Political Ideology

Unit 3
History of Political Parties

- George Washington’s *Farwell Address* warned against political parties.
- Nation began with 2 parties – Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.

**Why a two-party system?**
- Winner – take – all system: The one who receives the largest number of votes wins. In contrast to proportional representation.
What is the purpose of political parties?

- To join people with similar views about the government together.
- To influence society and gov’t by having people who have similar ideals and values elected to gov’t positions.
Factors that help determine a person's political ideology include:

- How much change is preferred in government
- How much the government should interfere with your life
Draw a horizontal line on a piece of paper.

- Write the word: LEFT on the far left side
- Write the word: RIGHT on the far right side
- Write the word: CENTER in the middle of the line
How do you determine the party you belong to?

- By looking at platforms of different parties
- **Platform** – a series of statements expressing a party’s principles, beliefs, and positions on election issues
- **Plank** – each individual part of a political party’s platform
- A party’s **candidate**, or person running for office, will represent their party’s platform
Right v. Left

- **Right** = people who hold more traditional values (Conservative)
- **Left** = people who support more change in society (Liberal)
- Based on this – are you more right or left?
5 Political Ideologies

1. Radical
2. Liberal
3. Moderate
4. Conservative
5. Reactionary
Radical

- Far left
- Call for *rapid changes* in government
- May be willing to resort to *extreme methods* – including violence and revolution.

Example: PETA

(People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)
Liberal

- Gov’t active in social welfare
- More gov’t is better for society
- Reject violent revolution
- Tend to be Democrats
Democratic Party

- Roots in Jefferson’s Democratic-Republican Party
- Today it tends to support
  - Stronger federal government
  - More change
  - Taxing the rich more
  - Spending more on government social programs (i.e. Welfare)
- Symbol: Donkey    Color: Blue
Moderate

- Share viewpoints of liberals and conservatives
- Tolerant of other’s views
- Prefer the wait and see approach to change
- Most Americans are around here

A little of this and a little of that!
Conservative

- Favor keeping things the way they are
- Hesitant about adopting new social policies
- Less gov’t involvement the better
- Tend to be Republicans
Republican

- Born from the dispute over slavery
- Lincoln-1st Republican president
- Today tend to support
  - Stronger state governments
  - Less change, more tradition
  - Less taxes on the rich
  - Less government spending
- Symbol: Elephant  Color: Red
Reactionary

- Far right
- Looks back on the way things used to be
- Can tend to turn to extreme methods to achieve goals

Example: Neo Nazi Movement
3rd Parties

- Rarely win any elections
- However, they affect outcome of elections

**Reasons they fail**
- Not enough votes to get on ballot
- Trouble raising money
- Lack of name recognition
Examples of 3rd Parties

- **Populist Party***---Short-lived party in the 1890s
  - Farmers and factory workers wanted more support from the gov’t
  - More financial change in gov’t but less social change

- **Libertarian Party***---Founded in 1971
  - Has opposite views of the Populist Party – want less financial change in government but more social change

- **Green Party**
  - More awareness of environmental change
How Can 3rd Party candidates influence elections?

Third party candidates take electoral votes from the two primary candidates which makes it hard, if not nearly impossible, to win the 270 electoral votes necessary to win a Presidential election.
What percentage of the popular vote did the Populist Party get in 1892?
If Weaver didn’t run for the presidency in 1892, could the outcome of the election have been different?
What percentage of the popular vote did the Progressive Party get in 1912?
If Roosevelt didn’t run for President in 1912, could the outcome of the election been different?
Single Issue Parties

- Promote a cause
  - Not in it to win it, but to gain awareness

- Example
  - Prohibition Party – wanted ban on alcohol
Independent Parties

- Party forms around candidate

  **Example:**
  - Ross Perot
  - Gary Johnson
Multi-Party

- Most common in the world
- More than two parties have power
- Hard to win majority (over 50%)

Must get *plurality* – most votes won among those running

- Sometimes a *coalition* occurs and parties join together to get more votes

Examples

- Canada – 3 parties
- Germany – 5 parties
- Israel – around 20 parties
Watch-Dog: Daisy or Clara?

Clara

Daisy
What is the role of a political watch-dog?

