

# The Evolution of U.S. Political Parties



# Types of “Moments” in Our Two-Party History

- Party Era: when one party wins most elections because of the coalition supporting their party
- Critical Election: an electoral “earthquake” where new issues and new coalitions emerge, beginning a new party era
- Party Realignment: the shifting of groups in a coalition, usually before a critical election; certain demographics will leave one party and support the other party





# History of Our Parties

1790: our first two political parties were the Federalists (Alexander Hamilton & John Adams) and the Democratic-Republicans (James Madison & Thomas Jefferson)

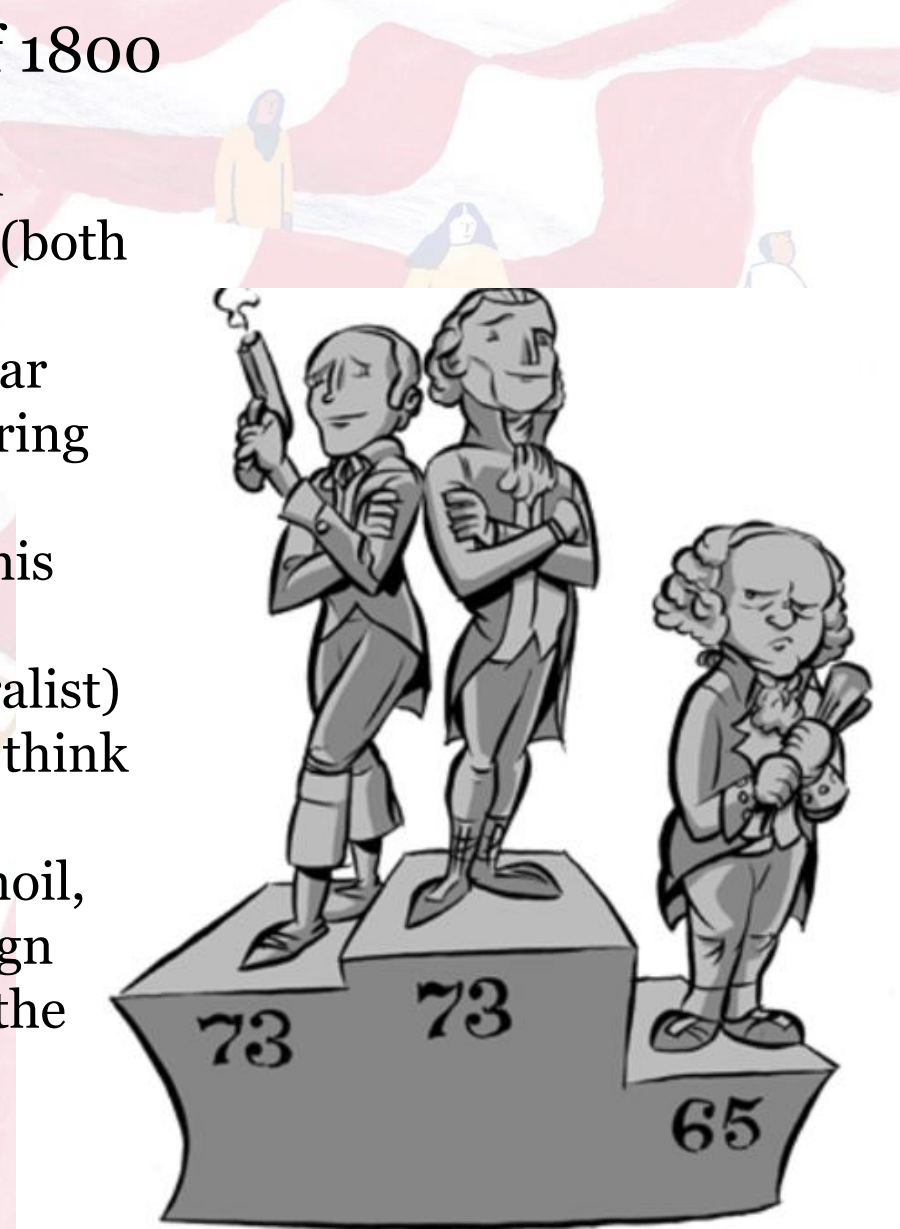
-Dem-Reps formed in opposition to the Federalists over the issue of Hamilton's National Bank; believed its creation overextended the power of the national government and therefore threatened individual rights

