

Political Parties

Wilson chapter 7

Parties

- A party is a group that seeks to elect candidates to public office by supplying them with a label (_____), by which they are known to the _____

Arenas in which Parties Exist

- _____, in the minds of the voters
- _____, recruiting and campaigning for candidates
- Set of _____, organize and try to control the legislative and executive branches

Parties Weaker in all 3 Arenas

- As label, because there are more independents and more _____ voting
- As set of leaders, though, parties are still somewhat strong
- As organization, parties have become weaker since _____s

U.S., European Parties Different 1

- European parties are disciplined _____, to which voters are very loyal, though this has been declining recently
- Federal system _____ power in U.S.
 - Early on, most the most important government _____ were made by the state and local governments, and this is where most of the political jobs were
 - National parties were then _____ of local parties
 - As political power became more centralized, parties became even more decentralized and weaker

U.S., European Parties Different 2

- Parties closely _____ by state and federal laws, which weaken them
- Candidates are now chosen through _____, not by party leaders
- President elected _____ from Congress and presidential _____ are drawn from many sources

Political Culture

- Parties are relatively _____ in life; Americans do not join or pay dues to a political party
- Political parties are separate from other aspects of life

Rise & Decline of Political Parties

- The _____ (to 1820s)
- The _____ (until Civil War)
- The _____ and Sectionalism (until 1930s)
- The Era of _____

The Founding 1

- Founders' disliked parties, viewing them as _____
- For parties to be acceptable, people had to be able to distinguish between policy disputes and challenges to the _____ of government

The Founding 2

- Emergence of _____, Federalists: Jefferson vs. _____
 - Loose caucuses of political notables
 - Republicans' _____ (Jefferson, Madison, Monroe) and Federalists' demise

- Reflection of the newness of parties is seen in the _____ of this system

The Founding 3

- No representation of _____ economic interests—parties were always heterogeneous coalitions

The Jacksonians (to Civil War)

- Political participation became a _____ phenomenon
 - More voters to be reached – by 1832, presidential electors selected by _____ vote in most states
 - Party built from bottom up
 - Abandonment of presidential _____ composed of Congress members
 - Beginning of national party conventions, allowing _____ control

The Civil War and Sectionalism 1

- Jacksonian system unable to survive _____ and sectionalism
- New Republicans became dominant because of . . .
 - Civil War—Republicans relied on Union _____
 - _____'s alienation of northern Democrats in 1896, deepening sectionalism

The Civil War and Sectionalism 2

- Most states were dominated by _____-party
 - Factions emerge in each party
 - Republicans with _____ politicians (Old Guard) and progressives (_____)
 - Progressives initially shifted between parties to gain power, but then began attacking partisanship when the Republicans became dominant

The Era of Reform 1

- beginning in _____s, but primarily since _____
- Progressives pushed measures to curtail parties' power and influence
 - _____ elections favored, to replace nominating conventions
 - _____ elections at city and (sometimes) state level
 - No party-business alliances, on the grounds that they were corrupting
 - Strict voter registration requirements in order to reduce _____
 - Civil service reform in order to eliminate _____
 - _____ and _____ so that citizens could vote directly on proposed legislation

The Era of Reform 2

- Effects:
 - Reduced the worst forms of political _____
 - Weakened all political parties
 - parties became less able to hold officeholders _____ or to coordinate across the branches of government

National Party Structure Today

- Parties _____ on Paper
- Party structure _____ in late 1960s and early 1970s
- National _____

Parties Similar on Paper

- National convention has _____ power; meets every _____ years to nominate the presidential candidate

- National _____ is composed of delegates from states
 - manages affairs between conventions
- Congressional campaign committees support the party's congressional candidates
- National chair manages daily work

