

Presentation Pro

Magruder's American Government

CHAPTER 5 *Political Parties*

Political Parties

SECTION 1 Parties and What They Do

SECTION 2 The Two-Party System

SECTION 3 The Two-Party System in American History

SECTION 4 The Minor Parties

SECTION 5 Party Organization

Parties and What They Do

- What is a political party?
- What are the major functions of political parties?



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What Is a Party?

- A **political party** is a group of persons who seek to control government by winning elections and holding office.
- The two **major parties** in American politics are the Republican and Democratic parties.
- Parties can be principle-oriented, issue-oriented, or election-oriented. The American parties are election-oriented.

What Do Parties Do?

- **Nominate Candidates**—Recruit, choose, and present candidates for public office.
- **Inform and Activate Supporters**—Campaign, define issues, and criticize other candidates.
- **Act as a Bonding Agent**—Guarantee that their candidate is worthy of the office.
- **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.

Section 1 Review

1. A political party can be

- (a) principle-oriented.
- (b) issue-oriented.
- (c) election-oriented.
- (d) all of the above.

2. Political parties fulfill all of the following functions EXCEPT

- (a) acting as watchdog.
- (b) informing and activating supporters.
- (c) supplying all campaign funding.
- (d) governing by partisanship.

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The Two-Party System

- Why does the United States have a two-party system?
- How do multiparty and one-party systems function and what are their influences on government?
- What membership characteristics do American parties have?

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.
- **The Electoral System.** Certain features of government, such as **single-member districts**, are designed to favor two major parties.
- **Ideological Consensus.** Most Americans have a general agreement on fundamental matters. Conditions that would spark several strong rival parties do not exist in the United States.



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Multiparty Systems

Advantages

- Provides broader representation of the people.
- More responsive to the will of the people.
- Give voters more choices at the polls.

Disadvantages

- Cause parties to form coalitions, which can dissolve easily.
- Failure of coalitions can cause instability in government.



One-Party Systems

Types of One-Party Systems

One Party Systems where only one party is allowed.

Example:

Dictatorships such as Stalinist Russia

Modified One-Party Systems where one party regularly wins most elections

Example:

Republican North and Democratic South until the 1950s.

Party Membership Patterns

Factors that can influence party membership:

<i>Family</i>	<i>Major events</i>
<i>Economic Status</i>	<i>Religion</i>
<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Age</i>



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Section 2 Review

1. When Democrats and Republicans cooperate with one another, they are acting in a _____ way.
 - (a) strange
 - (b) pluralistic
 - (c) bipartisan
 - (d) typical

2. The outlook of the two parties could be described as
 - (a) “too little, too late.”
 - (b) “middle of the road.”
 - (c) “a day late and a dollar short.”
 - (d) “jumping on the bandwagon.”

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The Two-Party System in American History

- How did the United States' political parties originate?
- What are the three major periods of single-party domination?
- What characterizes the current era of government?



The Nation's First 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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American Parties: Four Major Eras

The Three Historical Eras

The Era of the **Democrats**, 1800—1860

- **Democrats** dominate all but two presidential elections.
- The **Whig** Party emerges in 1834, but declines by the 1850s, electing only two Presidents.
- The **Republican** Party is founded in 1854.

The Era of the **Republicans**, 1860—1932

- **Republicans** dominate all but four presidential elections.
- The Civil War disables the **Democratic** Party for the remainder of the 1800s.

The Return of the **Democrats**, 1932—1968

- **Democrats** dominate all but two presidential elections.
- **Democrat** Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected President four times.



American Parties: Parties Today

The Start of a New Era: The Era of Divided Government

Since 1968, neither Republicans nor Democrats have dominated the presidency and Congress has often been controlled by the opposing party.

1968–1976

Republicans hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by Democrats

1976–1980

Democrats hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by Democrats

1980–1992

Republicans hold the presidency
Senate controlled by Republicans 1980-1986,
controlled by Democrats from 1986 to 1994

1992 – 2000

Democrats hold the presidency
Congress controlled by
Republicans, 1994 to present

2000

Republicans hold the presidency
Congress is controlled by Republicans



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Section 3 Review

1. The nation's first two parties were
 - (a) the Democrats and the Republicans.
 - (b) the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.
 - (c) the Democratic-Republicans and the Republican-Democrats.
 - (d) the Federalists and the Republicans.

