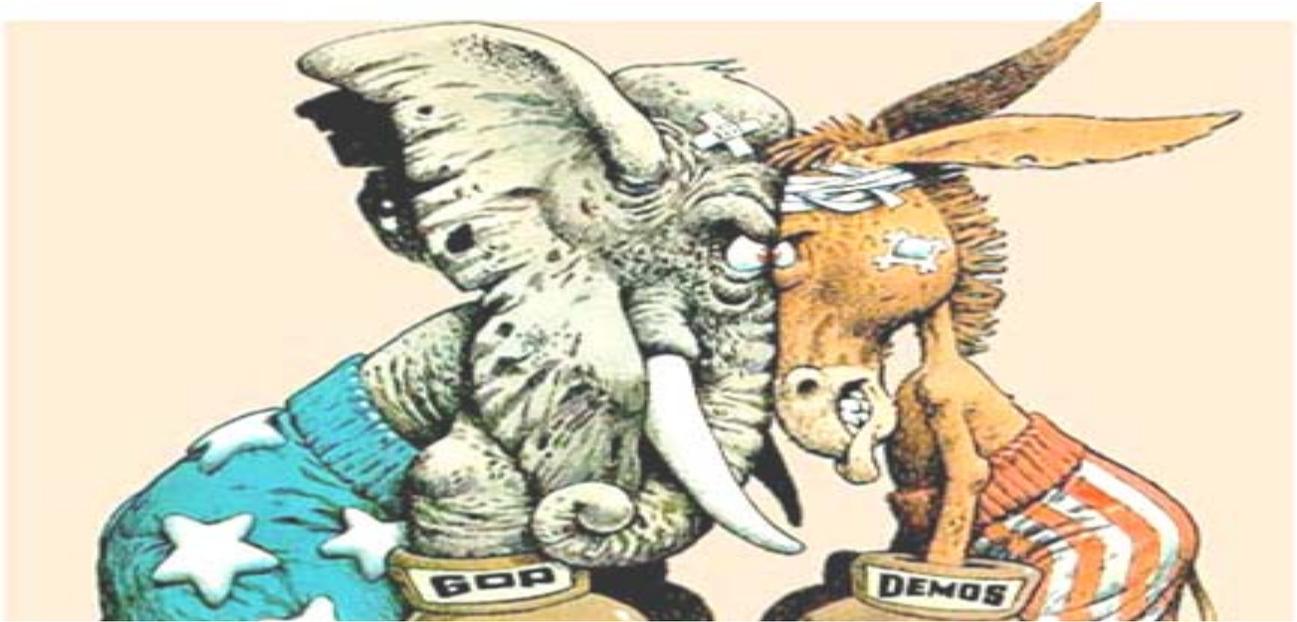


Important Items about Political Parties and Voters

You need to begin familiarizing yourself with these terms. You will be having an identification quiz at the halfway point of the Unit. Remember, the quiz has no word bank, you must know these terms.

blanket primaries	party identification
coalition	party image
coalition government	party machines
closed primaries	party neutrality
critical election	party realignment
linkage institutions	patronage
national chairperson	political party
national committee	proportional representation
national convention	rational choice theory
New Deal coalition	responsible party model
open primaries	third parties
party competition	ticket-splitting
party dealignment	winner-take-all system
party eras	

POLITICAL PARTIES



<http://www.immersejournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/elephant-donkey-boxing.jpg>

Learning Objectives (you should be able to answer these by the time we finish the Unit)

1. Understand the roles of the party-in-the-electorate, the party as an organization, and the party-in-government.
2. Examine how political parties in a democracy serve as key linkage institutions to translate inputs from the public into outputs from the policymakers.
3. Describe Anthony Downs' *rational-choice theory* as a working model of the relationship among citizens, parties and policy.
4. Trace the historical development of the American two-party system.
5. Describe what is meant by *party eras*, *critical elections*, and *party realignment*.
6. Examine the significance of *divided government* and explain how the recent pattern of divided government may explain party *dealignment*.
7. Differentiate between the ideology or party philosophy of the Democratic and Republican parties.
8. Explain why it is rational in the American two-party system for both Democrats and Republicans to stay near the center of public opinion.
9. Explain how electoral rules such as the "winner-take-all" plurality system have helped to maintain a two-party system in the United States.
10. Evaluate the impact of third parties on American politics and the American party system.
11. Determine the consequences or effects of the American two party system as contrasted with a multi-party system.
12. Understand the significance of the weak and decentralized character of the American party system.
13. Evaluate proposals that call for a "more *responsible* two party system."