US Government

CHAPTER 17

Political Socialization/Ideology and Political Parties

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Political Socialization

Why do I think the way I think?

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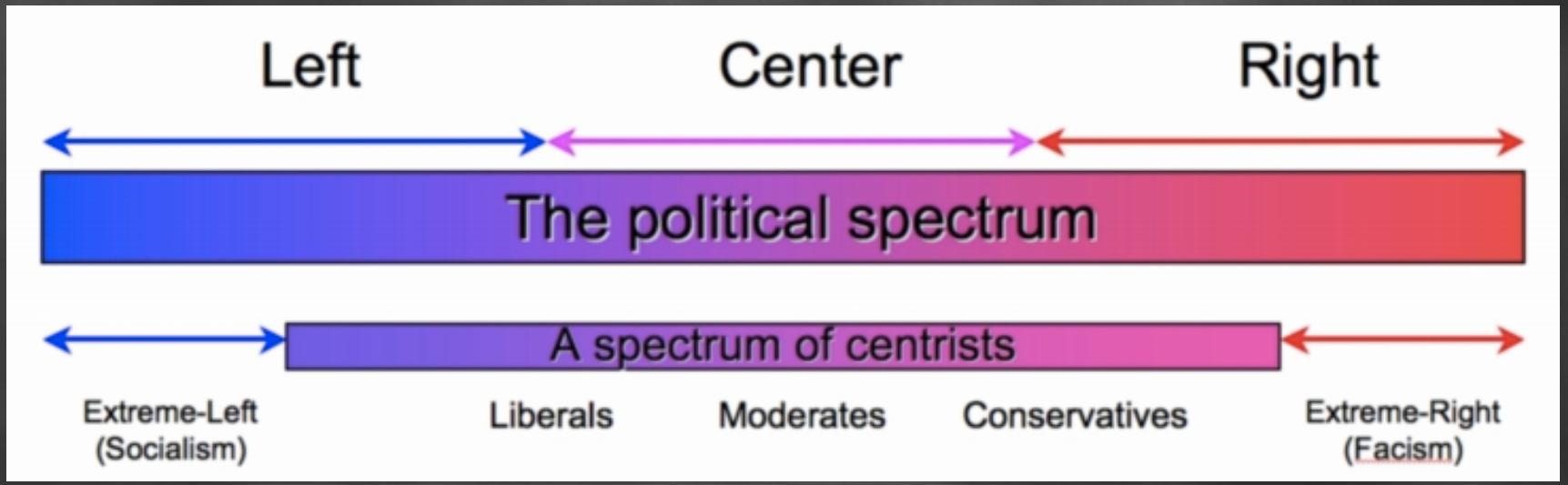
Political Spectrum



A political spectrum is a system of classifying different political positions upon one or more geometric axes that represent independent political dimensions. Most long-standing spectra include a left wing, which originally referred to seating arrangements in the French parliament after the Revolution.

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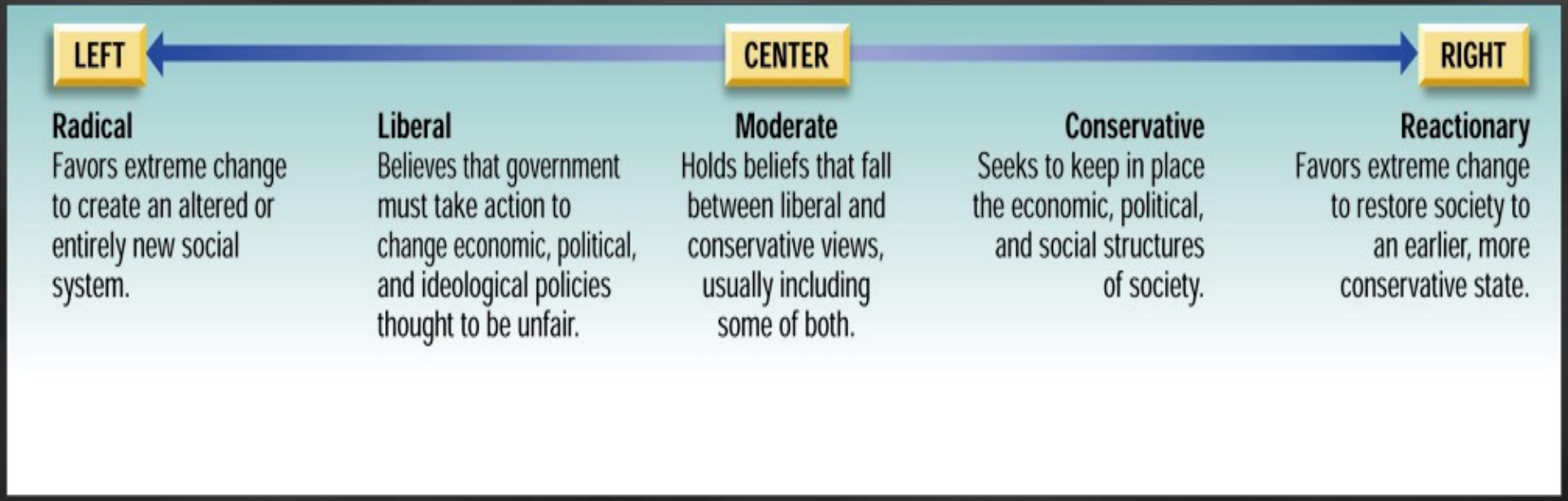
Political Spectrum

People who have similar opinions on political issues are generally grouped according to whether they are “left,” “right,” or “center” on the political spectrum.