2. The Republican Party dominated the presidency from
 - (a) 1932–1968.
 - (b) 1860–1932.
 - (c) 1800–1860.
 - (d) 1783–1800.

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The Minor Parties

- What types of minor parties have been active in American politics?
- Why are minor parties important even though they seldom elect national candidates?



Minor Parties in the United States

Types of Minor Parties

Ideological Parties

Example:
Libertarian
Party

Single-issue Parties

Example: Free
Soil Party

Economic Protest Parties

Example: The
Greenback Party

Splinter Party

Example: "Bull
Moose" Progressive
Party

Minor Parties in the United States

Ideological Party



Single Issue Party



Economic Protest Party



Splinter Party



Why Minor Parties Are Important

Minor parties play several important roles:

“Spoiler Role”

- Minor party candidates can pull decisive votes away from one of the major parties' candidates, especially if the minor party candidate is from a splinter party.

Critic

- Minor parties, especially single-issue parties, often take stands on and draw attention to controversial issues that the major parties would prefer to ignore.

Innovator

- Often, minor parties will draw attention to important issues and propose innovative solutions to problems. If these proposals gain popular support, they are often integrated into the platforms of the two major parties.



Section 4 Review

1. Types of minor parties in the United States include all of the following EXCEPT
 - (a) ideological parties.
 - (b) single-issue parties.
 - (c) regulatory parties.
 - (d) splinter parties.
2. Ross Perot, who ran as a third-party candidate in 1992 and 1996, falls into which minor party category?
 - (a) single-issue party
 - (b) splinter party
 - (c) economic protest party
 - (d) none of the above

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Party Organization

- Why do the major parties have a decentralized structure?
- How does the national party machinery and the State and local party machinery operate?
- What are the three components of the parties?
- What are the future possibilities for the major parties?

The Decentralized Nature of the Parties

Both of the major parties are highly decentralized and fragmented.

Why?

- The party out of power lacks a strong leader.
- The federal system distributes powers widely, in turn causing the parties to be decentralized.
- The nominating process pits party members against one another because only one person can be chosen to be the party's presidential candidate.



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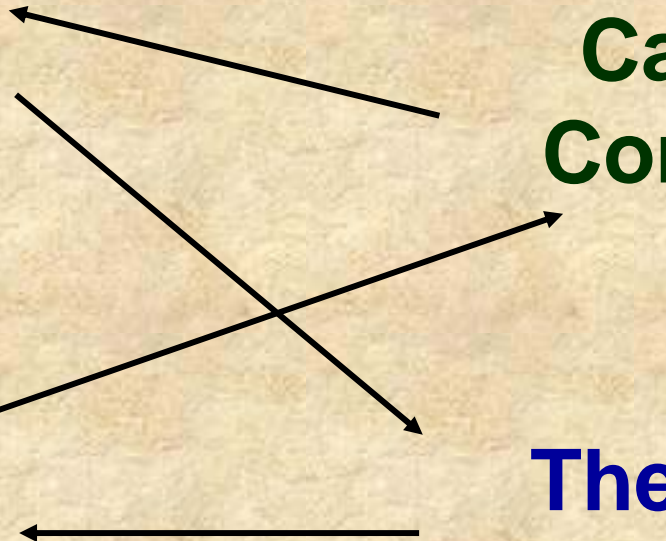
National Party Machinery

