Chapter 12: Political Parties
ROOTS OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

12.1 We will trace the evolution of the two party system in the United States.
Jos_24:15  And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
Introduction:

- The American political party since the beginning is described as:
  - A broad structure
  - Pragmatic Purpose
The Development of Political Parties, 1800-1824:

- Washington warned in his public farewell address against political parties.
- This began the party competition in the U.S.
- Washington was a unifying presence.
- John Adams, his successor was less revered.
The Development of Political Parties, 1800-1824:

- Adams narrowly beat arch-rival Jefferson.
- Under existing rules of the Constitution, Jefferson became Vice President.
- During Adam’s single term two congressional factions developed.
- Federalists (Adams) and Democratic-Republicans (Jefferson).
The Development of Political Parties, 1800-1824:

- Federalists supported a strong central government.
- Democratic-Republicans preferred a federal system in which the States retained the balance of power.
The Development of Political Parties, 1800-1824:

- Jefferson (Federalists) beat Adams (Democrats/Republicans) in 1800.
- Jefferson became the first President elected as nominee of a political party.
The Development of Political Parties, 1800-1824:

- Jefferson was deeply committed to the ideas of his party.
- He regarded his party as a temporary measure necessary to defeat Adams.
- Not a long term political tool or an essential element of democracy.
The Development of Political Parties, 1800-1824:

- Southerners were overwhelmingly partial to the Democratic-Republicans.
- New Englanders favored the Federalists.
- No broad-based party organizations existed to mobilize popular support.
Jacksonian Democracy 1824-1860:

- Political parties faded somewhat for a quarter of a century.
- The Federalists dissolved by 1820.
- James Monroe’s presidency produced the so-called Era of Good Feelings.
- When party politics was nearly suspended at the national level.
Jacksonian Democracy 1824-1860:

- Party organization continued to develop at the state level.
- Party growth was fueled in part of the huge growth of the Electorate (1820-1840).
- Property condition for White Suffrage was abolished in most States.
- As the U.S. expanded Westward.
- The number of votes in presidential elections rose from 300,000 to 2 million during this time.
Jacksonian Democracy 1824-1860:

- Party membership broadened the electorate.
- Initially, small caucuses of Congressional Party leaders nominated candidates.
- But was criticized for being elitist.
- This gave way to nomination of large party conventions.
Jacksonian Democracy 1824-1860:

- First National Presidential Convention held by the Democratic party in 1832.
- This party succeeded Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans.
- This party formed around President Andrew Jackson’s popularity.
- The Party attracted most of the newly enfranchised voters.
- They were drawn by Jackson’s charisma.
Jacksonian Democracy 1824-1860:

- Jackson’s strong personality polarized many people.
- Opposition to Jackson led to the formation of the Whig Party.
- Led by Henry Clay who lost to Jackson.
- Jackson was the first chief executive who won the White House as the nominee of a truly national, popularly based political party.
The Golden Age, 1860-1932:

- The Whigs and Democrats continued to strengthen after 1832.
- The competition was fierce for influence.
- They brought the U.S. the first broadly supported two-party system in the Western World.
- Whigs dissolved over infighting of slavery.
- Republican Party took its place as the dominant party in the North and West.
- Democrats were proslavery and firmly entrenched in the South.
The Golden Age, 1860-1932:

- Since the presidential election of 1860, the same two major parties have dominated the elections.
- The Republicans and Democrats have seesawed for control of an electoral majority.
The Golden Age, 1860-1932:

○ This era was known for Party Stability.

○ The dominance of party organizations in local and state governments.

○ Impact of those organization on the lives of millions of voters.
The Golden Age, 1860-1932:

- The era was from the post-Civil War Reconstruction until the reforms of the Progressive Era.
- Featured remarkable stability in the identity of the two major political parties.
- Such stability has been exceptionally rare in democratic republics around the world.
The Golden Age, 1860-1932:

- Immigrants from Europe (Ireland, Italy, and Germany) fueled the growth of big-city political machines.
- Machines gained control of local and state government.
- A political machine is a party organization that uses tangible incentives such as jobs and favors to win the loyalty among voters.
- Machines also are characterized by a high degree of leadership control over member activity.
The Golden Age, 1860-1932: Party Machines:

