

Warm Up: 1/8-11

WARM UP ACTIVITY

- What are the pros and cons of America's current two party system?
 - Justify your response with evidence.
- How do you feel the Democratic & Republican Parties are affecting civilian's trust in our government?
 - Are they increasing or decreasing their trust? Justify.

**** Chapter 8 (Political Parties)
reading notes due 1/16-17**

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What party trends are consistent throughout American history?
2. What is partisanship and how does it affect policy making?
3. How does the American party system differ from those of other countries?
4. What strategies can be used to break two-party policy gridlock?

January 8-11, 2018

American Political Party System

American Political Party System

TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

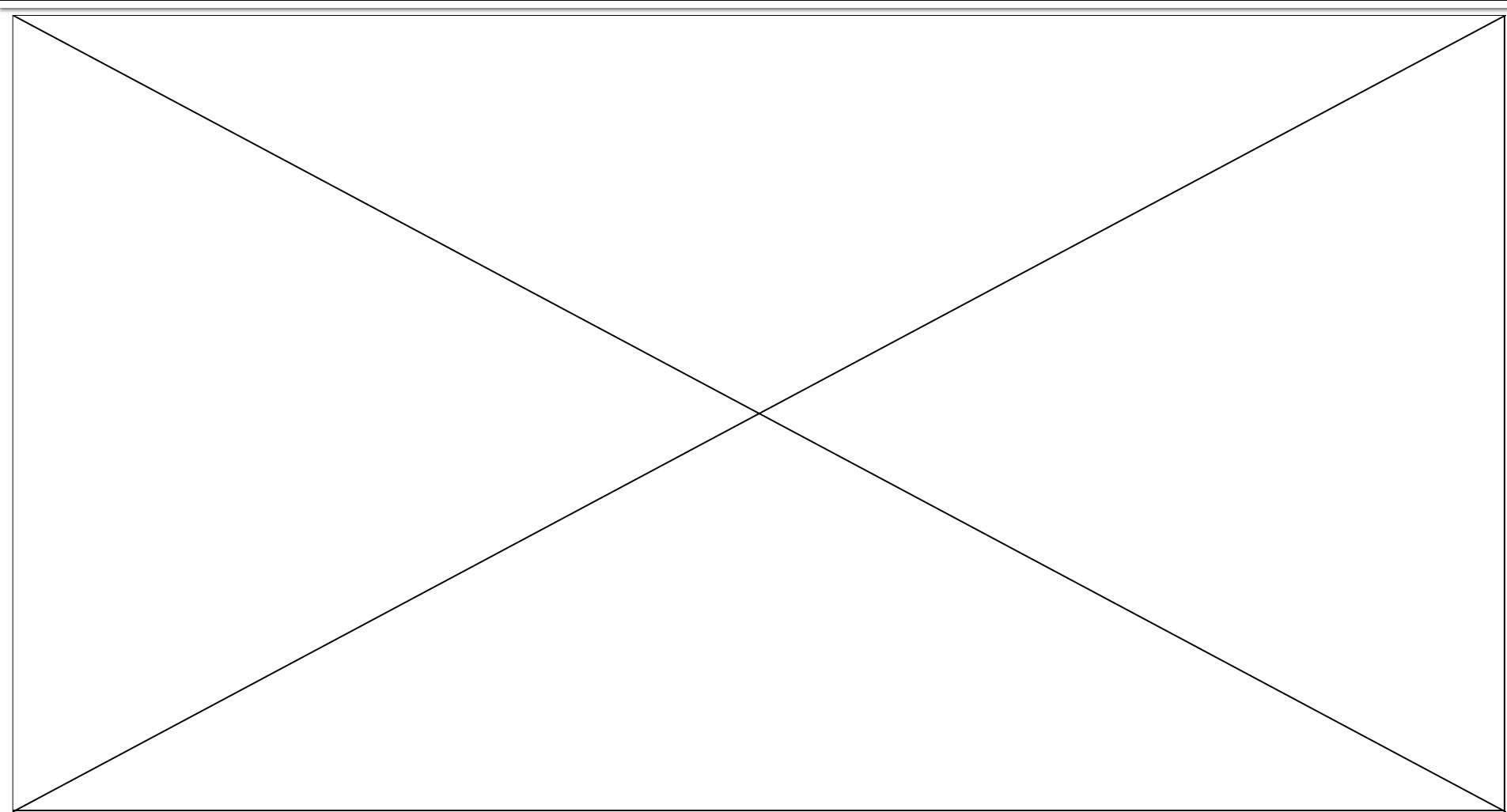
- Political Scientists will, verbally and in writing, **analyze** the development and functionality of the American party system.

Relevance: As many are frustrated with the two parties in America, the reasons for this party system are derived from the way the Constitution is constructed in its electoral formula.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

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Welcoming 2018!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqkFD-QDDhl>

Warm Up: 1/10-11

WARM UP ACTIVITY

- Define political parties.
 - How have the various political parties changed throughout American history?
 - Consider the platforms that they established and the constituents they appealed to.
- What are the tasks/responsibilities of political parties in America today?
 - In what ways do they serve as linkage institutions for policy making?

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Political Parties

■ Political Party

- A “team of men [and women] seeking to control the governing apparatus by gaining office in a duly constituted election”

■ Active in three ways:

- Party in the electorate
 - you are if you say you are
- Party as an organization
 - national, state, local offices-rules, bylaws & campaigns
- Party in government
 - Elected officials who carry the title & lead policymaking

Tasks of Political Parties

1. **Parties are a linkage institution**
 - The channels through which people's concerns become political issues on the government's policy agenda
2. **Parties pick candidates**
3. **Parties run campaigns**
4. **Parties give cues to voters**
5. **Parties articulate policies**
6. **Parties coordinate policymaking**
 - Parties usually consulted first about policy ventures

Electoral Formula & Party Systems

Electoral Formula

- mathematical mechanisms governing the transformation of votes into seats
 - Winner-Take-All (Plurality): legislative seats awarded only to first place finishers
 - Proportional Representation (PR): legislative seats awarded based percentage of votes received by the party - more votes, more seats

Party System

- The resulting number and relationships of political parties as linkage institutions within a specific electoral system
 - Winner-Take-All=Two Party System
 - Proportional Representation= Multiparty System

Coalition Government

- two or more parties join to form a majority in a national legislature

Two Party vs. Proportional Representation

Two Party System

- Easy choice for voters
- “Catch-All” Parties that represent the majority of the electorate
- Consistent turn-over of power between the two parties
 - Divided government between exec. & leg.
- Increased potential for policy gridlock
 - Divided government likely

Prop. Rep. System

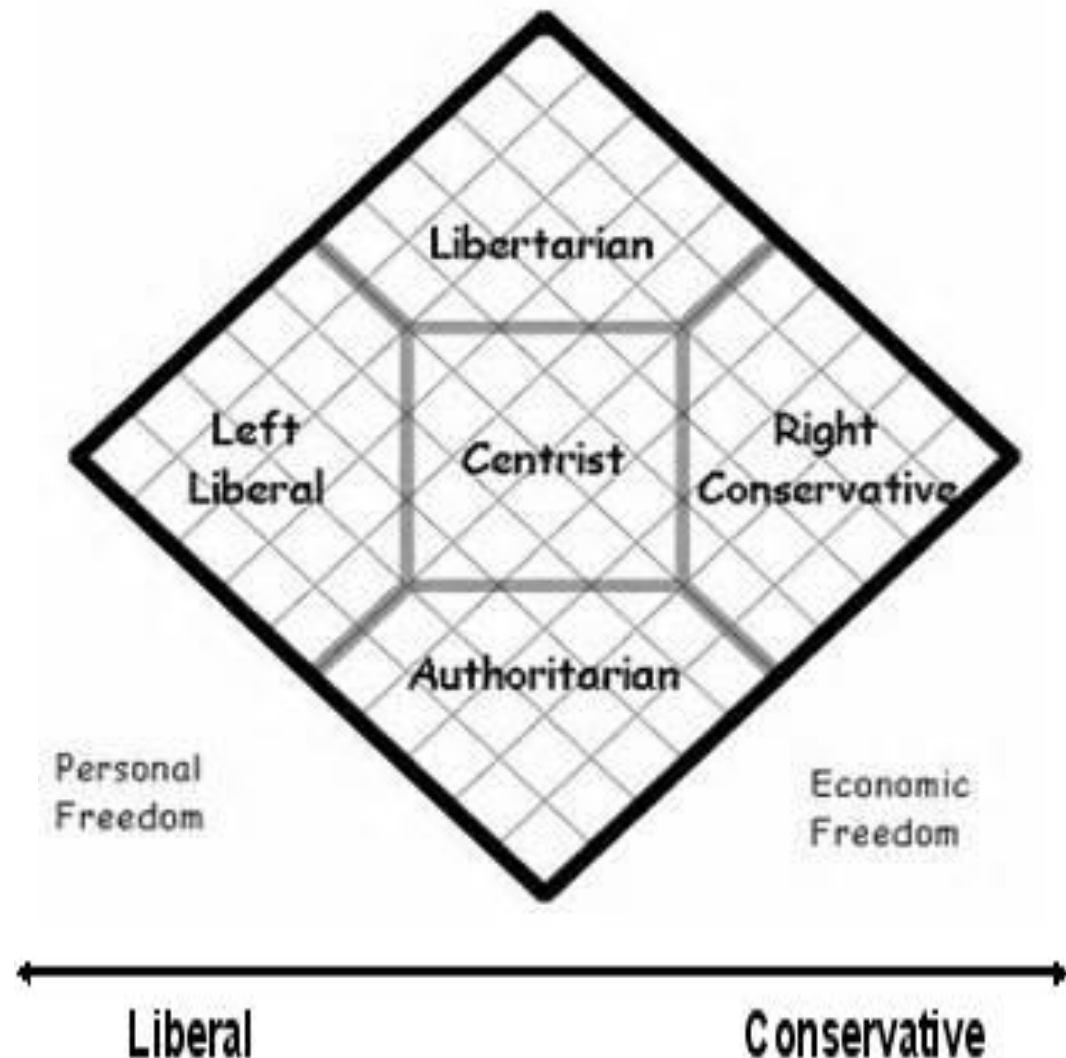
- Multiple parties allowed representation in legislature
- Representative of diverse interests
 - Radical parties receive levels of representation
- Minority interests more represented
- Encourages *coalition governments*
 - Two or more parties join together to form a majority in a national legislature

Political Spectrum

- System of classifying different political positions.

- Liberals
- Conservatives
- Authoritarians
- Libertarian
- Centrists

- Table 6.1; pg. 210



Personal & Economic Freedoms

- **Liberals** - Government should have limited authority over private lives of citizens and their behavior. Favor more government authority over peoples' wealth and earnings and more regulation of businesses, but fewer regulations on social issues.
- **Conservatives** - Expect more government authority over morality and more regulation of your behavior. Limited government authority over peoples' financial matters and prefer less regulation of businesses.
- **Authoritarians** - Prefer government with a significant control over personal *and* economic matters and over businesses.
- **Libertarians** - Government's role is to preserve personal and economic freedom. Feel that government-provided "protection" should only include defense against foreign enemies, holding people who cause harm accountable, and providing for general order.

Warm Up: 1/16-17

Recall Dr. King's quote from *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* (Aug. 1, 1963)

"...You express a great deal of anxiety over our willingness to break laws. This is certainly a legitimate concern. Since we so diligently urge people to obey the Supreme Court's decision of 1954 outlawing segregation in the public schools, it is rather strange and paradoxical to find us consciously breaking laws. One may well ask, "How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?" The answer is found in the fact that there are two types of laws: there are just laws, and there are unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that "An unjust law is no law at all."

Now, what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law, or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law. Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust. All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality ..."

1. What are examples of current laws that you feel fit Dr. King's definition of unjust?
2. How do the Democratic & Republican stances on major policy issues demonstrate different interpretations of "just" and "unjust" laws?
 - Consider single issue ("wedge" issues) that serve to distinguish party identity. (ie. Abortion, gun rights, industrial regulation, etc.)

American's Trust in Government

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEgbiwO-u2w>

Shifts in Public Opinion

- Cold War Politics and domestic strife has led to a decreased sense of trust in the Federal Government
 - 1950s-Present
- Rise in largely conservative ideology
- Major historical factors include:
 - Fear of Communism
 - Foreign involvement in Proxy Wars
 - Korea & Vietnam
 - Cold War Foreign Affairs
 - Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile, Afghanistan, Iran
 - Economic Recessions
 - War on Drugs
 - Scandals
 - Watergate
 - Pentagon Papers
 - Iran-Contra
 - Clinton Impeachment
 - War on Terror
 - Unequal distribution of Wealth



Party Polarization

Party Polarization

- increasing ideological difference between the two parties in the US Congress
 - The current party system (1968-present) is considered the Era of Divided Government

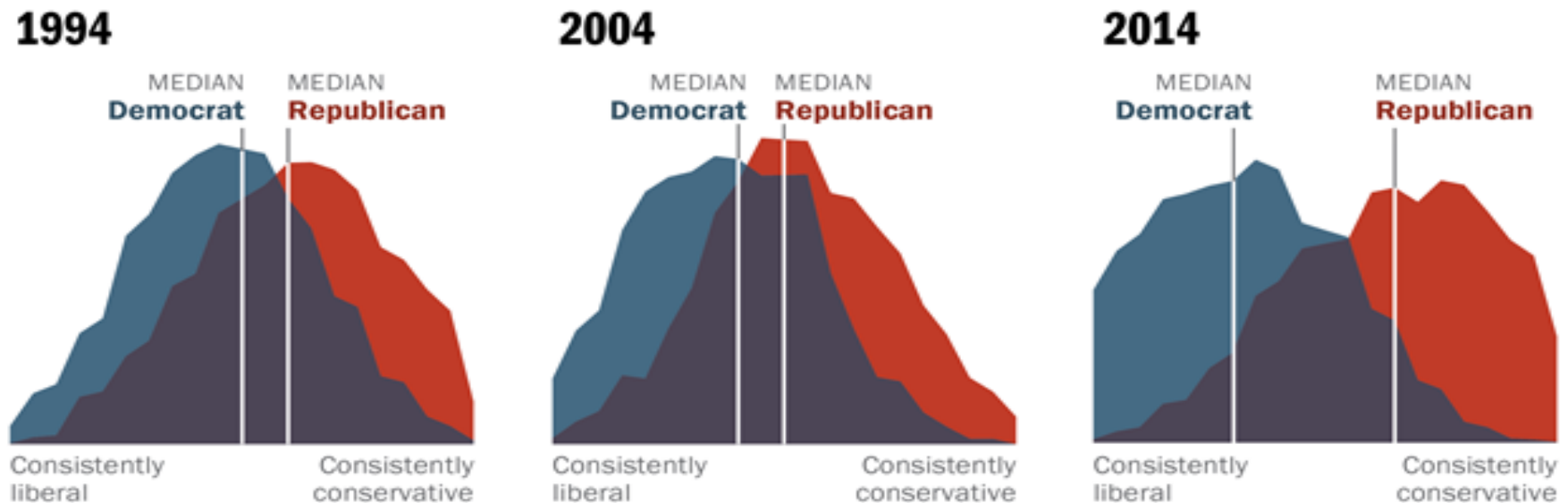
Causes of Party Polarization:

- Clear issue differences in issues of constituents & coalitions
- Changing campaign finance rules & impacts of SuperPACs & 501(c) groups; especially single-issue groups
- Ideologically-driven membership (more radical liberals and/or conservatives)
- Gerrymandering of districts in the House of Representatives & geographic divide between rural and urban settings
- Selective perception & exposure in media driving divided ideologies

Pew Study: Political Spectrum

Democrats and Republicans More Ideologically Divided than in the Past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values



Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public

Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see Appendix A). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats; the red area of Republicans. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple. Republicans include Republican-leaning independents; Democrats include Democratic-leaning independents (see Appendix B).