Traditional Right – Left Spectrum



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Radicals

- Man are by nature, good and cooperative.
- Focused on the idea of the perfect society.
- Government can become corrupt and should never infringe on the rights of individuals
- Concerned with equality
- Willing to resort to violence or breaking the law to achieve goals

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Liberalism

- Capitalism is best but needs some reforms
- Human rights over property right
- Government should help those who cannot
- Reform should take moderate means
- Need a large federal government
- Belief in Free speech
- All rights for all people should be protected
- Need government regulations
- Liberals believe that the government should be actively involved in the promotion of social welfare of a nation's citizens- which means to help make sure everyone has basic necessities.
- They usually call for peaceful and gradual change within the existing political system.
- They reject violent revolution as a way of changing the way things are, often called the status quo.

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Moderates

- Moderates may share viewpoints with both liberals and conservatives.
- More concerned about compromise
- Tend to agree with issues of both liberals and Conservatives
- Tend to find Political candidates from this area
- Can be criticized for not doing enough at times
- They are seen as tolerant, which means accepting of other people's views, and they do not hold extreme views of their own.
- When you think Moderates, think Middle!

- They advocate a "go-slow" or "wait-and-see" approach to social or political change.

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Conservatism

- Legitimate authority is needed
- Oppose strong central government
- Favors state rights
- Good of majority over the minority
- Favors cutting government programs
- Should protect economic interests
- Favors tradition over change
- People who hold conservative ideals favor keeping things the way they are or maintaining the status quo if it is what they desire.
- Conservatives are usually hesitant or cautious or don't want to adopt new policies, especially if they involve government activism in some way.
- They feel that smaller government is better.
- They agree with Jefferson's view that "the best government governs least."

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Reactionary Fascism

The ideas of the past are the correct ones which we should restore today.

Communism is a direct threat to our society

Willing to use any means necessary to achieve goals – violence or breaking laws

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The Political Spectrum

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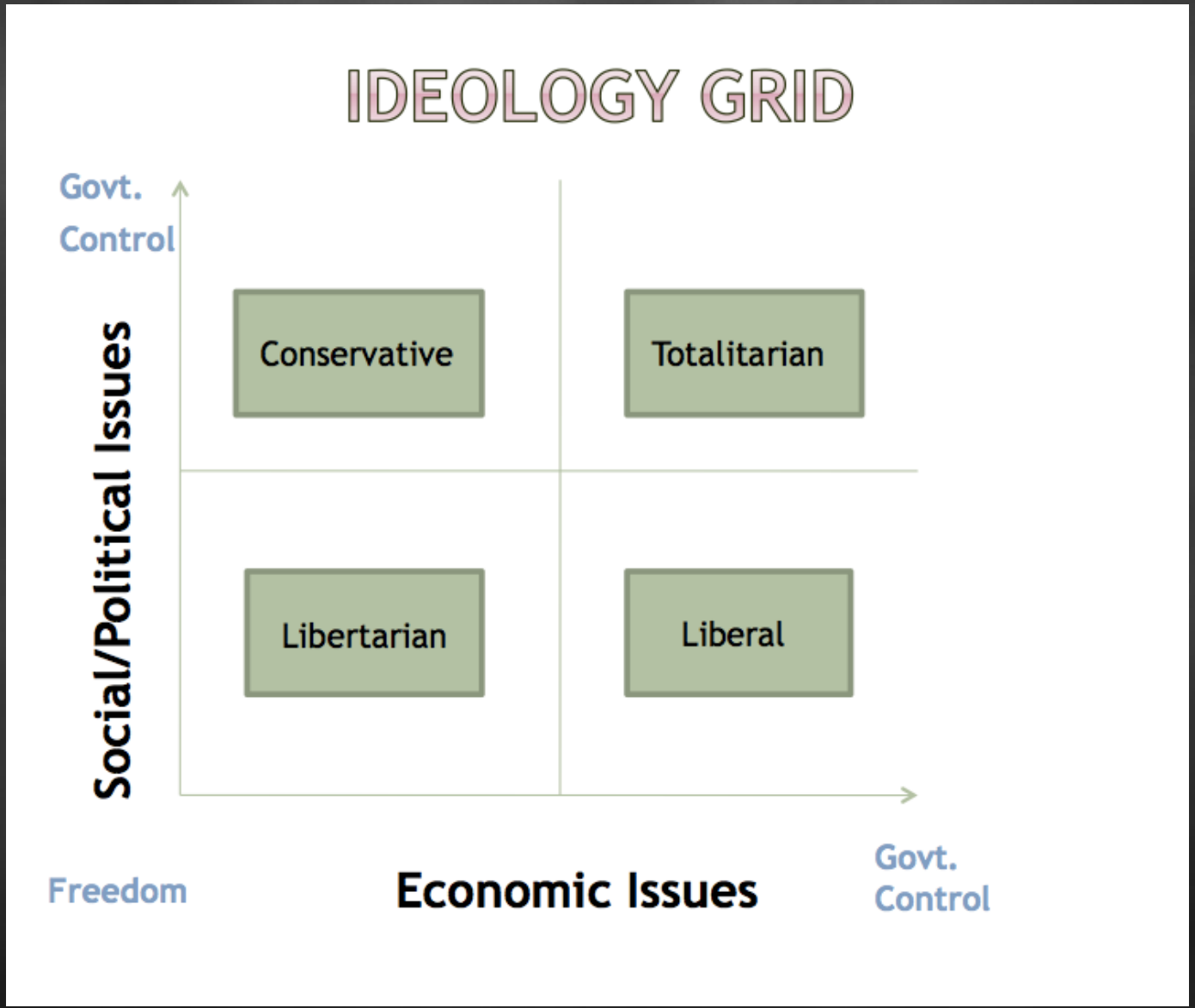
Political Ideology



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Political Ideology Quizzes

Take any three of the following quizzes and plot your results on the Political Ideology Grid.

