

Political Parties

American Government - Chapter 7

Define the following terms:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. political party | 8. national chairman | 16. two-party system |
| 2. split ticket | 9. soft money | 17. plurality system |
| 3. mugwumps | 10. superdelegates | 18. ideological parties |
| 4. progressives | 11. political machine | 19. one-issue parties |
| 5. national convention | 12. ideological party | 20. economic-protest parties |
| 6. national committee | 13. solidary incentives | 21. factional parties |
| 7. congressional campaign committee | 14. sponsored party | 22. caucus |
| | 15. personal following | |

Answer the following questions:

1. What makes American political parties weak today?
2. What are three political arenas within which parties may be found?
3. What has been the trend in party identification in the last 50 years?
4. What explains the “striking differences” between American and European political parties?
5. Why do “people running for ... office ... owe little to party leaders?”
6. What does Wilson mean by “American parties play a segmental, rather than a comprehensive, role in our lives?”
7. “Before political parties could become legitimate, it was necessary for people to be able to” do what?
8. The followers of Jefferson called themselves what?
9. The followers of Hamilton called themselves what?
10. Which party virtually ceased to exist after the election of 1800?
11. Who anticipated that elections would create heterogeneous coalitions?
12. What factors contributed to the emergence of the “second party system” around 1824?
13. Why was the party convention created?
14. What was the only successful third party in American history?
15. What two events gave Republicans control of the White House and Congress between the Civil War and the 1900?
16. Between 1896 and 1930 which regions were dominated by which party?
17. What political reforms were supported by the progressives?
18. How did the organizations of the two parties diverge beginning in the late 60s and early 70s?
19. What was the effect of a decade of reform on the groups the two political parties represented?
20. What was prohibited by the Hatch Act?
21. How common is a two-party system?
22. What are two explanations of why the two-party system has been so permanent in the U.S.?

23. Why does the winner-take-all system discourage third parties?
24. What type of minor parties have endured?
25. What minor parties have carried states in presidential elections?
26. Why have “some potential sources of minor parties never formed such parties?”
27. What are two contrary forces faced by the major parties?
28. How do the delegates to the two major party conventions differ from the rank-and-file voters in the parties?
29. How do primary voters compare to the rank-and-file?
30. How do caucus attendees compare to the rank-and-file?
31. What motivates modern convention delegates?
32. What types of activists are heavily represented among Democratic Convention delegates?
33. What types of activists are heavily represented among Republican Convention delegates?
34. According to table 7.6, on what two issues were Democratic Convention and Republican Convention delegates most divided in 1976?