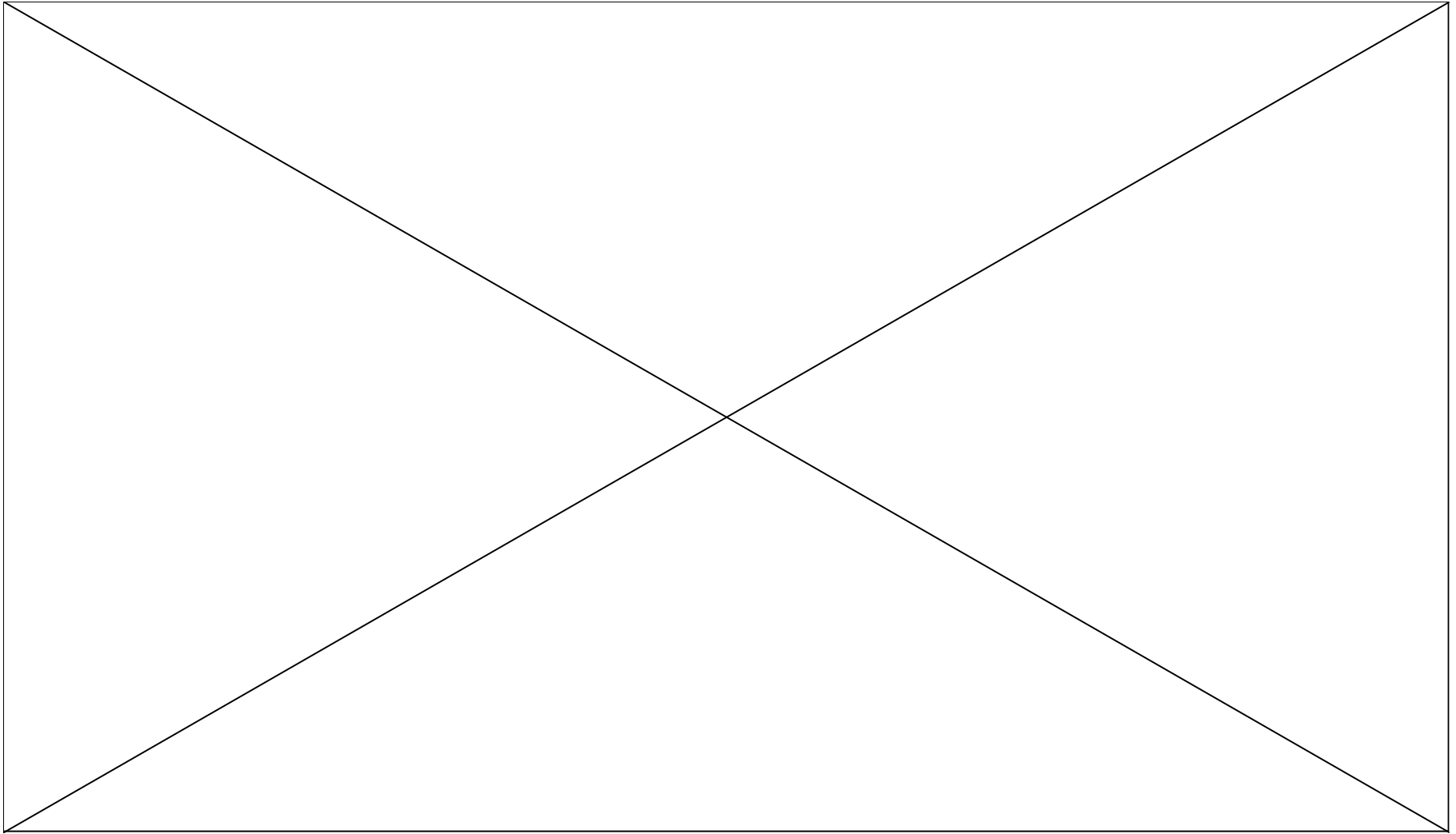
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- **Partisanship**: when party members are relatively unwilling to compromise with opposition party; often causing policy gridlock
- **Party Dealignment**: gradual disengagement of people from the parties, as seen in part by shrinking party identification

Partisanship



Party Politics in America



Party Eras In American History

■ Party Eras

- Historical periods in which a majority of voters cling to the party in power, which tends to win a majority of the elections

■ Critical Election

- Electoral “earthquake” with new issues and coalitions surfacing
- Majority party is often displaced by the minority party
- Sometimes marked by a national crisis
- New party era may take more than one election to emerge

■ Party Realignment

- Displacement of the majority party by the minority party
- Usually during a critical election period

New In-Class Participation Evaluations

What? Weekly grades based upon daily discussion and active class participation.
(15 points per week)

Why? 1) To provide more structured ways to practice political socialization and discourse
2) To encourage every student in class to share their thoughts, questions and experiences

How?

Criteria	Details	Point Value
Visible Engagement/ Active Listening	-Apparent investment in class discussion, lecture, lab, etc. -Respect for speakers: eye contact, paying attention at all times, annotations, etc. - Reflective & equitable consideration of other's viewpoints	5
Disciplined Dialogue	-Consistent and apparent verbalization of viewpoints, understandings, questions, etc. (ALWAYS THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!) -Deliberate use of evidence, class content & themes for conclusions/claims -Constructive contributions that move dialogue in positive direction	5
Conduct & Demeanor	-Unwavering adherence to class expectations/norms of respect and open-mindedness -Consistent professionalism and civility toward one another	5

Reflection & Discussion Practice

Independent Reflection (5 min.)

1. What factors are most influential on how exposed Americans are to alternative viewpoints?
 - What factors isolate people in their own views?
 - What factors integrate people with other views?
2. What role do our political parties play in shaping our political viewpoints?
 - How does this hinder/enable our political system to work?
 - Consider the policy wheel and how policies affect the general population.

Team Discussion (3 min.)

Class wide Discussion (7 min.)

1796-1824: The First Party System

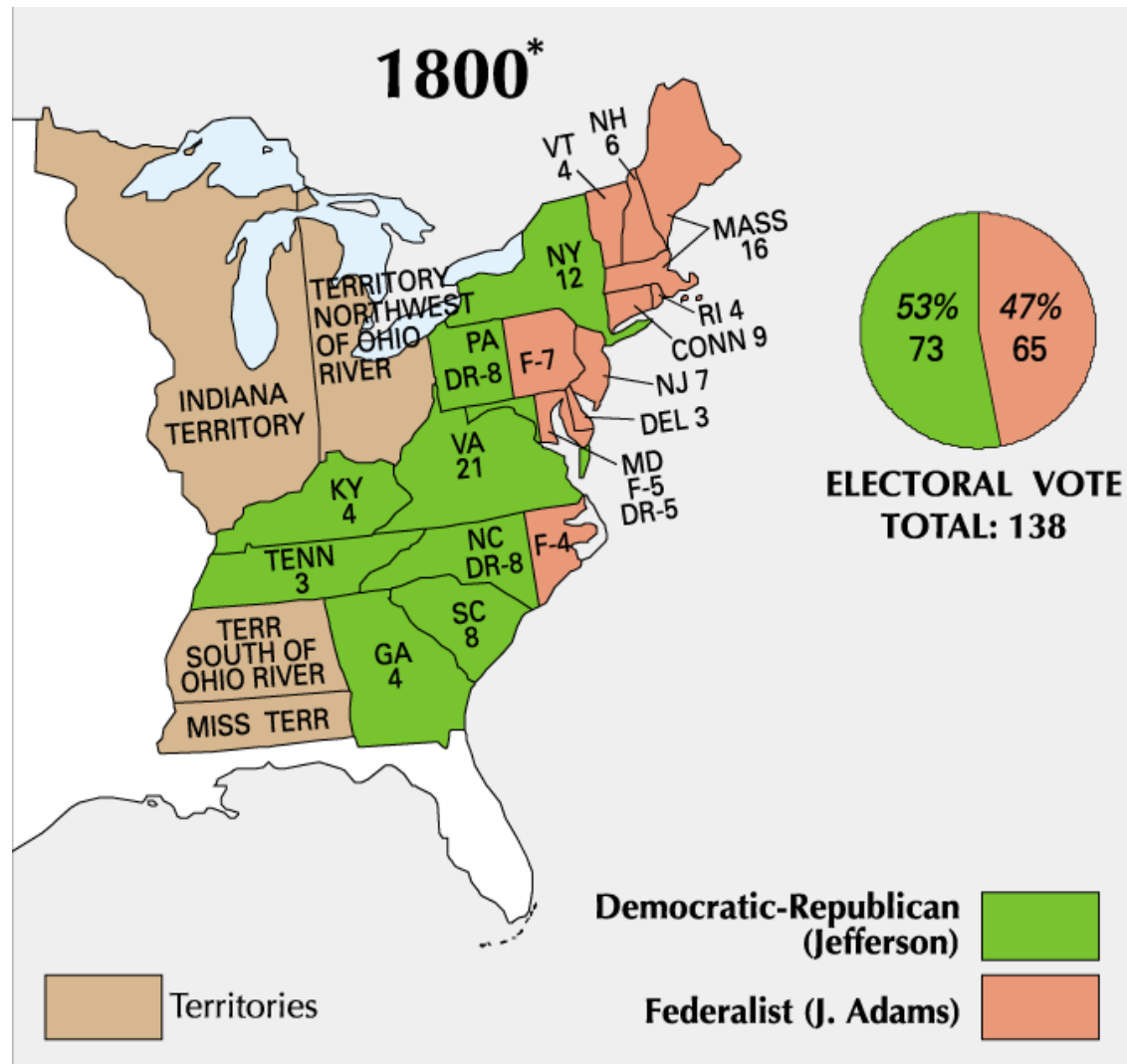
FEDERALISTS

- Led by Alexander Hamilton & John Adams
- Supported strong federal government
- Favored chartering National Bank
 - *McCulloch vs. Maryland*
- Coalition included financial, commercial and manufacturing interests

DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS

- Led by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison & James Monroe
- Supported limited federal government and stronger state powers
- Opposed the National Bank
- Coalition included farmers, shopkeepers, laborers & planters

Critical Election: 1800



#2. 1828-1856: Jackson and the Democrats versus the Whigs

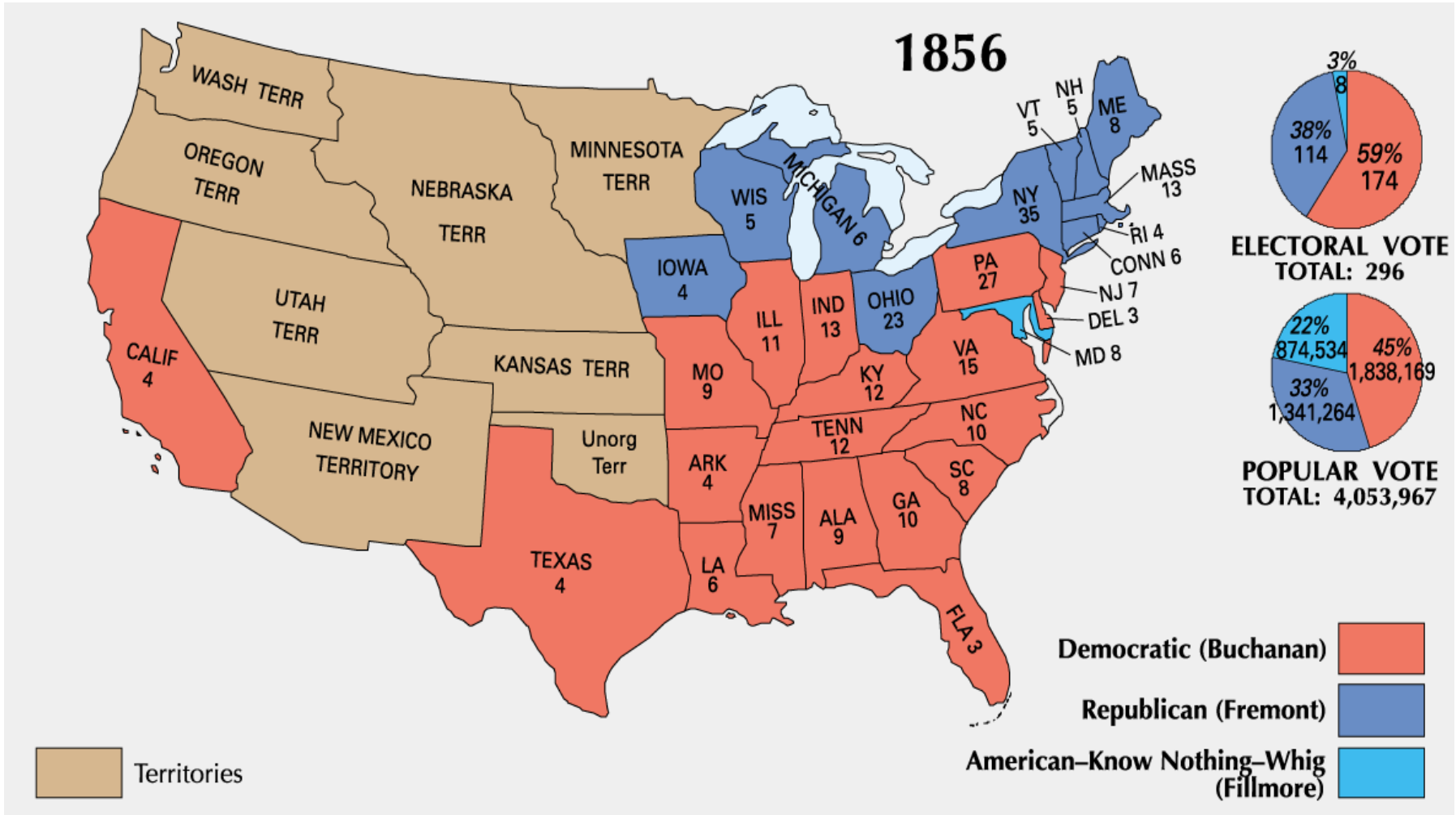
JACKSONIAN DEMOCRATS (DEMOCRATS)

- Led by Andrew Jackson
- Smaller government
 - Opposed recharter of Nat. Bank
- Supported universal male suffrage in all states
- Utilized spoils system to reward party loyalists
- Coalition included debtors, frontiersmen and small farmers in the West and South

