5. Political Parties
1. Definition

- **Political organization** seeking to influence gov policies
- Nominating candidates
- Seeking to win elections
- Identifies **three groups** of individuals
  1. Office holders & candidates running under party's banner
  2. Workers & activists staffing party's formal organization
  3. Voters considering themselves to be associated with party

- **Party identification**
  : Voters who consider a party as their own
  : Voters support a party most
2. Evolution of American Party Democracy

- Negative in the 1780s – early 1800s
- No broad-based party organizations to mobilize popular support
  : Mischief of faction
- **George Washington** 1796 farewell address
  [The new nation will be in the most solemn manner
   against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.]

1) Early Parties
- Parties grew by the enormous **increase** in voters between 1820-40.
- Electors rose from 300,000 to 2 million.
- US expanded westward
Most states cancelled **property requirements** for voting

From state legislative selection of presidential electors

→ to **popular election** of electoral college members

Small caucuses of congressional party leaders nominated candidates.

→ Party **conventions** nominated candidates.

### 2) Federalist

- support strong central gov
- George Washington
- Alexander Hamilton
- New Englanders (North)

- Federalist

→ National Republican Party

→ Whig Party (1833-1856) → **Republican Party (GOP)**
Alexander Hamilton
1st United States Secretary of the Treasury
(in office September 11, 1789 – January 31, 1795)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hamilton)

Alexander Hamilton
in the Uniform of the New York Artillery by Alonzo Chappel (1828–1887)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hamilton)
: Whigs could not show any solution to slavery
: Whigs replaced by new Republican Party
: **Republican Party** became popular through anti-slavery.
: Abraham Lincoln became president in 1860.

3) **Anti-Federalist**
   - Anti-Federalist
   → Democratic Republican Party → **Democratic Party**
      (Andrew Jackson in 1830s)

: **Andrew Jackson** drew most of the newly enfranchised voters.
: Thomas Jefferson (3\textsuperscript{rd} P)
: James Madison (4\textsuperscript{th} P)
: Southerners
Andrew Jackson
7th President
(In office March 4, 1829 – March 4, 1837)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Jackson)

Battle of New Orleans
(Jan. 1815; Jackson's 5,000 soldiers winning over 7,500 British)
4) Modern Era (1870s – 1920s)
- Emigration from Europe
  : Ireland, Italy & Germany
  : Big-city party organizations *(political machine)*
  : party ÷ gov
  : Parties sponsored community events (parades + picnics).
  : Parties helped new immigrants settle in, gave food & housing to immigrants.
  : Parties offered opportunities for upward social mobility.
  : Offered social welfare services
  : **High party-line voting** & High voter turnout (75%)

5) Is Party Over? (1920 - )
= Party losing its importance in US politics
*Reasons of Reduced Importance of Parties*

(1) **Direct Primary**
- Party nominees determined by qualified voters, not by party conventions
- Loosened tie between party nominee & party organization

(2) **Civil service laws**
- Removed much of patronage used by parties to reward their followers
  : Patronage = spoils system
  [Award jobs on the basis of party loyalty]
(3) Issue-oriented politics
- Cut across party lines
  : Focuses on specific issues
    (civil rights, tax cutting, environments & abortion)
  : Ticket-split
    (Vote for candidates of different parties in the same election)

(4) Television
  : Dominate US politics
  : Emphasizes candidate personality
    rather than abstract concepts (party labels)
6) Nonetheless Parties still important
   - Important vehicles for mass participation
     in a representative democracy
   : Expansion of suffrage orchestrated by parties
   - Republican Party & Democratic Party still in strong competition.

3. Roles of the American Parties

1) Mobilizing Support & Gathering
   - Party affiliation very helpful to elected leaders
     : Leaders depend on support among their partisans
       in times of trouble
     : Party creates a community of interest
       that bonds many groups into a coalition
2) Force for Stability
- Parties want to win elections
→ They try to moderate public opinion
: Parties tame their own extreme elements by pulling them toward an ideological center in order to attract a majority of votes on Election Day

3) Unity
- Parties give glue that holds together many different elements of fragmented US gov & political agents.
: Parties link all institutions of power to one another
: Party affiliation is a basis for mediation laterally among branches & vertically among layers
4) Electioneering Function
- Election is democracy’s flowers
  : Parties funnel interested individuals into politics & gov
  : Thousands of candidates recruited each year by two parties
  : Thousands of candidates’ staff members also recruited

5) Party as Voting Cue & Issue Cue
- Voter’s party identification acts as an important filter for information
  : Filter screens how he or she digests political news
  : Party identification offers a useful cue for voters
6) Policy Formulation
- National **party platforms** show major policies of parties
  : Every four years, each party writes a platform
    for presidential nominating conventions
  : About 2/3 of promises in victorious party’s presidential platform
    mostly implemented
  : About 1/2 of promises in the losing party’s

4. One-Partyism & Third-Partyism

1) One-Partyism
- At state-level, two-party competition very limited
ex) Democratic Party: deep South
   (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas & Maryland)
ex) Republican Party: no purely Republican states any more
   (Maine, New Hampshire & Vermont)
2) Minor Parties
- No minor party ever close to winning presidency
  : Just 5 third parties got more than 10% of popular vote for president

ex)(1) Farmer-backed Populists (1892)
  (2) Theodore Roosevelt’s Bull Moose Party (1912)
  (3) Reform-mined Progressive Party (1924)
  (4) Former Alabama Governor George Wallace’s American Independent Party (1968)
  (5) Ross Perot’s independents (1992)

- Third parties make electoral progress because of failure of incorporation of new ideas or alienated groups or nomination of attractive candidates as their standard bearers
The battle between Taft and Roosevelt bitterly split the Republican Party; Taft's people dominated the party until 1936.
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt)
Henry Ross Perot
Born June 27, 1930 (1930-06-27)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Perot)
- Third parties similar to falling stars
  : They appear briefly & brilliantly but do not long remain visible
  : US is the only Western nation without at least one significant enduring national third party.

3) Dualist theory
: Underlying binary nature to US politics
: Interest of politics inevitably pushes players into two great camps ex)(1) Early conflict between Eastern financial interest & Western frontiersmen
(2) Division of North & South
(3) Division of Urban & Rural areas
→ Two-Partyism
president $\equiv$ a party
: President naturally assumes role of party leader
: President’s successes $\equiv$ his party’s successes
: President’s failures $\equiv$ his party’s failures

1) Pro-Party President
- Some presidents take their party responsibilities more seriously than others.
Ex) Woodrow Wilson & Franklin Roosevelt were very party-oriented & dedicated to building their party electorally and governmentally.
2) Nonpartisan President
- Dwight Eisenhower elevated nonpartisanship to an art form
  : Republican Party mired in minority status among the voters.
  : He never really tried to transfer his high ratings to party

- Jimmy Carter also showed little interest in his Democratic Party.
  : Carter & his top aides viewed the party as another extension
    of Washington establishment.
  : They pledged to ignore the establishment.

3) Parties & State Government
- National parties organized around state units
  : Basic structures of party & gov are much the same
    in Washington & state capitals
: **Major national parties** are dominant political forces in all 50 states
: No regional or state parties
: But state parties quite autonomous

4) **Parties & Governors**
   - Governors tend to have even **greater influence** over their parties’ organizations & legislators than presidents.
   : Many governors have many more **patronage** positions at their command.
   : Material reward & incentives give governors added power with activists & office holders