

A Two Party System

Chapter 10 section 1 page 253

Role of Political Parties

- **Political Party-** an organization made up of citizens who have similar ideas on public issues
- Party members work together to put their ideas into effect through government action
- They encourage people to vote people that the party favors

Political Parties

- In the United States political parties are voluntary
- People in America are free to join any political party they want
- Not every member of a political party agrees on everything

Candidates

- Political parties **nominate** (select) **candidates**- someone who runs for political office
- Although not impossible, it is difficult for a person to successfully run for office without the support of a political party

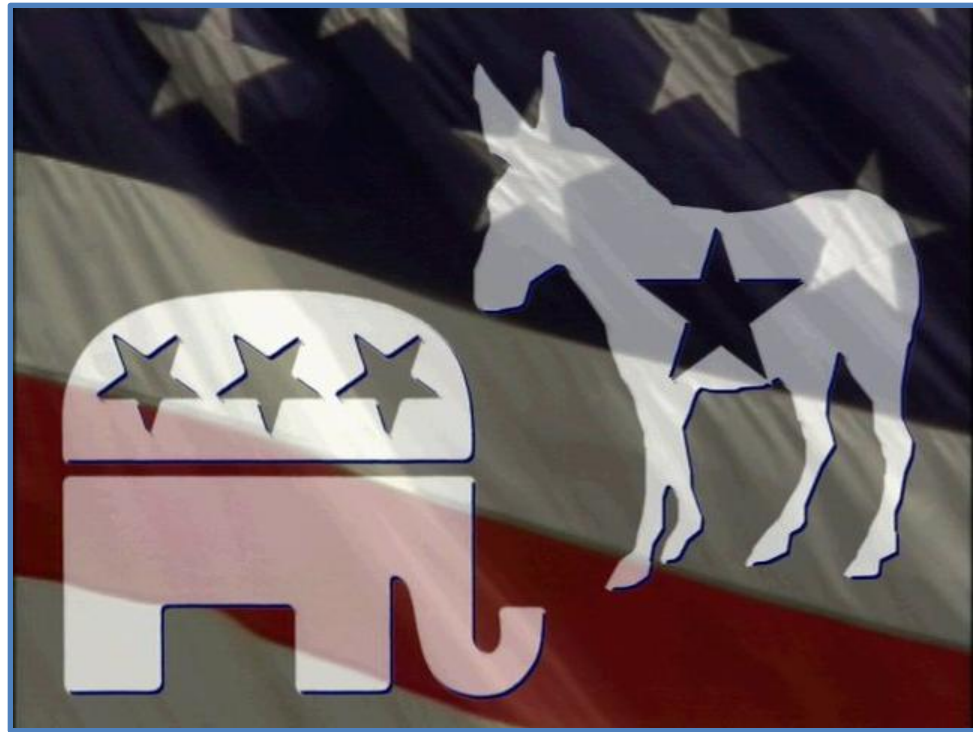


Beginning of the Two Party System

- The first political parties began during the presidency of George Washington
- Those who favored a strong national government were called **federalists**
- Those who supported states rights were anti-federalists (later became called the **democratic-republicans**)
- Because America has 2 major political parties now it is considered a **Two- Party system**

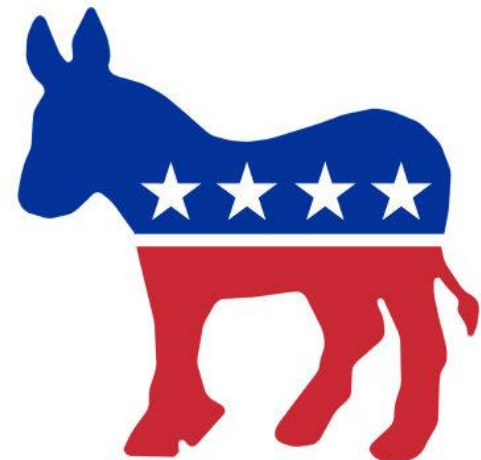
The Democratic and Republican Parties

- For more than 140 years the democratic party and the republican party have been our two major political parties



