

Name: _____

Ch 5 Political Parties Notes

What is a Political Party?

A _____ is a group of citizens who agree on major issues facing the nation. These groups work to create public policies that reflect their views. Parties choose, or _____, people they want to elect to public office. These _____ campaign to get elected. Any American citizen may join a political party regardless of age, but most members are _____.

The United States has a _____. The _____ emerged as a major party in 1860 with the election of Abraham Lincoln. The _____ formed under Andrew Jackson twenty years earlier.

Political parties first emerged when followers of _____ and _____ disagreed over major issues on the Constitution and government. _____ group took the name _____. Due to experience with Britain, they feared a powerful central government. They wanted the states to hold greater power.

_____ championed a strong national government with a powerful _____. His followers called themselves _____, after those who supported the Constitution.

In 1828, the farmers and small business owners who made up Jefferson's party, calling themselves the _____, nominated _____. He stood for the common citizen, but looked out for southern and western interests. Those who did not support Jackson formed their own party called _____, after a Scottish political leader. Their real name was the _____ Party.

The _____ and _____ made up the two key parties in American politics for _____.

In 1854, Whigs, former Free Soil Party members, and ex-Democrats formed the _____ Party to oppose the spread of slavery in US territories. The Whigs faded from American politics leaving the Democrats and Republicans in a _____ that has dominated _____ ever since.

Third Parties

Any party other than the two major parties can be called a “_____.”
No _____ has ever gained control of the _____.
Sometimes, third parties win seats in _____ or _____.
When these smaller groups challenge the two major parties, they can change the outcome of elections. Their most important role is to _____ on one or more issues.

In the late 1800s, the People’s Party, or “_____” became popular. They had the support of farmers and workers who called for _____. They never succeeded in getting a _____ into office, many of their ideas on _____ became laws in the 20th Century.

Former Republican President _____ left the Republican Party and was nominated by the _____. It was nicknamed the “_____” because TR said he was “fit as a Bull Moose”. TR _____, allowing Democrat _____ to defeat President _____.

An _____ is a body of ideas put forth by a person or group. Minor third parties are often formed to support a specific issue. These rise and fall over time. Ideological parties want to _____ in major ways.

The _____ and _____ Parties want to _____ major industries. The _____ Party calls for companies to respect the _____.

Some third parties form from the efforts of famous people. If they cannot gain support from one of the major parties, they form their own. _____ was a force in the 1992 and 1996 elections. This party also helped to elect pro wrestler _____ governor of _____. These parties usually fade after their candidate is defeated.

The Odds are Against Them

- It is difficult for third parties candidates to _____ to compete with the major parties.
- Only one candidate can win in a _____. Usually the winner is either Democratic or Republican.
- Third-party candidates must show they have support by getting voter _____ to even be placed on the ballot for national office.

American Politics Today

_____ usually feel that the federal government has a responsibility to help the poor through government _____.

_____ are generally seen as _____.

_____ hold the view that leaving the economy alone will allow for growth, giving people greater ability to help themselves. In general, they believe in less _____. _____ are generally viewed as being _____.

A _____ is a statement that puts forth the party's positions on issues. Each individual issue is called a _____. Both parties want votes. As a result, parties become more _____. In their platforms, moving away from extreme positions. The American people _____. This unity forces the two parties toward the _____.

Party Systems in Other Countries

Most democracies have _____ systems. One party _____ in the Parliament needed to control the government. This instability forces several parties to _____ in running the government. When parties work together to pass laws, a _____ has been formed. If a small party pulls its support, the government can _____ and _____ must be held. This process occurs in nations with a _____ system of government. The US has a _____ system and a _____ rather than a _____ and a _____.

Following the Party Line

A _____ system cannot exist in a democracy. There is no choice of candidates in the elections. Where _____ systems exist, _____ parties are usually banned. _____, _____, and _____ operate under one-party systems.

One-party systems may be based on other ideologies such as religion.

_____ has established a _____ state. This type of religion-based government is called a _____.