

Linkage Institutions – Political Parties & Interest Groups

Guided Reading Activity 9-1



Development of American Political Parties



Reading Tip

Read for the purpose of understanding the material, not just to answer the questions below.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. Defining What are political parties?

2. Explaining Why did George Washington not want political parties to form?

3. Describing Why do single-issue parties form?

4. Explaining What is the goal of ideological parties?

5. Explaining Why do the two major parties seem so similar?

6. Comparing What is the difference between a platform and a plank?

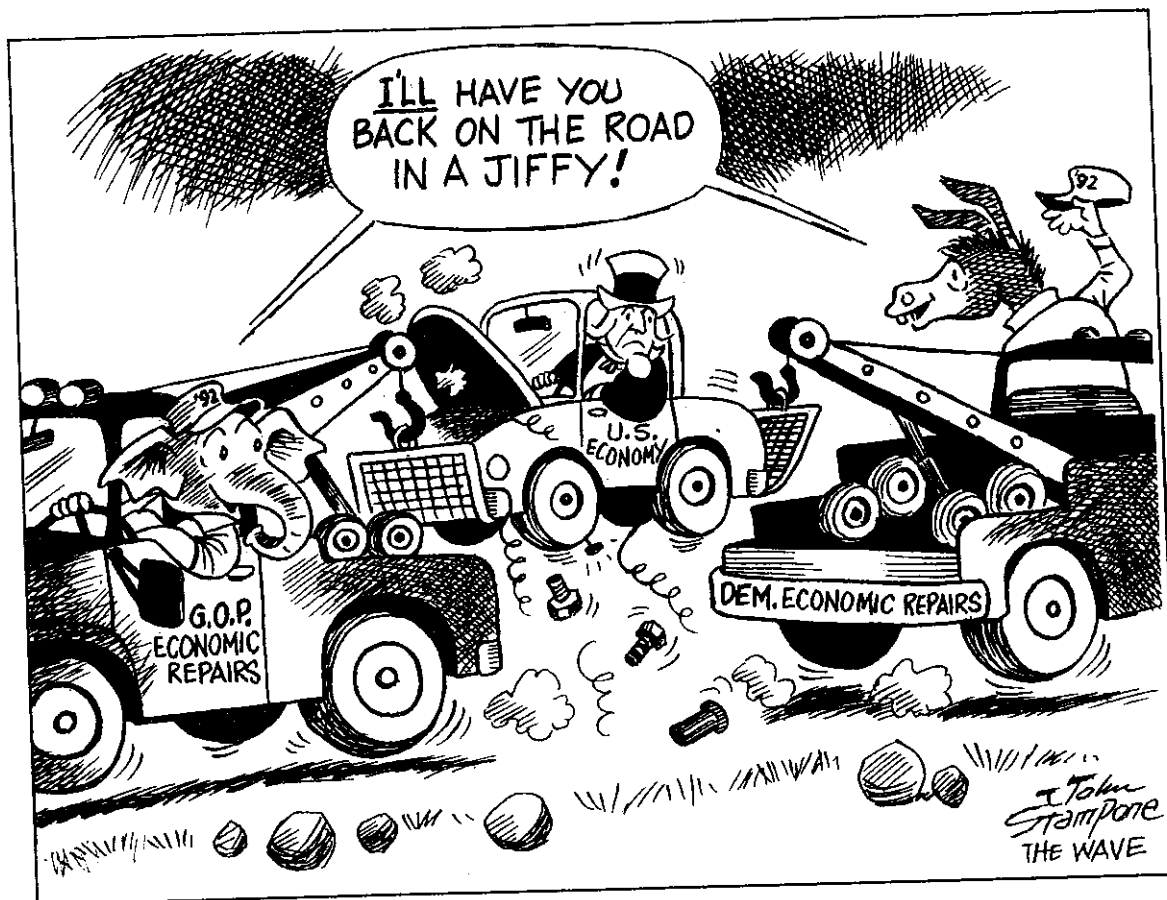
CHAPTER

5

Section 3

The Two-Party System in American History

A major issue that divides Republicans and Democrats is the economy. The Democrats are seen as the party more likely to have government intervene in economic matters, while the Republicans are seen as the party more likely to allow the economy to follow its own course without intervention. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.




