

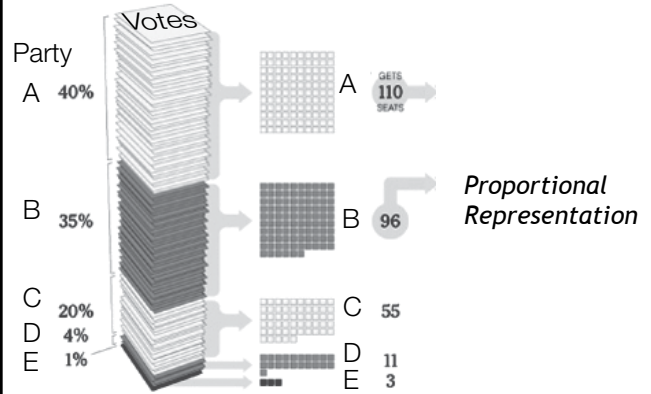
GOVERNMENT AP

Chapter 8: Political Parties

MERIDIAN NOTES

Vocabulary

1. Political Party	An organization that sponsors candidates for political office under the organization's name.
2. Nomination	Designation as an official candidate of a political party.
3. Political System	A set of interrelated institutions that links people with government.
4. Electoral College	A body of electors chosen by voters to cast ballots for president and vice president.
5. Caucus	A closed meeting of members of a political party to decide questions of policy and the selections of candidates for office.
6. National Convention	A gathering of delegates of a single political party from across the country to choose candidates for president and vice president and to adopt a party platform.
7. Party Platform	The statement of policies of a national political party.
8. Critical Election	An election that produces a sharp change in the existing pattern of party loyalties among groups of voters.
9. Electoral Realignment	The change in voting patterns that occurs after a critical election.
10. Two-party System	A political system in which two major political parties compete for control of the government. Candidates from a third party have little chance of winning office.



11. Electoral Dealignment	A lessening of the importance of party loyalties in voting decisions.
12. Majority Representation	The system by which one office, contested by two or more candidates, is won by the single candidate who collects the most votes.
13. Proportional Representation	The system by which legislative seats are awarded to a party in proportion to the vote that party wins in an election.
14. Party Identification	A voter's sense of psychological attachment to a party.
15. National Committee	A committee of a political party composed of party chairpersons and party officials from every state.
16. Party Conference	A meeting to select party leaders and decide committee assignments, held at the beginning of a session of congress by republicans or democrats in each chamber.
17. Congressional Campaign Committee	An organization maintained by a political party to raise funds to support its own candidates in congressional elections.
18. Party Machine	A centralized party organization that dominates local politics by controlling elections.
19. Responsible Party Government	Set of principles formalizing the ideal role of parties in a majoritarian democracy.

Principles of Responsible Party Government:

- Parties should present clear and coherent programs to voters.
- Voters should choose candidates on basis of party programs.
- The winning party should carry out its program.
- Voter should hold the governing party responsible at the next election.

By John Ho and Jason Liu