

## Political parties in the USA

The Founding fathers created a political system balanced between democratic principles : executive, judicial and legislative. Dividing power allows to prevent any public protagonists from gaining too much power. As a consequence of a dissent between Federalists and Antifederalists, the US became a two-party system. Today, Republicans and Democrats are challenging for the White House. The two are sharing the same ideas, even though their ideologies diverge. Political parties are nominating spokespersons, defined every 4 years at national conventions. Other minorities, such as Libertarian, Green and Constitution parties are running for office, despite the weak influence they have.

At the start of **the Democratic Party**, it was far from what we know today : support slavery, against civil rights reform, and support companies' interest over social concerns. This has changed during WWI with Woodrow Wilson's social reforms, which gave the new line of the party : strong central government, regulate industry and business, and promote public services. They also wanted a clear separation between church and state, and international cooperation.

After the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt made the New Deal : A governmental intervention in economics, social security and the minimum wage, defining the line of the party from then to now. The party lost a lot of support by putting the Civil Rights Act in 1964 from the southern senator, but regain a powerful position after the WaterGate and the following defiance to the Republicans.

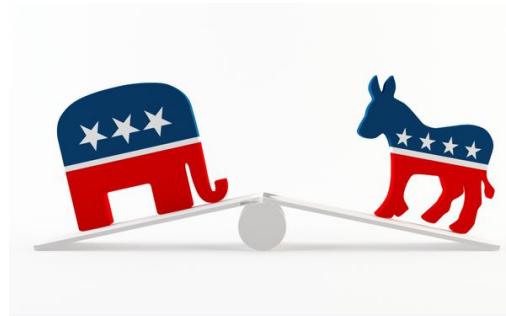
After the two terms of Bill Clinton in the 90's, Democrats benefited from the years of war in the Middle East , by winning majority in both Senate and House of Representative. Barack Obama lost this in 2010, and the surprising defeat of Hilary Clinton in 2016 led the country to an era of uncertainty with Trump in power.

**The Grand Old Party** has existed since 1854, it originally fought against the Democratic Party, and mostly against slavery and the role of federal government. Nowadays the political line is deregulation and support for a weak federal government and it favours central limited control. Abraham Lincoln, in 1861 was the first president of the party. After 1869 and the following 30 years were in balance between political forces in Congress. But then, the Republican took advantage of the presidential function. In 1896, both chambers and the presidency were ruled by the Republicans. With Theodore Roosevelt, an environmentalist, aware of the necessity of basic social measures, the party divided itself, but remain in charge until the Great Depression in 1929.

They failed to fight against economic and social disasters, and so, lose all credibility. Finally, after WWII, they agreed on merely all democratic social measures and the increase of Federal

power. After Richard Nixon's Watergate, the party became very weak, and only Ronald Reagan allowed republicans to regain influence, but they won control of Congress only after Bill Clinton's two terms.

Barack Obama, elected in 2008 implemented more military schemes in the country. After a gradual descent of the democrats, populist Donald Trump was elected in 2016, after a campaign which divided Americans.



Today, Democrats see themselves as the donkey, that is humble, loveable, and brave, while Republicans recognize themselves as the elephant, which is strong, intelligent and dignified.