Party Structure Diverged

- in late 60s & early 70s

- RNC moved to _____ structure; a well-financed party devoted to electing its candidates, especially to Congress
- Democrats moved to _____ structure and redistributed power
- RNC used _____ mailing lists to raise money
 - Money used to provide services to candidates – effectively, a national firm of political _____
- _____ learned from the RNC
 - adopted the same techniques, with some success
- DNC and RNC send money to state parties
 - to sidestep federal spending limits (_____)

National Conventions 1

- National committee sets time and place
 - issues a “_____” setting the number of delegates for each state and the rules for their selection
- Formulas are used to allocate delegates
 - Democrats' formula shifts delegates away from the _____, to the North and West
 - Republicans' formula shifts delegates away from the East, to the South and _____
 - Result: Democrats move _____, Republicans _____

National Conventions 2

- Democrat formula rewards _____ states; while the Republican formula rewards _____ states
- Democrats set new rules
 - In 1970s (under George _____), rules were changed to weaken local party leaders and increase the proportions of women, youth, blacks, and Native Americans attending the convention
 - Hunt Commission in 1981 increased the influence of elected officials and made the convention more _____

National Conventions 3

- Consequence of reforms: parties represent different sets of upper-middle-class voters
 - Republicans represent _____ middle class—more conservative
 - Democrats represent _____ class—more liberal

National Conventions 4

- To become more competitive, Democrats adopted additional rule changes
 - In 1988, the number of _____ was increased while the status of some special interest caucuses was decreased
 - In 1992, three rules were set
 - Winner-reward system of delegate distribution banned – this had previously given the winner of primaries and caucuses extra delegates
 - _____ representation implemented
 - States that violated the rules were penalized with the loss of convention delegates

National Conventions 5

- Conventions today only _____ choices made in primary season

State and Local Parties

- State-Level _____
- The _____
- _____ Parties
- _____ Groups
- Sponsored Parties
- Personal Following

State-Level Structure

- State _____ committee
- _____ committees
- Various local committees
- Distribution of power varies with the state, as different incentives are at work

Texas Party Structure 1

- _____ Executive Committee
 - composition
 - 1 man & 1 woman from each _____ district
 - chair and vice-chair
 - responsibilities
 - establish party _____
 - statewide _____ election
 - _____ convention
 - fundraising
 - candidate _____
 - promotion of candidates
 - voter _____
 - political organization

Texas Party Structure 2

- _____ District Executive Committee
 - composition
 - elected at S.D. convention
 - responsibilities
 - filling vacancies

Texas Party Structure 3

- _____ Executive Committee 1
 - composition
 - precinct _____ of each precinct
 - county chair
 - elected every 2 years
 - in primary election

Texas Party Structure 4

- responsibilities of County Executive Committee
 - oversees the conduct of the _____ elections,
 - establishes general policy,
 - conducts fund-raising activities,
 - fills Precinct _____ vacancies,
 - promotes the party's nominees in the general election,
 - coordinates _____ activities and
 - _____ voter turnout on behalf of the party's candidates

Texas Party Structure 5

- Precinct
 - Precinct Chair
 - elected every ____ years
 - in primary election
 - any _____ is eligible [Your teacher was the youngest (18) precinct chairman in _____ County history.]
 - “_____” level
 - serves on _____ Executive Committee
 - serves as Precinct _____
 - runs _____ election
 - runs _____ election if party is majority in the county

The Machine 1

- Definition: a party organization that recruits members via tangible _____ (money, jobs, political favors)
- High degree of leadership _____
- _____ were extensive
 - Gradually controlled by reforms – voter registration, civil service, _____ Act (1939)
 - Machines continued until voter demographics and federal programs changed, decreasing the need for the parties’ resources

The Machine 2

- Machines were both self-serving and public-_____
- New machines are a blend of the old machine (regarding campaign _____) and today’s ideological party traits (regarding _____)

Ideological Parties 1

- Extreme opposite to machine
- _____ is more important than winning election, so ideological parties are contentious and factionalized
- Usually outside Democratic and Republican parties—“_____ parties”
- But there were some local reform clubs in 1950s and 1960s
- Reform clubs have generally been replaced by more focused social movements, which advance specific demands

Ideological Parties 2

- Political machine was once the “farm club” of the national party, but today’s social movements perform that function
 - _____ is therefore more intense
 - Party leaders have less freedom

Solidary Groups

- Members are motivated by solidary incentives (_____)
- Advantage: neither corrupt nor inflexible
- Disadvantage: not very hard working

Sponsored Parties

- Created or sustained by another organization
- Example: Detroit Democrats were developed and led by the United Auto Workers (_____) union
- Not very common in U.S.