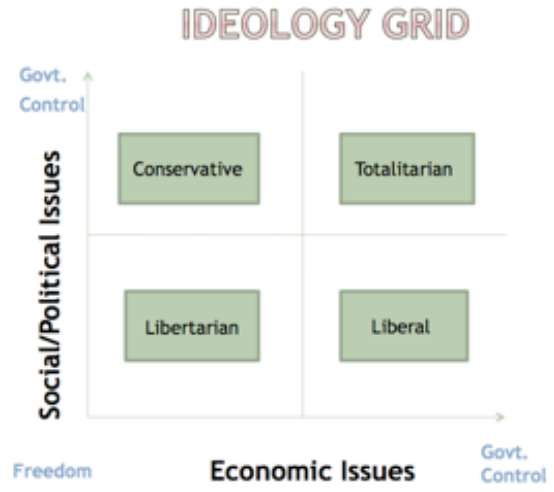
Political Compass
https://www.politicalcompass.org/test

Political Quiz
www.polquiz.com

Pew Research Center
http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/

Political Spectrum Self-Test
http://www.gotoquiz.com/politics/political-spectrum-quiz.html

The Enhanced Political Quiz...in 2D
http://quiz2d.com/



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First Political Parties

Federalists

- Led by Alexander Hamilton
- Represented wealthy and upper-class interests
- Favored strong executive leadership and liberal interpretation of the Constitution

Anti-Federalists

- Led by Thomas Jefferson
- Represented the “common man”
- Favored Congress as the strongest arm of government and a strict interpretation of the Constitution

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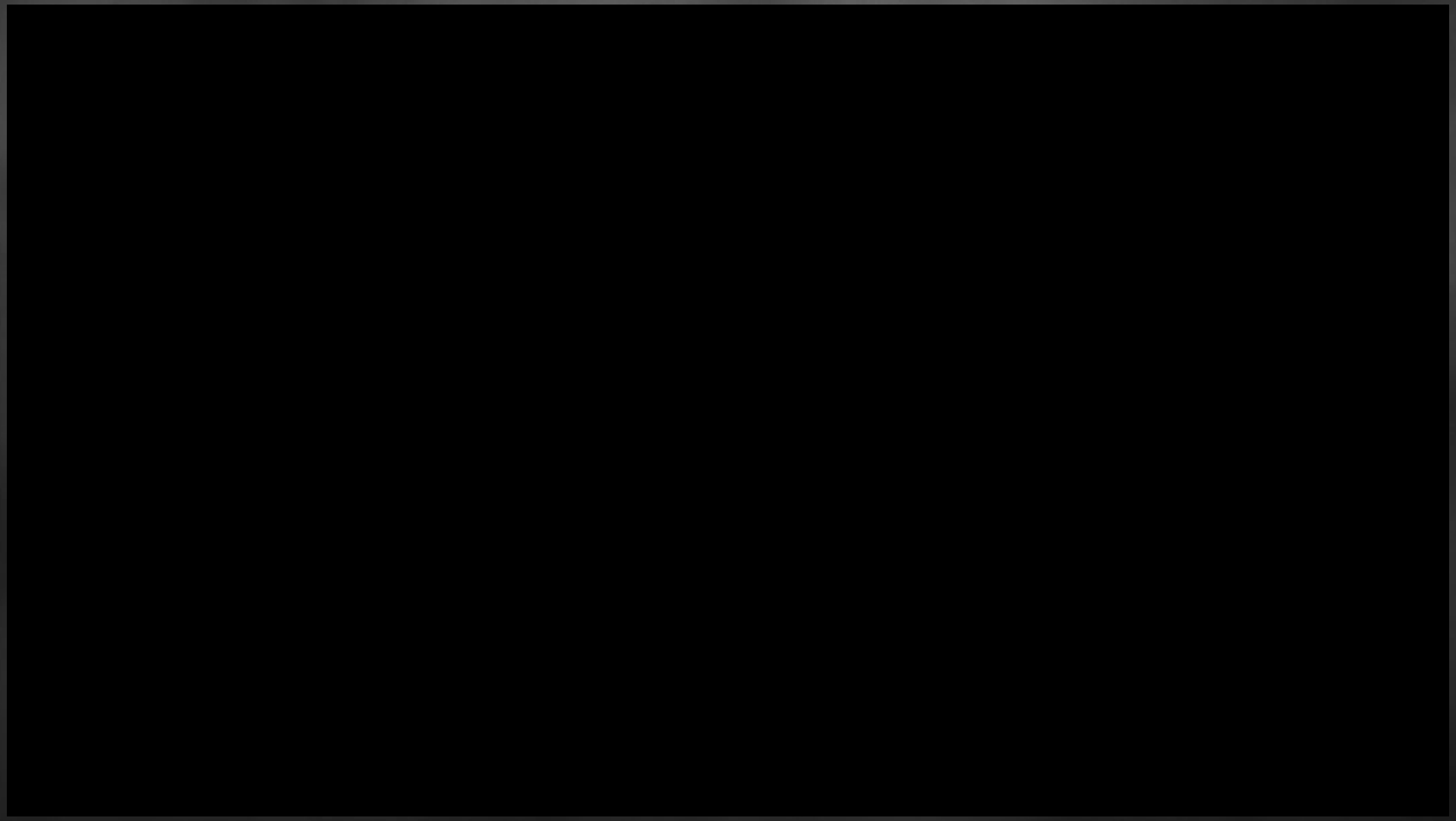
History of Political Parties