- It was a central element of life for millions of people in the United States during the Golden Age.
- The party and their government were virtually interchangeable during this time for city dwellers.
- Parties offered immigrants not just services but also opportunities for upward social mobility as they moved on up the party organization.
- Parties generated intense loyalty and devotion among their supporters and office holders.
- This resulted in strong voter turnouts.
The Modern Era:

- The nature of national parties have changed because of the changes in:
  - Social
  - Political
  - Technological
  - And Governmental.
The Modern Era:

- Gradually government assumed important functions once performed by parties.
- Such as printing ballots.
- Conducting elections
- Providing social welfare services.
- All this once contributed party loyalty and strength.
The Modern Era:

- (1930s) FDR’s New Deal transformed social services from a privilege extended in exchange for party loyalty.
- To social services beginning to be seen as a right of citizenship.
- As the flow of immigrants decreased in the 1920s, party machine lost power in many places.
The Modern Era:

○ Post WWII era, extensive social changes contributed to the move away from strong parties.
○ In became Candidate Centered Politics.
○ Focus on candidates, and their issues and character.
○ Rather than party affiliation.
The Modern Era:

- The party’s diminished control over issues.
- Campaigns gave candidates considerable power in how they conduct themselves during election season.
- How they seek resources.
- Interest groups and lobbyists have stepped into the void that weaker parties have left behind.
- Candidates compete for endorsements and contributions from variety of multi-issue as well as single-issue organizations.
The Modern Era:

- Post WWII, many people moved into the suburbs.
- Population growth made it less feasible to shake every hand or knock every door.
Citizen Support and Party Realignment:

- Periodically, voters have dramatic shifts in partisan preferences.
- This dramatically alters the political landscape.
- During these party realignments, existing party affiliations are subject to upheaval.
- Many voters may change parties and the youngest age group of voters do so.
- Many permanently adopt the label of the newly dominant party.
Citizen Support and Party Realignment:

- Preceding a major realignment are one or more critical elections.
- This may polarize voters around new issues and personalities.
- In reaction to crucial developments, such as a war or an economic depression.
Three Tumultuous Eras Produced Significant Critical Elections:

- Thomas Jefferson reaction against Federalist Party’s agenda for a strong centralized federal government.
- Formed the Democratic-Republican Party which was the 1800 election for President and Congress.
Citizen Support and Party Realignment:

- (2) The Republican Party supplanted the Whig Party.
- Because of the issue of slavery and ultimately won the presidency of 1860.
Citizen Support and Party Realignment:

- (3), The Great Depression caused large numbers of voters to repudiate Republican Party polices.
- And embrace the Democratic party in 1932.
Citizen Support and Party Realignment:

- A critical election is not the only reason for changes in partisan affiliation are accommodated.
- More gradual shifts in party coalitions called secular realignments may also change voter localities.
- Can be attributed to demographic shifts.
- Such as the South shifting from Democrat to Republican party in the 1980s because of liberal social agenda of Democrats.
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES: 12.2. Outline the structure of American political parties at the national, state, and local levels.
Pro_3:31  Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.
The National Party:

- Is at the pinnacle of the party system in the United States.
- Its primary function is to establish a cohesive vision for partisan identifiers nationwide.
- To disseminate that vision to party members and voters.
The National Party:

- The chairperson serves as the head of the national committee, leads the national party.
- Every four years, the national committee organizes a convention.
- Designed to reevaluate policies and nominate a candidate for the presidency.
The National Chairperson:

- The key national party official is the chair of the national committee.
- The chair is usually selected by the sitting president or newly nominated presidential candidate.
- Who is accorded the right to name the individual for at least the duration of their campaign.
- The chair may also be chosen by the national committee when the election has ended and the party has been defeated.
The National Chairperson:

- The chair is the prime spokesperson and arbitrator for the party during the four years between elections.
- He or she is called on to damp down factionalism.
- Negotiate candidate disputes
- Prepare the machinery for the next presidential election.
- The chair is called upon to raise funds and keep the party financially strong (great importance).
Three Party Arrangement of The National Committee:

- National party committee:
- House party committee,
- Senate party committee
- Has persisted in both parties to the present day,
- Each party’s three committees are located in Washington D.C.
- There is however an informal division of labor among the national committees.
The National Committee:

- DNC and RNC primarily focus on aiding presidential campaigns.
- Conducting general party-building activities.
- Congressional campaign committees work primarily to win the most seats for their respective parties in Congress.
The National Convention:

- National Convention happens every four years.
- Each party holds a convention.
- To nominate its presidential and vice presidential candidates.
- The convention also fulfills its role as the ultimate governing body for the party.
- The rules adopted and the party platform that is passed serve as durable guidelines.
- That steer the party until the next convention.
The National Convention:

- The selection of delegates to the convention is no longer the function of party leaders.
- But of primary elections and grassroots caucuses.
- The apportionment of delegates to presidential candidates varies by party.
The National Convention:

- A Democratic Party rule decrees that state delegates be chosen in proportion to the votes cast in the primary or caucus.
- (For example, a candidate who receives 30 percent of the vote gains about 30 percent of the convention delegates).
- That is the proportional system.
- In contrast the Republican Party allows states to choose between proportional system or a winner-take-all system.
The National Convention:

- The Democratic party also allows party officials to serve as super-delegates.
- Super-delegates are not pledged to a candidate.
- Thus may support whichever candidate they choose.
- Super-delegates allow the party to maintain some level of control over the selection process.
- While still allowing most delegates to be pledged by the people.
The National Convention:

- Both parties draw their delegates from an elite group.
- Whose income and educational levels are far above the average Americans.
- Modern party conventions serve as major pep rallies to mobilize supporters.
- Engage more casual observers.
- Organizers can heavily script the event to represent an inclusive positive image of the party.
- Since the party’s chosen candidate is usually known before the event.
States and Localities:

- National Committee activities attract most of the media attention.
- The Party is structurally based not in D.C. but in the States and localities.
- Virtually all government regulation of political parties is left to the states.
- Of most importance, the vast majority of party leadership positions are filled at subnational levels.
States and Localities:

- The arrangement of party committees provided for a broad based for support.
- The smallest voting unit, the precinct usually take in a few adjacent neighborhoods.
- This is the fundamental building block of the party.
States and Localities:

- There are 100,000 precincts in the U.S.
- The precinct committee members are the foot soldiers of any party.
- Their efforts are supplemented by party committees.
- Above them in the wards, cities, counties, villages, and congressional districts.
States and Localities:

- The state governing body supervising the collection of local party organizations.
- Is usually called the state central or executive committee.
- Its members come from all major geographic units.
- As determined by and selected under state law.
States and Localities:

- Generally state parties are free to act within the limits set by their state legislature.
- Without interference from the national party.
- Except in the selection and seating of presidential convention delegates.
Increased Effectiveness of State and Local Parties:

- In terms of fund raising.
- Campaign events,
- Registration drives,
- Publicity of party
- Candidate activity
- The distribution of campaign literature.
Informal Groups:

- The formal party organizations are supplemented by the numerous official and semi-official groups.
- That attempt to affect politics through the formal party organizations.
- These include numerous campus organizations to reach young people.
- And minorities for a particular party, etc.
Informal Groups:

- Each party also has several institutionalized sources of policy ideas.
- These informal groups include think tanks.
- Institutional collections of policy oriented researchers.
- Academics
- They are unconnected to the parties officially.
- They influence party positions and platforms.
ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES: 12.3, Identify the functions performed by American political parties.
Pro_3:31  Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.
Political Parties:

- The two party-system is what America uses to organize and resolve social and political conflict.
- Chief agents of change in our political system are political parties.
Running Candidates for Office:

- Parties help to raise money for candidates.
- Parties help to recruit candidates.
- Mobilize public support.
- And get voters to vote.
Raising Money:

- Parties especially during midterm and presidential election years.
- Spend a great deal of time raising and disseminating money for candidates.
- Parties raise huge sums of money through a network of donors.
- A wide variety of methods include successful mail solicitation.
Mobilizing Support and Getting Out the vote:

- Parties use a variety of steps to broaden the knowledge of candidate for citizens leading to the election.
- Parties spend millions of dollars for national, state, and local public opinion surveys.
- Commission tracking polls.
- Operate media divisions to design television advertisements for party nominees at all levels.
- Place a large emphasis on their duty to “get out the vote.” On election day.
Formulating and Promoting Policy:

- National platform policy is the most visible instrument that parties use to formulate, convey, and promote public policy.
- Each party writes a lengthy platform explaining its position on key issues every four years.
- The Platform explains what a party supports and describes more clearly the differences between the two parties.
- Giving voters meaningful policy choices through the electoral process.
Formulating and Promoting Policy:

- The party platform explains a party’s policy preferences.
- Argues why its preferences are superior to those of the rival party.
- Especially for contentious social issues where there is little room for compromise that divide the electorate.
Formulating and Promoting Policy:

○ Research suggests about two-thirds of the promises in the victorious party’s presidential platform are completely or mostly implemented.

