Political Parties

def- a group of people with broad common interests who organize to win elections, control government, and influence government policies

One Party System
- the party is the government
- examples?
  - 1933 Nazi
  - 1923 Facist Italy
  - Communism: Cuba, USSR, China, N.Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia
  - Theocracies: Iran - controlled by the Muslim-Republican party
  - Mexico: Mexican Institutional Revolutionary Party

  elections are only held within the party
  they are the only ones that get on the ballot
  in past always authoritarian

Multi Party systems
- France 5 parties
- Italy 10 parties

All have different ideologies and plans
Forced to form coalitions in order to get elected
- all run for primary
- top two get to run for leadership
- losers throw support one direction or another

In the end all end up sharing power
Which type of system is more representative?
Which is more efficient?
- What is more important efficacy or representation?

The Two Party System
- only about 12 nations follow this system, including US
- other minor parties are allowed but have no real chance of getting elected into the most important offices

George Washington warned that political parties would rip the nation at its seams in 1796 when leaving office

Parties Emerged anyway
- Federalists
  - Led by Alexander Hamilton
  - strong central government
  - broad (loose interpretation) constructionists of the Constitution
  - government controlled economy
  - restricted rights with order among the masses
  - deference of people's abilities
  - later change their name to Whig
  - later move to become the Republicans

- Republicans
  - led by Thomas Jefferson
  - Feared the abuse of 1, 8, 18
  - strong states rights (focus on 10th Amendment)
  - narrow interpretation of the Constitution
  - laissez-faire economy
  - many rights for the people
  - anti-deference
  - later change their name to the Democratic-Republicans
  - later change their name to the Democrats
Federalists took majority of power
  John Adams made them look bad
  lost election to Thomas Jefferson (Republican)
  intended to weaken the presidency, made it stronger
  Dem-Rep dominate elections from 1800-1820 (Jackson)
  weakened by controversies
  slavery, trade, tariffs, debt, banking issues (downfall)
1828 split the Dem-Rep into Democrats and Whigs (National Republicans)
  Andrew Jackson took the Democrats, split N/S over slavery
  Whigs joined the Republicans, anti slave, Lincoln
New Republicans rule 1860-1932
  New Democrats split over N/S still
1932 FDR takes over
  most liberal of all presidents with power
  hero to many
1968 Republicans take the Presidency
  Democrats control congress
  Gridlock
  dominates all politics until 1990   see p. 263

Third parties
  role - to have a voice heard
  may be unpopular beliefs that major parties wont touch
  may show disagreement with both parties, a new option
  to actively hurt one of the major parties (spoiler)
    Green party 2000
    Independent party 1992

Single Issue Parties
  Moral, social, or economic issues
  Free Soilers
  Liberty
  Greenback
  Green
  generally takes big issues

Ideological Third Parties
  call for overall change in society
  American Communist Party
  American Socialist Party
  Populists
  Independent
  Libertarian
  Progressive (Bull Moose)
    Most often these fade away after one defeat

Impact of Third Parties
  they exist to promote unpopular views
    five day work week
    eight hours for work, rest, and what you will
    health care reform
    environmental reform
    minimum wages
  they draw votes away from certain parties
    role as spoiler
    1912 Teddy took votes from Republican Taft, Democrat Wilson won
    1958 Independent party took votes from Hubert Humphrey,
      Nixon the Republican won
    1992 Ross Perot the Independent took votes from George Bush (R)
      and Clinton, the Democrat won
    2000 Nader of the Green Party took votes from Gore (D)

Obstacles to a 3rd Party
  History - US is established as a two party system, difficult for others
    tradition, have never won a major election
  Ballots - must get on the ballot on a state by state basis
    requires petitions of at least 5,000 per state
  Finances - must be independently wealthy to run
    corporations/people do not support losers
    want to see a return on their investment
  Image - seen as too individualistic
    seeking to serve their own good, not best interest of the nation
How do you decide which party to belong to?  
what are the options?  
All are on a continuum

Authoritarian

Liberal  Moderate  Conservative

Libertarian

Problems with political parties
- they put their own interest ahead of the public good
  - gov’t is controlled by the strongest party w/o regard to justice, equality, and protection of minority rights
- due to people’s tendency to group w/others like them the formation of political parties was inevitable
- Madison said the US was too big and diverse to fall victim to partisan politics and the Constitution would protect us from any one group getting too powerful
- Washington said that the emergence of political parties would rip the nation apart at its seams

Who do you agree with?

