

Chapter 12: Political Parties

The Constitution's Unwanted Offspring (1 of 5)

Parties Were Seen as Dangerous Factions

- Incentives for forming parties
- Premium on majority alliances
- Parties grew out of efforts of political entrepreneurs

The Constitution's Unwanted Offspring (2 of 5)

Incentives for Party Building

- To build stable legislative and electoral alliances
- To mobilize voters

The Constitution's Unwanted Offspring (3 of 4)

Incentives for Party Building

- To develop new electoral techniques
- To use party labels and enforce collective responsibility

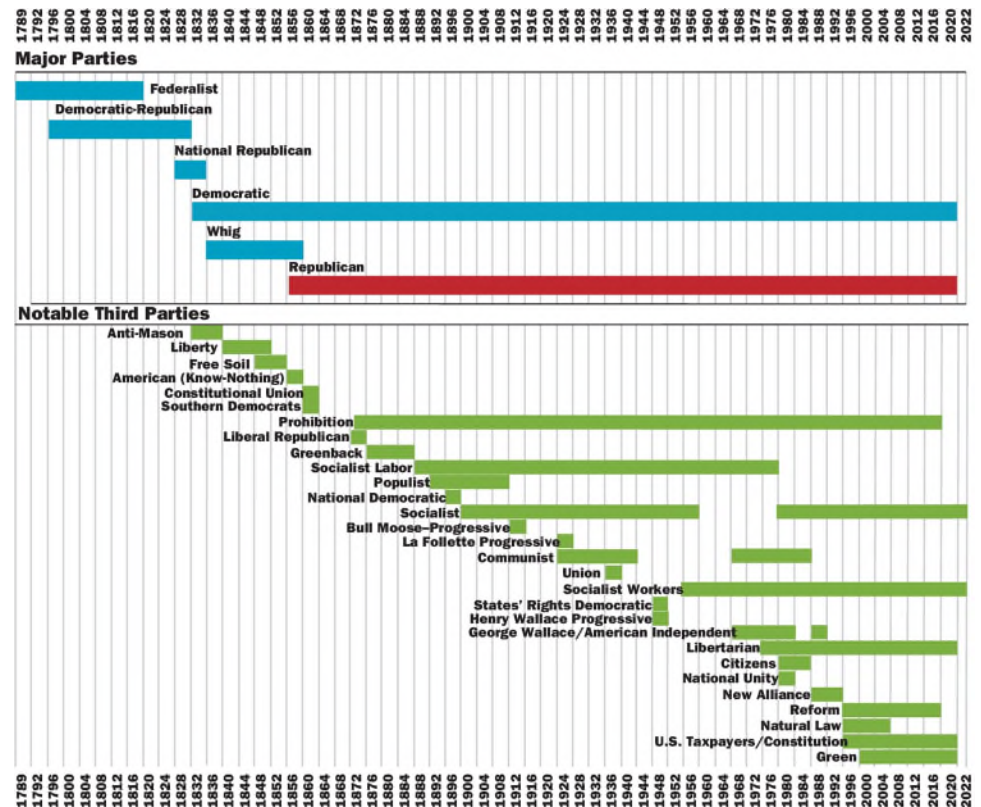
The Constitution's Unwanted Offspring (4 of 4)

Basic Features of the Party System

- Two-party competition
- Decentralized, fragmented party coalitions
- Professional politicians

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (1 of 10)

Figure 12.1: American Political Parties



Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (2 of 10)

The First Party System: The Origin of American Parties

- Born in the first few Congresses.
- Hamilton's created a legislative party.

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (3 of 10)

The First Party System: The Origin of American Parties

- Democratic-Republicans needed more votes.
- Their efforts led to electors supporting a candidate.

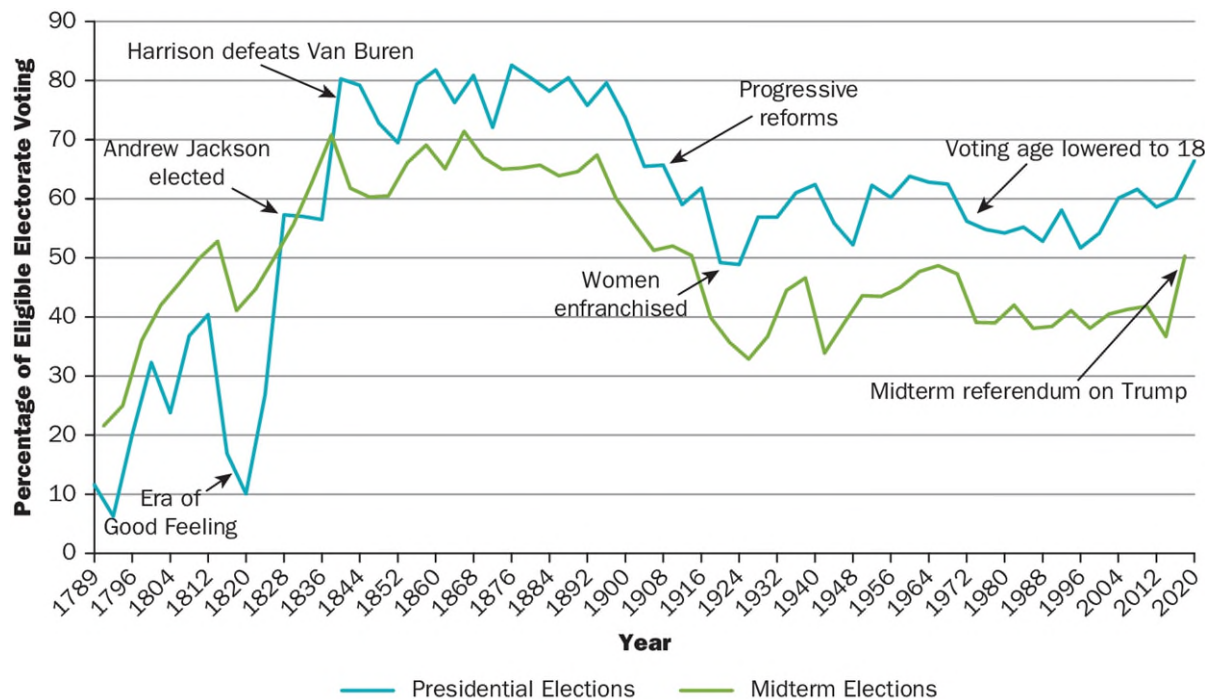
Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (4 of 10)