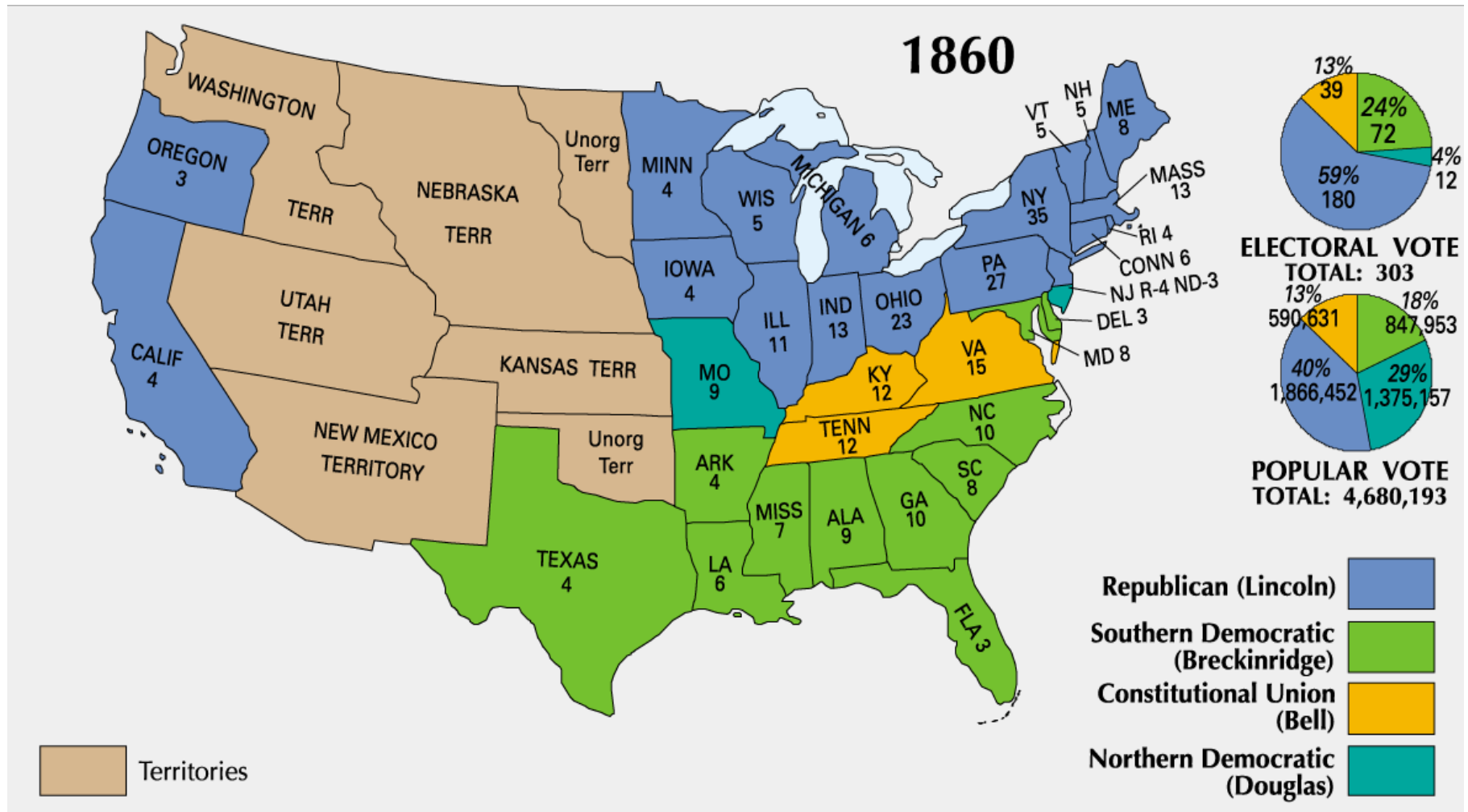
WHIGS

- Led by Henry Clay & Daniel Webster
- Larger government
 - Supported recharter of Nat. Bank
- High tariffs and protection of American manufacturing & businesses
- “American System” of building infrastructure for commerce
- Coalition included eastern bankers, merchants, industrialists & owners of large plantations

Critical Election: 1856



Critical Election: 1860



1860-1928: The Republican Era

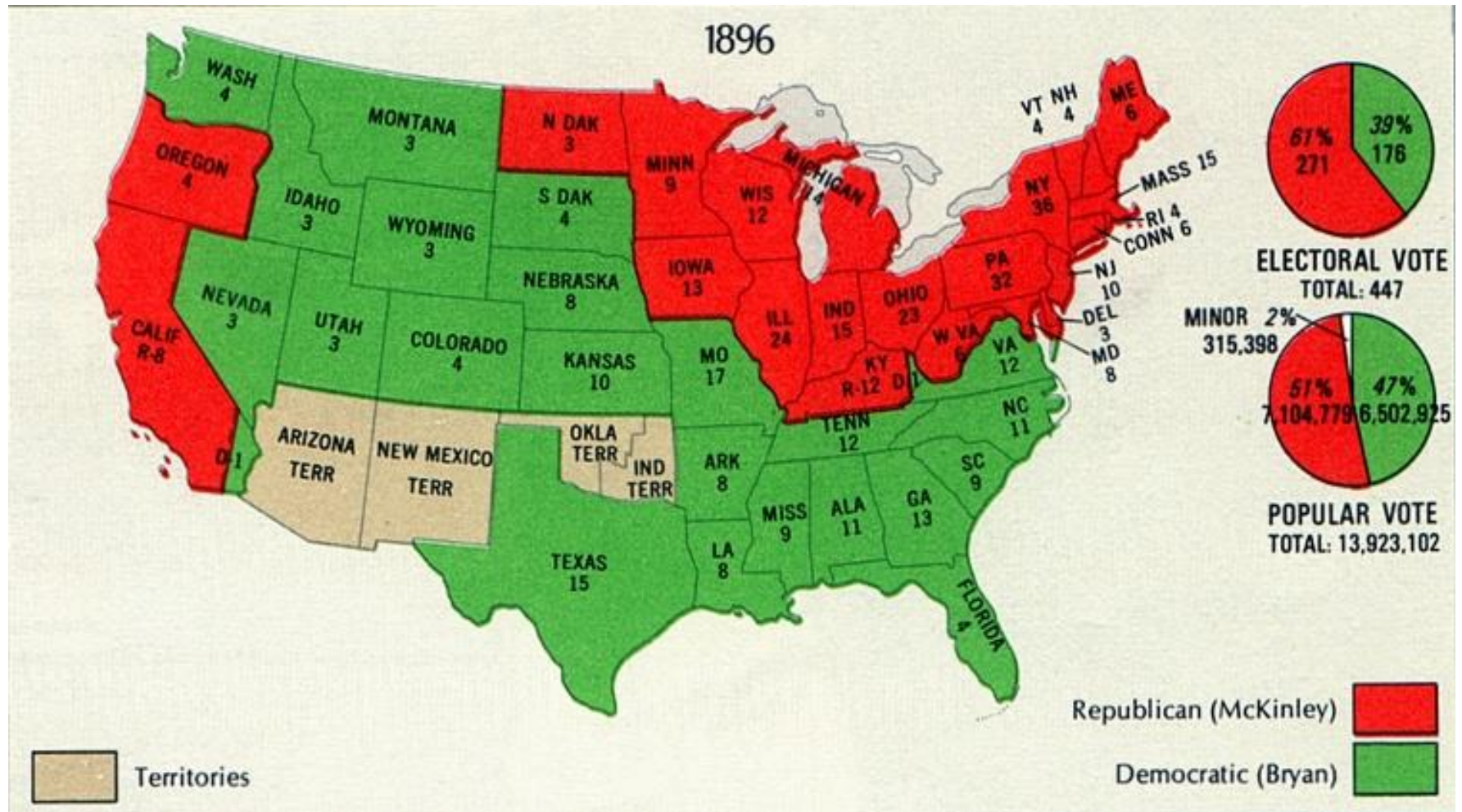
REPUBLICANS

- Anti-slavery party emerged prior to Civil War
 - Presided over Exec. & Congress for a decade following
- Favored larger government for civil rights
 - Smaller government for economic development
- Coalition included northern industrialists, northern abolitionists, Northern & Western bankers

DEMOCRATS

- Survived Civil War by lenient post-War policies toward South
- Confederate politicians were re-elected to most local & state offices
 - Some federal offices
- Favored free silver and increased regulations on railroads
 - Small faction favored greenbacks
- Coalition included Southerners & western farmers

Critical Election: 1896



1932-1964: FDR & the New Deal Coalition

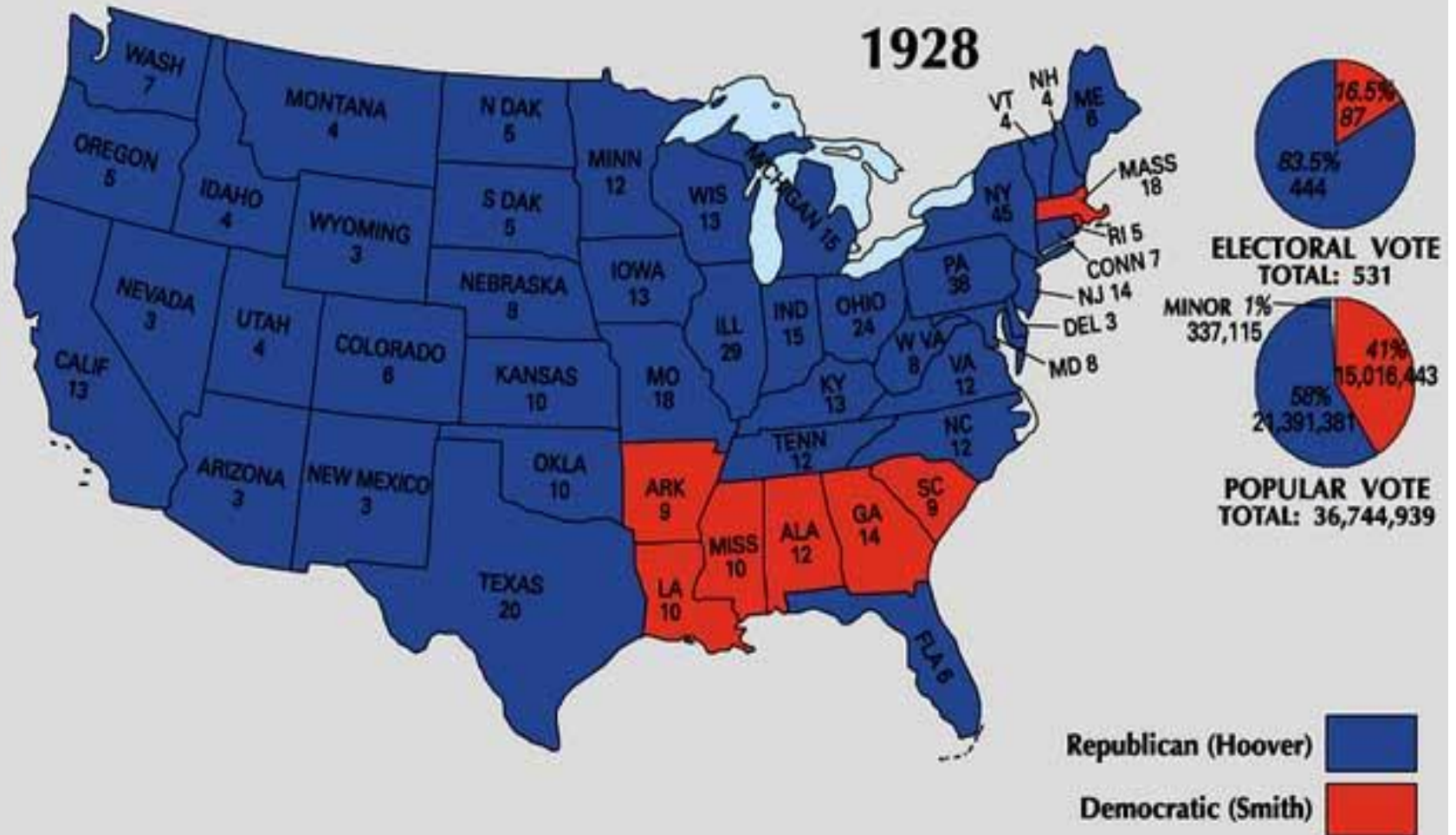
DEMOCRATS

- Led by Franklin D. Roosevelt during Great Depression
 - New Deal Legislation; “First 100 Days”
- Vastly increased size and power of federal government
 - Keynesian “pump priming” economics
- Coalition included *urban dwellers*, labor unions, Catholics & Jews, Southerners, *African Americans*

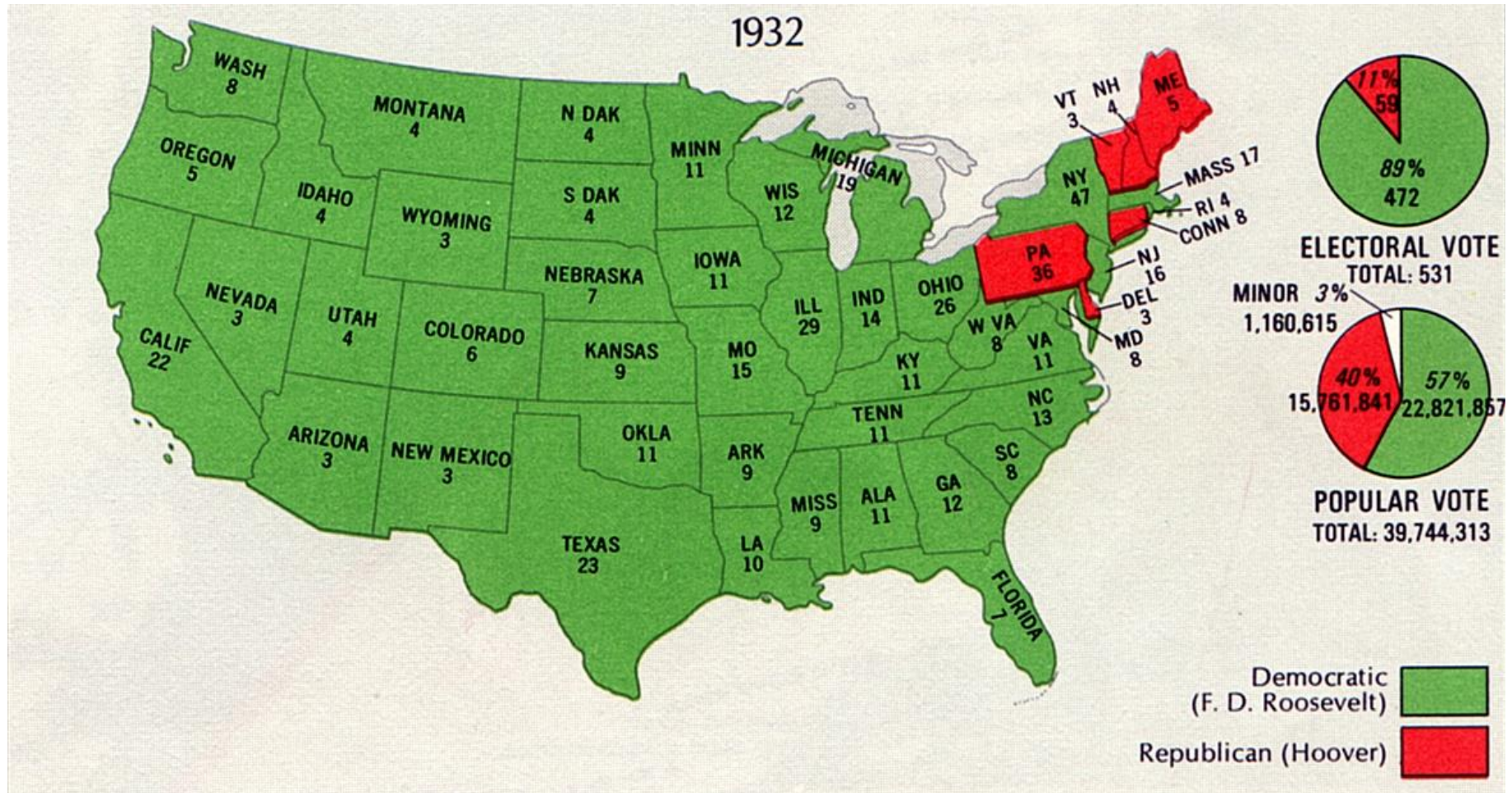
REPUBLICANS

- Unpopularity of Herbert Hoover from 1929-1933 led to vast realignment
- Favored laissez-faire policies toward the Depression
 - Voluntarism
- Opposed vast growth in size & power of the federal government
- Coalition included Northern business leaders & wealthy industrialists