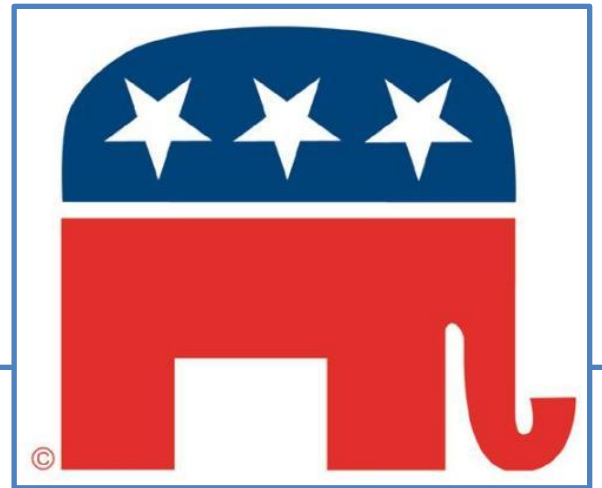
Democrats

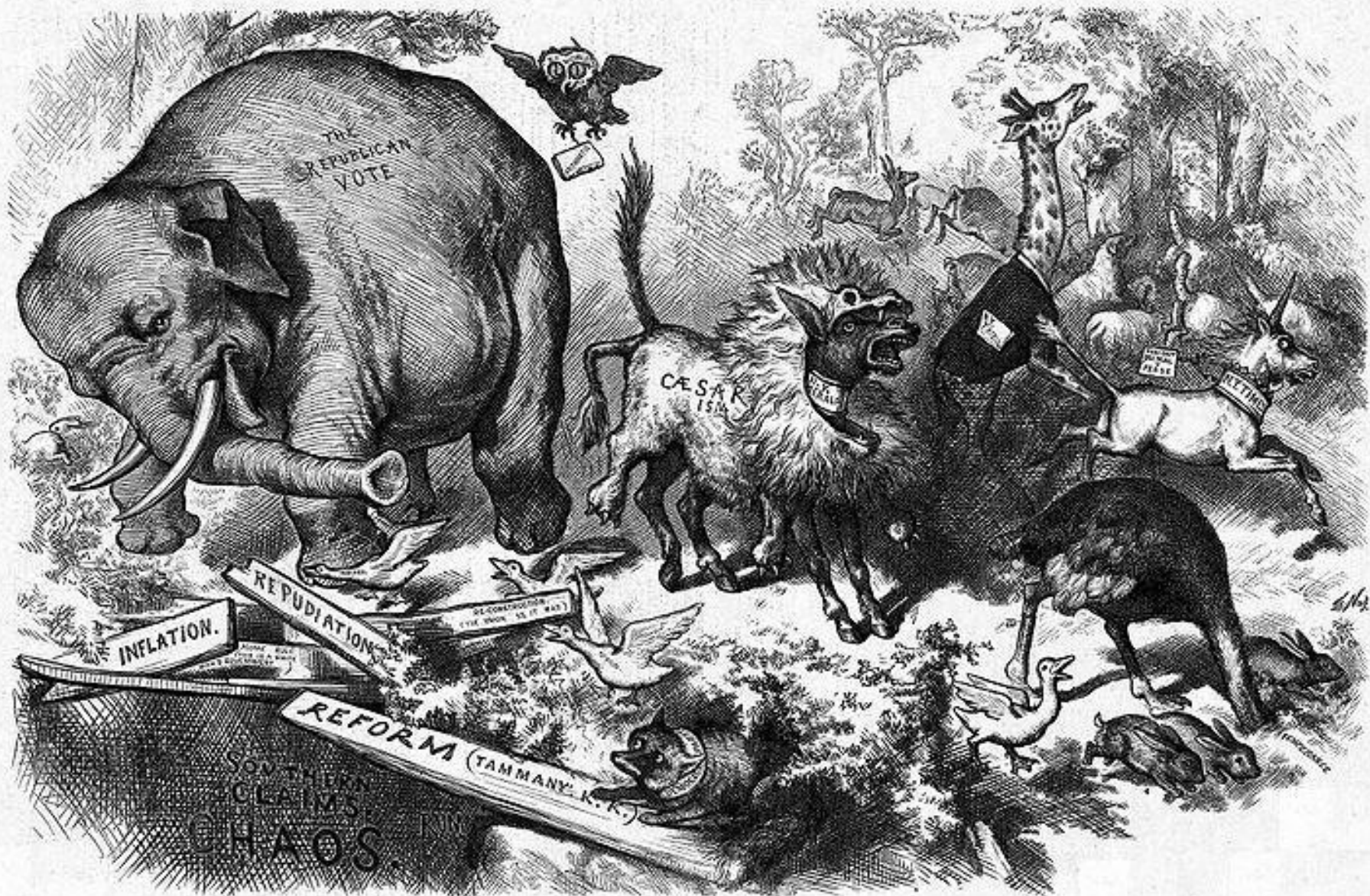
- The democrats can trace their roots to Thomas Jefferson's democratic-republican party
- One group of these people were lead by Andrew Jackson and became known as (just the) democrats
- Jackson believed that the federal government should represent:
 - Frontiersmen
 - Farmers
 - City laborers



