Unit 2: Linkage Institutions (Parties, Interest Groups, Media)
Topic 1: Political Parties
What are political parties, and how do they function in our two-party system?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

| Two-Party System with two major parties:  <br> - Both parties have to try to appeal to voters in the  <br> of the ideological spectrum to win  | Coalition: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Bipartisan |
| Partisanship | One-Party systems: |
| Multi-Party systems: | What did George Washington say about political <br> parties? |
| What did the Constitution say about political <br> parties? |  |

## Two-Party System in US History

## Era of the Early Democrats <br> 1800-1860 <br> (Jefferson-Jackson)

## Era of the Republicans

1860-1932
(Reconstruction-Depression)
Era of the Democrats
1932-1968
(New Deal - Great Society)

> Era of Divided Government 1968-today

## Why a Two-Party System?

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- Our Electoral System
- 
- Each election only results in one winner for each office
- The winner is the one who gets the most votes (plurality) - not necessarily a majority
- Our Governing System -- The major parties control the rules