Critical Election: 1928



Critical Election: 1932



1968-Present: Era of Divided Government

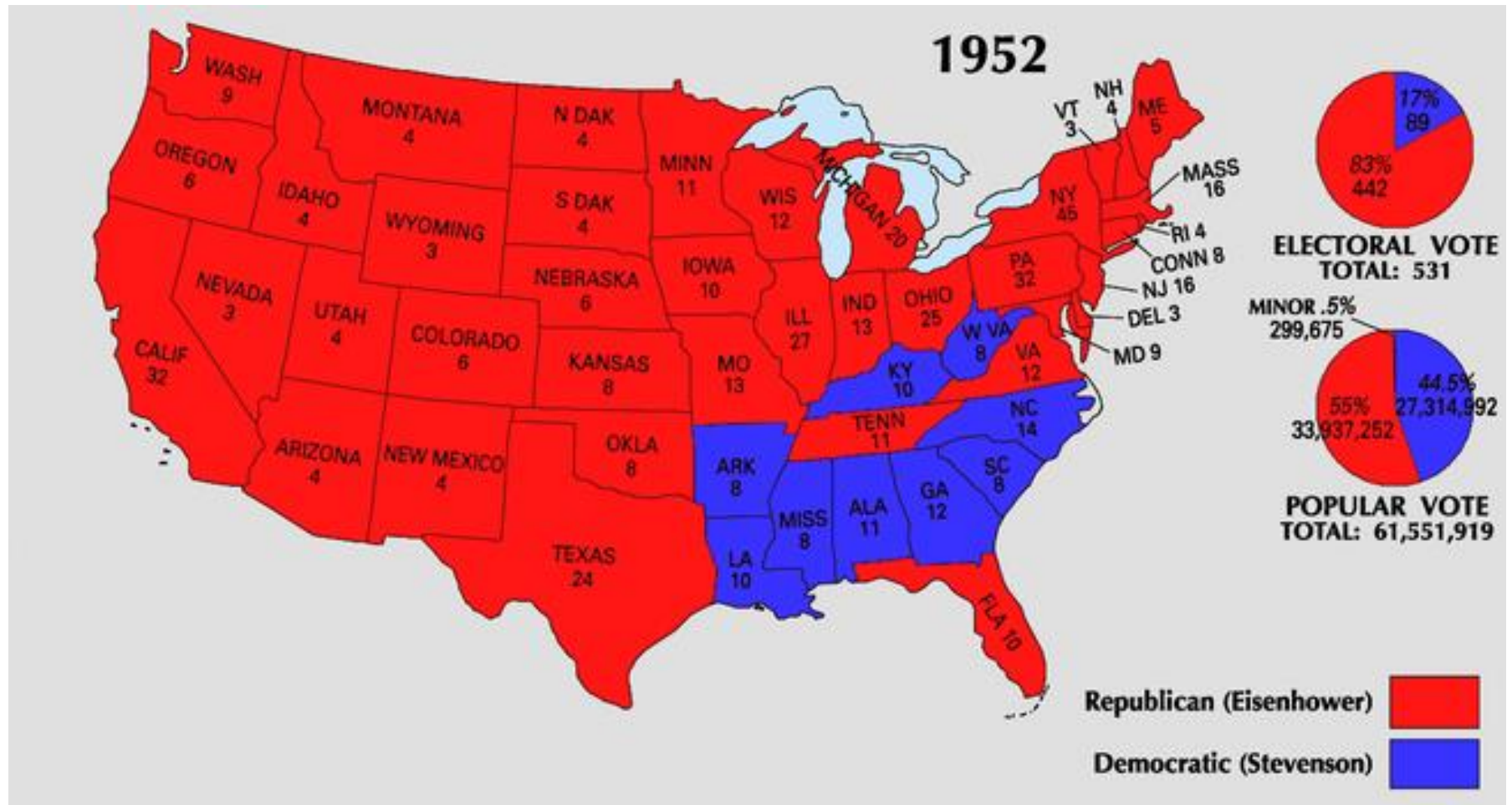
REPUBLICANS

- Richard Nixon's election in 1968 marked beginning of Rep. dominance of White House
 - 1969-1977; 1981-1993
 - "Southern Strategy"
 - Breaking Dem. Dominance of South; realignment of past 4 decades
- Fueled by "New Right" of late 1970s-early '80s
 - Reagan's popularity fueled by timely terms with the end of the Cold War
- Favor more government intervention in social issues, and laissez-faire economic policies
- Coalition includes Southerners, Protestant Christians, large business owners, rural dwellers & "Baby Boomers"

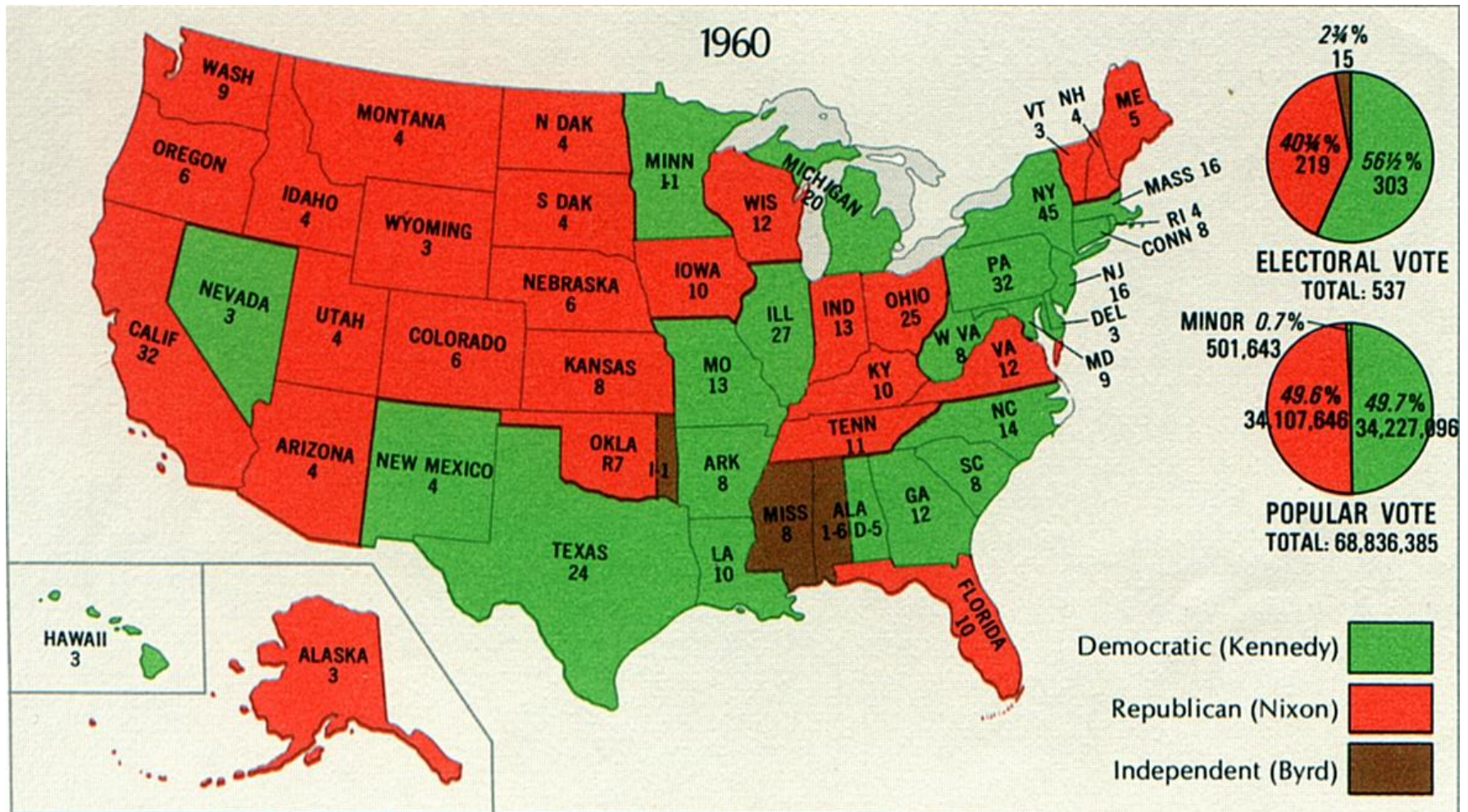
DEMOCRATS

- Reclaimed Presidency with Clinton's election in 1992
 - "New Democrats"-Attempted to move the Democratic party more toward the center
 - Merging Liberal and Conservative ideals
- Obama and Clinton have attempted health care reform
 - Most successful: Affordable Care Act (2010)
- Favor more government intervention in economic issues, and less intervention in social rights
- Coalition includes Northerners, urban dwellers, Catholics, Jews, African Americans, Latinos, & "Gen. X" & Millennials

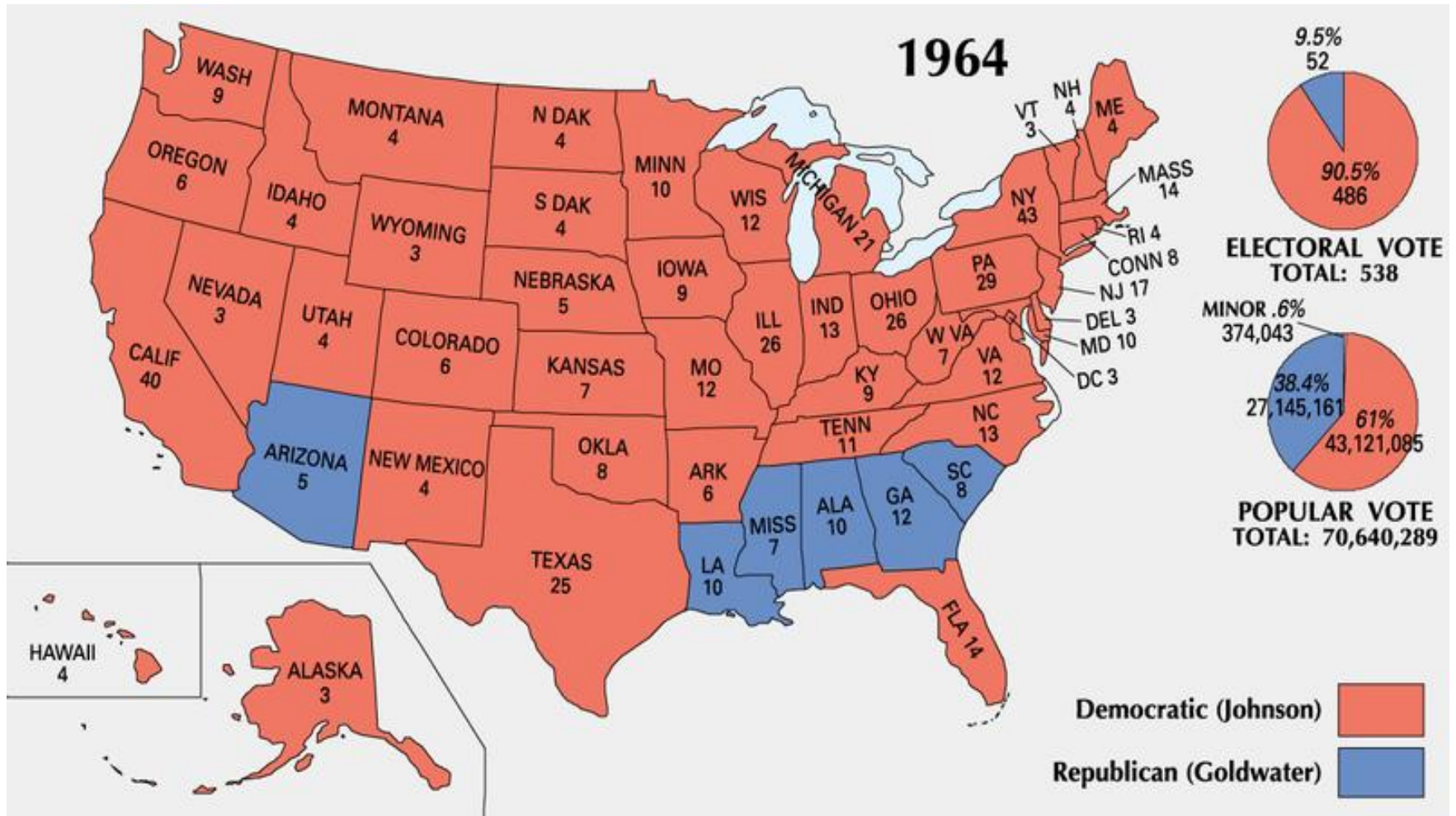
Era of Divided Government: 1952 Election



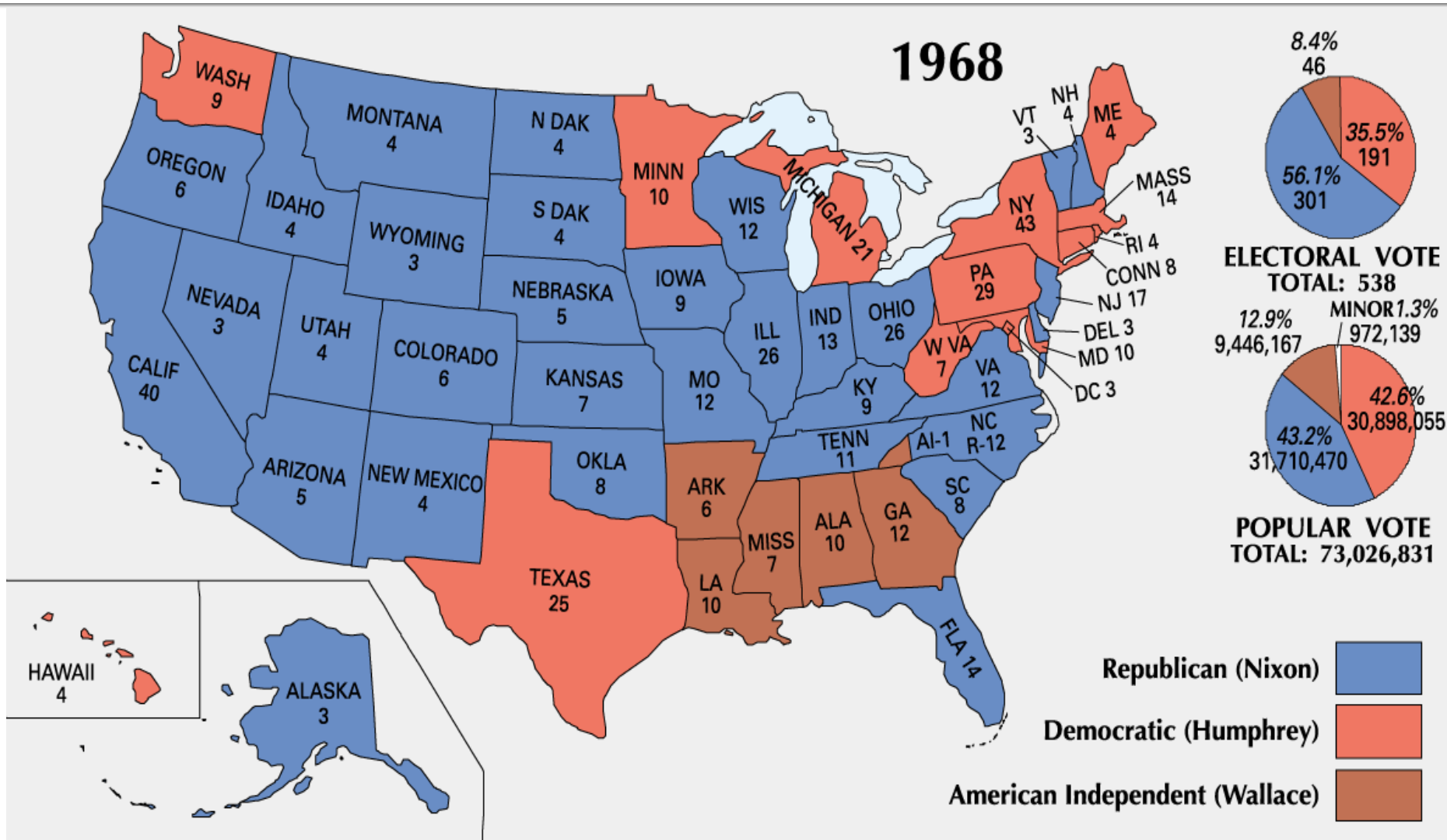
Era of Divided Government: 1960 Election



