

## Two-Party System Historical Eras in the U.S.: Partisan Re-alignment/De-alignment Periods

HISTORICAL ERAS	ISSUE(S)	MAJOR-PARTY ISSUE STANDS		VOTER SHIFT(S)	MAJOR-PARTY COMPETITIVE BALANCE
<p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> PARTY SYSTEM</b>  <b>1788</b>  <b>(1<sup>st</sup> election = 1789)</b>                      G. Washington (Federalist)                      J. Adams (Federalist)</p> <p>(1800)                      T. Jefferson (Democratic-Republican) [elected by US House]                      A. Burr (Democratic-Republican)                      J. Adams (Federalist)                      C. Pinckney (Federalist)</p>	<p><b>Aligning</b>  <b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should the states ratify the proposed new Constitution?</li> <li>Should a Bill of Rights be added to the Constitution?</li> <li>Should the national law be supreme over state law in the new federal system?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Federalists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avored ratification</li> <li>national supremacy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Anti-Federalists (Democratic-Republicans)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avored states' rights</li> <li>insisted on individual freedom guarantees in Bill of Rights</li> </ul>	<p><b>Class voting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1789-1800: suffrage essentially restricted to upper-class</li> <li>1800- : widespread easing of suffrage restrictions led to a rapid increase in lower-class voters who were soon a majority of the electorate</li> <li>two other factors were the expansion of free public education and the creation of the 'penny' press newspapers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Federalists lost initial dominance to Democratic-Republicans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1788-1799 Federalists dominant;</li> <li>1800-1823 Anti-Federalists (Democratic-Republican) dominant - except for national supremacist (Federalist) Supreme Court under John Marshall (1801-35)</li> <li>Federalists lost two key leaders: J. Madison defected to AF in 1797 &amp; A. Hamilton killed in 1804</li> </ul>
<p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> PARTY SYSTEM</b>  <b>1824</b>                      J. Q. Adams (Whig) [elected by US House]                      A. Jackson (Democrat) [popular-vote winner]                      H. Clay (Whig)                      W. Crawford (Whig)</p>	<p><b>Dealigning</b>  <b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who should construct and regulate the national economic infrastructure – communications, transportation, banking &amp; finance</li> </ul> <p><b>Equality vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should the federal government abolish or otherwise limit slavery?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Whigs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for massive federal subsidization and regulation of the emerging national economy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>opposed both</li> </ul>	<p><b>Regional voting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agrarian South and West supported Democrats</li> <li>more urban and manufacturing Northeast supported Whigs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Democrats &amp; Whigs competitive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most presidential and congressional elections fairly evenly divided</li> <li>On the Supreme Court, Roger Taney (1836-64) reversed the national supremacy doctrine of the John Marshall Court with a new doctrine of 'dual federalism'</li> <li>only two Whig presidents, W.H. Harrison &amp; Z. Taylor, but both died in office</li> </ul>
<p><b>3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY SYSTEM</b>  <b>1860</b>                      A. Lincoln (R) [electoral-vote winner with only 39% of the popular vote]                      S. Douglas (NorthernD)                      J. Bell (Constitutional Union)                      J. Breckinridge (SouthernD)</p> <p>(1876)                      Hayes (R) [elected by congressional commission]                      Tilden (D) [popular-vote winner]</p> <p>(1888)                      B. Harrison (R) [electoral-vote winner]                      G. Cleveland (D) [popular-vote winner]</p>	<p><b>Realigning</b>  <b>Equality vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should the federal government abolish or otherwise limit slavery?</li> </ul> <p><b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do states have a right to secede from the Union? (Lincoln clearly saw this as the more important issue)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Republicans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avored preserving the union and the abolition of slavery</li> </ul> <p><b>N. Democrats and Constitutional Union Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avored preservation of union but states' rights on slavery</li> </ul>	<p><b>S. Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avored preservation of slavery and states' rights, including the right to secede from the union</li> </ul>	<p><b>Regional voting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1861-65: 11 CSA out of union</li> <li>1865-76, Northern occupation during Reconstruction guaranteed voting rights of Southern blacks</li> <li>1876, the end of Reconstruction allowed return of Southern white (Democratic) voters to impose white supremacy in the South with the denial of black rights through the Black Codes or Jim-Crow laws</li> </ul>	<p><b>Republicans initially dominant, but Democrats became competitive after end of Reconstruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1860-76: Republicans dominant</li> <li>1876-1895: Democrats once again competitive</li> <li>G. Cleveland only Democratic president (two non-contiguous terms)</li> <li>but most presidential contests fairly close after 1876</li> </ul>

