

Political Parties



Reflection



Video Reflection #2

- What do you think is the message of the video? (*Not about PETA & P. Diddy!*)
- How might it be a critique of elections? Or not?

Political Parties



- A group seeking control of government through winning and holding offices
- Share similar/common ideas and/or principles
- Take on platforms
 - Positions/Stands parties take on policies
- Coalition
 - Union of different people or groups who come together



Do we need
political parties?

“A party of order or stability,
and a party of progress or
reform, are both necessary
elements of a healthy state of
political life.”

- John Stuart Mill, *On
Liberty*, 1859

“It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.”

- George Washington, *Farewell Address*, 1796

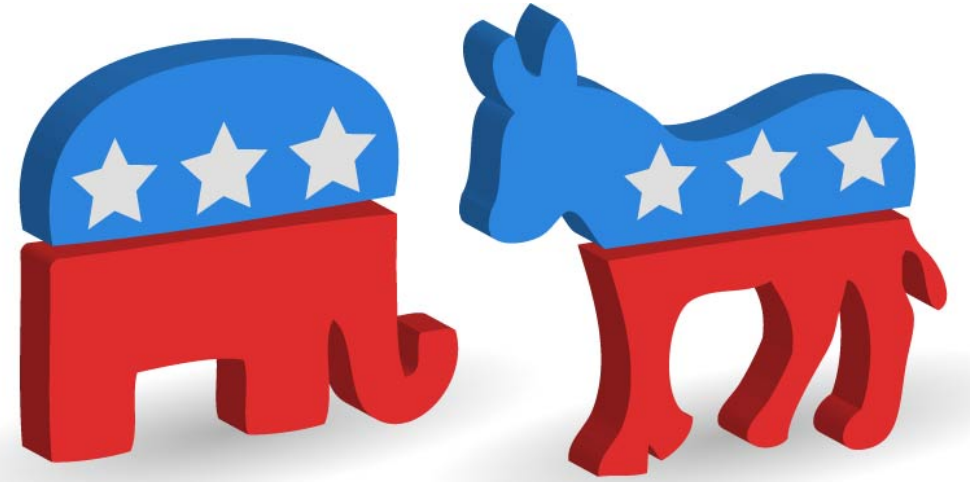


Some would argue that political parties are essential to democracy

- Serve as link between people & government
- Act as medium to provide choices/options to the people for government action
- A way for people's voice (will of the people) to be heard by the government

Major Parties

- Dominant political parties that hold substantial influence in a country
- Republican Party (GOP, Grand Old Party)
- Democratic Party



Minor Parties

- Parties without as much power and influence as major parties
- Usually not spread across the country



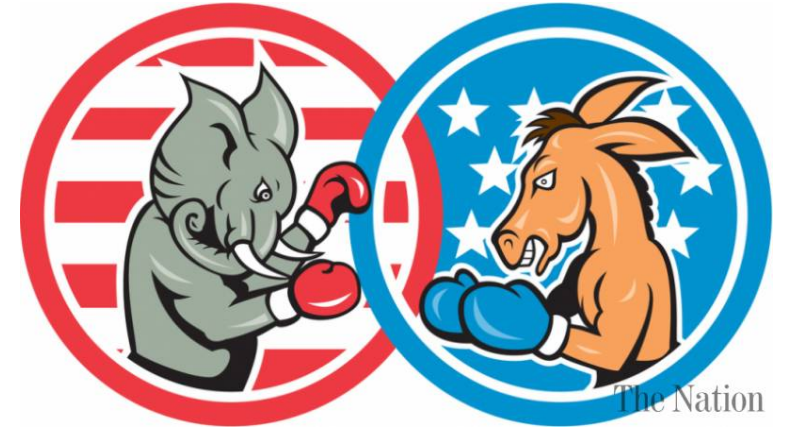
"Hey, but we had fun - didn't we!"

Political Parties in the US

- Democrat
- Republican
- Libertarian
- Green
- Constitution
- US Marijuana Party
- US Pirate Party
- New Black Panther Party
- Communist Party USA
- America's Party
- America First Party
- Socialist Party USA
- Unity Party of America
- Modern Whig Party
- Justice Party
- Etc.

Two-Party System

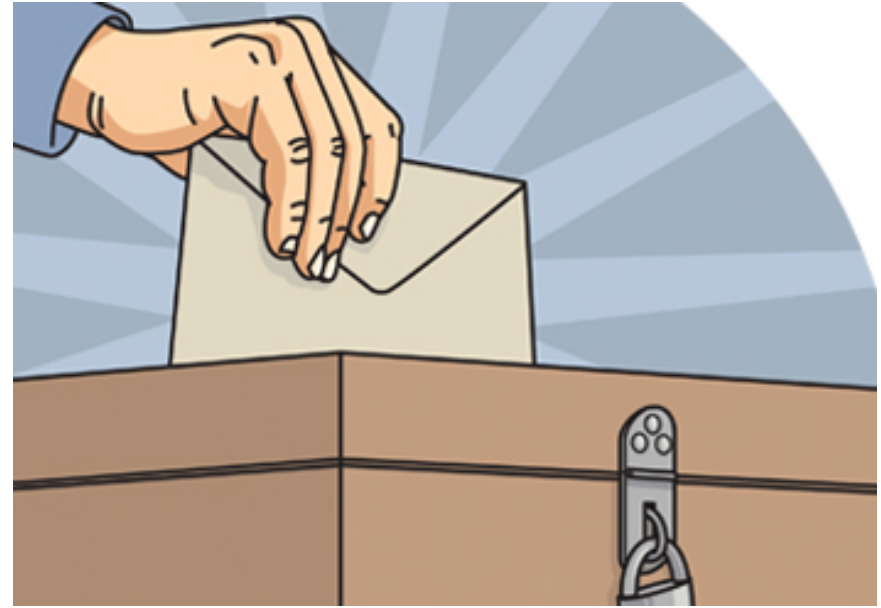
- Party system where two major political parties dominate politics
- United States did not intend to be one
 - Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist
 - Federalist vs. Democratic-Republicans
 - Democrats vs. Republicans (today)





Our Electoral System

- Discourages minor parties
- Election laws purposely written to discourage it
- **Bipartisan** way to preserve power
 - Two parties finding common ground on an issue



Multiparty System

- Many European countries
- Argues it gives more choices, representation, and responsiveness to the will of the people
- Potentially unstable → Majority vote
 - Coalitions



One-Party System

- Usually dictatorships
- “No-party” system
- Some U.S. states can be considered as such



One-Party System

- Can be argued that many states are one-party systems*
- *One party regularly wins elections