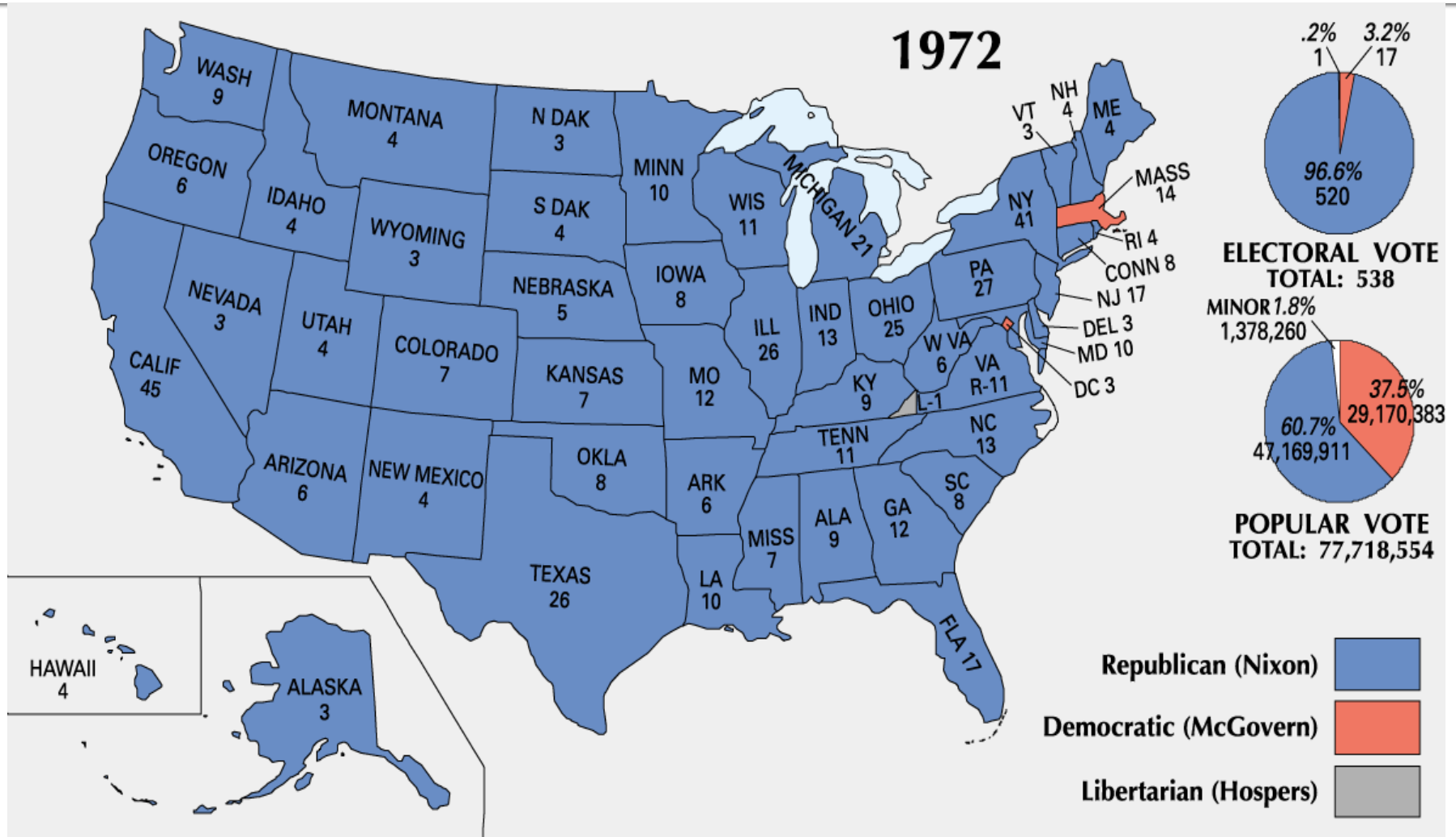
Era of Divided Government: 1964 Election



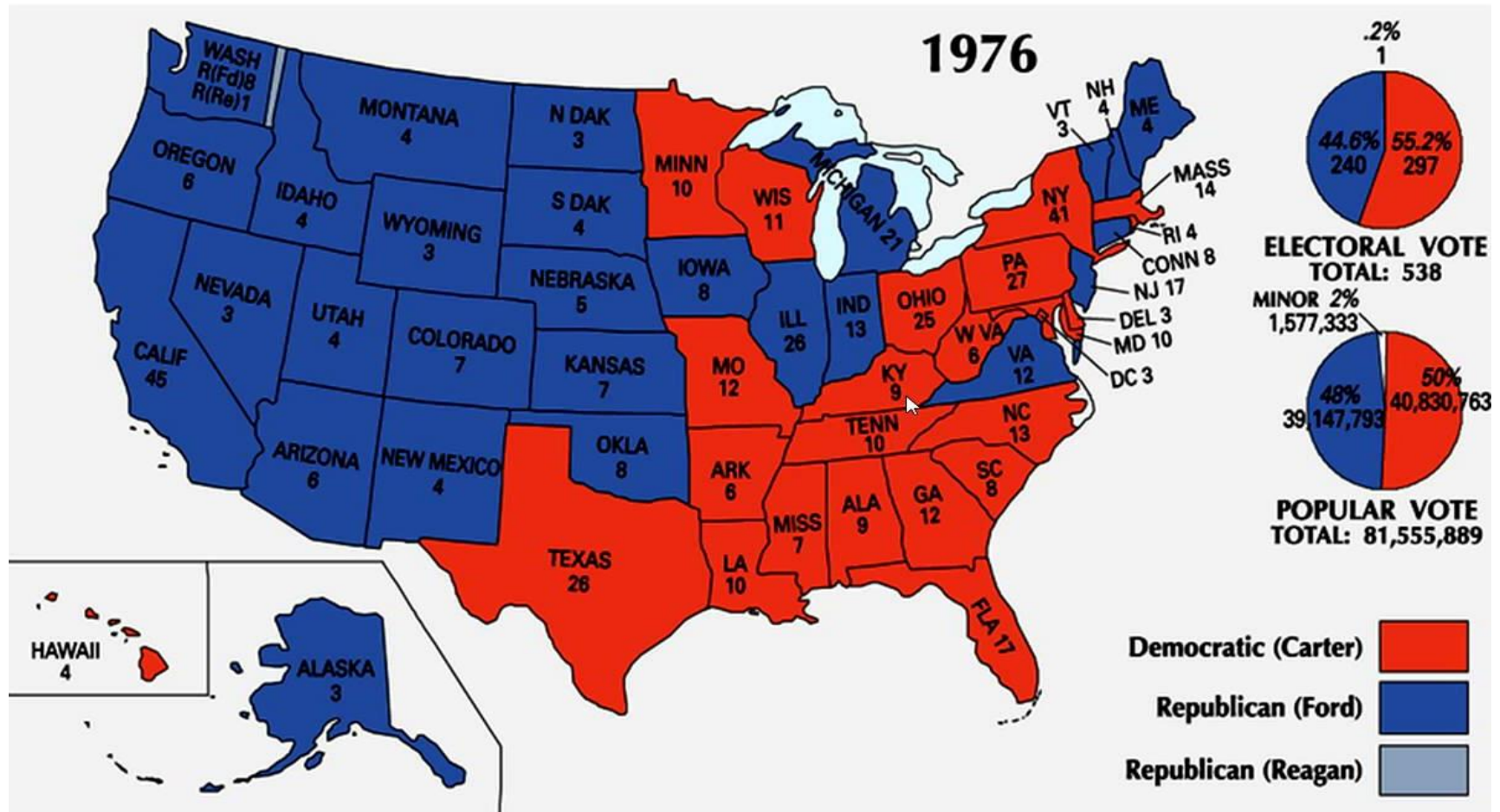
Era of Divided Government: 1968 Election



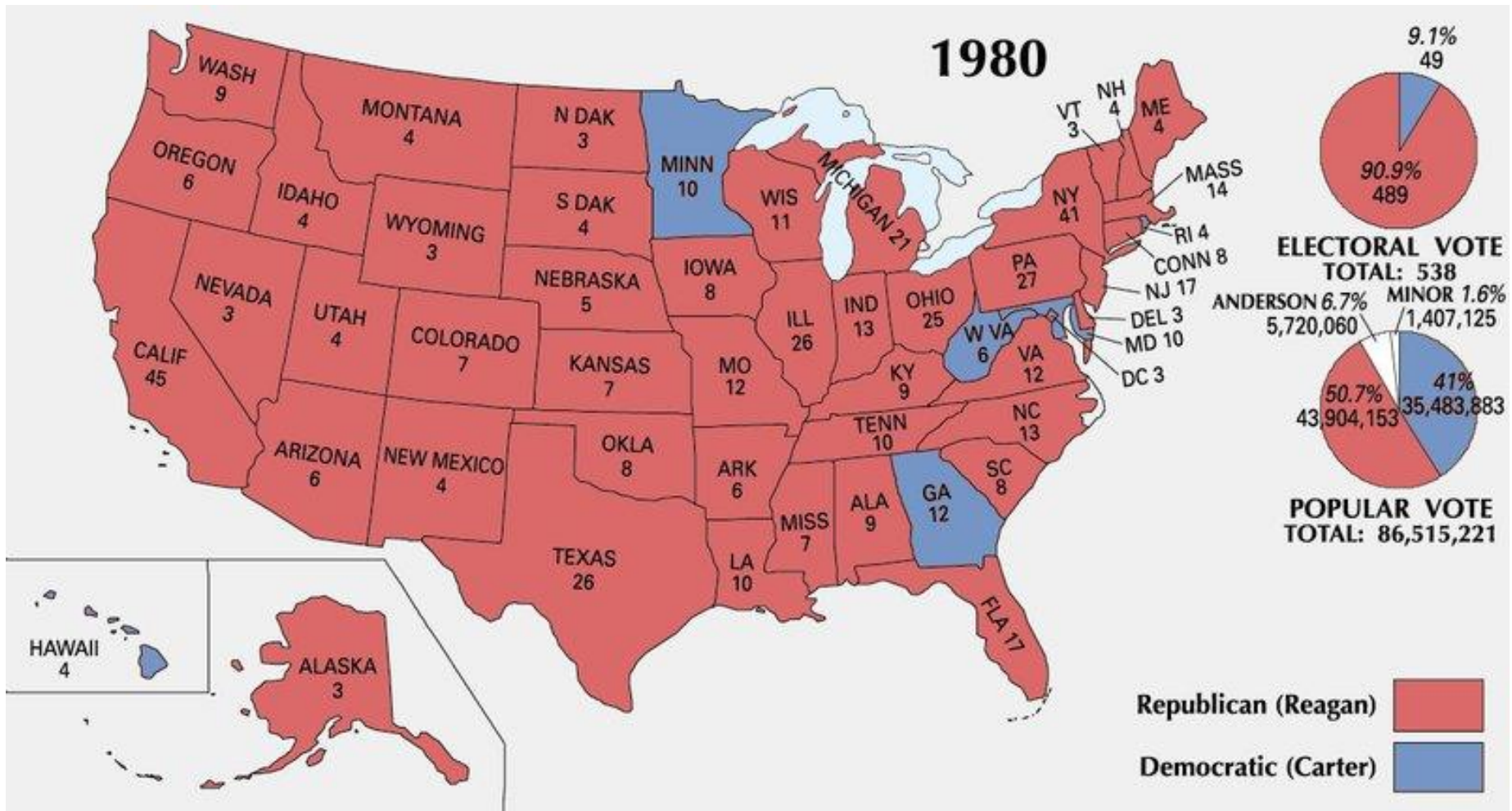
Era of Divided Government: 1972 Election



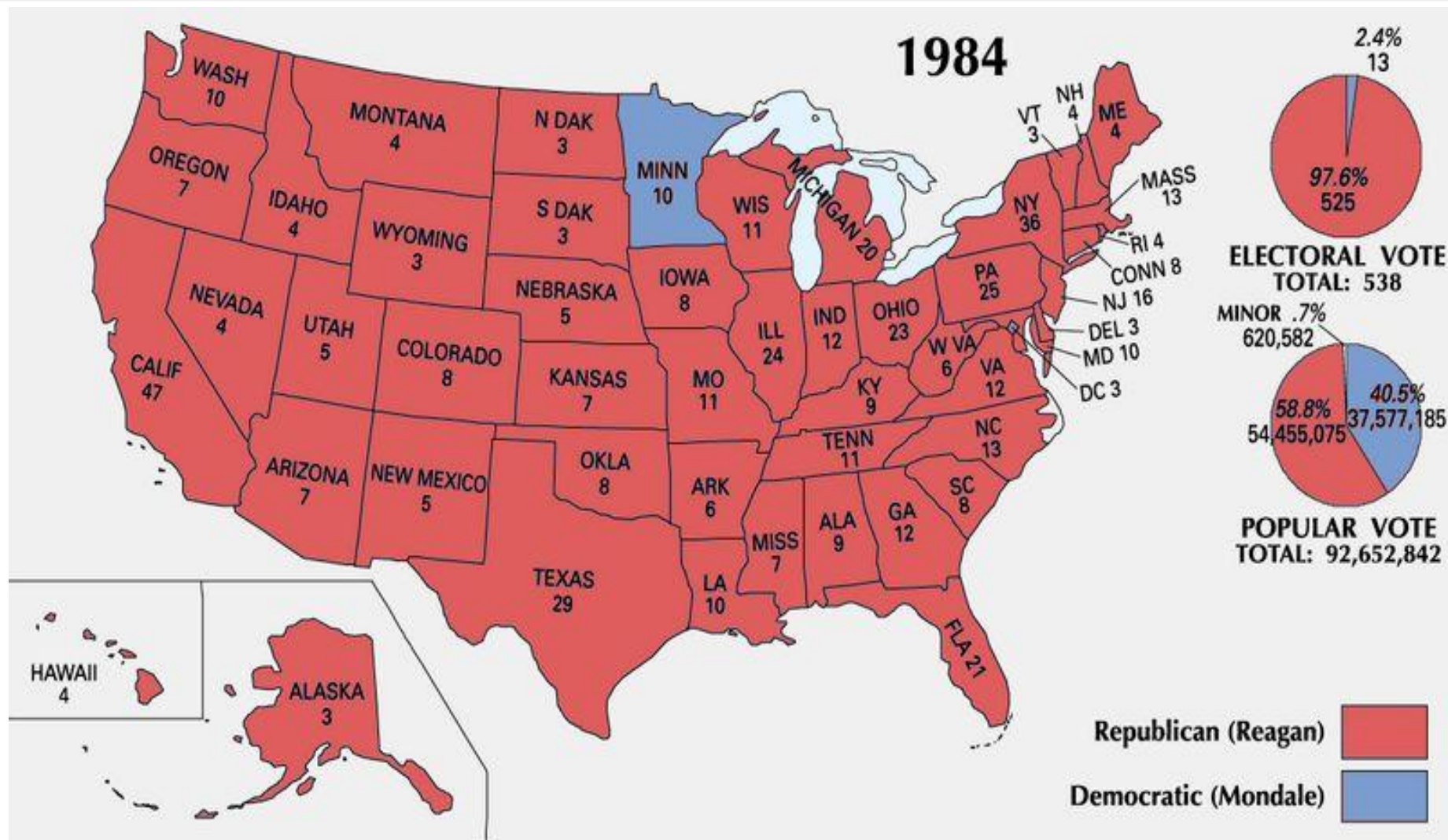
Era of Divided Government: 1976 Election