Republicans

- The republican party formed in 1854 by people who opposed slavery
- Small groups who disagreed with slavery came together to nominate Lincoln as president
- He was the first president to run as a republican





THE THIRD-TERM PANIC.

"An Ass, having put on the Lion's skin, roamed about in the Forest, and amused himself by frightening all the foolish Animals he met with in his wanderings."—SHAKESPEARE OR HAYDN.

Advantages to a Two Party System

- Since the 1800's the democratic and republican parties have had almost equal power
- When one party fails the majority of voters they vote in the other
- Several European countries have **multi-party systems**- there are more than 2 major political parties
- If all the parties have equal strength then none of them have a majority
- Sometimes two or more political parties will work together on a goal, this is called a **coalition**

Write a brief summary about
third parties

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One Party Systems

- In countries with more than one political party voters have a choice
- Some countries have a **one party system**- when a country has only one political party
- All other parties are forbidden by law, this type of country can be called a dictatorship or totalitarian

Political Party Organization

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Party Committees

- The planning for political parties is done through committees
- Each party committee is headed by a chair person
- Meetings of political party leaders where they choose members is called a caucus

The National Committee:

- Largest party committee
- Members of the national committee are chosen 1 of 3 ways
 - Elected by state convention
 - Elected by voters
 - Chosen by state central committee
- The party's official president and vice president candidates are chosen at the official party meeting
- During the election year that party distributes literature and arranges for campaign speakers

State Central Committee

- The state central committee represents the party organization in each state
- Works to raise money for campaigns and to help candidates win elections

Local Committee

- The party's success often depend on the local committees
- Makes recommendations for candidates for office

Local Party Organization:

- To help elections run more efficiently all regions are divided into voting districts called **precincts**
- The voters in each precinct vote at the same **polling place**
- The precinct captain encourages all voters to cast their ballots for the party's candidate

What role do precincts play in the voting process?

Political Party Finances:

- Political parties work hard to raise money
- They hold large fundraising events
- However, when large contributions are made, people worry about corruption
- To lessen the chance of corruption, the U.S. Congress passed the FECA
 - Federal Election Campaign Act of 1972
 - Requires every candidate in all federal elections to report the name of every person who donates more than \$200

The Right to Vote

Chapter 10 section 3 pages 264-268

Registering to vote:

- Registering to vote places the voters name on the official roll of eligible voters
- Most voter registrations last as long as the person lives in that precinct
- Sometimes they are asked to register as a member of a political party
- **Independent voters-** voters who are not a member of a political party (independent voters can not vote in primary elections)

Primary Elections:

- **Primary elections-** take place first and allow voters to choose candidates from each party who will run in the general election
- **General Elections-** when voters actually choose their leaders

Types of primary elections:

- **Closed primary-** voters can only vote for candidates from the party they are a member of
- **Open primary-** voters can vote for members of either party
- Some states require a candidate to receive a majority (more than 50%) of the votes
- In these states if no candidate receives a majority, they have a **runoff** (only those two are on the ticket and the voters vote again)

Independent Candidates

- An independent candidate can have his/her name put on a ballot if enough people sign a petition supporting them
- **Grassroots**- support from many individuals at the local level rather than from national parties
- You can also write in a candidate's name on a ballot

Types of voting

- **Secret ballot-** ballot that is marked in secret to guarantee that a persons vote remains private
- **Strait ticket-** vote for all the candidates of one party
- **Split ticket-** choosing candidates from more then one political party