-Federalists believed in a "loose interpretation" of the U.S. Constitution that allows its powers to be flexible over time



# Election of 1800

- John Adams (Federalist) up for reelection against Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr (both Democratic-Republicans)
- Adams was growing increasingly unpopular due to the Alien & Sedition Acts passed during his administration
- The world had their eyes on the U.S. for this election since it was likely power would be transferred from one political party (Federalist) to another (Dem-Rep), and people did not think it would go smoothly
- Were waiting for there to be conflict, turmoil, bloodshed, etc. – and despite dirty campaign and a tie for the electoral vote, Adams left the White House to Jefferson in peace
- The Election of 1800 became known sarcastically as the “Revolution of 1800” because the world thought it would be





# WAR OF 1812

1814: angry with U.S. involvement in the War of 1812, some New England Federalists met to discuss seceding from the U.S. and forming a pro-British state → seen as unpatriotic and disloyal

-Federalist Party dies out and for a short time the Dem-Rep are the only party in America



The Hartford Convention or LEAP NO LEAP.



-1824: Andrew Jackson loses the election despite winning the popular vote – his supporters form the Democratic Party, and he's elected under the party's ticket in 1828

-1833: Jackson's opponents (led by Henry Clay) formed the Whig Party – named after a British political party that were anti-monarchical →

OF VETO MEMORY.

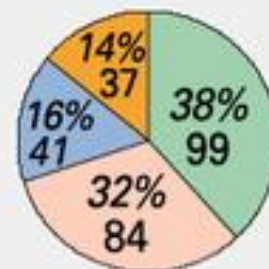
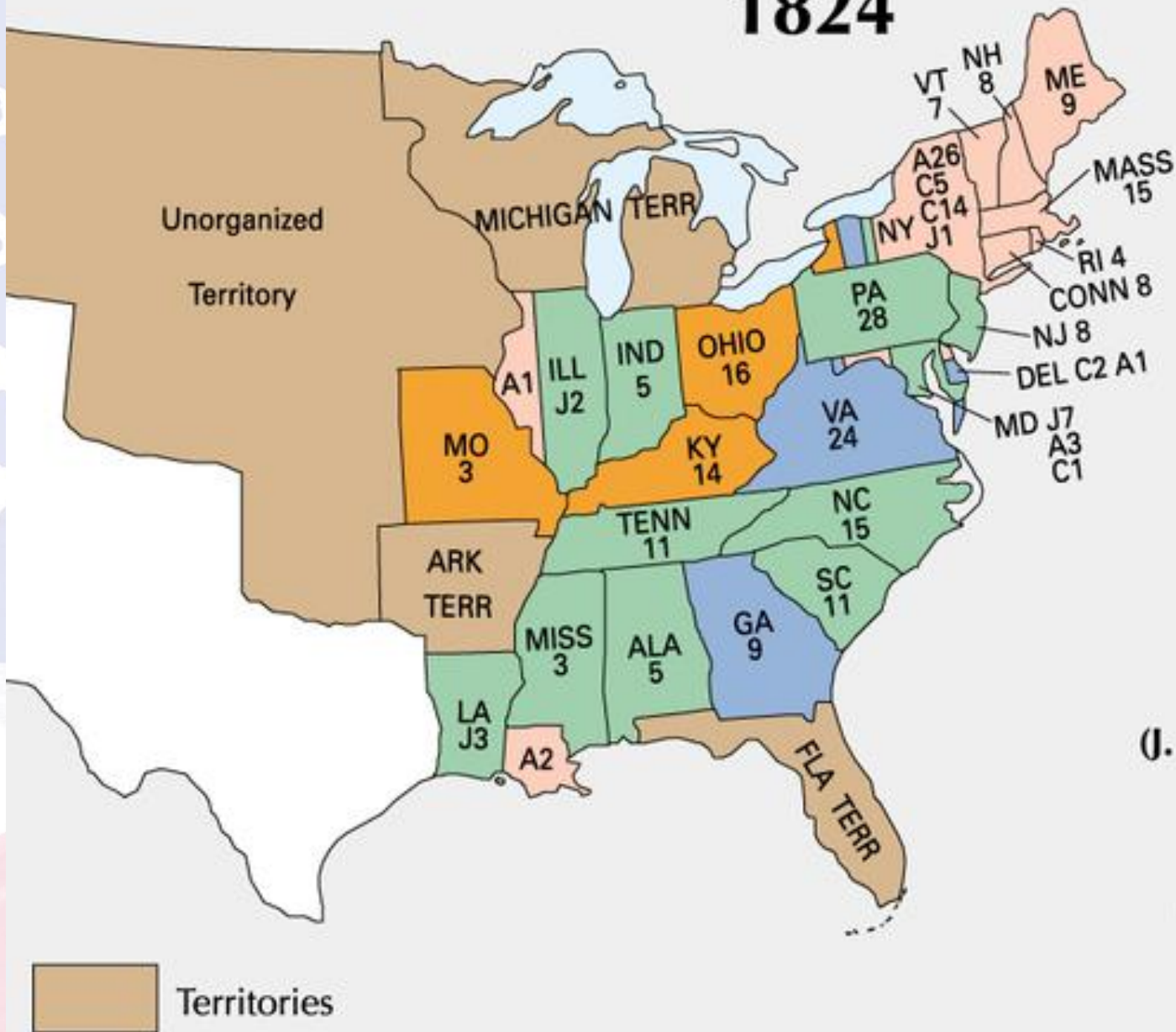