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The One-Party System

- In one party systems, the party is the government
- Party leaders set government policy
- Differences arise only within the one party because the government does not allow for political opposition
- Usually authoritarian governments
- Exists in most dictatorships.
- The government is simply an instrument of the party
- Power through force

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Multi-Party Systems

- Multi-Party System:
- Many parties based on religion, economic class, sectional attachment, or political ideology.
- Unstable Coalitions must be formed.
- ex. Germany (MOST European democracies)

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How Did The U.S. End Up With A Two-Party System?

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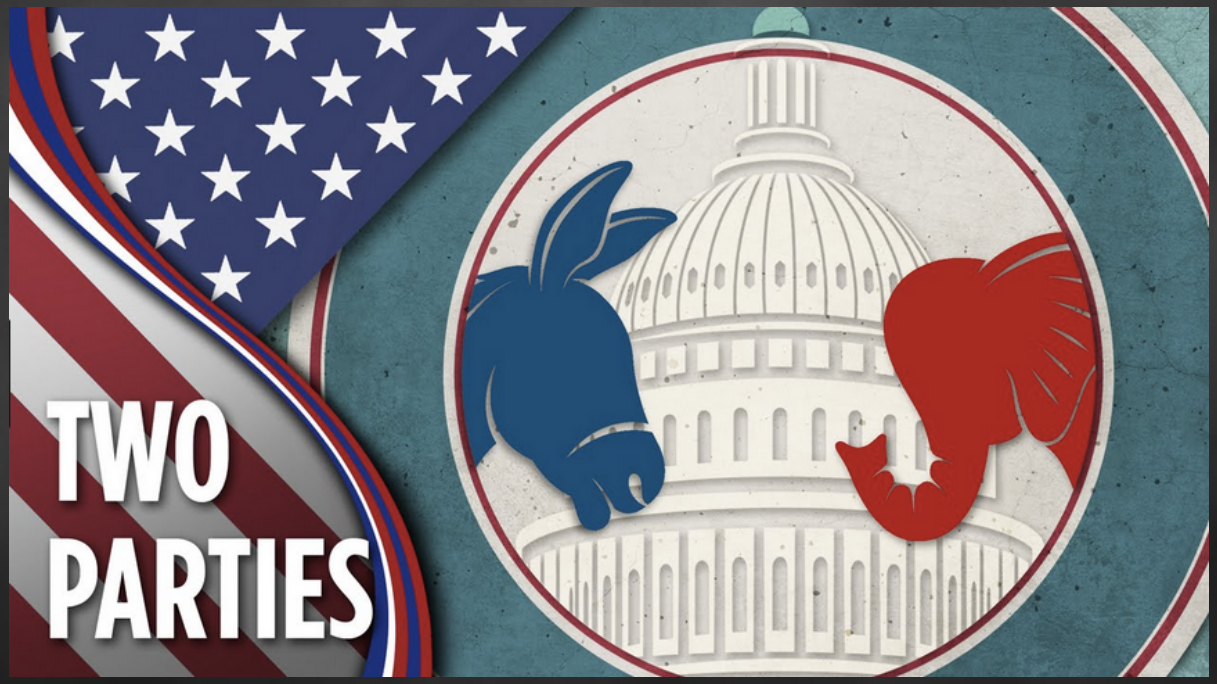
Two-Party System

- A two-party system is a party system where two major political parties dominate the government. One of the two parties typically holds a majority in the legislature and is usually referred to as the majority or governing party while the other is the minority or opposition party.
- Minor parties, if they exist get little or no portion of the electorate.



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Why a Two-Party System?

- The Historical Basis:The nation started out with two-parties: the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.
- The Force of Tradition:America has a two-party system because it always has had one. Minor parties, lacking wide political support, have never made a successful showing, so people are reluctant to support them.

History of Major US Political Parties

Years	Major Political Parties	
1792-1824	Federalists	Democratic-Republicans
1828-1854	Democrats	Whigs
1854-Present	Democrats	Republicans

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Minor Parties in the United States

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Role of Minor Parties

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Why Can't Third Parties Take Off?

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Major Parties Philosophy's

Today's Democratic Party takes a different stand. Democrats are sometimes referred to as "the Party of the People," attracting immigrants, blue-collar workers, women, and minorities. Democrats tend to take a more liberal stand on important issues. They believe that the federal government should take a more active role in people's lives, particularly those who are in need.

In general, Republicans tend to take a more conservative stand on issues. They believe that the federal government should not play a big role in people's lives. Most Republicans favor lower taxes and less government spending on social programs. They believe in less government intervention in business and the economy.

