

*American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*

Guided Reading

Section 14.2: The Development of American Political Parties

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

 **Before you read**

**Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.**

**Learning Target:** Explain how political parties have developed and adapted to new circumstances.

**AP® Key Concepts**

party coalition

party era

realignment

era of divided government

critical election

 **While you read**

**Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.**

Political parties	New circumstances	Methods of adapting

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 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. Parties seek to build a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ consisting of voters who will continue to support the party's policies and, more important, vote for the party's candidates.
2. In the 1930s, African Americans abandoned the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln, to vote in increasing numbers for the Democrats. This change BEST exemplified the concept of:
  - A. a critical election.
  - B. realignment.
  - C. an era of divided government.
  - D. party eras.
3. A critical election is:
  - A. when the groups of people who support a political party shift their allegiance to a different party.
  - B. a major national election that signals a change in the balance between two parties.
  - C. a time period when one party wins most national elections.
  - D. a period in which one party controls one of both Houses of Congress and the presidency is from the opposing party.
4. Over a long period of time, depending on which party or parties control Congress and the presidency and how long they have done so, the United States can be described as being either in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ or in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. era of divided government, critical election
  - B. critical election, realignment
  - C. realignment, party era
  - D. party era, era of divided government
5. Which of the following is MOST likely a Reagan Democrat in the 1980s?
  - A. an African American line worker at the Ford Motors plant outside Detroit, Michigan
  - B. a white factory worker at the General Mills plant outside Chicago, Illinois
  - C. a Mexican American farm worker in the orange groves of southern California
  - D. a white executive vice president of JP Morgan Chase Bank in New York City

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6. Bill Clinton won the presidency in 1992 by:
  - A. courting religious evangelicals.
  - B. moving the Democratic Party to the left.
  - C. tying Republicans to the Watergate scandal.
  - D. prodding his party toward the ideological center.
  
7. How were Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush similar as candidates for president?
  - A. Both courted religious voters.
  - B. Both were Republicans.
  - C. Both were from the Northeast.
  - D. Both emphasized their military service.
  
8. Which scenario is MOST likely to anger a supporter of the Tea Party movement?
  - A. a massive federal spending bill that also lowers taxes is passed
  - B. the government institutes new pollution policies that restrict carbon emissions
  - C. the president signs a fisheries treaty with Spain and Portugal
  - D. the federal government balances its budgets by massively decreasing spending
  
9. Because of intense political polarization in recent decades, which scenario was MOST likely, given the context of the 2016 general presidential election?
  - A. A staunch Democrat goes to the voting booth and pulls the lever for Trump.
  - B. A voter listens carefully to both Clinton and Trump and decides for whom to vote after much consideration.
  - C. A staunch Republican goes to the voting booth and pulls the lever for Clinton.
  - D. A voter casts his or her ballot against Trump rather than for Clinton.
  
10. If fiscal conservatives, social liberals, or free traders clash with the Republican Party as a result of Trump's victory in 2016, which is MOST likely to occur in the near future?
  - A. a party era of Republican dominance
  - B. the emergence of new civil rights bills
  - C. a political realignment
  - D. the rise of a new third party
  
11. Which does NOT explain why the Democratic Party may be in trouble after 2016?
  - A. Democrats cluster in cities but have difficulty winning statewide office.
  - B. Congressional redistricting favors Republican candidates.
  - C. The party is divided over supporting Trump or not supporting him.
  - D. Democrats historically don't vote much in midterm elections.