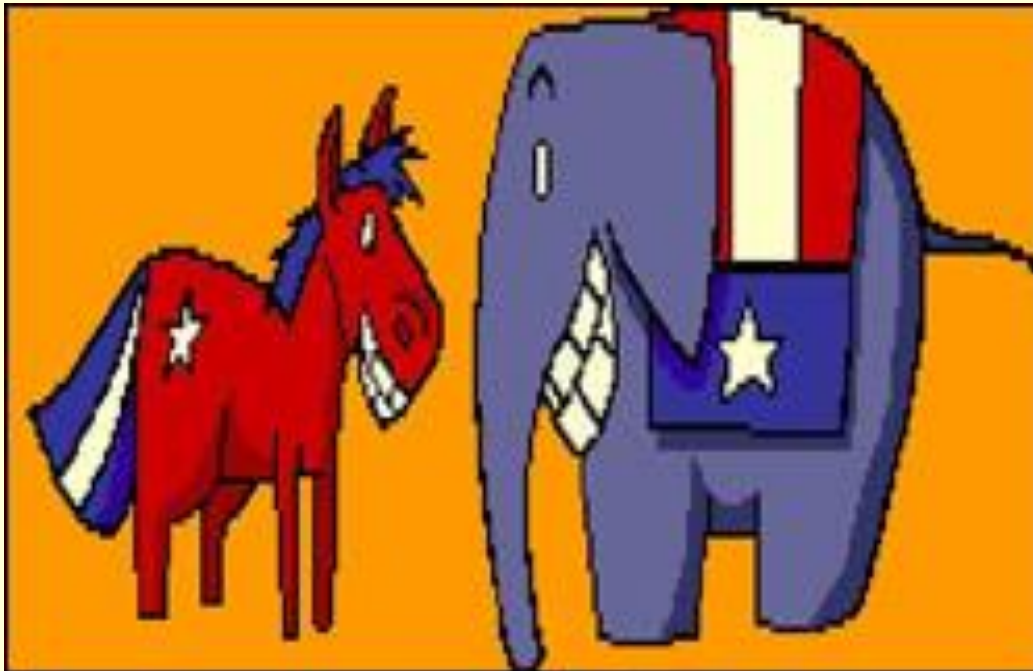


Political Parties in the U.S.



Definition of a political party

- A group of people that seeks to attain political power through winning elections



Main Functions of Political Parties

1. The Nominating Function



2. The Watchdog Function

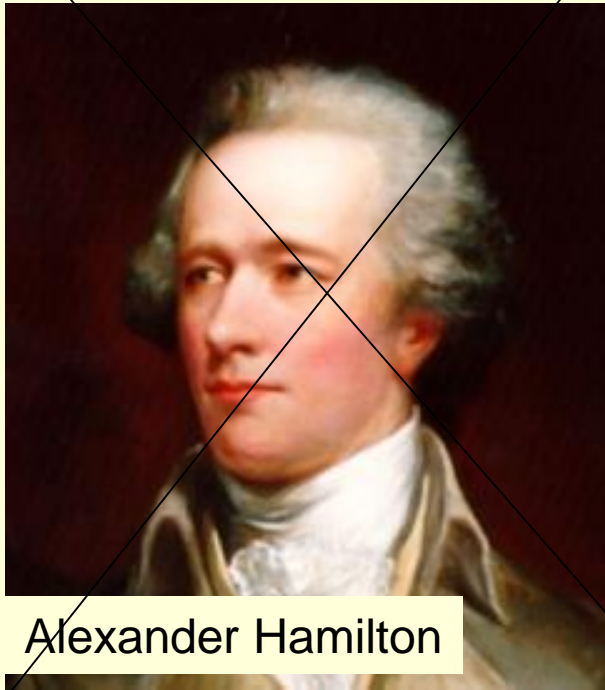


3. The Governing Function

	Positives	Negatives
Two-party system		
One-party system		
Multi-party system (3 or more parties)		

How U.S. Political Parties were Born (1792)