Modern Political Parties
broken up into three levels: Local, State, and National
The Democrats and Republicans have 50 state parties
- success comes from strong leadership
- members help run campaigns
  * contributions
  * door to door aka canvassing
  * advertising
  * send out mailings
* VOTE!!!

How do you become a member?
- you can register when you get your driver’s license
- mostly when you register to vote
  * May have to declare a party when registering to vote if you want to vote in primary elections in most states
  * If you register as an Independent, can’t vote on primaries
  * Both sides try to attract supporters
  * Many use membership to increase political aspirations

Party Division
Local - divided into Precincts
  - range from 10-1000’s of voters
  - all vote at the same geographic location (Schools, Gov’t buildings)
  - led by an unpaid precinct leader
  - combine precincts into wards
  - strength in numbers
State - led by the State Central Committee
  - members are reps from each district
  - they choose a state chairperson
  - organize for the State Elections
  - Governor, State Legislature, State Judges, etc...
National - National Conventions meet only once every 4 years
  - Boston/Chicago (D) and New York/Philly (R) recently 04/08
  - jobs include
    - nominate presidential and vp candidate
    - write and ratify party platform
    - National committee runs the party, made of 50 state reps.
Functions of a Political Party - Constitution says?
The services that they perform
Balance Tickets
JFK/LBJ, Bush/Quayle, Mondale/Ferraro
better chance of winning the election
Recruiting Candidates
Caucuses - private meetings where candidates are chosen
Parties seek out people who will support party lines
chosen based on likelihood of getting elected
both parties agree on general aspects:
  Republican government
  Freedom
  Liberty etc...
  disagree on the specifics
  Military's role
  Taxation and Spending
  Gov't involvement in personal life/freedoms
Educating the Public
  each party published their platform
  a list of issues and the official party belief
  gun control, abortion, homeland security, war on
terrorism, medicare, welfare, campaign spending reform, etc...
  *helps voters chose their party
  *often attacks opponent's views
  *tells the people how to vote
Fill Patronage Jobs
  based on the old spoils system
Platforms

2004 Republican Party Platform:
A Safer World and a More Hopeful America

RONALD REAGAN
believed that people were basically good, and had the right to be free.
He believed that bigotry and prejudice were the worst things a person could be guilty of.
He believed in the Golden Rule and in the power of prayer.
He believed that America was not just a place in the world, but the hope of the world.
As Ronald Wilson Reagan goes his way, we are left with a joyful hope he shared.

May God bless Ronald Reagan and the country he loved.

President George W. Bush
Funeral Services for Former President Ronald Wilson Reagan
Washington National Cathedral
Washington, D.C.
June 11, 2004

http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/imsnbc/Sections/News/
Politics/Conventions/RNC-2004platform.pdf

Strong at Home,
Respected in the World

http://a9.g.akamai.net/7/9/8082/v002/www.democrats.org/pdfs/2004platform.pdf

The 2004 Democratic National Platform for America

Where do you stand?
Go to the following website and take the test. Bring your results to school to be posted on the graph. Discuss what your results were in a 1 page typed paper. Were you surprised with what you found?

http://www.politicalcompass.org/
Interest Groups

def - a group of people who share common goals and organize to influence government
    hope for strength in numbers, hold votes over candidates heads
"adverse to the rights of other citizens" - Madison
Is there a fear or does the Constitution act as a safeguard?

Pros
Cons

IS this just people involved in government or is it corrupt?

Functions and Purposes (not like Political Parties)
can not nominate candidates
use campaign money/contributions to influence candidates
support candidates likely to listen to them
usually only 1 major point of view with a few problems/issues
not based on geography but ideology
bridge the gap between the citizen and government
express the "wants" of the people

Leadership/Membership
all kept well informed w/ letters, news, phone, media
plan strategies and raise $, over $1.5 billion annually

Why join?
1) personal or business gain -- labor unions, AARP
2) stand up for personal beliefs -- Sierra Club
3) social function -- people enjoy getting involved

Business leaders are very likely to join, poor not so likely

Review Political Parties
Worksheet is due tomorrow
quiz tomorrow

class of 2005