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Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. Irony is saying the opposite of what one means. What is the irony of the caption in this cartoon?
2. What will be the consequence of the actions of both parties?
3. What is the attitude of the cartoonist toward the economic policies of the Republicans and the Democrats?
4. **Identifying Assumptions** Explain the assumption the cartoonist holds about the state of the U.S. economy.

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Guided Reading Activity 9-2



Organization of American Political Parties



Reading Tip

Concentrate while you read. Read alone in a quiet room with the television and radio turned off.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Summarizing** What does a political party's national committee do?

2. **Describing** How has the nomination of presidential candidates changed over the years?

3. **Explaining** What is the job of a precinct captain?

4. **Evaluating** Why does the county chairperson have so much political influence in the county?

5. **Concluding** Why is it important to build grassroots support for a party?

6. **Explaining** How are political machines generally viewed today?

SECTION 9-2

Section 2 The Two-Party System

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In recent years, fewer voters are identifying with traditional political parties, preferring to remain independent. The views of both the Democrats and Republicans have moved closer on certain issues as a way to gain support from independent voters. As a result, some of the traditional differences between the national parties have been blurred. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

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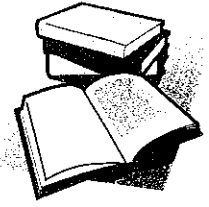


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Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. Summarize the message of the cartoon in a single sentence.
2. Is the speaker in the cartoon likely to remain a loyal Republican? Why or why not?
3. Do you think it is the political parties or the voters who are more responsible for the lack of party loyalty reflected in this cartoon? Explain.
4. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** Explain how party leaders might help with the problem identified in this cartoon.

Reteaching Activity 9



Political Parties and Politics

The United States is a democracy with a two-party system, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. These parties have different views on how much the government should be involved in people's lives. Political parties are highly developed organizations with incredible power and influence in our government. Among other roles, political parties select candidates and run campaigns at all levels of government.

DIRECTIONS: Completing a Table In the table below, the different functions of political parties are categorized. Write the letter of the statement that explains each function in the appropriate box.

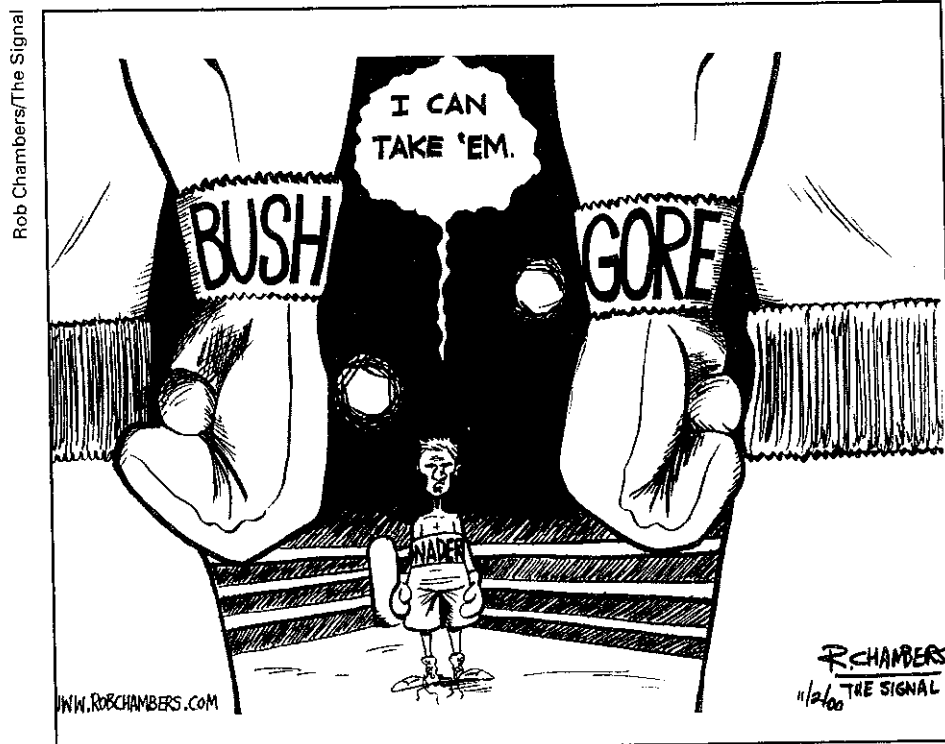
Help Manage Government	Nominate Candidates	Campaign for Candidates
House and Senate Campaign Committees	Link Different Levels of Government	Act as a Watchdog