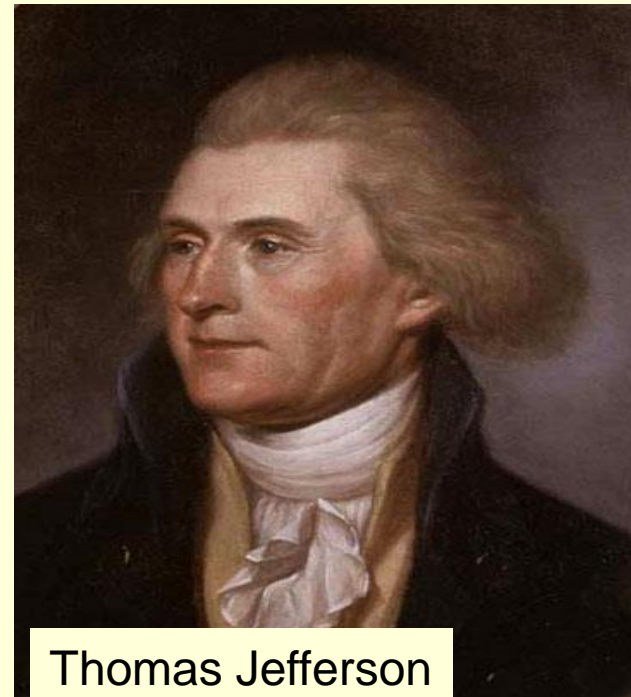
Federalist Party (favored
strong nat'l govt)



Alexander Hamilton

Party goes out of existence (1813)

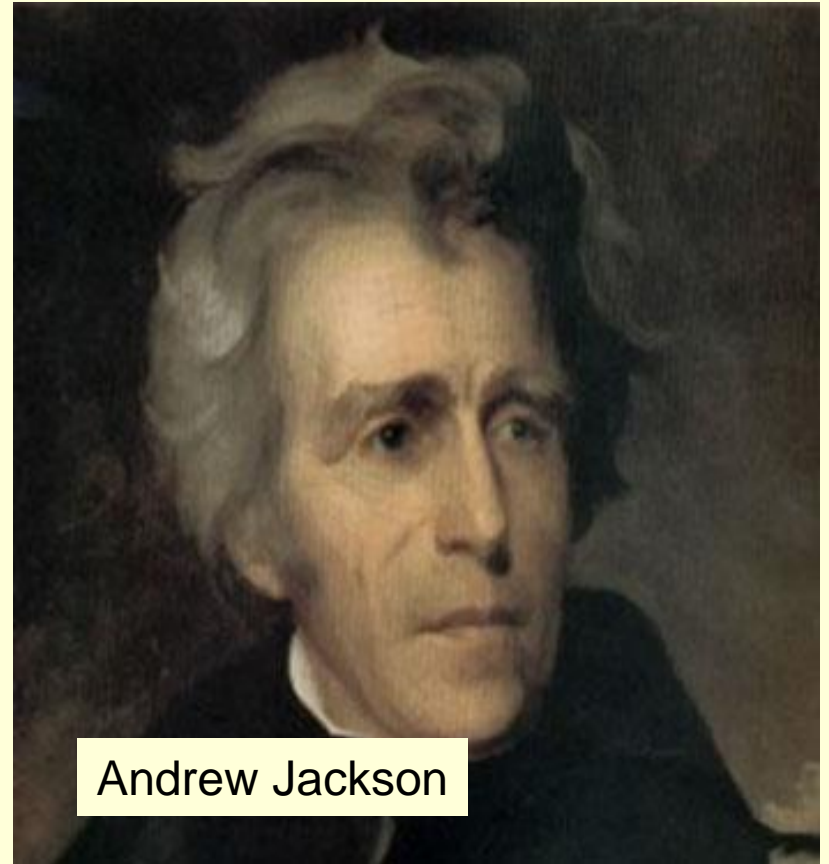
Democratic-Republican
Party (states' rights)



