

CHAPTER 9: Political Parties

Reading Questions

1. The Founders—and George Washington in particular—thought of political parties as
 - a. the primary means of communication between voters and representatives.
 - b. “factions” motivated by ambition and self-interest.
 - c. a necessary element of democratic political processes.
 - d. a useful device for purposes of recruitment.
 - e. the logical result of republican principles.

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2. The acceptance of political parties was probably dependent upon
 - a. establishing the legitimacy of the new government itself.
 - b. ratification of the Bill of Rights.
 - c. George Washington.
 - d. the policies of Alexander Hamilton.
 - e. Fries’s Rebellion.

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3. In America, the political party has lost strength as
 - a. a label in the minds of voters.
 - b. a set of leaders who try to organize and control government.
 - c. an organization that recruits and campaigns for candidates.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.

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4. One obvious feature of data on trends in party identification is the
 - a. increase in Democrats.
 - b. increase in Republicans.
 - c. decrease in Democrats and increase in Republicans.
 - d. decrease in Republicans and increase in Democrats.
 - e. increase in independents.

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5. The federal system goes a long way toward explaining why U.S. parties are _____ than their European counterparts.
 - a. more ideological
 - b. less ideological
 - c. more aggressive
 - d. more centralized
 - e. more decentralized

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6. One reason that political parties in the United States today are weaker than those in Europe is that in the United States,
 - a. party leaders do not typically select people to run for office.
 - b. local party leaders rarely have as much power as national ones.

- c. political party organizations are highly centralized.
- d. Congress reserves the right to select the chief executive of the government.
- e. party leaders have become less ideological.

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7. In most states, candidates for office are chosen by
- a. the people.
 - b. party leaders.
 - c. primary elections.
 - d. conventions.
 - e. delegations.

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8. In Europe, almost the only way a person can become a candidate is by
- a. winning a constituency referendum.
 - b. being nominated by a member of the executive branch.
 - c. winning in the primary election.
 - d. hiring his or her own campaign organization.
 - e. being nominated by party leaders.

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9. The first organized political party in American history was
- a. made up of the followers of Jefferson.
 - b. organized by Alexander Hamilton.
 - c. organized by the Federalists.
 - d. ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.
 - e. formed under the Articles of Confederation.

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10. Who attempted to smooth over the animosity of an early presidential election by saying, "We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists"?
- a. Washington
 - b. Adams
 - c. Jefferson
 - d. Madison
 - e. Hamilton

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11. Some were so distraught at the election of Thomas Jefferson that they
- a. prepared constitutional amendments that would radically alter our system of government.
 - b. argued for even greater restrictions on suffrage.
 - c. challenged the results of the election in Washington.
 - d. refused to certify votes in dozens of counties.
 - e. organized to have New England secede from the union.

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12. The distinctive feature of the Jacksonian (or second) party system was
- a. mass political participation.
 - b. strict registration laws.
 - c. the popularity of the caucus system.
 - d. the Australian ballot.

e. direct election of senators.

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13. Prior to 1824, presidential candidates were nominated by
- regional party conventions.
 - delegates selected by state legislatures.
 - popular vote from a slate of candidates drawn up by the two national parties.
 - caucuses comprising members of Congress.
 - delegates selected by members of the state judiciary.

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14. One effect of the geographic split in parties that occurred as a consequence of the Civil War was the
- end of the Democratic-Republican Party of Thomas Jefferson.
 - emergence of strong party factions such as the mugwumps.
 - rise to power of Democratic progressives and others who supported free trade.
 - establishment of national conventions to nominate presidential candidates.
 - equal distribution of party power among the states.

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15. The presidential campaign of William Jennings Bryan had the effect of
- solidifying Democratic and Republican dominance of the South and the North respectively.
 - strengthening the Democratic Party nationally.
 - strengthening the Democratic Party in populous northeastern states.
 - creating greater two-party competition in the states.
 - None of the above.

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16. The progressives favored all of the following *except*
- nonpartisan elections.
 - strict voter-registration requirements.
 - civil service reform.
 - better relations with business.
 - primary elections.

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17. The progressive movement reduced the level of political corruption but ultimately failed to
- solve the problem of divided government.
 - weaken the power of political parties.
 - decentralize political power.
 - end the destructive effect of primary elections.
 - solve the problem of how to recruit and support candidates.