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Political Party Symbolism

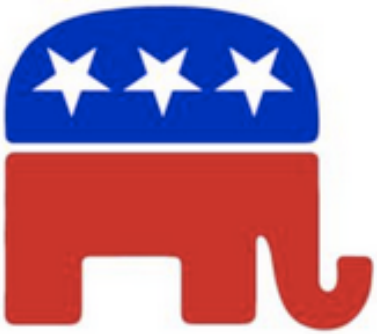
Democrat vs. Republican

Donkey

The Democratic donkey was first associated with Democrat Andrew Jackson's 1828 presidential campaign. His opponents called him a jackass (a donkey), and Jackson decided to use the image of the strong-willed animal on his campaign posters.

Elephant

In a cartoon that appeared in Harper's Weekly in 1874, there was a donkey clothed in lion's skin, scaring away all the animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled "The Republican Vote."



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What Do Parties Do?

- Act as a Bonding Agent —Guarantee that their candidate is worthy of the office.
- **Nominate Candidates**—Recruit, choose, and present candidates for public office.
- **Inform and Activate Supporters**—Campaign, define issues, and criticize other candidates.
- **Govern**—Members of government act according to their **partisanship,** or firm allegiance to a party.
- **Act as a Watchdog**—Parties that are out of power keep a close eye on the actions of the **party in power** for a blunder to use against them in the next election.

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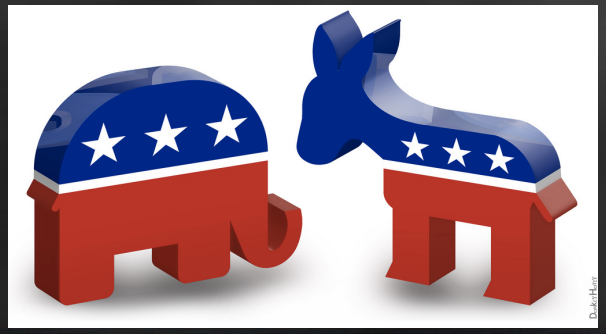
Party Tendencies

Republicans

- Rural
- Don’t fix what isn’t broken.
- State power over federal
- Small federal govt.
- Less regulation on business
- Lower taxes = prosperity
- Focus on Private
- Individualism

Democrats

- Urban
- Change can only make things better.
- No success in the status-quo.
- Government can remedy problems
- Regulation makes sure things are fair.
- Taxes pay for public needs: schools, fire/police, social programs
- Focus on Public
- Collectivism



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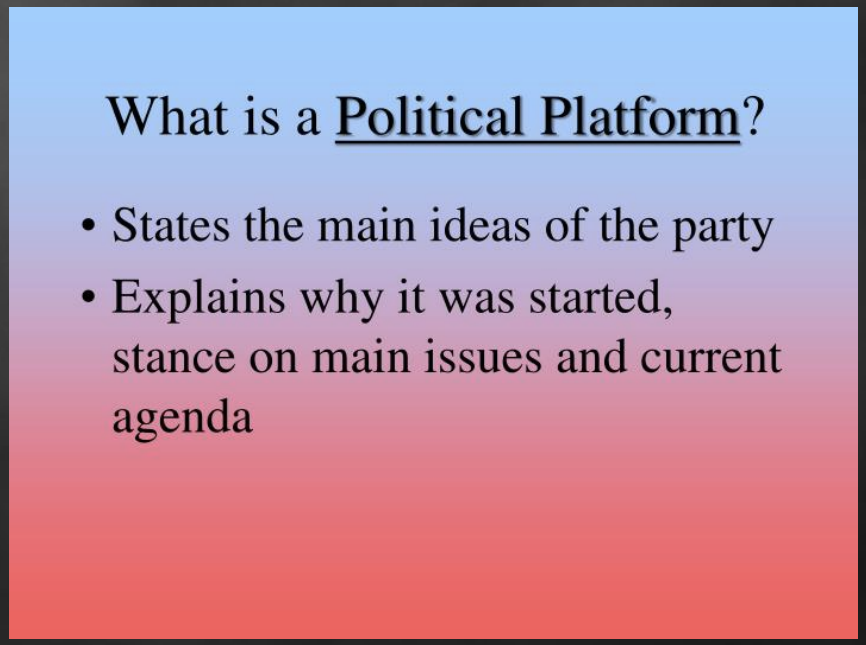
What is a Political Platform?

» States the main ideas of the party

» Explains why it was started, stance on main issues and current agenda



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Democrat Party

- The Democratic Party is concerned with equality, cooperation, and social progress.
- Supporters of this party are more likely to be concerned with civil rights issues, stronger government regulation for businesses, and social support networks for those in need of assistance. (helping the poor and unemployed)
- Democrats are more likely to believe that the federal government has a responsibility to be involved in solving problems.
- Democrats are represented by a Donkey.

Democrats Source http://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/one-big-party

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History of the Democrat Party

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Republican Party

- The Republican Party and its supporters want the government to spend less money and have less of a say in business and society.
- Most Republicans believe people and businesses should have the liberty to do what they want without much government interference.
- This party also tends to believe the government should protect traditional social values.
- Often referred to as the G.O.P. for “Grand Old Party,” and are represented by an elephant.