HAD I BEEN CONSULTED.

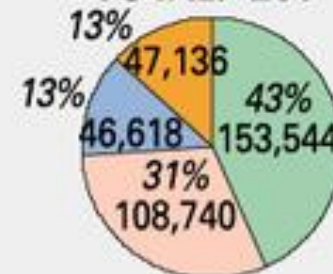
KING ANDREW THE FIRST.



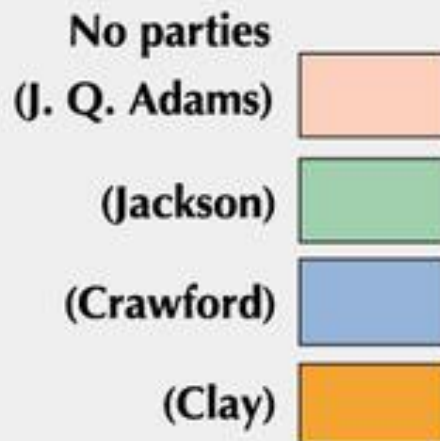
# 1824



**ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 261**

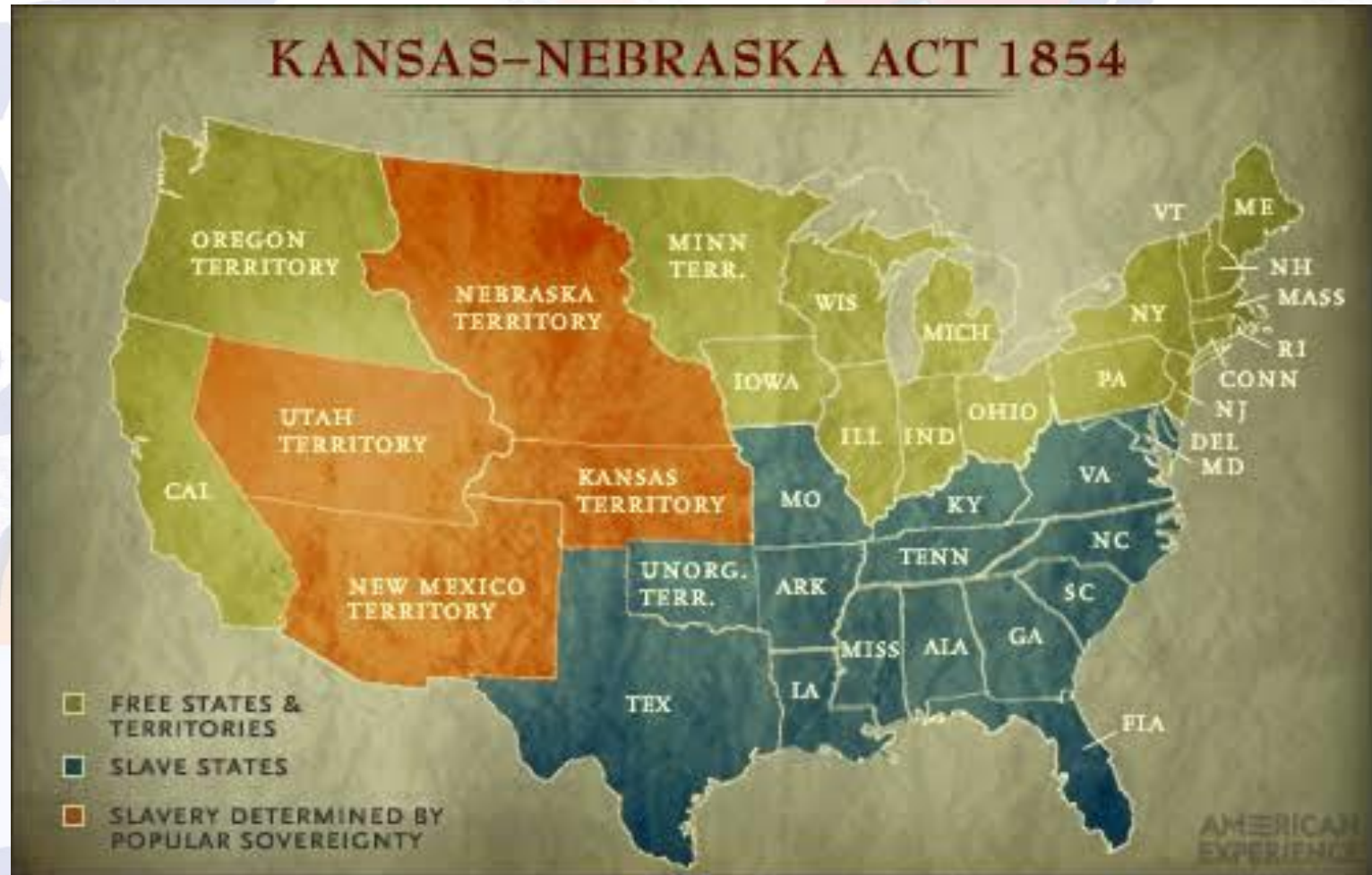


**POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 356,038**



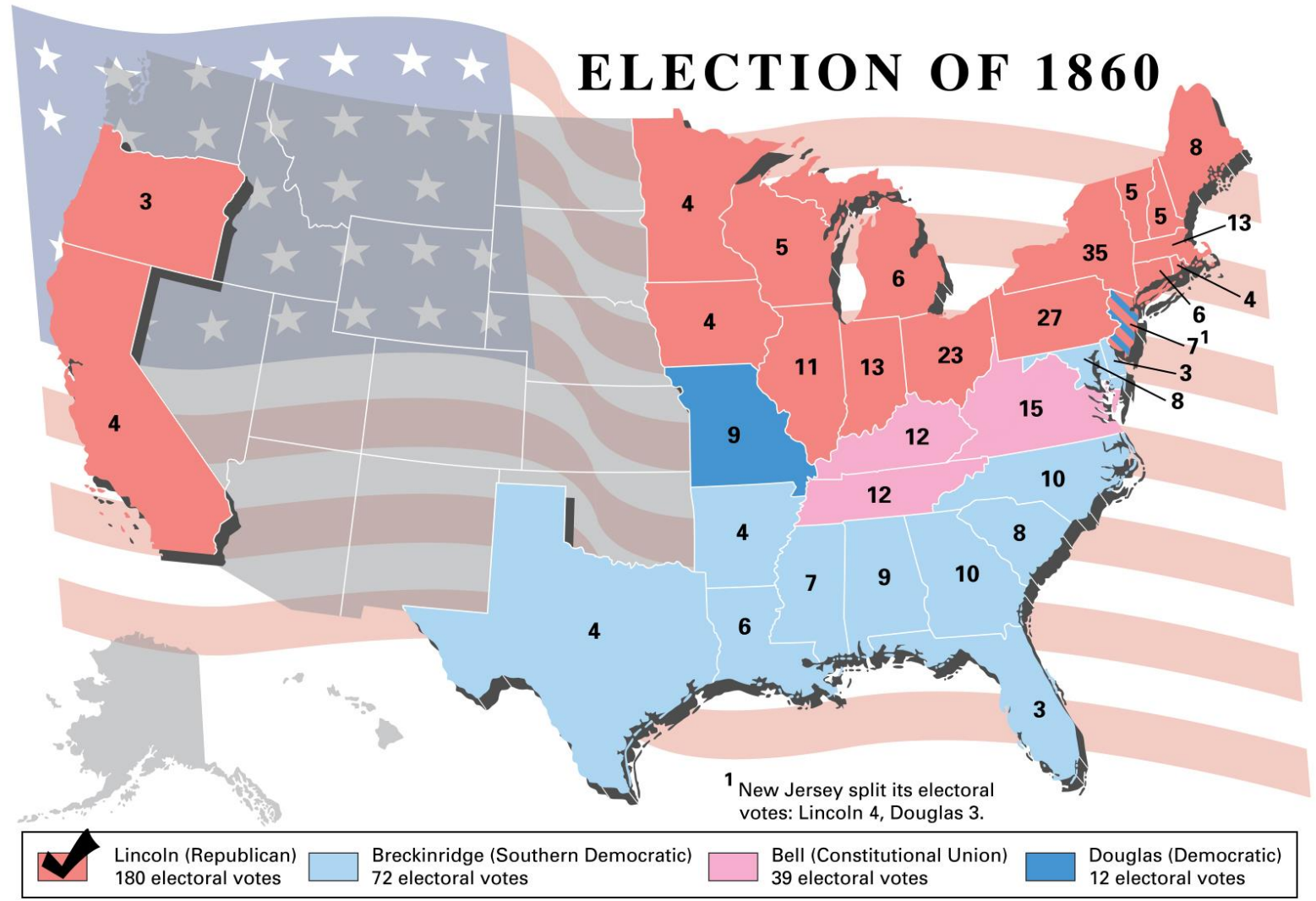
**Territories**

-1854: the Whig Party has become divided over the issue of the expansion of slavery into the new western territories after the Mexican American War; the Kansas-Nebraska Act