

CHAPTER

5

SECTION 2

READING COMPREHENSION

Two-Party System in American History

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For each of the parties listed below, identify (1) the party's major beliefs and (2) the groups that generally supported that party.

Origins (to 1800)

Anti-Federalists: Beliefs: limited govt role, led by Congress, strict construction of the provisions of the Const. Support: Small shopkeepers, laborers, farmers, planters

Federalists: Beliefs: stronger nat'l govt, vigorous exec. Leadership, policies designed to correct nation's economic ills. Supported by: The rich, financing, manufacturing & commercial interests

1800-1860

Democrats: Beliefs: Voting rights for all white males, more elected offices Support: small farmers, debtors, frontier pioneers, slaveholders

Whigs: Beliefs: opposed Jacksonian democracy, high tariffs Support: eastern bankers, merchants, industrialists, large southern plantation owners

1860-1932

Democrats: Beliefs - opposition to sectionalism & big business, populism, Support - at first the Solid South, then the 'little man', small business owners, labor unions

Republicans: Beliefs - prosperity & gold standard, Support - business & financial interests, farmers, laborers, newly freed slaves

1932-1968

Democrats: Beliefs - increased role of govt in econ & society, Support - Southerners, small farmers, organized labor, big city pol. orgs., African Americans & minorities

Republicans: Belief - limited role for govt Support by - Business & financial interests

Reflection Question

What were some of the issues and events that resulted in the era of divided government that began in 1968?

Vietnam War, civil rights (assassination of MLK), a variety of social welfare and reform issues (Now), Watergate Scandal, economic issues and relationships w/ other countries

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**Directions:** Complete the following table with information about the four major time periods of political parties. In the "Party in power" column, list the political party that held control for most of the period. Under "Politicians/supporters," note any important politicians or interest groups that helped keep that party in power. In the "Important events" column, list the major events during that time period.

Time Period	Party in power	Politicians/supporters	Important events
1800–1860	Democrats	Andrew Jackson	Voting rights for all white men and spread of spoils program
1860–1932	Republicans	Abraham Lincoln	End of slavery, American politics moved back to national & away from local interests.
1932–1968	Democrats	FDR Truman JFK LBJ	Great Depression New Deal WW2 Social welfare programs
1968–present	Neither party has held exclusive power	Nixon-Rep Carter-Dem Reagan-Rep Hw Bush-Rep Clinton-Dem W Bush-Rep Obama-Dem	Watergate Scandal 9/11 Iraq Wars GW Bush lost popular vote in 2000 but won election thru electoral college

## CHAPTER

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## SECTION 2

## CORE WORKSHEET

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## Political Parties in United States History

1. What political party—Democratic or Republican—might the following people support if they were alive today? Why?

A. Alexander Hamilton he was a Federalist & favored policies that supported financial, manufacturing & business—Rep, but he also believed in a strong national govt so Dem.

B. Thomas Jefferson he was an Anti-Federalist & they appealed to laborers so Dem, but he also believed in limited govt so therefore Rep.

C. Andrew Jackson created the Democratic party & at that time the party appealed to the less wealthy (small farmers, debtors, pioneers), so he would be a Rep today as their program appealed to eastern bankers & industrialists.

D. Daniel Webster he was a Whig and would be a Dem.

2. Identify the common features of the following Presidents and presidential candidates.

A. William Henry Harrison/Dwight Eisenhower Both were War ~~heroes~~ <sup>heroes</sup>, not Democrats, were elected pres. in Dem. dominance.

B. Grover Cleveland/Woodrow Wilson Both were Democrats & became Pres. during Rep. party dominance

C. Jimmy Carter/George H.W. Bush Both were president during era of divided dominance & both lost reelection b/c of loss of economy

D. Theodore Roosevelt/George Wallace Both were influential 3rd party candidates

3. What major event ushered in the change of administration at the start of these eras?

A. the era of the Republicans Civil War

B. the second era of the Democrats Great Depression

C. the era of divided government Vietnam War

4. Identify the Presidents described below.

A. the first—and last—Federalist Party President

John Adams

B. the only two Whig Presidents

William Henry Harrison & Zachary Taylor

## CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

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- C. former President who tried to regain the presidency as the Bull Moose Party candidate

Theodore Roosevelt

- D. President who was elected to an unprecedented four terms during the second era of Democrats

FDR

5. Why do you think neither political party has dominated American politics for much of the time since 1968?

Today's mass media enable the parties to play their watchdog role very efficiently. Whenever something goes wrong, such as an economic downturn, or setbacks in war (like in Iraq), the party out of power is quick to blame the current administration and mass media makes sure that most Americans hear the criticisms. As a result the party in power often loses seats in off-year elections.