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18. The three clearest cases of critical or realigning elections seem to be
- 1800, 1828, and 1865.
 - 1828, 1865, and 1896.
 - 1860, 1896, and 1932.
 - 1896, 1932, and 1984.

e. 1932, 1984, and 1992.

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19. Which of the following statements about the critical election of 1896 is *correct*?
- The Republicans carried most of the South.
 - The Democrats carried most of the North.
 - The Republicans won the support of those in cities.
 - The Democrats represented business interests.
 - The Democrats wanted higher tariffs.

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20. The realignment of 1932 was somewhat different because
- it was not related to economics.
 - it was not preceded by any third-party movement.
 - the Republicans drew the support of southern whites and Jewish voters.
 - urban workers were not part of the new majority coalition.
 - Both A and D

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21. Dramatic realignments, such as the one that occurred in 1932, may not occur again because
- voter turnout has consistently decreased over the last forty years.
 - presidential candidates are rarely as popular with the voters as they used to be.
 - the Electoral College is malapportioned.
 - party labels have lost their meaning for a growing number of voters.
 - economic issues rarely dominate presidential campaigns.

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22. Ticket splitting creates
- separation of powers.
 - checks and balances.
 - divided government.
 - political efficacy.
 - liberal politics.

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23. The national party conventions meet every _____ years to nominate a presidential candidate.
- two
 - three
 - four
 - six
 - eight

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24. The _____ manages the day-to-day work of the party.
- precinct captain
 - national chairman
 - national selectman
 - national alderman
 - organizational deputy

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25. _____ select(s) the time and place of the national convention and issues a call for the convention.
- The president
 - A select committee on convention affairs
 - Leaders in the House and Senate
 - The state caucus national committee
 - A party's national committee

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26. The number of convention delegates from each state, along with the rules under which they are chosen, is determined by
- the party's national committee.
 - Congress.
 - the party's congressional campaign committee.
 - state party committees.
 - leaders in the House and Senate.

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27. Which of the following statements about the formula by which delegates to the nominating conventions are apportioned is *correct*?
- Both Democrats and Republicans give extra delegates to large states.
 - Both Democrats and Republicans give extra delegates to loyal states.
 - The Democrats and Republicans use different formulas.
 - The formula reflects a movement to the center by both Democrats and Republicans.
 - Formulas have had no noticeable impact on the selection of delegates to the conventions.

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28. The term *superdelegate* refers to
- elected officials and party leaders who are not required to pledge themselves in advance to a presidential candidate.
 - delegates representing special-interest caucuses, such as those organized to represent blacks or homosexuals.
 - delegates at large who are chosen by a vote of the national party leadership.
 - delegates chosen by primary elections and grassroots caucuses.
 - delegates who received more than 80 percent of the vote necessary to achieve their status.

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29. After a decade of reforms, the Democrats and Republicans have come to represent two ideologically different sets of
- independent voters.
 - lower-income voters.
 - traditional, religious Americans.
 - first-time voters.
 - upper-middle-class voters

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30. According to the text, the role of national conventions has been transformed by party rules so that the conventions are now
- media showcases where newscasters influence the outcome.

- b. places where delegates ratify decisions made by voters.
- c. gatherings where party leaders make important decisions.
- d. gatherings of representatives from interest groups.
- e. places where delegates vote their conscience, regardless of the party's platform.

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31. Party machines
- a. are characterized by a high degree of leadership control over member activity.
 - b. do not use tangible incentives to recruit members.
 - c. help to solve the problem of voting fraud.
 - d. cut down the number of patronage jobs in government.
 - e. enforce electoral reform and encourage competition.

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32. The _____ made it illegal for federal civil service employees to take an active part in political campaigns.
- a. Tredway Act
 - b. Mann Act
 - c. Sherman Act
 - d. Progressive Act
 - e. Hatch Act

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33. The texts suggests that the decline of political machines was in part related to
- a. the Supreme Court's interpretation of the commerce clause.
 - b. the general decline in vote turnout.
 - c. the increasing education and sophistication of voters.
 - d. economic depression in major metropolitan areas.
 - e. trends in immigration.

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34. According to Barbara Mikulski, the training grounds for national political activists today are
- a. state and local parties.
 - b. social movements.
 - c. sponsored parties.
 - d. solidary groups.
 - e. fluid interest groups.