○ About one-half or more of the ledges of the losing party also tend to find their way into public policy.

○ This shows the effort of both parties to support broad policy positions, that enjoy widespread support in the general public.
Organizing Government:

- Nowhere is the party more visible or vital than in the Congress.
- In this century political parties have dramatically increased the impact of the internal congressional organizations.
Organizing Government:

- Parties organize and operate congress.
- Beginning of every season, the parties of both congress gather or caucuses separately.
- To select party leaders.
- To arrange for the appointment of members of each chamber’s committees.
Organizing Government:

- The majority party in each house generally holds sway.
- Fixing the size of its majority on all committees.
- A proportionate at least as great as the percentage of seats it holds in the house as a whole.
- Congressional party leaders enforce discipline among party members in various ways.
- Seniority traditionally determined committee assignments.
- But increasingly, assignments are given to the loyal or withheld from the rebellious regardless of seniority.
Pork Barrel Projects:

- Government projects yielding rich patronage benefits that sustain many legislators’ electoral survival.
- Maybe include or deleted during the appropriation process.
- Small favors and prerequisites
  - For example, desirable office space or scheduling floor votes.
- Can be useful levers.
Organizing Government:

- As a result of these rewards, party labels have become the most powerful predictor of congressional roll-call voting.
- Party line voting has increased in the last few years.
- With the upward trend in both Democrat and Republican Party Unity.
LIMITATIONS TO COHESIVE ACTION

- A separate executive branch.
- Bicameral power sharing.
- Decentralization of Congress
- All are obstacles to effective party action.
- Party discipline is hurt by individualistic candidate center nature of U.S. political campaigns.
- And the diversity of electoral constituencies of which members of Congress represent.
LIMITATIONS TO COHESIVE ACTION:

- Largely private system of election financing that makes legislators indebted to wealthy individuals and non-party interest groups.
- Is another factor that limits party cohesion.
- Importance to lawmakers to attract new media attention through showmanship rather than quiet effective labor.
- Also affects party cohesion.
The Presidential Party:

- President has the role of the head of the party.
- He or she is often the public face of their party’s agenda.
- He may find it is his responsibility to bring together an often divided party.
- Wrangle votes in Congress for important political battles.
The Presidential Party:

- Presidents reciprocate the support they receive from members of congress.
- By appointing many activists to office.
- Recruiting candidates
- Raising money for the party treasury.
- Campaigning extensively for party nominees during election seasons.
Parties in the Federal Courts:

- Federal judges do not run for office under a party label.
- Judges are creatures of the political process.
- Their posts are considered patronage plums.
- Judges are often chosen not only for their abilities.
- But also as representatives of a certain philosophy of, or approach to government.
Parties in the Federal Courts:

- Presidents most recently have appointed judges overwhelmingly from their own party.
- Democratic executives tend to select more liberal judges who are friendly to social programs or labor interests.
- Republican executives generally lean toward conservatives.
- Hoping they will be rough on criminal defendants, opposed to abortion, and support business interests.
- Opposing ideals may lead to conflict between the President and Senate.
- When the Senate majority is the opposing party of the president.
Parties in the State Government:

- What goes on in the three branches of the Federal level applies to the state level as well.
- In state legislatures, party leaders and caucuses as well as the party organizations have greater influence over legislators than at the federal level.
Parties in the State Government:

- State legislators depend on their state and local parties for election assistance much more than their congressional counterparts.
- Governors in many states have greater influence over their parties’ organizations and legislators than do presidents.
- Many governors have more patronage positions at their command than does a president.
- These material rewards and incentives give governors added clout with party activists and office holders.
Parties in the State Government:

- Tradition in some states permits the governor to play a role in selecting the legislature’s committee chairs and party floor leaders.

