Nguyen Vo

Marr

AP Government

January 27, 2014

Chapter 8 Assignment

1. The primary function of a political party is to endorse candidates for public office and win elections
2. There three heads of a political party are the party in the electorate, the party as an organization, and the party in government. The party in the electorate is the voters who identify with a political party. The party as an organization is the leader or organizers of the party. The party in government is composed of elected officials who call themselves members of the party.
3. The five task of a political party are nominate candidates for office, coordinate campaigns, provide cues for voters, articulate policies, and coordinate policy making.
4. The New Deal coalition was forged during the New Deal period by Franklin D. Roosevelt from diverse groups such as union members, southerners, intellectuals, liberals, the poor, and minorities. The coalition made democrats the majority party, but it steadily declined.
5. Third parties in American politics have served as safety valves for popular discontent, brought new issues to the political agenda, and promoted certain causes. In history, third parties have controlled enough votes to tip Electoral College vote.
6. Republicans are usually supported by middle to upper class citizens, typically older white men. Democrats are traditionally supported by younger citizens in coastal areas in the lower to middle class.
7. A party machine is a kind of party organization that depends on both specific and material inducements for rewarding loyal party members
8. Republicans have fared very successfully since the election of 1968, particularly in presidential races; since 1968, only three Democrats have been elected president, Jimmy Carter in 1976, Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996, Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. Some scholars believe that the breakdown of the New Deal coalition produced a realignment that allowed the Republicans to dominate. Others, however, argue that instead of realignment, the United States is experiencing realignment, the loosening of party ties.

Since the 1970s, more voters have identified themselves as independents, not belonging to either party. More people seem willing to cross party lines and vote for the other party. More voters are also engaging in split-ticket voting, voting for both Republicans and Democrats for different offices in the same election. Split-ticket voting has produced a number of divided governments in which one party controls the presidency while the other controls at least one house of Congress.

Parties have also become more high tech. More and more political communication is not face to face but rather through the mass media. Parties have adopted the use of television, polls, computers, media specialist, and political consultants. Voters no longer need the party to find out what the candidates are like and what they stand for through the use of television. The adoption of such technology has rendered the political parties almost unnecessary for candidates who have money at their disposal.