***Inform the public of governmental or political wrongdoing.

***The opposite political party is a watch-dog for the party in power at the time.

***What are positives and negatives of political watch-dogs?
Who Do You Side With?

- Isidewith.org

- https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/fit-2016-political-party-quiz

- http://www.gotoquiz.com/political_party_quiz_2
Your Turn

- Write a well-constructed paragraph explaining your Political Platform Statement. Perhaps you choose the top five problems in our country, as you see it, and explain what you would do to solve those problems. Basically, explain how you stand on political issues.
Argue that you are the best candidate for a political office. Decide what office you would like to hold (POTUS, Senator, House of Representatives, etc), then make your statement match the office you are running for. This statement would be used on election documents, mail flyers, websites, and newspapers.
Now, let’s explore how laws have been influenced by political parties, constituents, interest groups, lobbyists, media, and public opinion.
Constituent

- any one of the people who live and vote in a certain geographical area. (Voters of a particular region/place)
- Ex. “Many senators have received calls from constituents who want them to vote in favor of the new law.”
How do constituents (voters) influence the government?

- Go to my website:

- Civics and Economics
  - Unit 3 Resources
  - ‘Power of Constituents to Influence Govt’

Read and summarize the article in the space provided on your Study Guide. Stay primarily focused on the above question but read it all to gain insights on the power of people in government. (Popular Sovereignty)
Special Interest Groups

Types of Special Interest Group

- Economic interest groups ---- AFL-CIO
- Public interest groups --- Environmental Defense Fund
- Government interest groups --- National Governors Association
- Religious interest groups --- Christian Coalition
- Civil rights interest groups --- ACLU, NAACP, NOW
- Single-issue interest groups --- MADD, NRA, NRLC, NARAL
Interest groups are people trying to affect policy and sometimes who is being elected.

- They may do any or all of the following:
  - **Lobbying government.** Organized interests hire representatives to speak on behalf of the group's interests.
  - **Elections** - Influence elections to help get people who support their issues elected or reelected. May include donating $$$ to candidates, endorsing candidates or issues.
  - **Educating**--Interest groups educate the public, gov’t officials, their own members, and potential interest group members.
  - **Organizing and Mobilizing** --- Motivators who act on behalf of their issues and causes. Ex. writing letters, phone calls, contacting lawmakers and policy-makers, and demonstrating.
Political Action Committees: A group organized to raise and spend money in order to elect and/or defeat a candidate.

Donations from PACs are limited by the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Must be registered and usually PACs represent business, labor, or ideological interests.

Example: Sierra Club members raise money to support candidates that would pass legislation to protect nature.
Propaganda: Used by interest groups / candidates in order to persuade or influence the public about certain people / ideas.

Propaganda Techniques

- Bandwagon
- Name-Calling
- Endorsement
- Stacked Cards
- Glittering Generality
- Just Plain Folks
- Transfer
- Statistics
Entering Washington, D.C.

"The lobbyists' bucks stop here"
WE'VE FINALLY DONE IT, AMERICA: STRONGLY WORDED, BI-PARTISAN LIP SERVICE TO PUT THE LOBBIES ON NOTICE!

SENATE BILL TO "LIMIT" GIFTS FROM REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

DEMOCRATS

GOP

LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION...
Campaign Commercial Groups 1\textsuperscript{st} Period

- Jais, Claire, Abby, Chloe – Bandwagon
- Alyssa, Kayden, Jennifer, Sophia – Name-calling
- Emma, Jai Long, Jayla - Endorsement
- Nai’jah, Savannah, Jamari – Stacked Cards
- Melody, Penelope, Isabel – Just Plain Folks
- Sydney, Cam, Kaylee – Glittering Generality
- Jack, Dylan Seth – Stacked Cards
- Peyton, Riley, Imani - Transfer
- Ragan, Alivia, Denisse – Misleading Statistics
- Greta, Maddie, Grace - Bandwagon
Asheton, Emma, Olivia, Abigail---Bandwagon
Shelby, Tucker, Cesar --- Name-Calling
Folasade, Brooklyn, Nathanael---Endorsement
Sabrina, Christian, Campbell---Stacked Cards
Yaisien, Jaelis, Noah---Just Plain Folks
Josh, Jade, Alejandro---Glittering Generalities
Allison, Dakoda, Kathryn----Misleading Statistics
Riley, Braden, Marsie---Transfer
In your group, select a candidate to run for the State Senate! (Movie / TV Character, celebrity, someone in your group, etc.)

Your group will be assigned a propaganda technique.

You will be creating a 30-second campaign commercial to persuade your constituents (classmates) to vote for your candidate.

The commercial needs to include:

- Campaign slogan.
- Use of propaganda technique within the commercial.
  - Include use of a secondary propaganda technique OF YOUR CHOICE.
- Party platform - take a stance on 3 modern-day topics.

Before you can start recording, get your script approved by Ms. Werth or Mrs. Merrell.