

Chapter 16 - Political Parties

Section 1: Development of Parties

Lets Party!

⊖ Political Party

⊖ group of peeps with common interests

⊖ Organize to _____

Party Systems

⊖ One Party System

⊖ The party IS the govt

⊖ Usually found in _____

⊖ Ex: Communist party in Cuba, Vietnam, Nk, etc

⊖ Multiparty Systems

⊖ Nations with more than 1 pp

⊖ Represents _____

⊖ Usually 1 party does not get control

⊖ Leads to coalition govt's: _____

Two's a Party!

⊖ Two parties compete for power

⊖ Minor parties do exist

⊖ Why only 2?

⊖ Consensus, tradition, single member districts

⊖ United States: _____

Heritage of Political Parties

⊖ Washington _____...nobody listened:)

⊖ American PP Since 1789

⊖ Democratic Party born 1830's

⊖ Republican Party born 1850's

Minor Parties

⊖ Third party: _____

⊖ Rarely win elections so they get called _____

⊖ All 3rd parties have one thing in common:

+ _____

⊖ Run candidates to propose to remedy the situation!

Types of 3rd Parties

Single Issue	Ideological	Splinter
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Impact of 3rd Parties

- ⊕ Often influence of outcome of national election
- ⊕ _____
- ⊕ Ex: 1992 Ross Perot's Independent candidacy helped get Clinton elected

Obstacles to 3rd Parties

- ⊕ Difficult to get on ballot in states: _____
- ⊕ Most officials elected in _____: only one candidate will win...usually the major party
- ⊕ _____ encourages minor parties
- ⊕ Lack of _____
- ⊕ Unable to establish roots in all parts of the country

Section 2: Party Organization

- ⊕ Essential Idea
 - ⊕ Describe the organization and function of American political parties

Membership & Organization

- ⊕ Dems & Rep are organized at the national, state, and local level
- ⊕ Each level selects own officers and raise their own funds

Party Membership

- ⊕ Voters may become members of a party when they:
 - ⊕ Register to vote
 - ⊕ Some voters declare they are an independent: don't support a pp
- ⊕ No duties or obligations beyond voting
- ⊕ Some choose to donate \$ or volunteer

Party Organization (reflects a federal system!!)

National Party org → Nat'l convention
→ Nat'l committee

State Party org (st central committee)

Local party org (precincts + wards)

Political Party Functions

- ⊕ _____
- ⊕ _____
 - ⊕ Rnc.org & Democrats.org
- ⊕ _____
 - ⊕ Staffing & organizing
- ⊕ _____
 - ⊕ Favors for loyalty
- ⊕ _____
 - ⊕ Watchdog!
- ⊕ _____
 - ⊕ Moderate policies to win elections->stability

16.3 The Nominating Process: The Path to the Presidency

- Nomination: the naming of those who will seek office-critically important step in the election process
- Nominations are the prime function of political parties
 - Nominating candidates narrows down all possible candidates so that PP's eventually run 1 candidate in the general election
- Nominating process has a very real impact on the right to vote
 - Often only 2 choices (Rep & Dem)
 - There are other choices but they are not meaningful alternatives
 - Those who make nominations place real limits on choices in a general election

5 different ways nominations are done in US

- Candidates for federal, state, and local office have five ways to place their name on the ballot for the general election
 - Self-announcement
 - The candidate announces his or her intention to run for office, usually as an independent or a write-in candidate
 - Convention
 - Local communities select delegates to represent them at a higher level meeting where the nominee is chosen
 - Petition
 - Candidates collect a specified number of signatures from voters to qualify for a general election
 - Caucus
 - Party members and supporters debate the merits of the candidates and then vote to select a nominee
 - Direct primary
 - Qualified voters cast ballots in private for their preferred candidate and the person who receives the most votes is nominated
 - It is an intraparty election—an election to see who will run in an election ☺
 - Who can participate?
 - Closed primary: only declared party members can vote; the party's primary is closed to all but those party members; handed a ballot of the party you are registered with
 - Open primary: any qualified voter can cast a ballot for any party's primary

A little more about primaries. . .

- Operate under state law and in some states each party's primary may work differently (complicated!)
- Candidates are trying to win the election in the primary to win that state's party DELEGATES
 - DELEGATES: peeps that go to the Party's National Convention and then cast a vote of nomination

- # of delegates determined by the size of the state
- Candidates need a certain # of delegates to get the party's nomination and the National Convention
 - For example, to get the nomination for the Republican Party one needs to earn 1191 out of the 2380 Republican delegates

(changes)

Criticisms of Presidential Primaries

- Extent over too long a time in an election year (January to June!!-long, exhausting and expensive!!)
- Make images more important than issues since the media plays up the candidates image not platform
- Those who win early primaries get spotlight, others get the lose label and it becomes hard to raise \$ so they drop out before the majority of the state's primaries
- Primaries eliminate opponents-really no need for convention because candidates already have enough delegates before they get there!

National Convention

- Each party has a National Convention in the late summer months to officially nominate the candidate that will run for the party in the general election
- Delegates assemble in convention city and MOST are committed to a candidate
- Establish party platform, lots of speeches
- VP & Prez are nominated by doing a delegate roll call

See CNN's Election-Center 2008 to better understand the path to the presidency...
<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/path.presidency/>