

Political Party Introduction

Political Party – a group of people with a broad common interest who organize to win elections, control government and thereby influence government policies.

Major parties - Republicans and Democrats

Third party – any non-major party.

Types – single –issue party, like the Greens who focus on the environment.

Ideological party – want a fundamental change in society, like the Socialist and Communist parties that want government control of the economy.

Splinter party – party that splits away from another party. Like Theodore Roosevelt started the Bull Moose party from the Republicans in 1912.

Impact of Third Parties – can take votes away from major party candidates to let the other candidate win, like...

Roosevelt (Bull Moose),

Taft (R) lost to Wilson (D) in 1912

Perot (Reform), Bush (R) lost to Clinton (D) in 1992

Nader (Green), Gore (D) lost to Bush (R) in 2000.

Obstacles –

1. getting on the ballot in 50 states
2. Single-district elections – winner take all, no proportion
3. Money is hard to raise

Name: _____

Political Party Box Notes

Political Party

Major Parties

Third Parties

1. Single Issue –

2. Ideological –

3. Splinter –

Impact of Third Parties –

Third Party Problem –

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____