The Evolution of Political Parties

The Continuation of the ideological battle between Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Defining Political Parties

• Political parties are groups of voters organized to support certain policies and help elect officials to carry out the party’s policies
  • Grouped together based on political ideology
  • Highly organized political units for creating policy and electing leaders
Federalist no. 10

- James Madison warned of the dangers of Factions
  - Could be violent and controlling
- Argued in protections against factionalism
  - Ban Factions
    - The ban would remove liberty and “the remedy would be worse than the disease”
    - Support a unified national opinion
      - Impossible to get all thinking the same way
- Argued for a multi-party system
  - Fight against a single controlling party that would be able to control the country
Early Political Parties

Federalists
• America’s First Political Party
  • Created by Alexander Hamilton
• Wanted a strong National Government
  • Thought government should protect the country’s industrial sector

The Democratic-Republicans
• Created by Thomas Jefferson
  • Gained the support of farmers and artisans who did not want government intervention
• Grew out of the Anti-Federalists
  • Wanted to limit the powers of the national government and leave the majority of powers with the state and local governments
Evolving Parties

• As the country matured so did the parties
  • In 1828 the Democratic-Republican party was renamed as the Democratic Party
    • Great support in the West and the South
    • Eventually split into Northern and Southern Democratic Parties
      • Caused by disagreement over slavery
  • Anti-Jackson (Andrew) parties developed as the Whig Party
    • Party eventually split into Northern Abolitionists and Know Nothing Party
      • Northern Abolitionists against Slavery
      • Know Nothing Party against foreigners and Roman Catholics
    • Republican Party founded among ruins of Whig Party in 1854
      • Against slavery and the “tyranny” of Andrew Jackson
Modern Republicans and Democrats

• Civil War Changed Political Landscape
  • Democrats seen as connected to southern slavery
    • Evolved to support free trade, immigrants, and farmers
  • Republicans as the party of Lincoln
    • They favored business and tariffs

• Great Depression molds modern politics
  • Democrats argue for more social and economic protections
    • Democrats still are more for government programs
  • Republicans fight against government intervention in business
    • Republicans rely on private programs and Businesses
The Two Party System

• The main divide within the country between liberals and conservatives traces back to country’s origins
  • Conservatives are in favor of protecting traditional American values
  • Liberals promote equality and liberty for all

• Fear of Splitting the party vote
  • Internal division within party making it easier for other party to win election