



Political Parties in America:

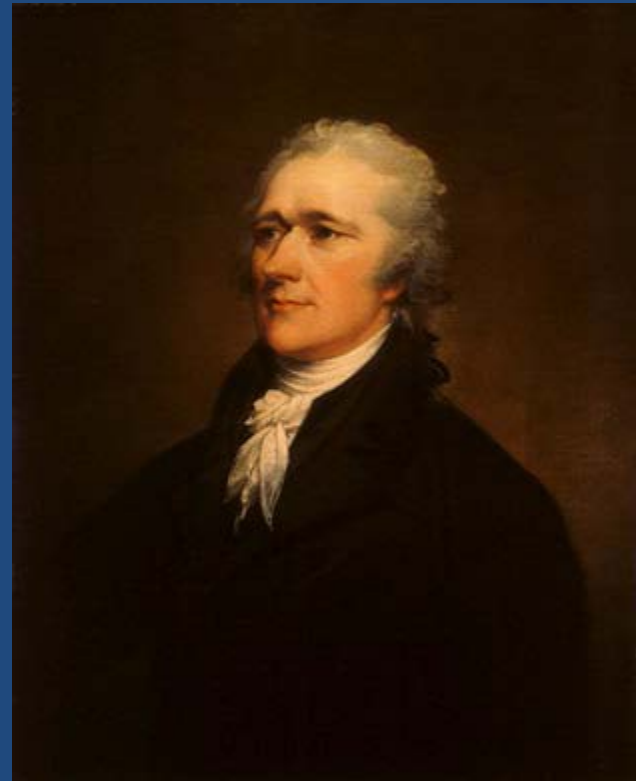
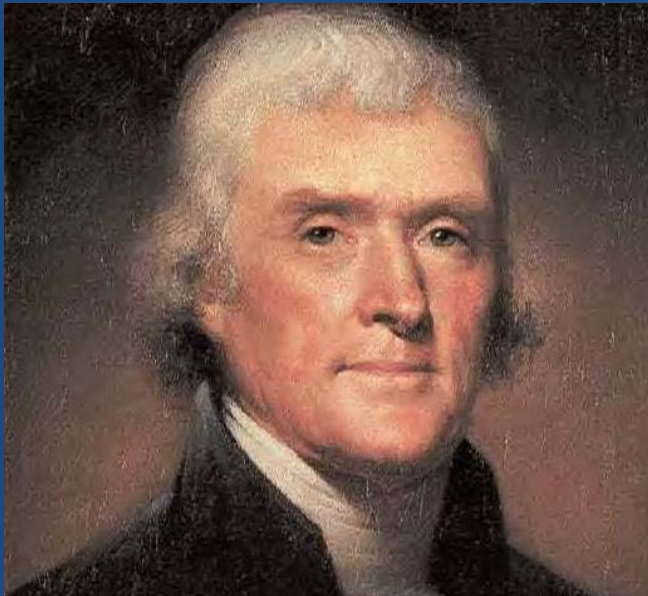
Our Two-Party System

Introduction

- Quick overview of the history of the two-party system
- [Video Clip](#)

Beginnings of Our Two-Party System

- Emerge from Washington's Presidency
- Democratic-Republicans (Jefferson)
- Federalists (Hamilton)



Democratic-Republicans

- AKA – The Jeffersonian Republicans
- Limited federal government
- Strict interpretation of the Constitution
- Pro-French Revolution
- Identified more with common people, especially farmers
- Agriculture as the backbone of America

Federalists

- Strong central gov't
- Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- Pro-British – rebuild our ties with them (trade)
- Wanted a government run by the ruling class
- Did not trust ordinary citizens to govern
- Gov't of the elite
- See business and industry as the backbone of America

War of 1812

- Democratic-Republicans = pro-war (war hawks)
- Primarily had support in the South & West
- Federalists are against the War
- Fearful that it will harm their shipping based economy
- Strongest support in the Northeast
- By the end of the War, the Federalist Party disappears

Realignment of the Political Parties

Realignment after the War of 1812:

Federalist Party

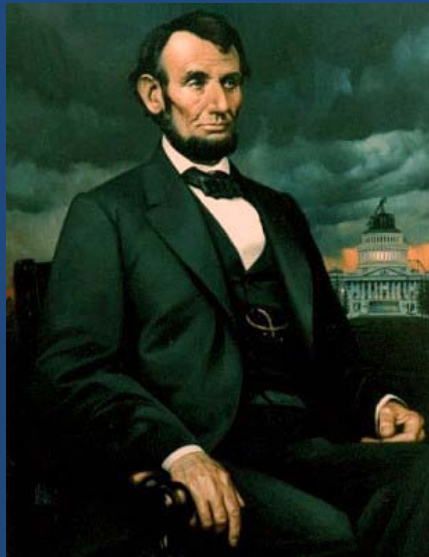
- Had opposed the War (New England states)
- Hartford Convention = Talked about leaving the Union
- After the War, the Federalists crumble
- Eventually, replaced by the Whig Party (formed to oppose Jackson)
- Strong support by Northerners & wealthy business types

Democratic-Republicans

- Strongly support the War & Madison (Western & Southern states)
- Remain the only party for a while
- Factions within the party lead to it crumbling (regional differences)
- Eventually, replaced by the Democrats (Jackson)
- Strong support in the South & West; by farmers & explorers

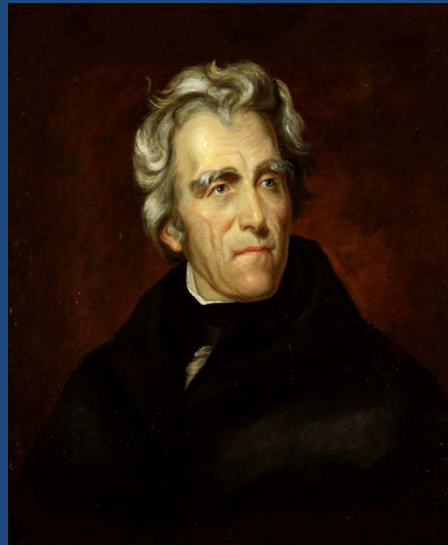
Birth of the Republican Party

- Republican Party – formed in 1854 (Lincoln & his followers)
- Anti-slavery
- Strong primarily in the North



Birth of the Democratic Party

- Roots trace back to Jefferson and Jackson
- Pro-slavery; southern economy
- Strong in the South
- Dominates southern politics until the 1950s and 1960s



Historic Changes

- Modern Republican Party (Harding & Coolidge)
- Limited gov't (laissez faire economics)
- Modern Democratic Party – FDR
- Strong government activism
- New Deal Programs – Completely changes the role of government in the economy



Civil Rights

- Regional differences
- Kennedy & LBJ (Democrats) – push for strong civil rights legislation
- Many Southern Democrats become Republicans
- Nixon (Republican) – Southern Strategy; appear sympathetic to the old segregated South



Political Parties Today

- More polarized than ever
- Deep divisions in American Society = Urban vs. Rural split
- Less Party Identification
- More people consider themselves independents



Functions of Political Parties

1. Recruit candidates and run campaigns (nominations)
2. Give cues to voters (taps into their party image)
3. Articulate policies – Where do they stand on the issues? Party Platforms
4. Coordinate Policymaking – Congress is organized based upon political party affiliation

Minor Parties

- Green Party
- Libertarian Party
- Socialist Party of America
- Communist Party of America
- Veterans Party
- Typically, they start because of some issue