Republicans Source http://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/one-big-party

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History of the Republican Party

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Democrat Party Platform

- Where Democrats Stand on…
- Environment: The environment is very important and it should be protected and kept clean.
- Health Care: The government should help make healthcare available to those who can’t afford it.
- Energy: The U.S. should focus on renewable energy sources to achieve independence.
- Education: The government should support teachers and public school funding to make public schools better
- Economy: During hard times, the government should help create jobs.

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Republican Party Platform

- Where Republicans stand on…
- Defense: Keep peace by having a strong military
- Health Care: The government should not pay for peoples' health care
- Energy: The U.S. should rely on oil as well as renewable sources to be independent
- Education: Schools must have high standards, and students should be able to use public education funds to attend private schools if those schools are better than public schools
- Economy: Businesses will create jobs and opportunities for people to prosper

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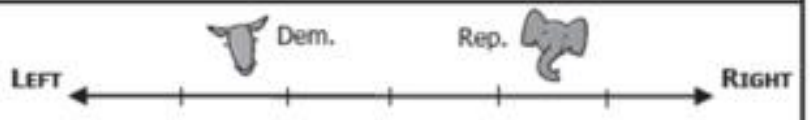
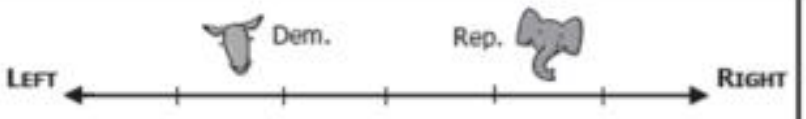
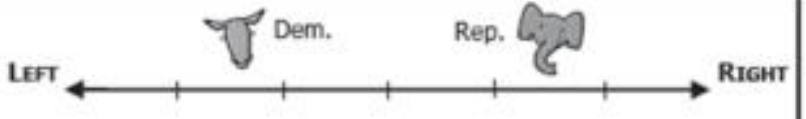
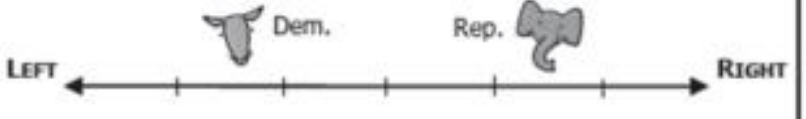
Left or Right? Read each proposed government action. Would it be supported by people on the left or the right? How far to the left or the right? Or is it a moderate plan? Place an **X** where you think the proposed government action lies on the political spectrum.

If the government decided to...	Where is that on the political spectrum?
Support community programs that encourage parents to get involved in lowering the high school dropout rate.	
Pass a law raising the minimum wage, helping workers earn more by making businesses pay more.	
Repeal a law requiring businesses to install pollution filters in factory smokestacks.	
Start a government program that lets kids eat dinner free every night at school if their parents won't be home.	
Create public charter schools that students can choose to attend instead of their regular public school.	
Encourage everyone to get health insurance by letting people deduct the cost of health insurance from their taxes.	

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Democrats and Republican Demographics

Who are We?

Describe what a person would be like or look like from each of the parties. Do not put down positions on issues, rather characteristics of a member from that party.

	Democrats	Republicans
Gender		
Race		
Age		
Income		
Union Member		
Education		
Ideology		
Religion		
Church Attendance		
Marital Status		
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual		
Gun Owner		
Vote by Region		
Northeast		
Midwest		
South		
West		
Size of Community		
Big Cities		
Small Cities		
Suburbs		
Small Town		
Rural		

Visit the CNN's Election 2012 & 2016 Presidential Race Results

CNN's Election 2012 Results
http://www.cnn.com/election/2012/results/main
CNN's Election 2016 Results
http://www.cnn.com/election/results/exit-polls/national/president