Thomas Jefferson

Democratic Party Evolution

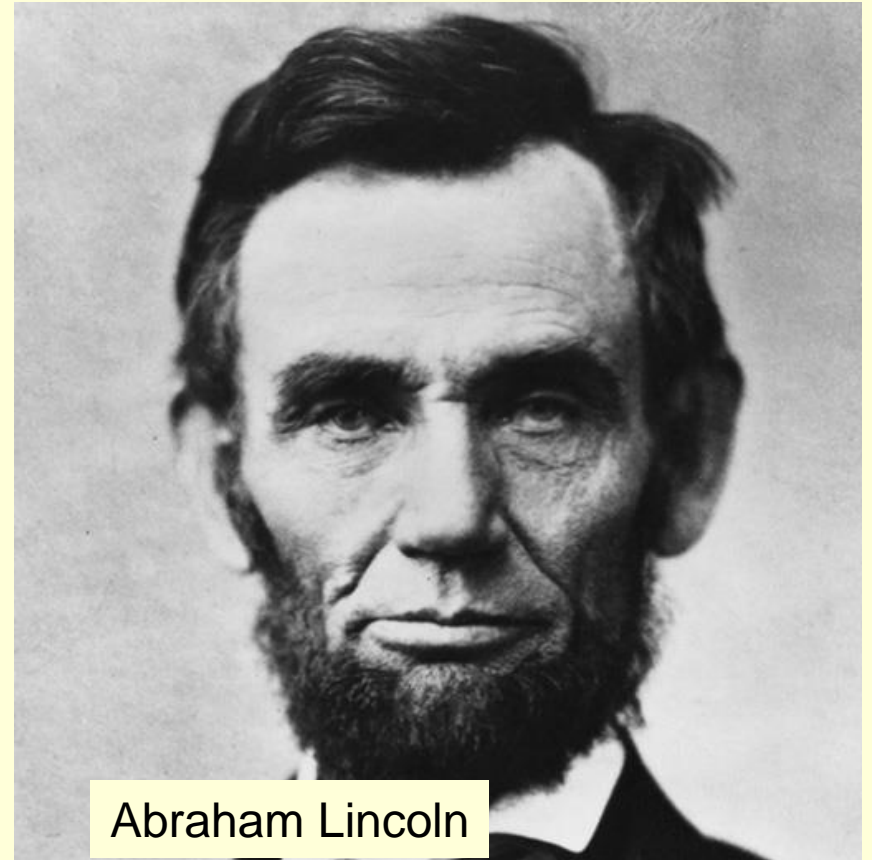
- Under Andrew Jackson, Jefferson's party solidifies
- First national convention held in 1832 (2nd oldest political party in world)