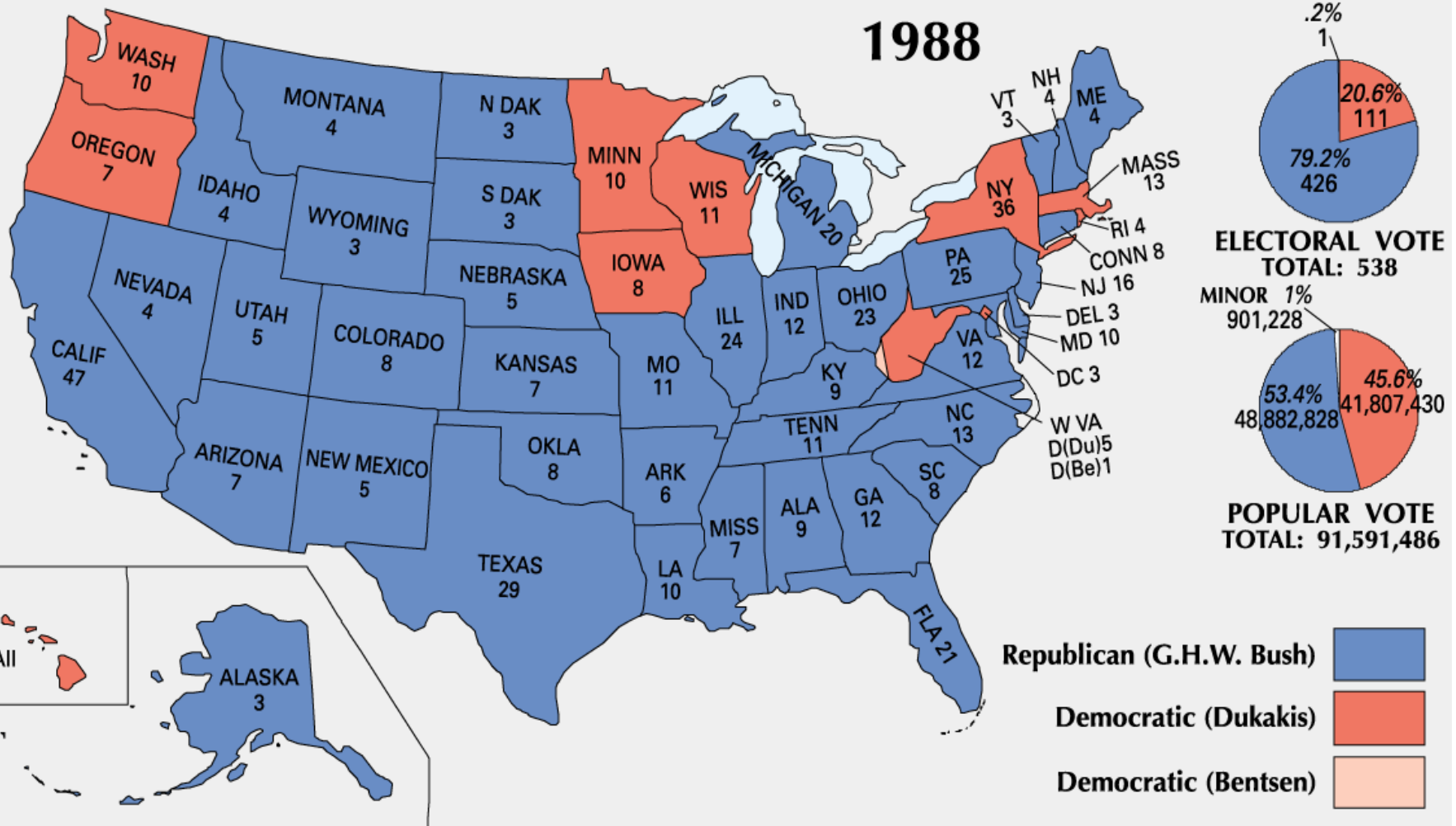
Era of Divided Government: 1980 Election



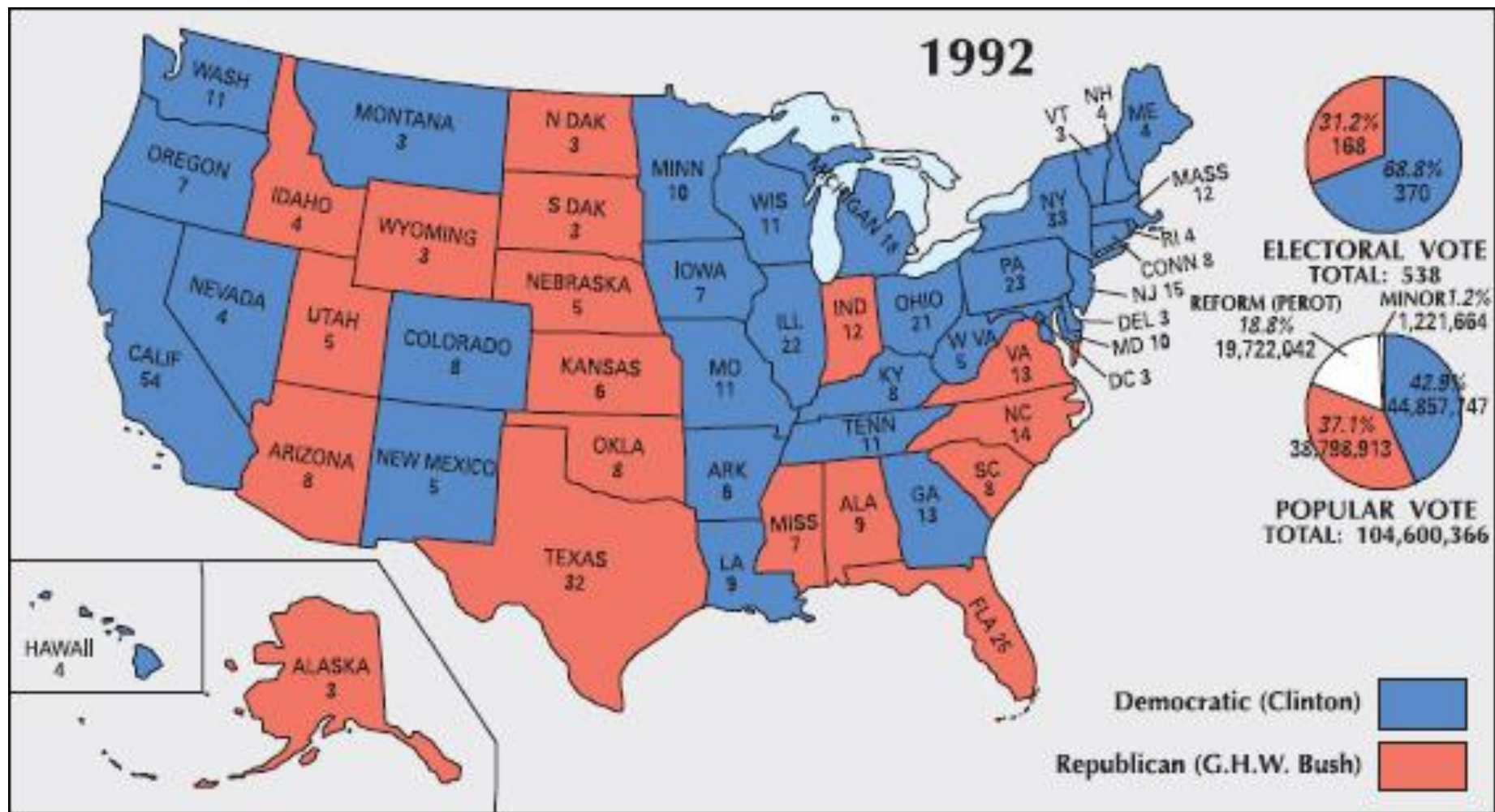
Era of Divided Government: 1984 Election



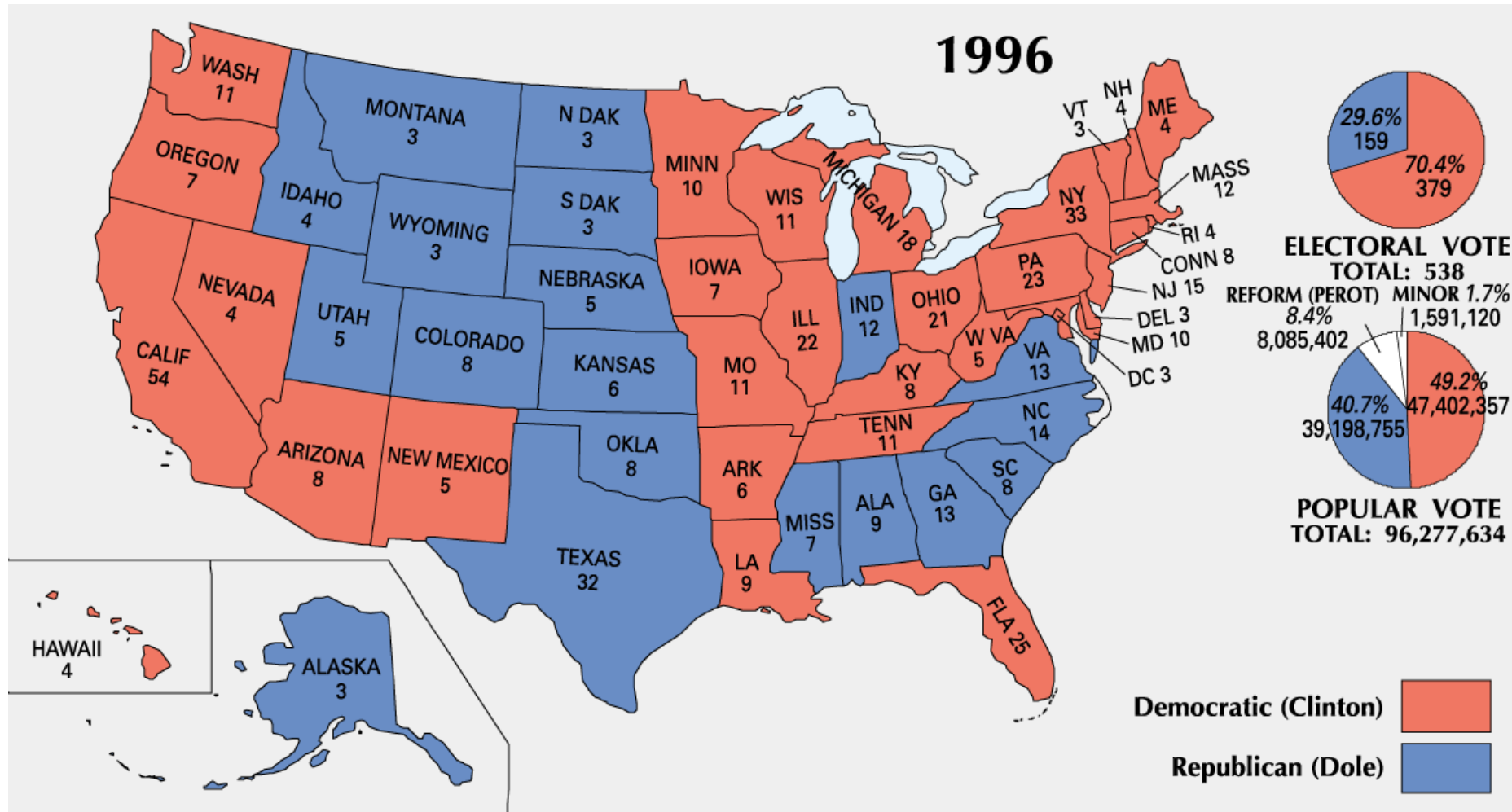
Era of Divided Government: 1988 Election



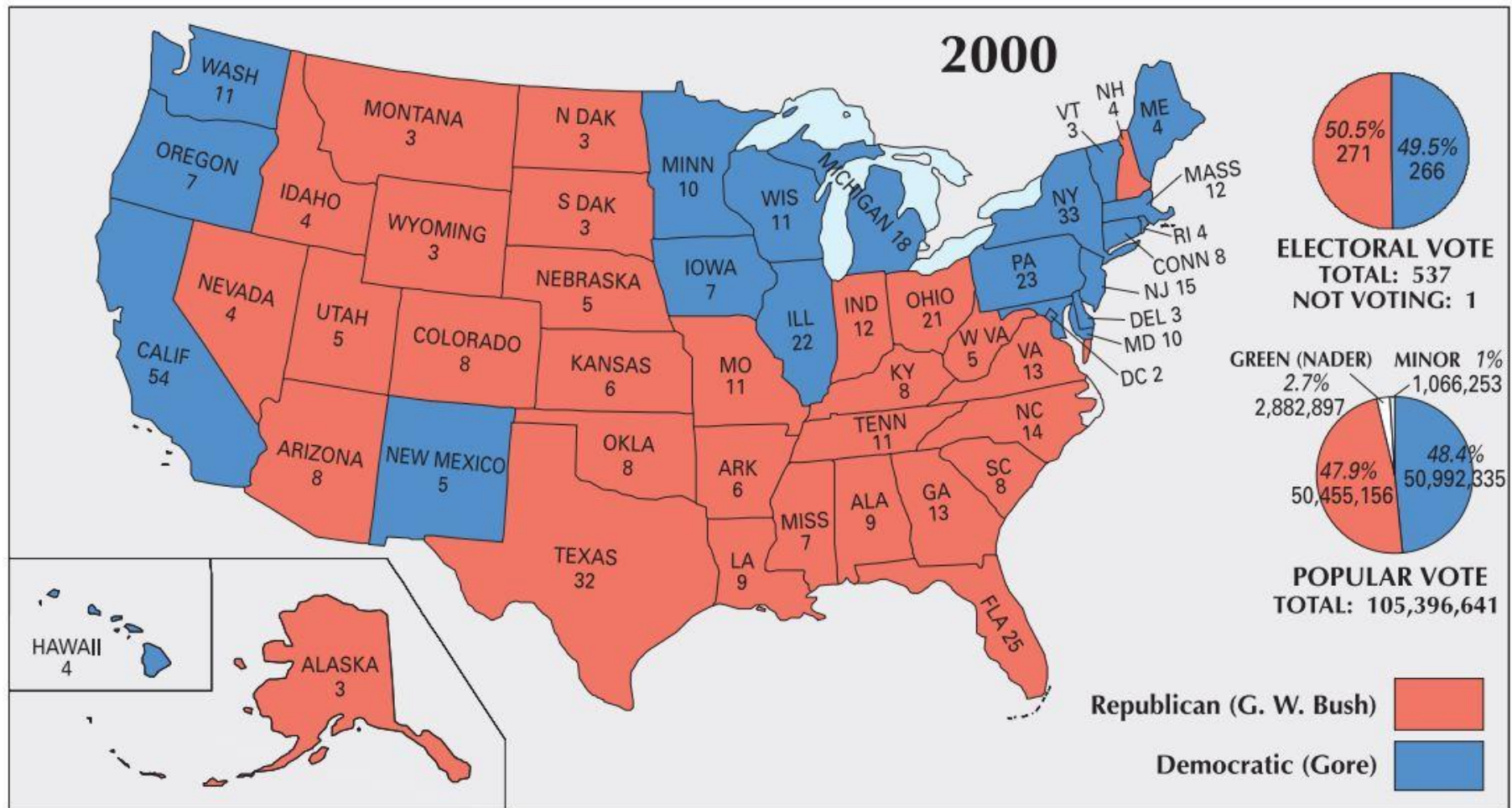
Era of Divided Government: 1992 Election