- A. Party ties help the cooperation between state, local, and national governments.
- B. Party members raise money for party candidates.
- C. If a party has lost an election, the party looks for mistakes or misuses of power by opponents.
- D. The party chooses candidates to represent it during primaries.
- E. Party members work to register party supporters to vote.
- F. Party members in Congress work to elect and reelect party members in Congress.
- G. If the opposition is doing something the party believes is wrong, the party informs the public of these grievances. This is an attempt to attract new voters in future elections.
- H. The party organization determines which party members receive government jobs.
- I. Party members communicate ideas and views on public issues.
- J. Party members recommend supporters to the winning candidate for appointments to government jobs.

Section 4 The Minor Parties

CHAPTER 5

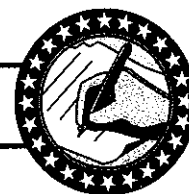
In the history of American presidential politics there have been many third party candidates, but few have received more than a small percentage of the total vote. In 2000, Ralph Nader ran for President as a Green Party candidate. Four years later, he campaigned for the presidency once again, this time as an Independent. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.



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Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What does the boxing ring represent?
2. Why are Bush and Gore standing next to one another, facing Nader?
3. What does the cartoonist think about Ralph Nader's chances against Bush and Gore? List two details that support your conclusion.
4. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment** This cartoon appeared a few days before Election Day. Did the results of the 2000 election support or challenge the cartoonist's view of Ralph Nader?



Vocabulary Activity 9

Political Parties and Politics

DIRECTIONS: Using the clues below, find and circle the words in the grid.

T	O	E	M	S	U	V	E	T	H	E	C	O	N	Y
T	I	N	P	L	U	R	A	L	I	T	Y	U	A	T
T	I	O	N	O	F	D	E	M	O	C	S	R	A	R
C	Y	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	A	M	U	E	R	A
N	M	R	O	F	T	A	L	P	I	C	C	A	E	P
P	O	N	S	M	U	S	T	P	C	O	U	T	T	O
E	N	M	S	T	A	N	L	T	L	Y	A	I	H	W
T	N	V	I	O	L	A	V	E	T	G	C	Y	I	T
I	C	H	E	N	N	M	S	E	E	L	V	R	R	E
T	S	N	I	K	A	N	T	L	H	E	G	A	D	O
I	V	E	I	D	R	T	E	N	M	E	N	M	P	T
O	I	N	R	C	T	D	I	H	E	G	O	I	A	V
N	E	A	R	N	E	M	E	O	N	T	R	R	R	N
X	W	K	T	K	V	R	R	T	N	Y	N	P	T	T
F	R	F	B	F	Z	X	P	T	J	N	L	Y	Y	L

- meeting of a state or local political party organization
- a chosen representative who casts a vote for a presidential candidate at the party's national convention
- strong political party organization that is frequently characterized as corrupt
- signifies receiving the most votes among all the candidates running in a particular race
- process by which political parties select and offer candidates for public office
- association of voters with common interests who want to influence government by electing candidates
- means by which a third-party candidate can get on the ballot for a general election
- an individual statement that makes up a party's platform
- series of statements expressing a party's beliefs, principles, and positions on election issues
- grouping of several adjoining precincts represented by a volunteer at the county committee
- used to nominate candidates at all levels of government and can be direct, open, or runoff
- name given to a political group that challenges the major parties in an election
- geographic area that contains a specific number of voters organized by a volunteer captain

Guided Reading Activity 11-3

Interest Groups



Reading Tip

As you read, create a question and answer sheet. Form your own questions and answer them based on the information you read in the text.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Defining** What does it mean to be impartial?

