

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

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

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<p>4TH PARTY SYSTEM</p> <p>1896 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>Order vs. freedom Should the federal government switch from the gold to the silver standard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the federal government switch from protectionism to free trade? Should the federal government switch from restrictive immigration policies to an open-door policy? 	<p>Republicans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gold standard Protectionism Restrict immigration 	<p>Democrats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver standard Free trade Open door 	<p>Class voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban industrial labor swung to Republicans Southern & Western farmers stayed with Democrats 	<p>Republicans dominant over Democrats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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’ Both parties co-oped Progressive issue stands – the Republicans under T. Roosevelt and the Democrats under W.J. Bryan and W. Wilson 		
<p>5TH PARTY SYSTEM</p> <p>1932 F.D. Roosevelt (D) H. Hoover (R)</p> <p>1948 H. Truman (D) T. Dewey (R) S. Thurmond (States’ Rights)</p>	<p>Realigning Equality vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the federal government provide massive public assistance programs to the unemployed and elderly? Should the federal government significantly expand its regulation of the economy to guarantee more equitable outcomes in banking, securities exchanges, labor-management, farming, etc.? 	<p>Republicans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> let state and private charities handle public assistance let the free market regulate the economy 	<p>Democrats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a “New Deal” on both 	<p>Class voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> union labor northern inner-city Catholics, Jews, and Blacks white Southerners the smaller Republican coalition came mainly from the middle-to-upper classes and was largely non-Southern WASP (white, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestant) 	<p>Democrats regained dominance over Republicans for the first time since 1860</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDR elected to 4 terms H. Truman won upset victory in 1948 D. Eisenhower was the only Republican elected president in this period 		
<p>6TH PARTY SYSTEM</p> <p>1968 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>Dealigning Equality vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil rights <p>Order vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vietnam war Crime Public morality 	<p>Hot-button wedge issues continue to divide both parties</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="938 1112 1284 1469"> <p>Equality vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affirmative action Election campaign finance Environmental protection Globalization of the economy Health care School vouchers Social Security Taxes </td> <td data-bbox="1284 1112 1610 1469"> <p>Order vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of religion – abortion, homosexuality, fetal tissue research, public-school prayer Balanced federal budget Defense spending Anti-terrorism policy Energy policy Drug policy </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Equality vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affirmative action Election campaign finance Environmental protection Globalization of the economy Health care School vouchers Social Security Taxes 	<p>Order vs. freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of religion – abortion, homosexuality, fetal tissue research, public-school prayer Balanced federal budget Defense spending Anti-terrorism policy Energy policy Drug policy 	<p>Both party coalitions internally divided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> many socially conservative Democrats became “Reagan Democrats” in both the North and South 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 the South realigns from one-party Democratic to two-party competitive the Northeast realigns from the most Republican region in presidential voting to the most Democratic region 	<p>Neither party dominant nationwide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> this era produces the longest period of divided party control of government in history significant decline in partisan loyalty significant increase in political independents significant increase in split-ticket voting significant declines in political trust and turnout
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