Era of Divided Government: 1996 Election

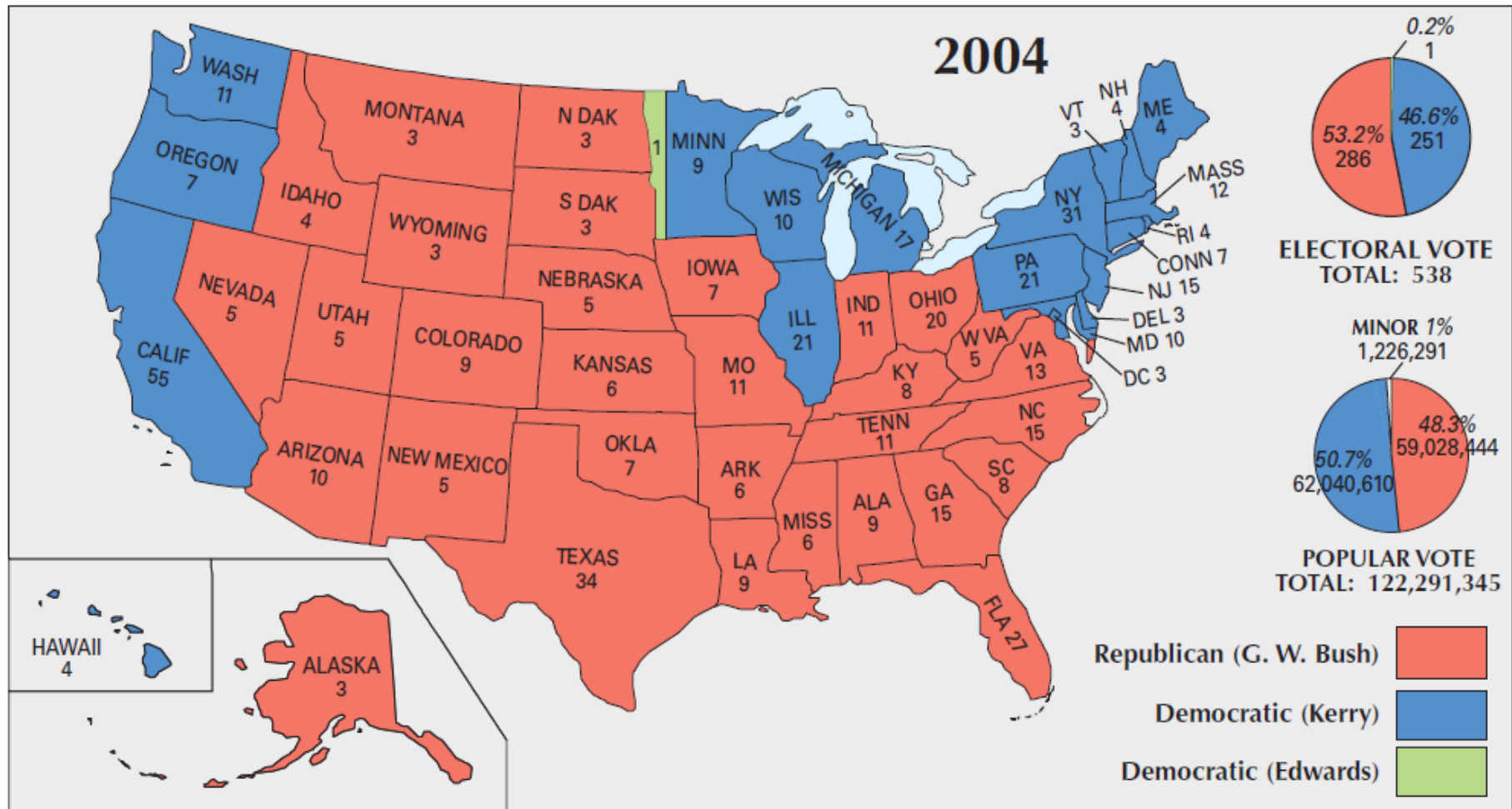


Era of Divided Government: 2000 Election (Critical Election?)

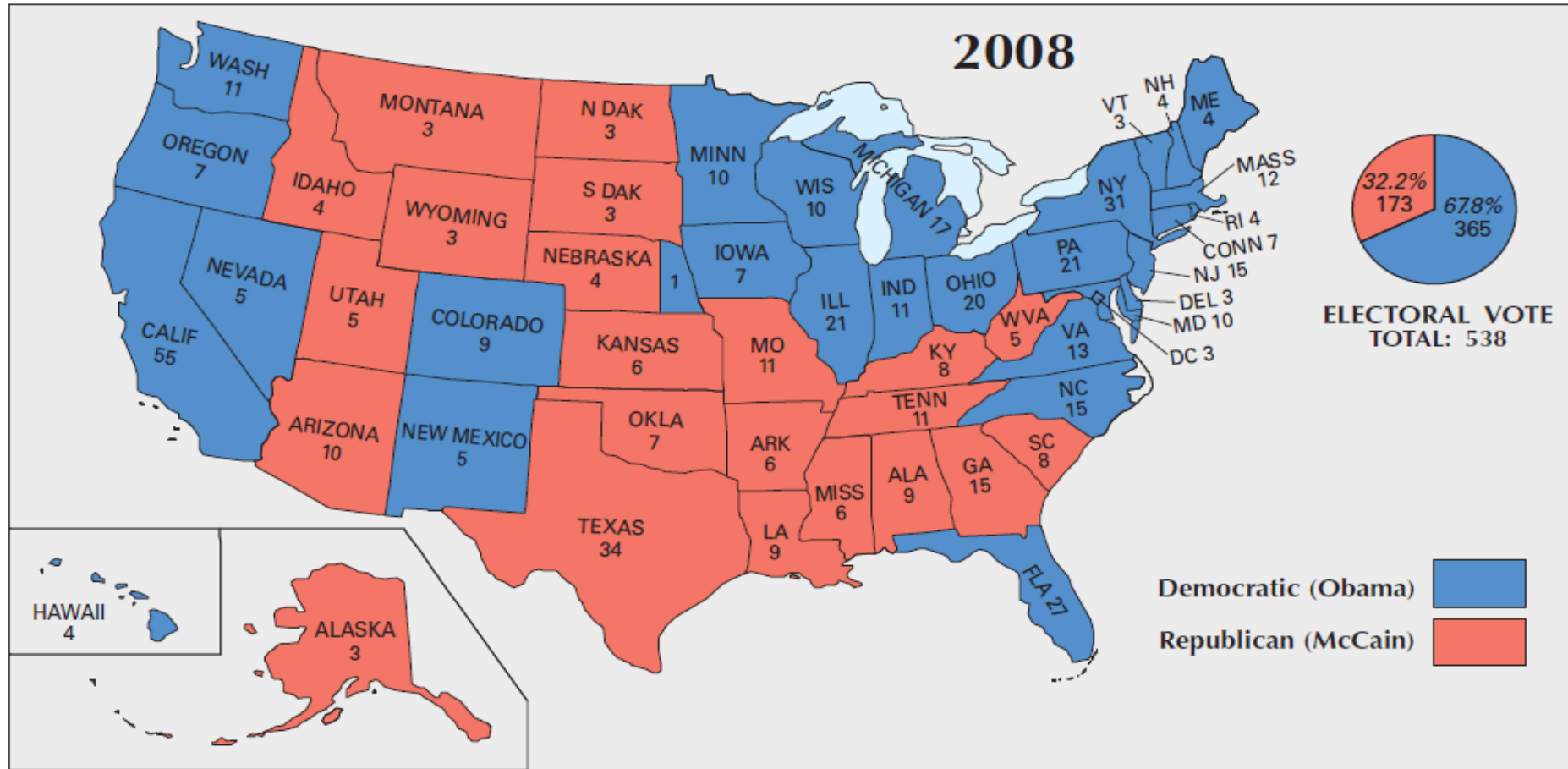


Republican candidate G.W. Bush won the electoral vote but lost the popular vote to Democratic candidate Gore.
One elector from the District of Columbia abstained from voting.

Era of Divided Government: 2004 Election



Era of Divided Government: 2008 Election



Nebraska's five electoral votes were split between the two major party tickets; McCain won overall and received four electoral votes, and the Obama ticket won one electoral vote.

Era of Divided Government: 2012 Election

Presidential election

Electoral
votes

303

Obama

270 needed to win

206

Romney

States won

- Obama
- Romney
- Not called



- R.I.
- Del.
- D.C.

Results as of
6:15 a.m. EST

Congressional balance of power

Senate

2 Independent

2 Not called

100 total

51 DEM

45 GOP

House

Majority

435 total

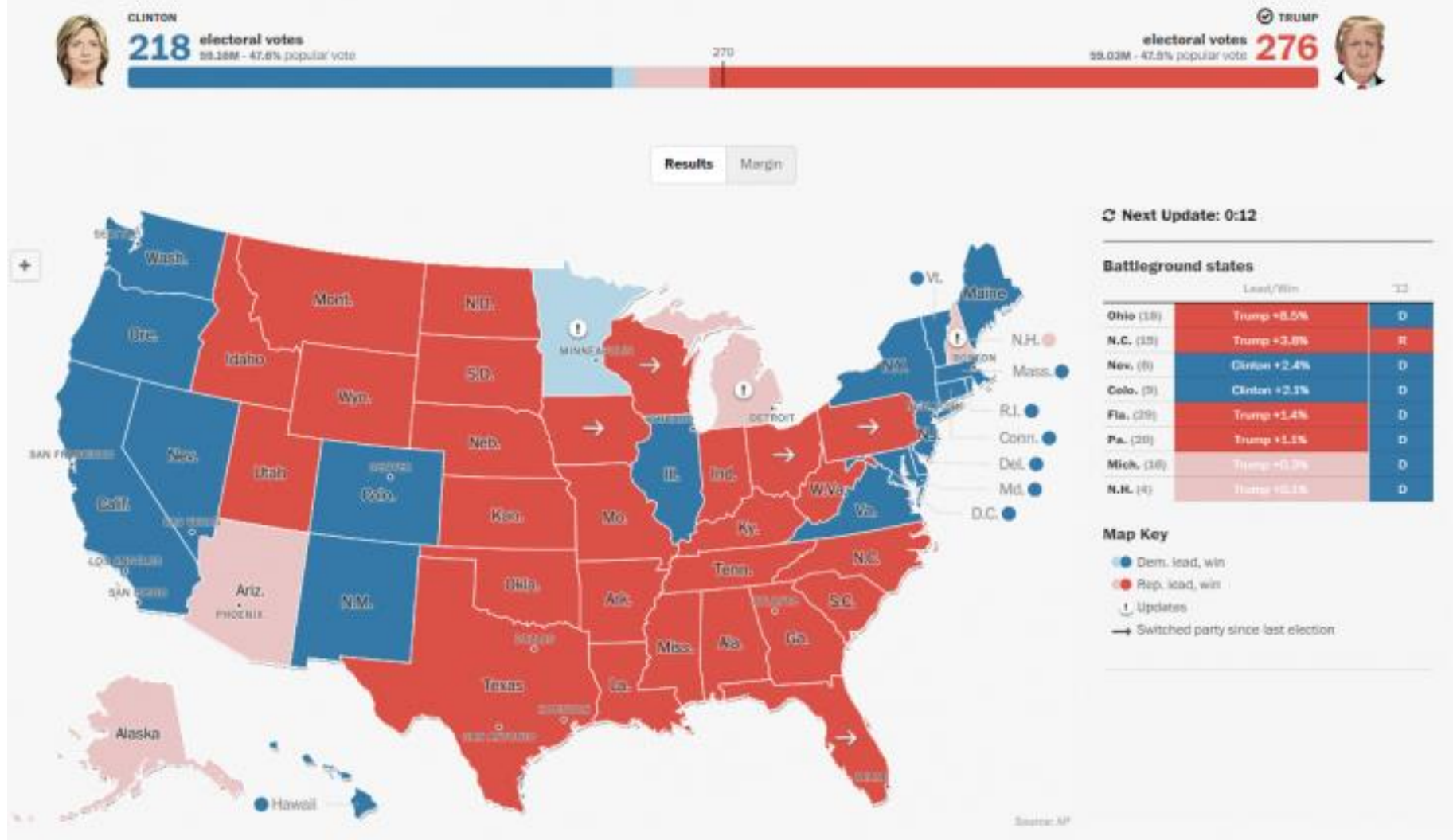
187 DEM

232 GOP

16 Not called

SOURCE: AP Election Research

Era of Divided Government: 2016 Election (Critical Election?)



Party Polarization in Congress

Polarized Congress

- Members are increasingly divided by political ideology.
- A generation ago, the “liberal” faction included Republicans, and the “conservative” faction included Democrats.
- Since the late 1990s, Congress has been polarized along ideological and partisan lines.
- Attitudinal explanations of how Congress votes have increased in importance in policy voting and decisionmaking.

Party Polarization in Congress

Polarized Congress:

- Organizational explanation is of decreasing importance.
- Polarization among members on the basis of political beliefs greater than that of voters
 - More likely to challenge, investigate, or denounce each other
 - Less likely to negotiate over legislation or to reach compromise settlements

Political Statistical Interpretation

Deciphering Political Statistics

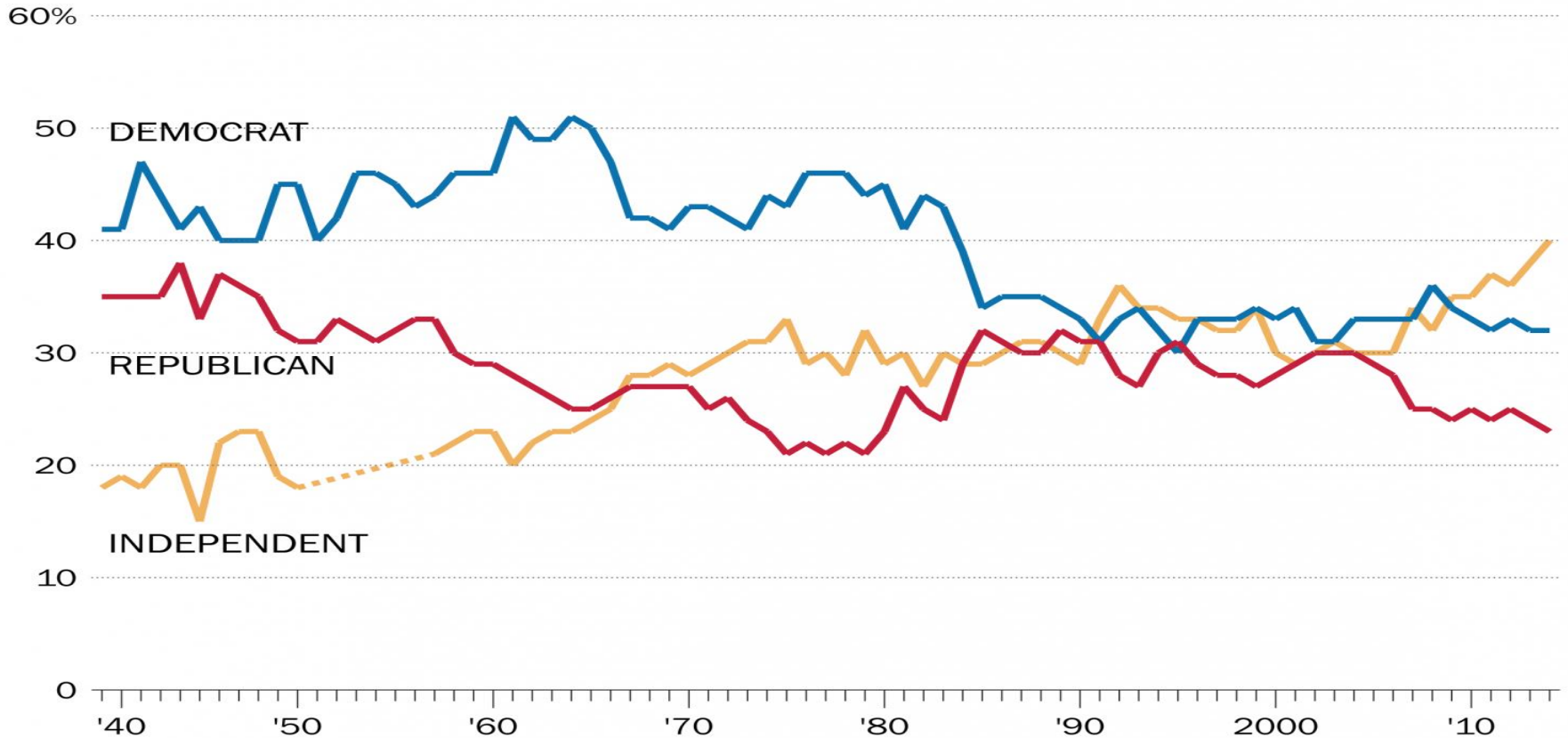
Complete a **comprehension statement** for this primary source:

1. **Cite it: 1-2 sentences**; What is the title/subject of the data & where is it from? (if available) **[1 pt]**
2. **Explain it: 2-3 Sentences**; What are the general trends & patterns shown? How are the dependent and independent variables correlated through the data? **[2 pts]**
3. **Elaborate upon it: 1-2 Sentences**; What is the significance of the trends/patterns and how do they relate to the political phenomena/topic we are discussing? What are the broad conclusions that should be taken away from the data about American government & politics?**[2 pts]**

Party Identification Trends

Partisan identification trends since 1939

Data from Pew Research.