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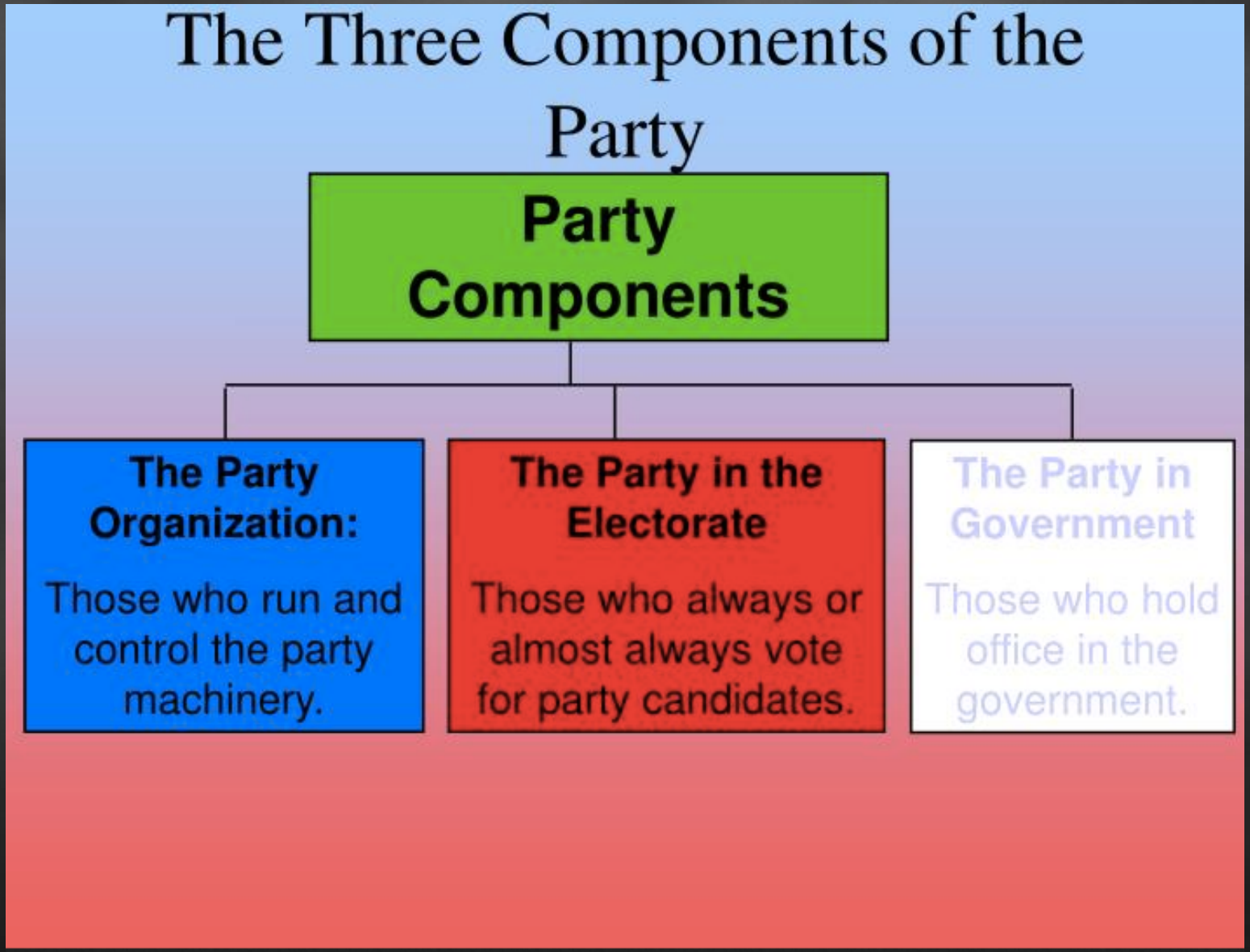
What Do Parties Do?



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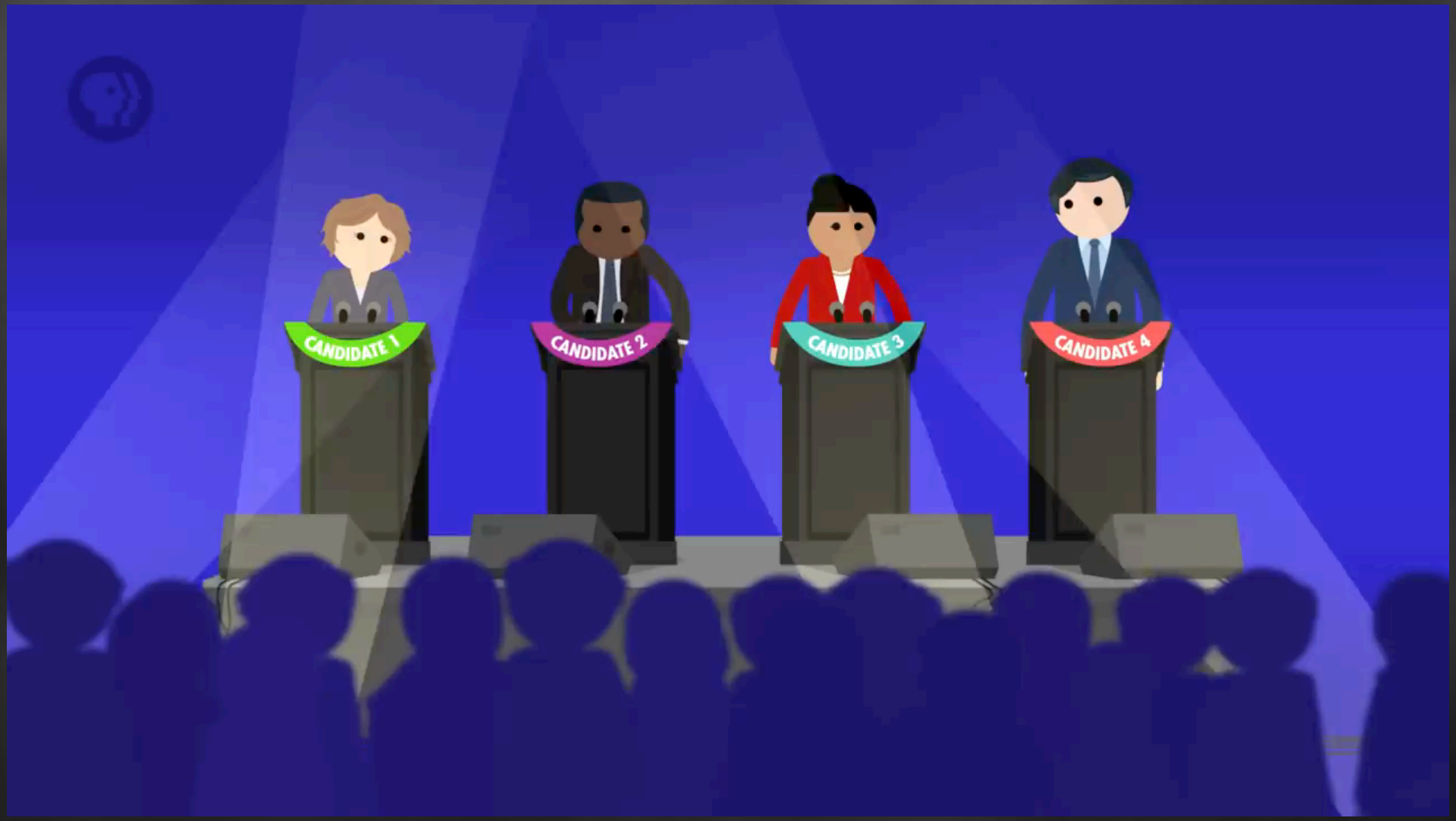
What Do Parties Do?



