

CHAPTER 8 **POLITICAL PARTIES**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this chapter, you should be able to

- Define the key terms at the end of the chapter.
- Describe the four most important functions of political parties.
- Trace the history of the major political parties in the United States.
- List the functions performed by minor parties.
- Account for the emergence of a two-party system in the United States.
- Assess the extent of party identification in the United States and its influence on voters' choices.
- Summarize the ideological and organizational differences between Republicans and Democrats.
- Decide whether the American system is more pluralist or majoritarian in its operation.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRACY

On the surface, the U.S. two-party system seems tailor-made for majoritarian democracy. Every election has two broad categories for voters to choose from, so opportunities for narrowly focused small groups to gain control of the government apparatus are reduced. At the same time, the party system reduces the amount of information voters need to make rational choices. However, even this seemingly majoritarian device does not fully realize its majoritarian potential.

Majority parties are not always able to implement the policies they favor, due mainly to the lack of effective party discipline. That deficiency, in turn, is related to the decentralized structure of U.S. parties. In a sense, the United States has not 2 but 102 parties—2 national organizations and 2 major parties in each of the 50 states.

On the whole, Democrats and Republicans differ with respect to their political ideologies. The Democrats are more liberal and tend to place a high value on political and social equality. They are willing to use the government to achieve a more egalitarian economy and society, but they do not wish to use the government to restrict individual freedom (in matters related to lifestyles, reproductive choices, or freedom of expression, for example) to protect the social order. Republicans, on the other hand, are more likely to prefer order and freedom to equality; they prefer limited government when issues of equality are at stake, but they are often willing to use government power to support a particular vision of social order, even at the cost of individual freedom.

However, these general statements of ideological differences *between* the parties tend to obscure the fact that there are ideological differences *within* the parties as well. Nonetheless, the difficulties U.S. parties have in maintaining discipline and coordinating the actions of government officials make it hard for them to fulfill the ideals of the majoritarian model. Even though U.S. politics is dominated by two parties, third-party candidates are always striving to advance their agenda, even if it ruins a victory for the candidate of one of the two major parties.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Political Parties and Their Functions

A political party is an organization that sponsors candidates for office under the organization's name. The link between political parties and democracy is so close that many democratic theorists believe democracy would be impossible in modern nation-states without parties. Parties perform several important functions in a political system, including the following:

Political Parties Learning Objectives Study Guide Answers

Haroon ar Rashid Khan



Political Parties Learning Objectives Study Guide Answers:

The Top Books of the Year Political Parties Learning Objectives Study Guide Answers The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels enthralling the hearts of readers worldwide. Let's delve into the realm of bestselling books, exploring the captivating narratives that have charmed audiences this year.

Political Parties Learning Objectives Study Guide Answers : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can succeed.

Political Parties Learning Objectives Study Guide Answers : Taylor Jenkins Reid's "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This intriguing historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reid's captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery.

Discover the Magic : Delia Owens' "Where the Crawdads Sing" This captivating coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These popular novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of captivating stories waiting to be discovered.

The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts.

The Secret History is a masterful and thrilling novel that will keep you wondering until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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