**Unit 3 Lesson 16: What is the role of Political Parties in the Constitutional System**

Purpose:

1.Explain why the Framers opposed the idea of political parties.

2.Describe the other ideas that helped political parties gain acceptance.

3. Explain the conflicting points of view that led to the development of parties and the roles they have played in history.

4.Evaluate, take, and defend positions on the importance of political parties today.

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| The Framers’ thoughts on Political Parties | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would control “evil” effects of factions  Some (Burke) consider parties necessary to express \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to gov’t policies  Most American leaders oppose Burke, but many agree that they can “promote deliberation” and “check excesses in the majority”  Delegates had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with an established party system. |
| The Development of Political Parties | 1.  2.  3.  4. |
| The Revolution of 1800 and its Aftermath | First election to feature candidates from political parties (Fed.–Adams, Repub.-Jeff)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through election rather than heredity / violence  -However, exposed problem in Constitution  ◦Jeff & Burr tie, electors could not specify which would be president. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  12thAmendment  ◦Vote for Pres. & VP on same ballot  Jefferson opposed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and thought Federalists ideals would fade away |
| Political Party Growth and Functions | By 1820s, positive vision of parties emerged  Van Buren touts parties with clear principles and offer a clear choice  ◦Parties are “glue” that holds federal system / checks and balances together.  ◦Helped president work w/ Congress  ◦Bridged great distances between Washington & people  Patronage enabled president to build connections across levels of gov’t  Elaborate entertainments boost support and give members sense of belonging.  Unlike Jeff / Hamilton, Van Buren felt competing notions of common good could coexist.  ◦Those out of power would hold them accountable / additional check and balance |
| Political Parties Today | Democrats and Republicans have dominated since 1860s  Purposes of political parties today  ◦Mobilize participation  ◦Connect Executive and Legislative branches  ◦Connect national & state governments  ◦Creation and promotion of party platforms  ◦Provide forums to deliberate about public policies / help organize & channel passions & interests  ◦Provides stability  ◦Ensures change in gov’t, not Constitution |
| Less Favorable Aspect | Mutes truly alternative views  Minor parties generally small, narrow interests. Little to no chance of competing nationally.  If single set of interest gains dominant power w/in a party, threat of majority tyranny. |