Personal Following

- Requires an appealing _____, an extensive _____, _____ recognition, and money
- Examples: Kennedys (MA), Talmadges (GA), Longs (LA), Byrds (VA)

Two-Party System

- Rarity among nations today
- Evenly balanced nationally, but not _____
- Why has the two party system endured for so long?
 - Electoral system
 - _____-take-all and
 - _____ system limit the number of parties
 - Opinions of voters
 - two broad coalitions work, although there may be times of bitter dissent
 - State laws have made it very difficult for third parties to get on the _____

Minor Parties 1

- _____ parties
 - comprehensive, radical view;
 - most enduring
 - Examples: Socialist, Communist, Libertarian
- One-_____ parties
 - address one concern, avoid others
 - Examples: Free Soil, Know-Nothing, Prohibition
- Economic _____ parties
 - regional, protest economic conditions
 - Examples: Greenback, Populist

Minor Parties 2

- _____ parties
 - from split in a major party, usually over the party's presidential nominee
 - Examples: Bull Moose, Henry Wallace, American Independent Party
- Note that movements are not producing parties, either because . . .
 - There is a _____ chance of success, or
 - The major parties accommodate the movements via direct primaries and national party convention
 - Examples: civil rights, antiwar, and labor movements

Minor Parties 3

- Factional parties have had probably the greatest influence on public _____
 - Ross Perot in _____ and _____

Nominating a President

- Two Contrary _____
- Are the delegates _____ of the voters?
- Who _____ in primaries?
- _____ are the new delegates?

Two Contrary Forces

- party's desire to _____ the presidency motivates it to seek an appealing candidate,
- but its desire to keep dissidents in party forces a _____ with more extreme views

Are Delegates Representative?

- Democratic delegates much more _____
- Republican delegates much more _____
- Outcome cannot be attributed to quota rules for delegate selection alone
 - women, youth, minorities have greater _____ of opinions than do the delegates

Who Votes in Primaries?

- Primaries now more numerous and more decisive
 - Adlai _____ (1952) and Hubert _____ (1968) won the presidential nomination without entering any primaries
 - By 1992: forty primaries and twenty caucuses (some states with both)
- Yet studies find little ideological difference between primary voters and _____-and-_____ party voters
- _____: meeting of party followers at which delegates are picked
 - Only the most dedicated _____ attend
 - Often choose most ideological candidate
 - Jackson, Robertson in 1988

Who are the New Delegates?

- Today's delegates are _____-oriented activists
- Advantages of this new system:
 - Increased opportunities for activists within the two major parties
 - Decreased probability of their _____ the major parties
- Disadvantage: these delegates may nominate presidential candidates _____ to voters or even to the party's rank and file

Parties vs. Voters 1

- Democrats
 - since 1968, have won more _____ elections than presidential contests
 - Candidates are out of step with average voters on social and _____ issues
 - So are Democratic delegates to the nominating convention
 - there's a _____ between the delegates' and the candidate's positions

Parties vs. Voters 2

- Republicans
 - same problem with _____ (1964)
- Rank-and-file Democrats and Republicans differ on many political issues
 - differences are usually _____
- Delegates from the two major parties differ _____ on these same issues
- So, the candidate needs to share views with the average citizen or campaign on issues where delegates and voters agree
- Problem arises, though, because candidates must often play to the ideological _____ to win delegate support
 - produces “_____ to the _____” after conventions

The End!