* Political Parties
* A group of persons who seek to control government through the winning of elections and the holding of public office.
* What is a Political Party?
* Both parties are more of a coalition - a union of many persons of diverse interests who have come together to get their candidates elected
* What Parties do
* Link between the people
* Soften impact of extremist
* Nominating Function
* Informer-stimulator
* “Seal of Approval”
* Government Function
* Watchdog Function
* Two-Party System
* Reasons - Historical, tradition, electoral system and American ideological consensus
* Other Party System
* Multiparty system -
* One-Party system -
* Membership of the Parties -
  + Individual choice
  + Family, economy, religion, race etc.
* Two-Party System in American History
* Federalist vs. Anti-federalist
* Democrats - 1800-1860
* Republicans - 1860-1932
* Democrats - 1932-1968
* New Era - 1968-1993 - divided government
* Minor Parties
* Ideological parties -
* Single-issue parties -
* Economic protest parties
* Splinter parties -
* Key Roles of the Minor Parties
* Change elections
* Critic and innovator
* Examples: income tax, women’s rights etc.
* Organization of Political Parties
* Not well organized
* Role of President -
* Federalism = disconnection
* Nominating cause division
* Party Machinery
* National Convention -
* National Committee -
* National Chairperson -
* Congressional Campaign Committees -
* State and Local Party
* State - Governor, disunity
* Local - ward & precinct
* Three elements of the Party
  + Party organization – leaders, activist
  + Party electorate - loyalist
  + Party government – office holders
* Future of Major Parties
* Declining
  + Decrease in voters
  + Increase in split-ticket voting
  + Changes in structure
  + Changes in technology
  + Growth of single issue organization