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Gerrymander

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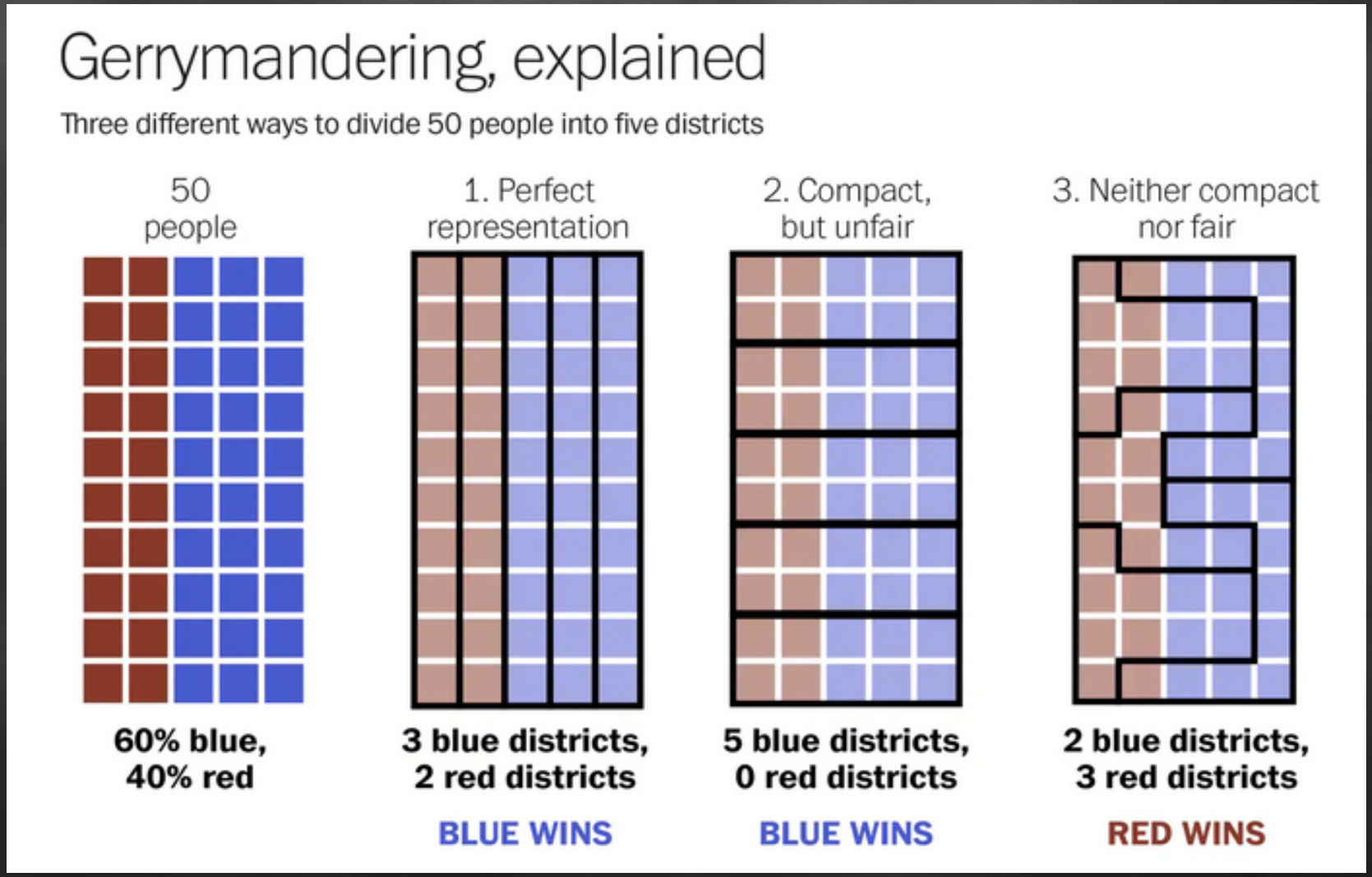
Gerrymander



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Gerrymander

Gerrymandering is the act of politicians manipulating the redrawing of legislative district lines in order to help their friends and hurt their enemies. They may seek to help one party win extra seats (a partisan gerrymander), make incumbents of both parties safer (an incumbent-protection gerrymander) or target particular incumbents who have fallen out of favor.

Independent redistricting commissions and other public interest changes to redistricting are important, but trying to fix gerrymandering fully within winner-take-all voting rules is simply impossible. Reasonable goals will always be in conflict, such as:

the more districts are designed to be compact and maintain county voting lines, the more likely they are to be safe for one party;
the more districts are designed to be competitive, the more likely that representation will be distorted;
the more competitive a state makes its House districts, the more other states gain power in Congress by protecting their incumbents.

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