Andrew Jackson

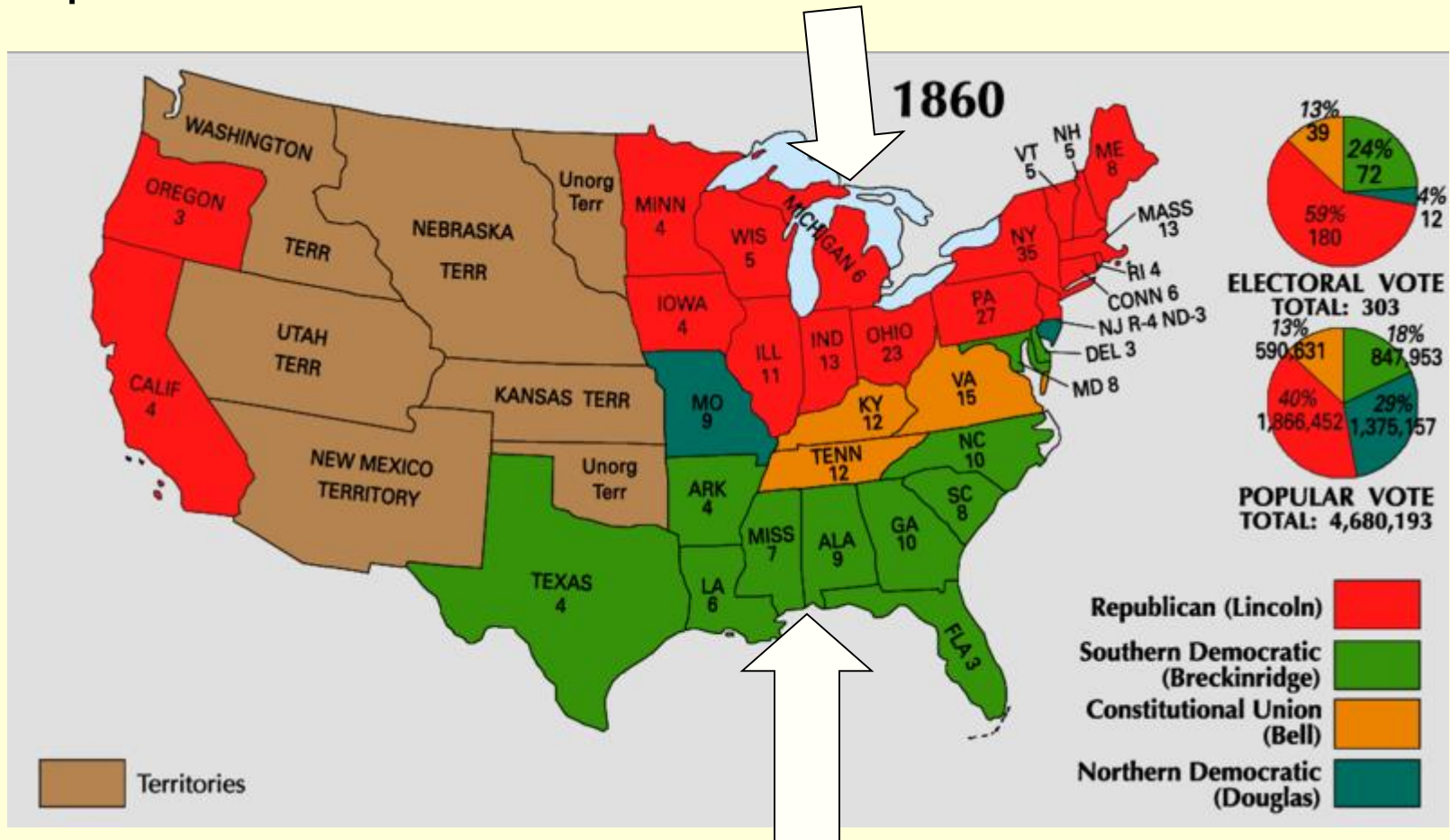
Republican Party History

- Forms as anti-slavery party in 1854
- Republicans quickly come to power with Lincoln's election in 1860



Abraham Lincoln

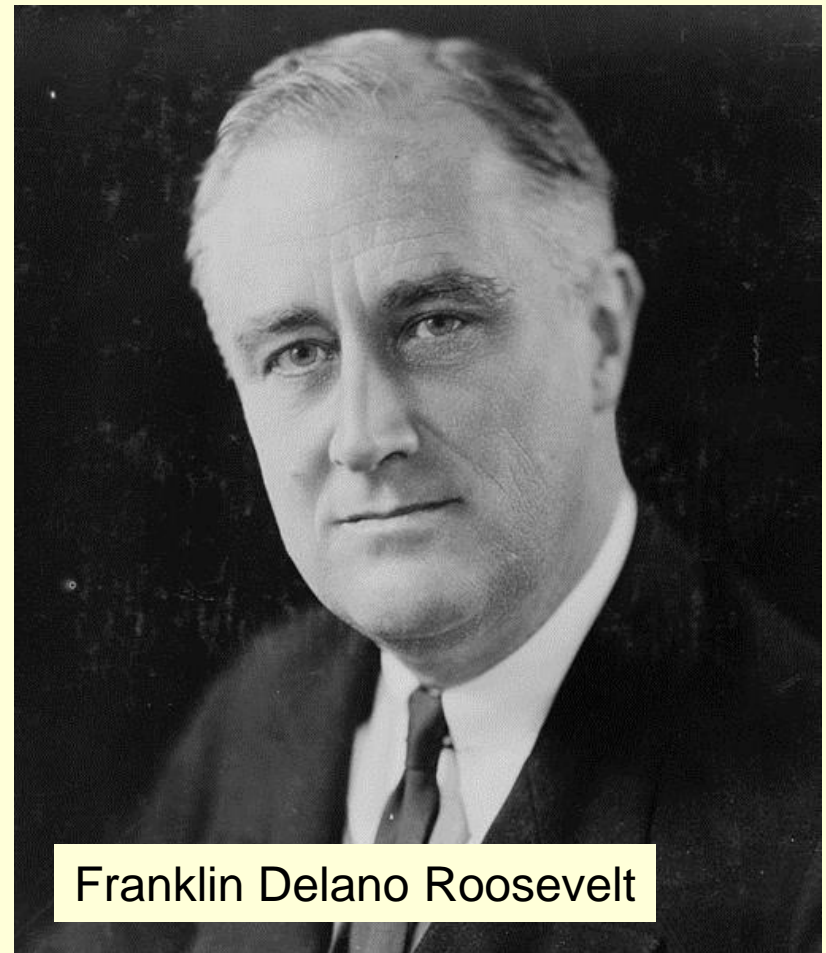
Loyalty to the Union becomes tied to Republican Party—
 Republicans dominate the North until the New Deal