2. **Describing** What are special-interest groups?

3. **Comparing** What is the difference between private and public interest groups?

4. **Defining** What is public policy?

5. **Concluding** Why might a lawmaker want to interact with a lobbyist?

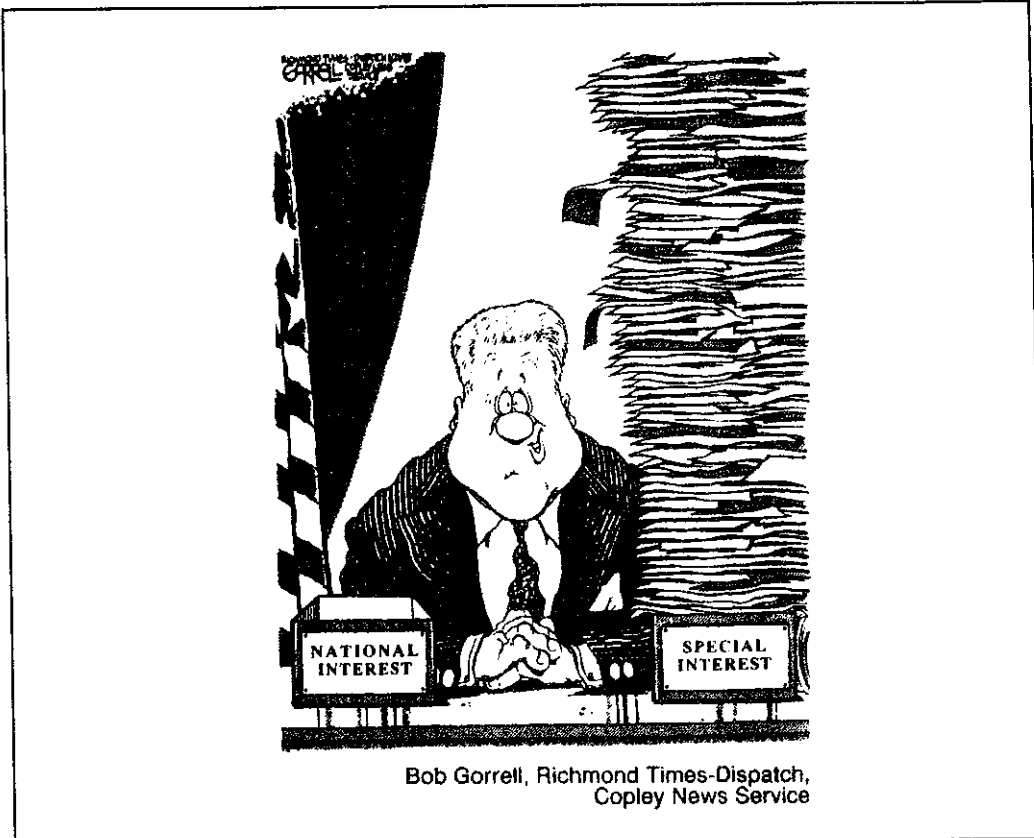
6. **Listing** What are seven propaganda techniques that interest groups use to influence public opinion?

7. **Explaining** Why has lobbying been criticized in the past?

Interest Groups at Work

Interest groups have long played an active role in American politics. Today, while some people credit interest groups with giving ordinary Americans a chance to work for causes they support, others blame interest groups for paralyzing the government, as this cartoon of President Clinton suggests. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

By permission of Bob Gorrell and Creators Syndicate, Inc.

