

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview
Article: “America Has a Uniparty System” (15–20 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students see that the two main American political parties are alike in many ways.

Instructions

1. Instruct students to read the article and take notes/underline key passages. (Give them 6–8 minutes.)
2. Have students discuss their thoughts on the article in pairs/groups. (Give them 3–5 minutes.)
3. Ask for volunteers to share their takeaways from the article.
4. Ask the class the below questions, and get volunteers to answer.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does the author make the case that Democrats and Republicans are similar?
AWV, but the constitutional/political issues show many similarities.
2. Were any of the issues/similarities the author lists surprising to you?
AWV. One common surprise is how Republicans continue to fund Planned Parenthood every year
3. If you had to sum up the author’s point about the philosophies of the Democratic and Republican parties, what would you say?
AWV, but on many issues (other than abortion), the two parties have little difference, inasmuch that both see no problem with (a) taking some Americans’ money and giving it to other Americans who didn’t earn it, and (b) ignoring the advice of Washington, Adams, Madison, Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, etc. and spending trillions intervening in foreign affairs around the world.

America Has a Uniparty System

The Future of Freedom Foundation

Laurence M. Vance • January 1, 2024

The United States has been saddled with a two-party political system almost from the very beginning of its existence. First it was the Federalist Party and the Democratic-Republican Party, then it was the Democrats and the Whigs, and now it is the Democrats and the Republicans.

Democrats and Republicans are just two teams (blue, red) in the same league, two sides of the same coin, two wings...of the same bird, and the two faces of Janus.

George Wallace's adage that "there's not a dime's worth of difference between the Democrat and Republican parties" is true now more than ever. And yet, at the same time, the perception that the two major parties have substantial differences is widely accepted, so much so that Americans are polarized politically as never before....

The Issues

The Democrat and Republican attacks on each other seem to reinforce the notion that America doesn't have a uniparty system. Conservative Ryan Saavedra, formerly with *Breitbart News* and the *Daily Caller*, and now with *The Daily Wire*—...has mocked the idea that we have a uniparty system:

Always appreciate when people use "uniparty," because it identifies who should not be taken seriously. Yeah, Democrats and Republicans are the exact same on everything except: abortion, transgenderism, guns, religious freedom, mandates, death penalty, foreign policy, bill of rights, drug policy, immigration, border security, entitlement programs, education, healthcare, taxes, fiscal policy, tariffs, military spending, election integrity, electoral college, law enforcement, climate change, energy policy, and much, much more.

Two types of issues should be distinguished here: cultural issues and political issues. That Democrats and Republicans differ on cultural issues there is no doubt. But when it comes to political issues, Democrats and Republicans are philosophically two peas in a pod.

The main cultural issue that separates Democrats and Republicans is abortion....There used to be some pro-life Democrats, but I can't remember the last time I heard a Democratic politician or pundit expressing opposition to abortion itself or the relaxing of abortion restrictions. The abortion issue is one of the main reasons why so many conservatives hold their nose and vote Republican in every election—even though Republicans in Congress are a bit inconsistent. Although they may tout their pro-life credentials come election time and march in the National March for Life every January, Republicans in Congress have for decades funded Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider—as if the funds they receive are not fungible [replaceable]....

Things are quite different when it comes to political issues that relate to the Constitution, the welfare state, and the warfare state....Here are a number of the above-mentioned issues wherein the bottom line is that Democrats and Republicans are joined at the hip, philosophically speaking.

Education. Although Republicans talked about abolishing the federal Department of Education in the 1980s, the budget of the department skyrocketed during the presidency of George W. Bush. When Republicans have had control of both houses of Congress and the presidency (most recently during Trump's first two years as president), they have not even attempted to cut federal spending on education, let alone abolish the Department of Education. Both Democrats and Republicans think that the government should take money from some Americans to educate the children of other Americans in public schools....

Entitlement programs. Although Democrats often accuse Republicans of wanting to end government welfare programs, nothing could be further from the truth. Republicans may want to spend less money on certain programs, tighten eligibility requirements on select programs, and increase work requirements on other programs, but they have no philosophical objection to income-transfer programs or wealth-distribution schemes....

Health care. Although Republicans used to rail against Obamacare, they not only failed to repeal it when they controlled both houses of Congress under President Trump, but rarely even mention it anymore. Both Democrats and Republicans fully support socialized medicine through Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). They don't believe that health care is a service that can and should be provided on the free market just like any other service. Instead, they believe in massive government intervention in the health-care and health-insurance industry....

Military spending. If there is one thing that Democrats and Republicans wholeheartedly agree on, it is increased military spending every fiscal year even though the U.S. military budget is already larger than the next 10 highest foreign defense budgets combined. Much of U.S. military spending is...on maintaining hundreds of foreign military bases, stationing tens of thousands of American soldiers on foreign soil....

Foreign policy. U.S. foreign policy has been reckless, belligerent, and meddling for a great many years. Yet, an interventionist foreign policy has been the norm no matter which political party occupied the White House or controlled the House or Senate. Both Democrats and Republicans think that the government should take money out of the pockets of American taxpayers and put it in the hands of foreign governments and organizations in the form

of foreign aid. They both feel that America—against the wisdom of John Quincy Adams—should go abroad and seek monsters to destroy....

Guns. Many Democrats don't hide the fact that they don't think anyone should own a gun unless he works for the government: police, sheriff, highway patrol, military, secret service, FBI, DEA, ATF, and IRS agents. But don't think for a minute that this means that Republicans actually believe in the Second Amendment and gun freedom. Both parties believe that most federal gun laws, including the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), should be retained even though they infringe upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms....

Democrats and Republicans are just two teams (blue, red) in the same league, two sides of the same coin, two wings...of the same bird, and the two faces of Janus. It is because America has a uniparty that the welfare/warfare state continues unabated.

The above article may be found here: fff.org/explore-freedom/article/america-has-a-uniparty-system