- Some state executives even attend and help direct the party legislative caucuses, activities no president would ever undertake.
Parties in the State Government:

- Forty-three governors possess the power of the line-item veto.
- Which permits the governor to veto single items such as pork-barrel projects.
Parties in the State Government:

- The influence of party organizations in state judiciaries varies tremendously.
- Some States made dramatic actions to make sure that their Supreme Court Judges can make independent decisions.
- Many of these states use a selection system called the Missouri Plan.
- This relies on a nonpartisan judicial nominating commission, to choose appointed state court judges.
- But in many other states (and in many local judicial elections) Supreme Court judges run as party candidates.
Furthering Unity, Linkage, and Accountability:

- Parties are the glue that holds together the diverse elements of the U.S. Government and political system.
- The Framers designed a system that divides and subdivides power.
- Making it possible to preserve individual liberty but difficult to coordinate and produce action in a timely fashion.
- Parties help compensate for this drawback by linking the branches of government.
Furthering Unity, Linkage, and Accountability:

- Although rivalry between the branches is inevitable.
- The partisan and ideological affiliations of the leaders of each branch constitute a common basis for cooperation.
- As the president and his fellow party members in Congress usually demonstrate daily.
Furthering Unity, Linkage, and Accountability:

- Even within each branch the party helps narrow the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Or between the president and the department heads in the bureaucracy.
- Similarly, the division of national, state, and local governments while always an invitation to conflict.
- Is made more workable and more easily coordinated by the intersecting party relationships that exist among office holders at all levels.
Furthering Unity, Linkage, and Accountability:

- Party affiliation, is a basis for mediation and negotiation.
- Laterally among the branches of government.
- Vertically among national, state, and local layers.
Furthering Unity, Linkage, and Accountability:

- The party’s linkage function does not end there.
- Party identification and organization foster communication between the voter and the candidate.
- As well as between the voter and the office holder.
- The party connection is one means of increasing accountability in election campaigns and in government.
Furthering Unity, Linkage, and Accountability:

- Candidates on the campaign trail and elected party leaders are required from time to time account for their performance.

- At party-sponsored forums, nominating primaries, and on Election Day.
Chapter 12: POLITICAL PARTIES

Party Identification: 12.4: Analyze how political socialization and group affiliations shape party identification.
1Ki_18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.
Party In The Electorate:

- The mass of potential voters who identify with a party label is a crucial element of the political party.
- But in some respects, it is the weakest of the components of the U.S. political party system.
Party Identification:

- Party identification (citizen’s affinity for a political party) tends to be a reliable indicator of likely voting choices.
- The trend is for fewer voters to declare loyalty to a party.
- 29 percent of voters called themselves independents on Election day in 2008.
Party Identification:

- Americans who firmly adopt a party label.
- Their party often becomes a central political reference symbol.
- Party identification is a significant aspect of their political personality.
- A way to define and explain themselves to others.
Political Socialization:

- Parents are the single greatest influence upon a person’s first party identification.
- Parents who are politically active, who both share the same party identification, raise children who will be strong party identifiers.
- Parents without party affiliations or with mixed affiliations produce offspring more likely to be independents.
Influences of Party Identification:

- Charismatic political personalities particularly in the national level.
- Cataclysmic events such as the Civil War and the Great Depression
- Hot button social issues also come into play such as abortion, and same-sex marriage.
Group Affiliations:

- As individuals vary on the strength of partisan choice, so do groups vary in how they identify themselves with a political party.
- Variations in party identification are particularly noticeable when we examine:
  - geographic region
  - Gender
  - Race and ethnicity
  - age
  - social and economic status
  - religion,
  - marital status
  - ideology
Geographic Region:

- Geographic regions are relatively closely contested between the parties.
- The South, that once staunchly Democratic is now a two-party region.
- It was Southerners in 1994 who elected a Republican majority in Congress.
Gender:

- There is a tendency for more women to support the Democratic Party.
- More men tend to vote Republican.
Race and Ethnicity:

- African Americans and Hispanics prefer the Democratic Party.
- Because the party appears to cater more to their interests.
- Cuban American population whose anti-Fidel Castro tilt leads to support for the Republican Party.
Age:

- Political socialization creates a strong relationship between age and party identification.
- The youngest and oldest voters tend to prefer the Democratic Party.
- Middle-aged voters disproportionately favor the Republican Party.
Age:

- Progressive young adults resonate more with the Democratic Party.
- For their more liberal positions on social issues.
- The nation’s oldest voters, who were alive during the Great Depression.
- Tend to favor the Democratic Party’s support for social insurance programs.
Age:

- Middle-Aged voters often at the height of their careers.
- At the height of their earnings potential.
- Tend to favor the low taxes championed by Republicans.
Social and Economic Factors:

- Occupation, Income, and education are closely related.
- The GOP remains strong among executives, professionals, and white-collar workers.
- Democrats lead substantially among trial lawyers, educators, and blue-collar workers and members of labor unions.
Religion:

- White Protestant especially Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians favor Republicans.
- Whereas Catholics and Jewish voters tend to favor the Democratic Party.
- Republicans have predominately white evangelicals.
- The Democrats have the African American evangelical churches.
Marriage Status:

- People who are married tend to favor Republicans.
- Single people who ever married, widowed, and divorcees favor Democrats.
- Most likely experiencing economic hardship are more liberal than the marriage population.
MINOR PARTIES IN THE AMERICAN TWO-PARTY SYSTEM: 12.5. Evaluate the role of minor parties in the American two-party system.
The Formation and the Role of Third Parties:

- Most parties are rooted in social movements.
- Promoted by activists and groups whose primary goal is to influence public policy.
- Parties aim to accomplish the same goal.
- But they also run candidates for elective office.
- Making this transition requires a great amount of financial and human resources.
- And a broad base of political support to compete in elections.
The Formation and the Role of Third Parties:

- Throughout history very few social movements have evolved into parties.
- Those that succeeded have had the support of the political elites, uninhibited access to the ballot.
The Formation and the Role of Third Parties:

- Minor parties based on causes often neglected by the major parties.
- Have significantly affected American politics.
- Third parties find their roots in sectionalism (Such as the Dixiecrats)
- In specific issues (Green party)
- In ideology (Communist)
- And in appealing charismatic personalities (Theodore Roosevelt).
The Formation and the Role of Third Parties:

- Third parties achieve their greater success when they incorporate new ideas or alienated groups.
- Nominate attractive candidates as their standard-bearers.
- Third parties do best when declining trust in the two major political parties plagues the electorate.
The Formation and the Role of Third Parties:

- Third parties ideas are eventually co-opted by one of the two major parties.
- Each of them eager to take the politically popular issue that gave rise to the third party.
- And make it their own in order to secure the allegiance of the third parties (e.g., populist party).
Barriers to Third Party Success:

- Unlike many European countries that use proportional representation.
- (A voting system that apportions legislative seats according to the percentage of votes a political party receives).
- The United States has a single member, plurality electoral system.
- Often referred to as a winner-take-all system,
- A system in which the party that receives at least one more vote than any other party wins the election.
Barriers to Third Party Success:

- In U.S. politics, placing second even by one vote does not count.
- The winner-take-all system encourages the grouping of interest into a few parties as possible.
- The electoral college system and the rules of public financing of American presidential elections make it difficult for competitive third parties.
- A candidate must win a majority of the public vote.
- But he or she must do it in states that allow them to win a total of 270 votes.
Chapter 12: POLITICAL PARTIES

TOWARD REFORM: TWO PARTIES ENDURE: 12.6 Explain why two major American political parties continue to endure.
DE-ALIGNMENT:

- A general decline in partisan identification and loyalty in the electorate.
- This has been noticed by experts in the political field.
Today, many voters consider party labels an offense to their individualism.

Many Americans insist that they vote for “the person, not the party.”
The reason for these anti-party attitudes are not hard to find.

The growth of issue-oriented politics that cut across partly lines for voters.

Who feel intensely about certain policy matters is party the cause.
- The emphasis on personality politics by the mass media and political consultants.
- Despite these challenges the parties decline can be exaggerated.
Second, the parties' journeys through U.S. History has been characterized by the same ability to adapt to prevailing conditions.

That is often cited as the genius of the Constitution.

Both major parties exhibit flexibility and pragmatism.

Which help ensure their survival and success of society they serve.
Political parties have evolved considerably.

They usually have been reliable vehicles for mass participation in a representative democracy.

In fact parties orchestrated the gradual but steady expansion of suffrage.

In order to incorporate new supporters into the party fold.