The National Convention

The Congressional Campaign Committees

The National Chairperson

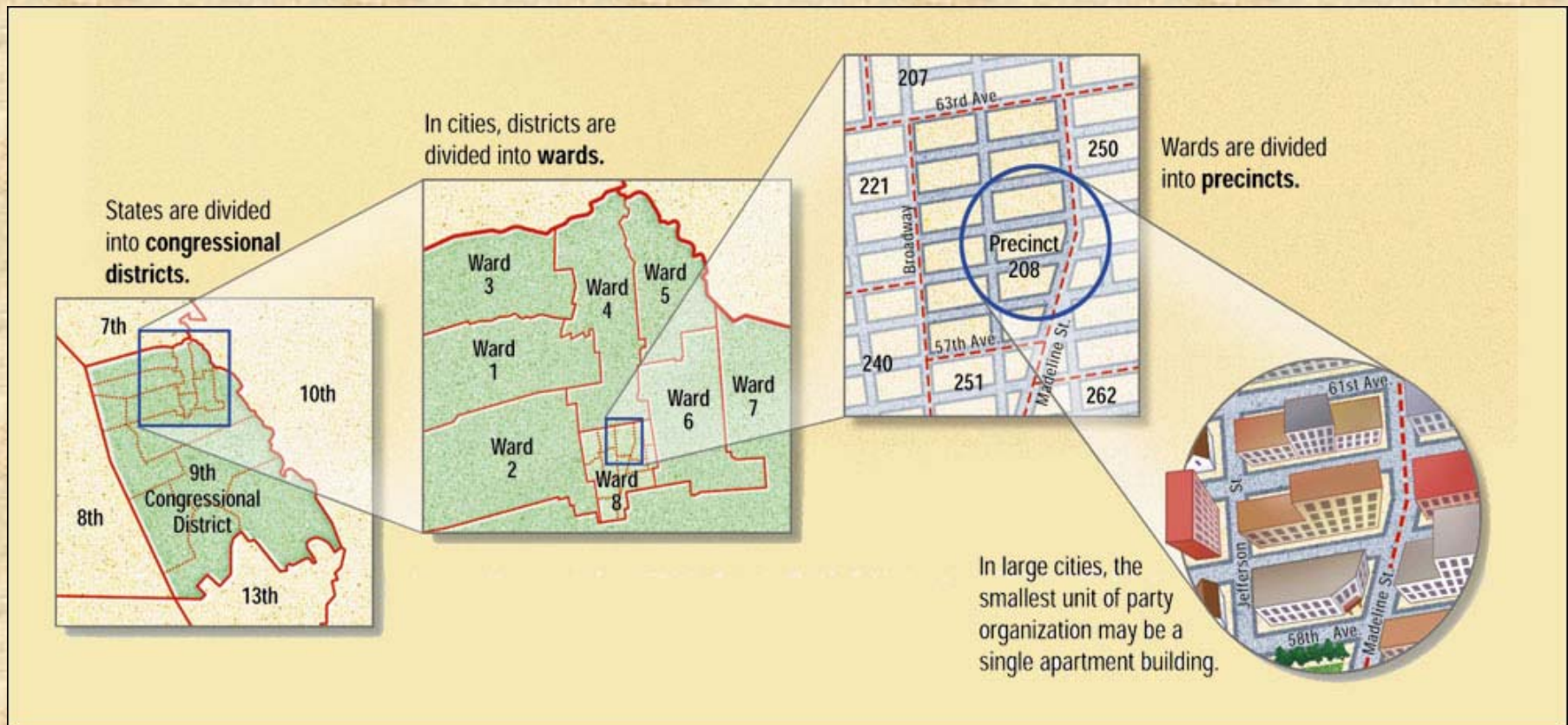
The National Committee



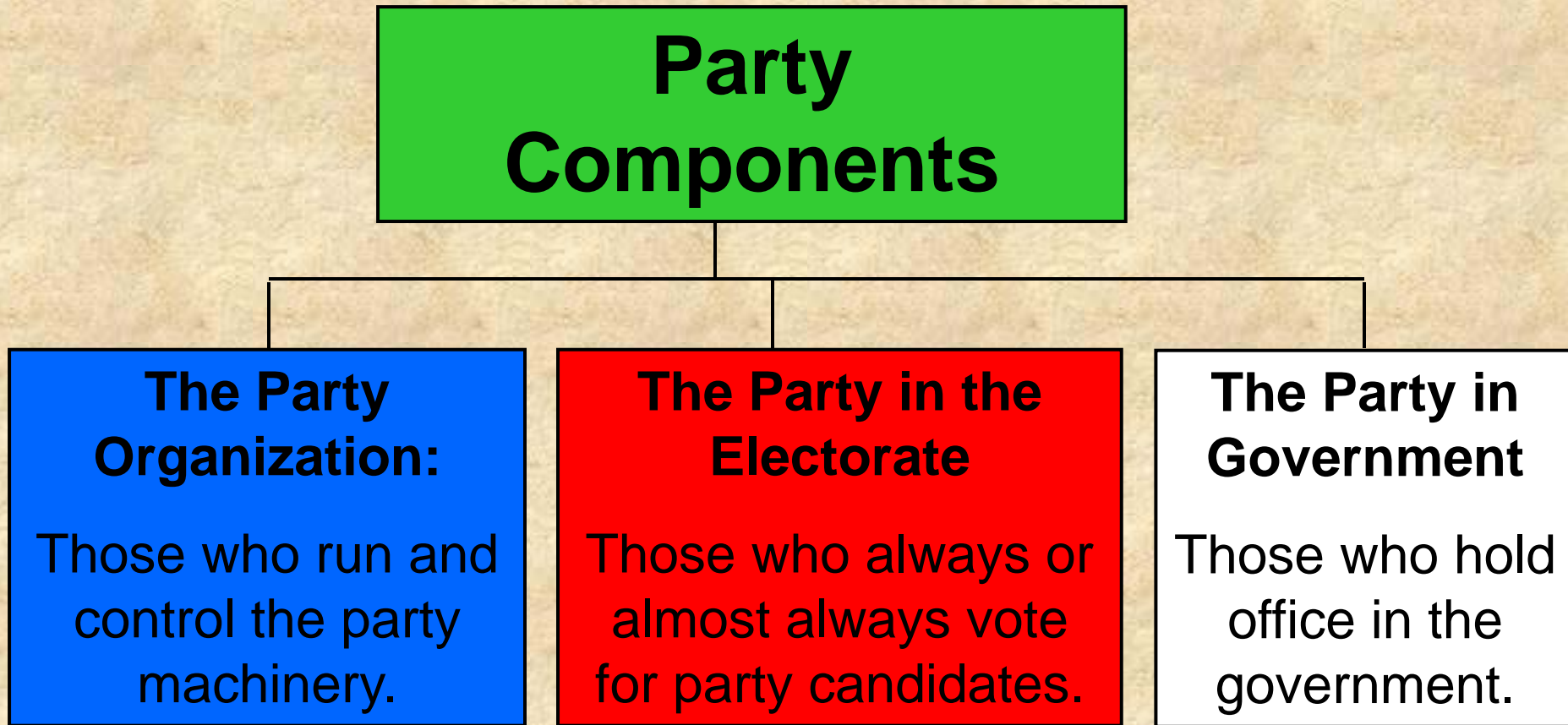
All four elements of both major parties work together loosely to achieve the party's goals.

State and Local Party Machinery

State and local party organization varies from State to State, but usually follow the general principles below.



The Three Components of the Party



The Future of Major Parties

Weakened connections to political parties:

For voters :

- More people are unwilling to label themselves as “Democrats” or “Republicans”
- Split-ticket voting—voting for candidates of different parties for different offices at the same election

For candidates:

- Structural changes have increased conflict and disorganization within parties
- Changes in the technology of campaigning, especially the use of television and the Internet, have made candidates more independent of the party organization
- The growth of single-issue organizations provides candidates with another source of financial support



Section 5 Review

1. Where did the decentralized structure of the two major parties originate?
 - (a) with the Fourteenth Amendment
 - (b) popular opinion demanded decentralization
 - (c) the Federalist nature of the government
 - (d) all of the above

2. All of the following are factors in the present, weakened state of parties EXCEPT
 - (a) split-ticket voting.
 - (b) changes in the technology of campaigning.
 - (c) scandal surrounding national conventions.
 - (d) the growth of single-issue organizations.

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