machines – first massed base party machine get jobs, white males
 - Jacksonian – party bases, caucus, jobs & contracts
 - turn of century – mass of new immigrants
 - then cam party primaries, civil service reform
- Party Eras History:
 - 1st – 1790-1800
 - Fed – strong national government
 - Jeff-Rep – strong right side?
 - 2nd - 1824
 - Adams over Andy Jackson
 - But 1828 – Jackson wins mass part
 - new party out of old Whigs
 - Clay and Webster
 - 1856 – Rep.
 - 3rd - 1858
 - Rep. control house

1860 Lincoln – Pres.

Dem = South

4th - 1890's People's Party

Great Depression

1896 People's Party – W.J. Bryan

5th - respond to depression

1932 – FDR – promise a New Deal

South Den? , Catholics, Blue Collar

Rep. – big business

6th - Blacks into Dem. Party

1 dealignment?? – more independents

2 realignments?? – mobilize blacks get ticket splitters,
candidates – centered pol.

exec. – Rep: leg room = gridlock

- What do parties do?
 - 1) links citizens to government
 - 2) provide coherence in government
 - 3) provide vocal opposition

* 2 main activities of parties

1) electioneering

2) governing

➤ elect – recruit and nominate candidates def. policy agendas and
get candidates elected incumbents = strong

➤ nominate – a candidate for each open seat; do this today by
party primaries

• Types of Primaries

1) closed – only party members

2) opened – any reg. voter

• Party Conventions :

nominate candidates

set party platform

elect officers

rubber stamp primary victor

• '68 riots Chicago –

Vietnam, Humphrey, Nixon, McGovern

• Def. Policy Agenda – campaign promote

• General Election - get nominated candidate elected
organize and mobilize voters

party extensive services to candidate
use mass media – radio and tv
capital-intensive campaigns

- 1990 – parties – banks for candidates ?
 - soft money ~ party build efforts
 - voter reg., issue develop
 - 2002 – campaign reform – end soft money
 - 2002 – Bush 43 campaign for Rep H & Rep S
did well-
 - Governing – 2 Major Jobs
 - 1) controlling government
 - 2) enacting party policy agendas
 - Controlling Government – same party in exec. & leg.
 - today 2007 – Dem. control House &
Senate and Rep. control president
 - Execution of Policy Agendas & Account:
2/3 of platforms of Pres. are enacted about 1/2 of other party
enacted
 - 1933 FDR –
reg. econ & banking industry program to help farmers and
unemployed
 - 1934 – passed Social Security Act 1935
NAFTA – Mexico, Canada, USA trade open
 - US divided government makes policy making a minefield
accountability difficult to get
who's accountable?
Candidates – want to get elected
 - Characteristic of American Party System
no change at ballot box- no democracy
our system – tend toward ideal moderate?
 - Why US- 2 Party System?
few diverse issues: language, religion, social
war most horrible – CW, WW1, WW2
- *Why 2 Parties- rules of system
- we have single-member & plurality-vote system
 - most votes = single seat winner
 - loser gets nothing = winner- take all
- since 1974 – major Presidential candidates limit their campaign

- get funds and others don't.
- 3rd Party Movements – meet specific issues
 - 1896- socialist
 - 1912- Teddy Roosevelt
- Ideological Moderates-
 - Decent Party Org – selecting delegates progmented? party org

Party Org of American Parties:

- 1) NAT Committee
 - 2) Long Camp. Com. – H&S candidates ?
 - 3) State – increasingly candidate centered
 - 4) Loc- when org need for campaign but not full-time campaign =
 - org at county level. most city & school boards –non-partisan
 - Christian Rt. – got candidate at local levels. first, got control of county – level party org.
 - Christian Rt. in Rep. Party in many states today
- Why American Parties decentralized structure:
 - 1) fed. elect structure make coordination body to exercise control?
 - different schedules
 - disconnect state and local elects
 - Fed leads to dectantized? parties
 - Undisciplined Parties in Government
 - Europe much more open
 - stay in power as long as united front
 - Gingrich – party loyalty – condition of leadership positions
 - Haster – hard to hold party together
- ideological moderates
- Citizen and Political Parties
 - pol. is about bickering
 - struggle over who gets and who doesn't – trade-offs
 - Ways parties enhance dem:
 - 1) link citizen & government
 - 2) coherence branches of governments
 - 3) vocal opposition – critiques
 - What citizens can do to improve pol.
 - 1) have realistic expectations
 - 2) get involved
 - 3) don't split your ticket