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35. Today, a person wanting to win an election will most often seek the support of
- a. a political machine.
 - b. issue-oriented clubs.
 - c. sponsored parties.
 - d. party-based societies.
 - e. a personal following.

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36. Which of the following statements about traditional party organization in the United States is *correct*?
- a. It exists, but only in a few states.
 - b. It remains as strong a force as ever in most states.

- c. It is strongest in western states such as California.
- d. It is strongest in states with term limits.
- e. It no longer exists.

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37. Which of the following statements about the two-party system is *correct*?
- a. Most European countries have such a system.
 - b. The United States is one of the few countries with such a system.
 - c. It exists in the United States because of the absence of local party organizations.
 - d. It has existed in the United States only since the early 1900s.
 - e. It has always been on the verge of collapse.

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38. To win in a plurality system such as that in the United States, a candidate must
- a. exert considerable inside influence.
 - b. win a runoff election.
 - c. secure a majority of the votes.
 - d. secure at least 70 percent of the votes.
 - e. gather more votes than anyone else.

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39. The plurality electoral system in the United States means that
- a. the party system will be competitive.
 - b. every party must be a broad-based coalition.
 - c. politics will be more ideological than it would otherwise be.
 - d. the risk of electoral corruption is less than in Europe.
 - e. smaller parties have a greater chance of winning at least some seats.

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40. The most dramatic example of the winner-take-all principle in the U.S. electoral system is the
- a. ideal of pluralism.
 - b. municipal elections in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
 - c. partisan judicial elections.
 - d. two-party system.
 - e. Electoral College.

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41. Which statement is *incorrect*?
- a. Typically, a majority of Democrats vote for the Democratic candidate.
 - b. Typically, a majority of Republicans vote for the Republican candidate.
 - c. Typically, a majority of independents vote for the independent candidate.
 - d. Typically, a plurality of independents vote for either the Democratic or Republican candidate.
 - e. None of the above

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42. Americans tend to see the Democrats as better at handling issues such as
- a. the economy.
 - b. poverty.
 - c. the environment.

- d. health care.
- e. Options B, C, and D

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43. Americans tend to see the Republicans as better at handling such issues as
- a. national defense.
 - b. foreign trade.
 - c. crime.
 - d. taxes.
 - e. A, B, and C

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44. Which of the following kinds of minor parties tends to endure the longest?
- a. Ideological
 - b. One-issue
 - c. Economic protest
 - d. Factional
 - e. Consensual

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45. The Libertarian and Socialist parties in the United States are examples of
- a. one-issue parties.
 - b. ideological parties.
 - c. economic-protest parties.
 - d. factional parties.
 - e. consensual parties.

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46. The Populist Party is an example of a(n)
- a. ideological party.
 - b. one-issue party.
 - c. economic-protest party.
 - d. factional party.
 - e. consensual party.

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47. National convention delegates, compared with their respective party members, tend to be
- a. more liberal if they are Democrats and more conservative if they are Republicans.
 - b. more liberal regardless of party.
 - c. more conservative regardless of party.
 - d. more conservative if they are Democrats, more liberal if they are Republicans.
 - e. quite similar in most respects, but not so much in terms of occupational prestige.

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48. The gap between the opinions of convention delegates and those in the rank and file is probably explained by
- a. the rules for selecting such delegates.
 - b. the types of people who vote in primaries.
 - c. states laws regarding campaigning.
 - d. recent restrictions on parties that originate in Congress.

e. the increasing power of party leaders.

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49. The disadvantage of the new primary system that has developed in the United States is that it
- a. increases the role of rank-and-file party members to exert an influence over the party's candidate choice.
 - b. increases the chances that the party will nominate a candidate who is unappealing to the average voter.
 - c. decreases the opportunity for those with strong policy preferences to play a role in the party.
 - d. decreases the likelihood that one party or the other will gain control of the presidency for several terms.
 - e. increases the likelihood of interest groups supporting candidates who are appealing to single-issue voters.

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Short Answer:

1. Explain what a critical or realigning election is. Then, note the three clearest examples of such elections in American history and identify the issues related to these events.
2. Explain why the authors believe the election of Ronald Reagan did not constitute a critical or realigning election.
3. Identify the five different ways that political parties have organized in the United States.
4. The two-party system of the United States is unique. What explanations do the authors offer for why additional parties have not managed to emerge in significant and long lasting ways?
5. What are the four types of minor parties identified by the authors?