Union Army leaves the South after Reconstruction; Democrats
 (states' rights) take control of the South until the New Deal

New Deal Changes Everything

- Demo Party takes a 180 degree turn with FDR's New Deal—becomes the party of active federal government
- Many former Dems abandon party; “Solid South” becomes Republican



Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Now, let's talk a little bit about
“Third Parties”

Third Parties—those parties other than the two dominant ones



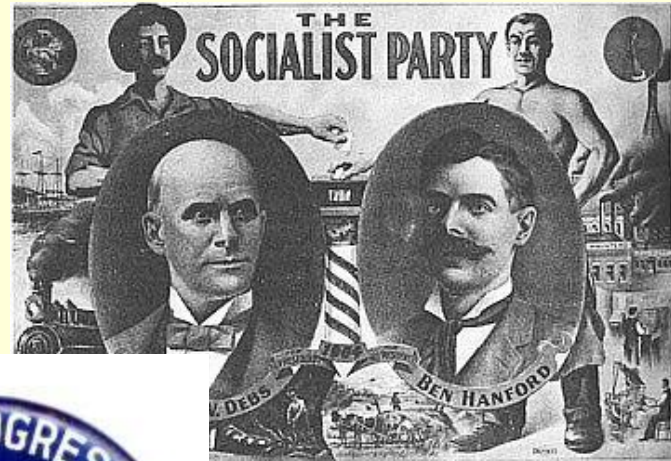
Most Important Third Party Contribution

- Forcing the two dominant parties to deal with issues

Types of Third Parties

Ideological Parties

- Communist Party/ Socialist Party



One-Issue Parties

- Right to Life Party
- Prohibition Party



Splinter Parties

- Bull Moose Party

Economic Protest Parties

- Populist Party



Other parties

Frivolous parties

Rent is Too Damn High Party

Current Significant Third Parties

- Green Party



- Libertarian Party



- Constitution Party



Force Democrats & Republicans attention on topics for discussion

- Main parties have to address these topics to win 3rd Party voters

- ❖ Typically more single issue focused vs major parties

- ❖ Provide additional voter voice

- ❖ Barriers to 3rd Party success:

- Winner-take-all system (Electoral College)

- Fees/signatures needed to get on ballot

- Shifting platforms of major parties

- Many fear a “wasted” vote

- ❖ Main types of third parties:

- Issue oriented-believe certain issues are not being addressed by the existing parties (ex: Prohibition Party)

- Ideological-believe certain values about human nature and politics are not being met by existing parties (Ex: Libertarian Party)

- Splinter–renegade groups within existing parties who often form around a strong personality (Ex: “Bull Moose” Party & Theodore Roosevelt)

The most common mascot symbol for the party is the donkey. According to the Democratic National Committee, the party itself never officially adopted this symbol but has made use of it. They say Andrew Jackson had been labeled a jackass by his opponents during the intense mudslinging that occurred during the presidential race of 1828. A political cartoon depicting Jackson riding and directing a donkey (representing the Democratic Party) was published in 1837. A political cartoon by Thomas Nast in an 1870 edition of Harper's Weekly revived the donkey as a symbol for the Democratic Party. Cartoonists followed Nast and used the donkey to represent the Democrats, and the elephant to represent the Republicans.