

- Origins of American Political Parties:
- Characteristics of the Party System
  - Party in government
  - Party in the electorate
  - The party organization
  - Plurality voting
    - Duverger's Law
  - Proportional representation
- Evolution of the Party Systems:
  - 6 party systems
- Characteristics of Party System Evolution (Realignment)
  - Realigning issue characteristics
    - Salient
    - Cross-cutting
    - Polarizing
  - Consequences of fracture alignments (realignments)
- Contemporary Party System?
  - Endurance of partisanship
  - Value of party labels
- Importance of changes in party coalitions
- National party structure today
- National conventions
- State and local parties
  - The machine
  - Solidary groups
  - Ideological parties
  - Sponsored parties
  - Personal followings
- Kinds of organization (Interest groups).
  - Institutional interests
  - Membership interests/Incentives
    - Solidarity
    - Material
    - Purposive
- Interest Group / Lobbying Tactics:
  - Insider/Outsider lobbying
  - Litigation
  - Political Action Committees (PACs)
  - Iron Triangles
- Regulating interest groups
- Contending Views on Interest Groups and Lobbyists:
  - Proponents
    - Madison, Alexis de Tocqueville, David Truman (pluralism)
  - Critics of Pluralism
    - E.E. Schattschneider, Mancur Olson