CRITICAL ELECTIONS	REALIGNING ISSUE(S)	MAJOR-PARTY ISSUE STANDS		VOTER SHIFT(S)	MAJOR-PARTY COMPETITIVE BALANCE		
<p><b>4TH PARTY SYSTEM</b>  <b>1896</b>  W. McKinley (R)  W.J. Bryan (D)</p> <p>(1912)  W. Wilson (D)  T. Roosevelt (Progressive)  W.H. Taft (R)</p> <p>(1924)  C. Coolidge (R)  J. Davis (D)  R. LaFollette (Progressive)</p>	<p><b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should the federal government switch from the gold to the silver standard?</li> <li>Should the federal government switch from protectionism to free trade?</li> <li>Should the federal government switch from restrictive immigration policies to an open-door policy?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Republicans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold standard</li> <li>Protectionism</li> <li>Restrict immigration</li> </ul>	<p><b>Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silver standard</li> <li>Free trade</li> <li>Open door</li> </ul>	<p><b>Class voting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban industrial labor swung to Republicans</li> <li>Southern &amp; Western farmers stayed with Democrats</li> </ul>	<p><b>Republicans dominant over Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W. Wilson was the only Democratic president and he only won in 1912 because the Republicans split and in 1916 because he pledged to ‘keep us out of war’</li> <li>Both parties co-oped Progressive issue stands – the Republicans under T. Roosevelt and the Democrats under W.J. Bryan and W. Wilson</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5TH PARTY SYSTEM</b>  <b>1932</b>  F.D. Roosevelt (D)  H. Hoover (R)</p> <p>(1948)  H. Truman (D)  T. Dewey (R)  S. Thurmond (States’ Rights)</p>	<p><b>Realigning Equality vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should the federal government provide massive public assistance programs to the unemployed and elderly?</li> <li>Should the federal government significantly expand its regulation of the economy to guarantee more equitable outcomes in banking, securities exchanges, labor-management, farming, etc.?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Republicans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>let state and private charities handle public assistance</li> <li>let the free market regulate the economy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a “New Deal” on both</li> </ul>	<p><b>Class voting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a new Democratic majority came mostly from the lower and working classes and was a “coalition of diverse minorities” – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>union labor</li> <li>northern inner-city Catholics, Jews, and Blacks</li> <li>white Southerners</li> </ul> </li> <li>the smaller Republican coalition came mainly from the middle-to-upper classes and was largely non-Southern WASP (white, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestant)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Democrats regained dominance over Republicans for the first time since 1860</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FDR elected to 4 terms</li> <li>H. Truman won upset victory in 1948</li> <li>D. Eisenhower was the only Republican elected president in this period</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6TH PARTY SYSTEM</b>  <b>1968</b>  R. Nixon (R)  H. Humphrey (D)  G. Wallace (Am. Independent)</p> <p>(2000)  G.W. Bush [electoral-vote winner]  A. Gore [popular-vote winner]</p>	<p><b>Dealigning Equality vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil rights</li> </ul> <p><b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vietnam war</li> <li>Crime</li> <li>Public morality</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hot-button wedge issues continue to divide both parties</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="938 1112 1284 1469"> <p><b>Equality vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affirmative action</li> <li>Election-campaign finance</li> <li>Environmental protection</li> <li>Globalization of the economy</li> <li>Health care</li> <li>Public education</li> <li>Social Security</li> <li>Taxes</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1284 1112 1610 1469"> <p><b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of religion – abortion, homosexuality, fetal tissue research, public-school prayer</li> <li>Balanced federal budget</li> <li>Defense spending</li> <li>Anti-terrorism policy</li> <li>Immigration</li> <li>War on drugs</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><b>Equality vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affirmative action</li> <li>Election-campaign finance</li> <li>Environmental protection</li> <li>Globalization of the economy</li> <li>Health care</li> <li>Public education</li> <li>Social Security</li> <li>Taxes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Order vs. freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of religion – abortion, homosexuality, fetal tissue research, public-school prayer</li> <li>Balanced federal budget</li> <li>Defense spending</li> <li>Anti-terrorism policy</li> <li>Immigration</li> <li>War on drugs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Both party coalitions internally divided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>many socially conservative Democrats became “Reagan Democrats” in both the North and South</li> <li>many Republican “country-club” economic conservatives and “soccer Moms” are opposed to much of the issue agenda of the social-conservative wing of the GOP</li> <li>the South realigns from one-party Democratic to two-party competitive</li> <li>the Northeast realigns from the most Republican region in presidential voting to the most Democratic region</li> </ul>	<p><b>Neither party dominant nationwide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>this era produces the longest period of divided party control of government in history</li> <li>increased elite polarization</li> <li>in electorate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>decrease in partisan loyalty</li> <li>increase in political independents</li> <li>increase in split-ticket voting</li> <li>decrease in political trust and turnout</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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