The Second Party System: Organizational Innovation: National Conventions

- National party conventions more democratic.
- 1840: Harrison and Van Buren.
- Competition: efforts to involve voters.

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (5 of 10)

Figure 12.2: Voter Turnout in Presidential and Midterm Elections, 1789-2020



Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (6 of 10)

The Second Party System: Organizational Innovation: The Spoils System

- Parties pursue a collective good.
- Winning the election: spoils of victory.
- Party politicians put unity first.

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (7 of 10)

The Third Party System: Entrepreneurial Politics

- Party machines.
- The progressive attack.
- Consequences of progressive reforms.

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (8 of 10)

The Fourth Party System: Republican Ascendancy

- 1896 Republican campaign: converted many into Republicans.
- Republicans lost to the Great Depression.

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (9 of 10)

The Fifth Party System: The New Deal Coalition

- Brought together Democrats.
- Radically expanded the federal government.
- Republican coalition was smaller.

Development and Evolution of the Party Systems (10 of 10)

The Fifth Party System: The New Deal Coalition

- Erosion of the New Deal coalition.
- Changing the rules.
- Primary elections and caucuses.

Revival of the Parties: A Sixth Party System? (1 of 5)

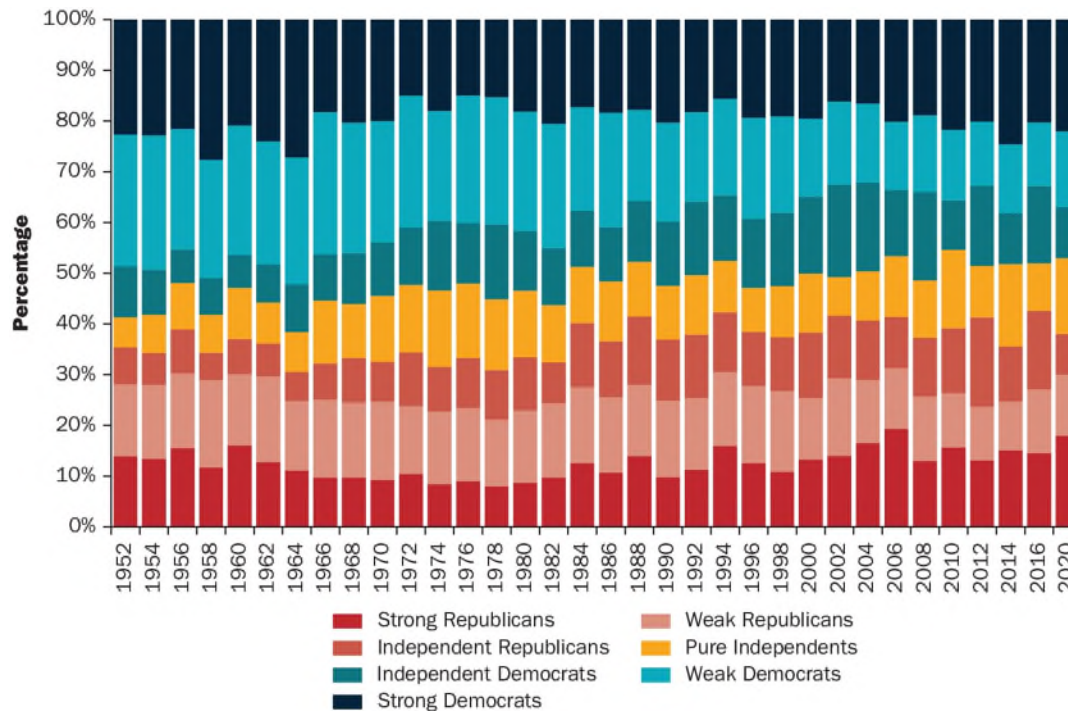
Partisanship Endures

- Party affiliation best predictor of how people will vote.
- Proportion of strong partisans has rebounded.

Revival of the Parties: A Sixth Party System?

(2 of 5)

Figure 12.3: Americans' Continuing Identification with a Major Party



Revival of the Parties: A Sixth Party System? (3 of 5)

Party Differences

- More Americans see differences in parties
- Party differences clear-cut
- Within party, voters agree on most things
- Party cues more useful

Revival of the Parties: A Sixth Party System? (4 of 5)

Changes in the Party Coalitions

- Party coalitions retain New Deal alignment
- Changes suggest sixth party system
- Emergence of polarized, nearly evenly balanced party coalitions

Revival of the Parties: A Sixth Party System? (5 of 5)

Modern Party Organizations

- Control
- Organizational innovations

Expediency Persists

American Parties Endure Because They Are Useful to Politicians and Voters