

Evolution of Political Parties

Democratic-Republicans -- (1790s)

- rule by the informed masses
- friendliness toward extension of democracy
- weak central government to conserve states' rights
- strict interpretation of Constitution
- no special favors for business; agriculture preferred
- no special favors for manufacturers
- pro-French (radical revolutionary tradition)
- national debt a bane; rigid economy
- encouragement to state banks
- relatively free speech & press
- minimal navy for coastal defense

Federalists -- (1790s-1816)

- rule by the "best people"
- hostility to extension of democracy
- powerful central government at the expense of states' rights
- loose interpretation of Constitution
- government to foster business; wealth to be in interests of capitalists
- protective tariff
- pro-British (conservative Tory tradition)
- national debt a blessing if properly funded
- powerful central bank
- restrictions on free speech & press
- strong navy to protect shippers

Republicans -- (c. 1800s)

Republicans -- (1816-1820s)
Era of Good Feelings
One Political Party Rule

Jacksonian Democrats -- (c. 1828)

National Republicans -- (c. 1828)

Democrats -- (c. 1834)

Whigs -- (1830-1850s)

Major Third Parties

- (1832) - Anti-Mason Party
- (1840) - Liberty Party
- (1848) - Free Soilers
- (1850s) - Know Nothings
- (1860) - Constitutional Union Party

Republicans -- (c. 1854)

- Northern Whigs
- Anti Kansas-Nebraska Act Democrats
- Free Soilers
- Know Nothings

Democrats split -- (c. 1860)

- Northern Democrats (Douglas)
- Southern Democrats (Breckenridge)

Roots of the Democrat Party today

Roots of the Republican Party today