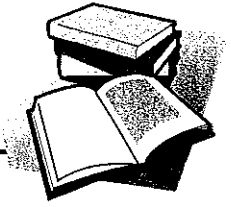


Bob Gorrell, Richmond Times-Dispatch,
Copley News Service

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. Summarize the message of the cartoon in one sentence.
2. Explain what is meant by the terms “national interest” and “special interest.”
3. Why would the pile of special interest demands be larger than the pile of national interest demands?
4. What does the cartoon imply about the way in which government policy decisions are made?
5. **Identifying Assumptions** Would most members of special interest groups agree that there is a conflict between their demands and the national interest? Explain your answer.

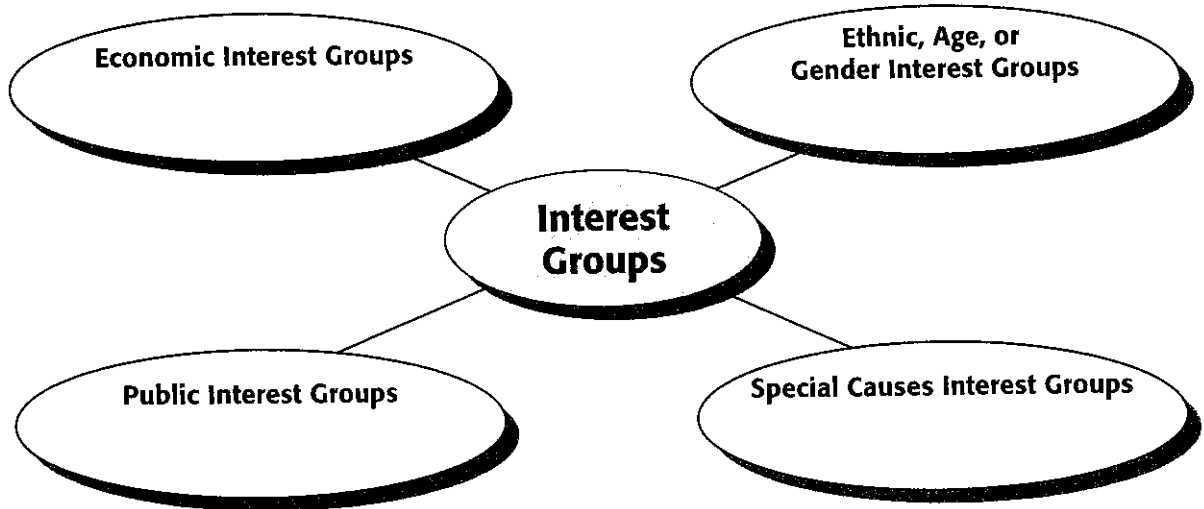
Reteaching Activity 11 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Influencing Government

The United States is a democratic country made up of diverse individuals with different viewpoints. Citizens vote for people who will represent them in government. Therefore, politicians and government officials need public support in order to stay in office and achieve their goals. Politicians understand that a person's background, the mass media, and interest groups play a role in influencing and shaping public opinion.

DIRECTIONS: Creating a Web Diagram There are different types of interest groups. Use this web diagram to organize the interest groups listed into the correct category. Write the letter of each interest group in the appropriate circle.



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. U.S. Chamber of Commerce B. National Wildlife Federation C. Congress of Racial Equality D. Tobacco Institute E. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People F. League of Women Voters G. National Women's Political Caucus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H. American Medical Association I. Common Cause J. American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations K. American Association of Retired Persons L. National Council of Senior Citizens |
|---|---|

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper.
 What is the difference between an interest group and a PAC?

Section 1

The Nature of Interest Groups

Special interest groups have been seen as having more and more influence on American political life. Some people feel that the power of special interest groups exceeds the power of the average voter. Study the cartoon and answer the questions that follow.

Jim Morrin/Reprinted with special permission King Features Syndicate



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Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. Why is the figure labeled "special interests" made to look like a giant?
2. What does the phrase "Isn't that cute?" imply about the attitude of special interest groups?
3. What role does the bag of money labeled "campaign contributions" play in the relationships portrayed in the cartoon?
4. What is the cartoonist's attitude toward special interest groups?
5. **Predicting Consequences** Do you think there is a danger to the continuing growth of special interest groups for the American political system? Explain your position.