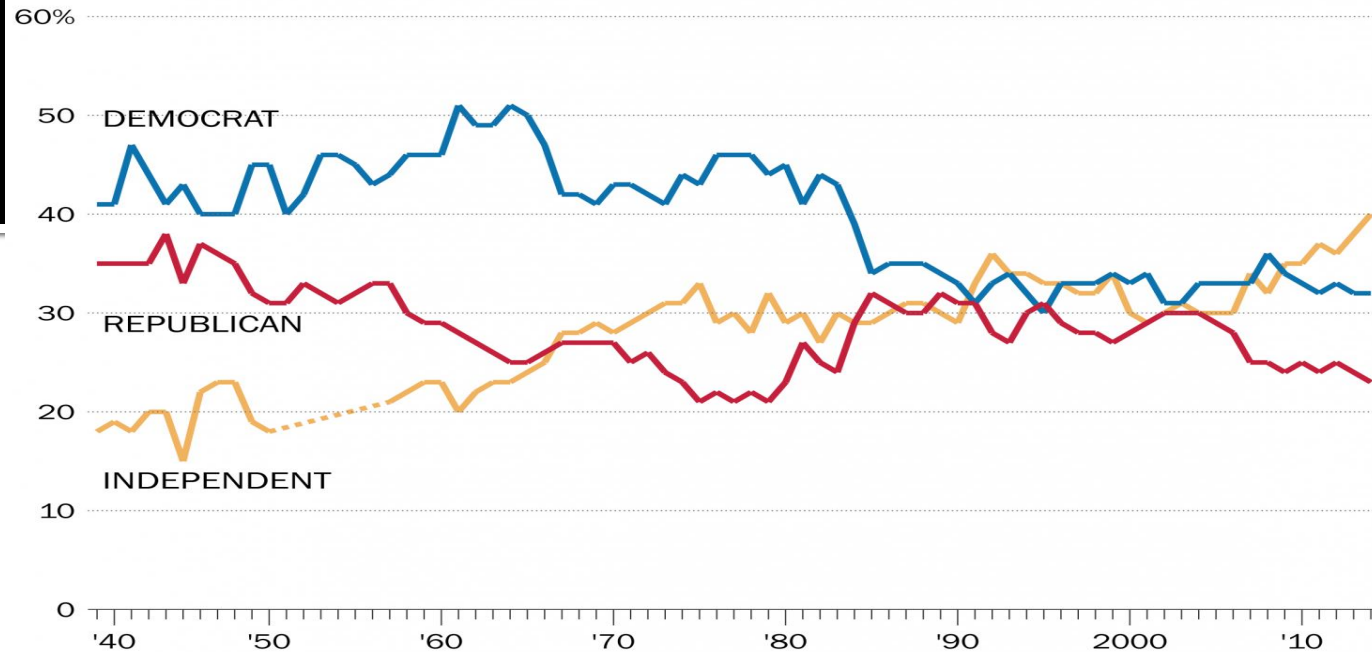


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Partisan identification trends since 1939

Data from Pew Research.



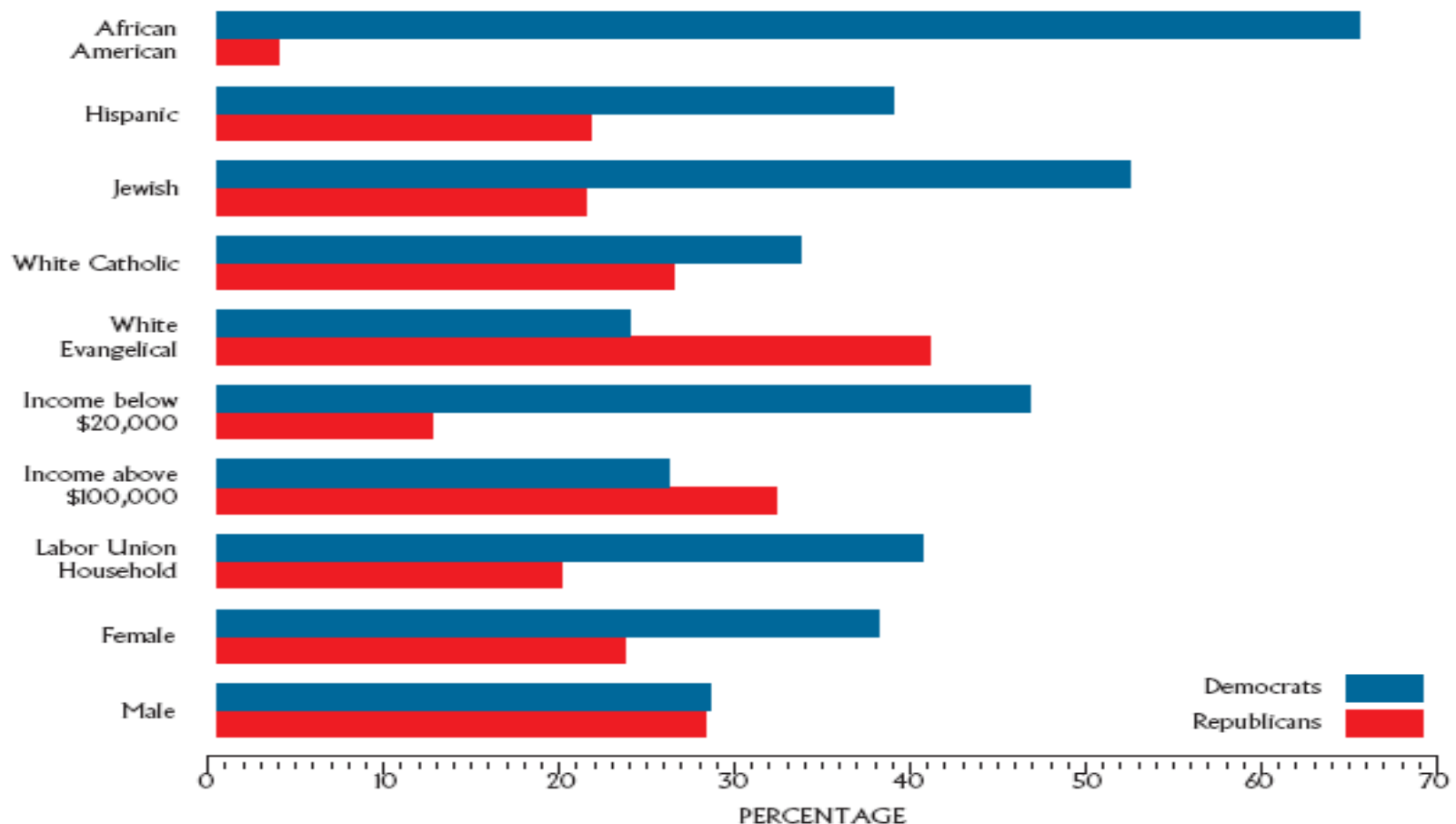
This Pew Research chart presents data on partisan identification trends from 1939 through roughly 2014. The data shows the percentage change in the electorate's identification with the Democratic Party, Republican Party & those who do not identify with a major party. [1 pt] While all identifications vary in their trends, Democrats maintained 5 to 15% more membership until the end of the 1950s, when the margin dramatically increased until the mid-1970s. The steady decline in Republican membership that began in the mid-1940s came to an end and began to rise in the late 1970s & early 1980s. By the 1990s, the margin of difference between Democrats and Republicans has remained between 0-5%. All the while, the identification of Independents has steadily risen over time surpassing both Democrats and Republicans in the wake of the 2009 economic downturn and election of President Obama. [2 pts] Overall, the electorate has shown a decline in identification with the Democratic Party while the initially lower popularity of the Republican Party has slowly risen in the past 30 years to meet the Democrats at around 30% of the population. The steady, and now dominant, trend of dealignment from both major parties demonstrates that Americans' party loyalty and faith in the current party system is waning. [2 pts]

The Citizen & the Party

FIGURE 8.3

Party Coalitions Today

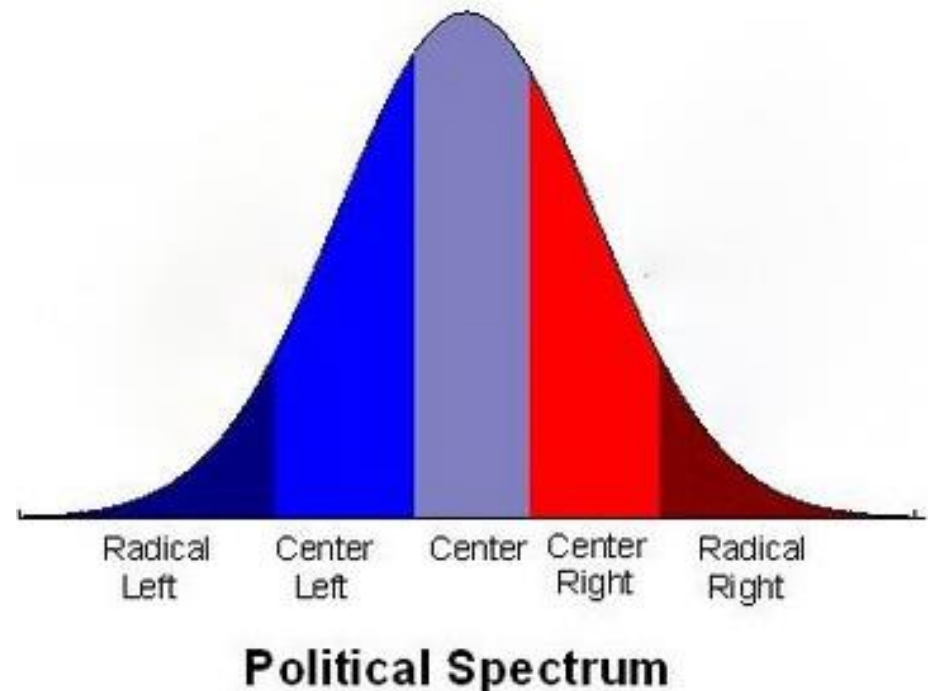
The two parties continue to draw support from very different social groups, many of which have existed since the New Deal era. This figure shows the percentage identifying as Democrats and Republicans for various groups in 2008.



Source: Authors' analysis of Pew Research Center polls conducted in January and February 2008.

Downs Model: Rational Choice Theory

- Assumes that individuals act in their own best interest
 - carefully weighing the costs and benefits of possible alternatives
 - Applies to both voters and politicians
- Politicians tend to rarely stray away from midpoint on political spectrum
 - Does not take international ideologies into consideration
- One should expect parties to significantly differentiate themselves from one another
 - Provide a clear choice to voters and distinguish loyal adherents

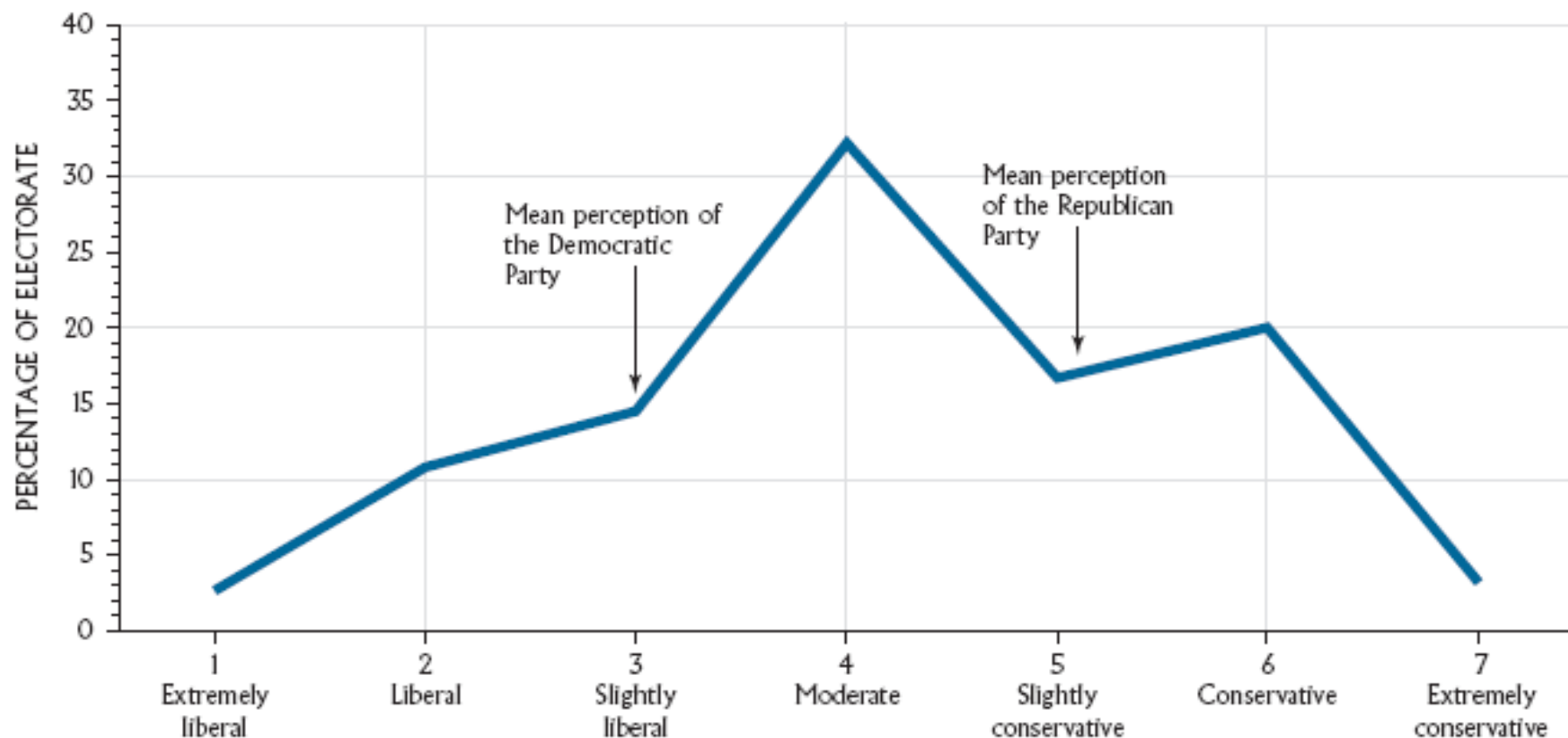


The Meaning of Party

FIGURE 8.1

The Downs Model: How Rational Parties Match Voters' Policy Preferences

In 2004, the National Election Study asked a sample of the American electorate to classify themselves on a 7-point scale from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. The graph shows how the people located themselves in terms of ideology and how they perceived the ideology of the parties.



Source: From the National Election Studies conducted by the University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies, 2004.

Scenario Activity

In February of 2015, the British Broadcasting Company published an article entitled "[US at risk of mega-drought future](#)," predicting that by the end of the 21st Century, the American South-west and plains may experience decades (40-80 yrs.) long droughts as a result of drastic climate changes. While many past scientists have considered this a possibility, recent climate trends have provided more evidence than ever before, nearly guaranteeing a difficult future for Americans.

All the while, the US government shames the democratic process with an epidemic of the hyper-pluralist interests of businesses, unions, interest groups and lobbyists. The insatiable investments of elitists seems to have overshadowed the popular sovereignty of the people. Thus, the nation sits in its most divided state since the Civil War, with party dealignment increasing and trust in the government waning.\

As junior officers in your newly elected legislative positions, you have the opportunity to present new perspectives and ideas to the political arena. In light of the scientific findings on climate change, the nation depends heavily upon new conservative and liberal bi-partisanship and coalition cohesion.

As members of this new and influential group of legislators, you are faced with unifying Congress to prepare for the crisis ahead:

1. **Independent Inquiry:** What questions do you have that could better help you come up with a strong plan?
2. **Independent Construction:** Brainstorm specific strategies to compromise both liberal (big government) and conservative (small government) ideologies on this crisis.
3. **Group Collaboration:** Work together to come up with a collaborative 5-10 step plan to unify the liberals and conservatives of the legislature to prepare for the crisis.