attempted to settle the issue of slavery in those territories with Popular Sovereignty (allowing voters in the territory to decide themselves if slavery would be allowed to exist) → the Republican Party forms as the party opposed to the spread of slavery





-1860: Abraham Lincoln runs as the 2<sup>nd</sup> candidate of the Republican Party – due to his opinions expressed over time regarding slavery, Southern states begin to secede from the Union and Civil War begins with the siege of Ft. Sumter



# Reconstruction “Success Stories”



Nearly 700 black men served in Southern state legislatures as Republicans during Reconstruction

## New govts brought change:

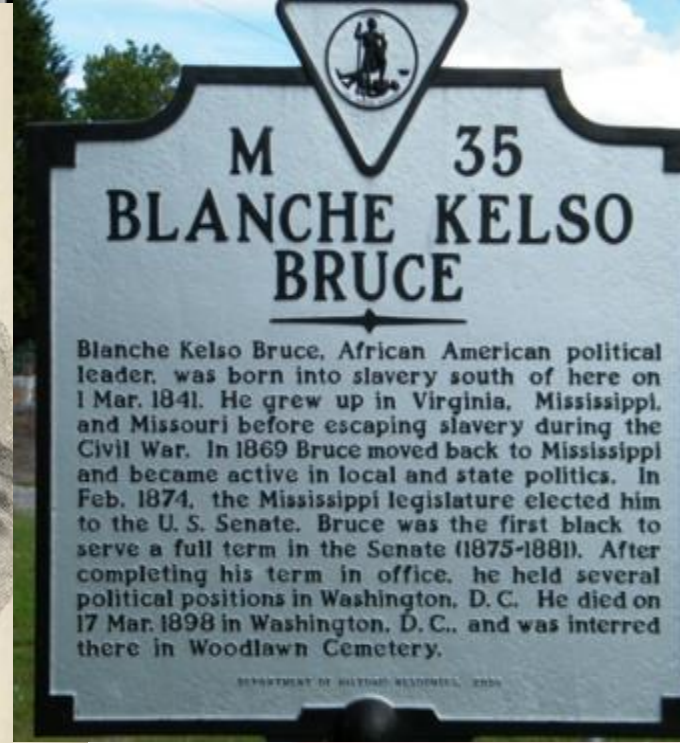
- Most Southern states saw their first public school systems
- Repaired infrastructure
- Facilities open to all Southerners, but segregated by race



-16 black men elected to Congress

-Hiram Revels, a Senator, took Jefferson Davis' spot from Mississippi

-The other Senator from Mississippi was also black, a former slave who has escaped from VA before the war - Blanche Bruce



B. K. BRUCE.

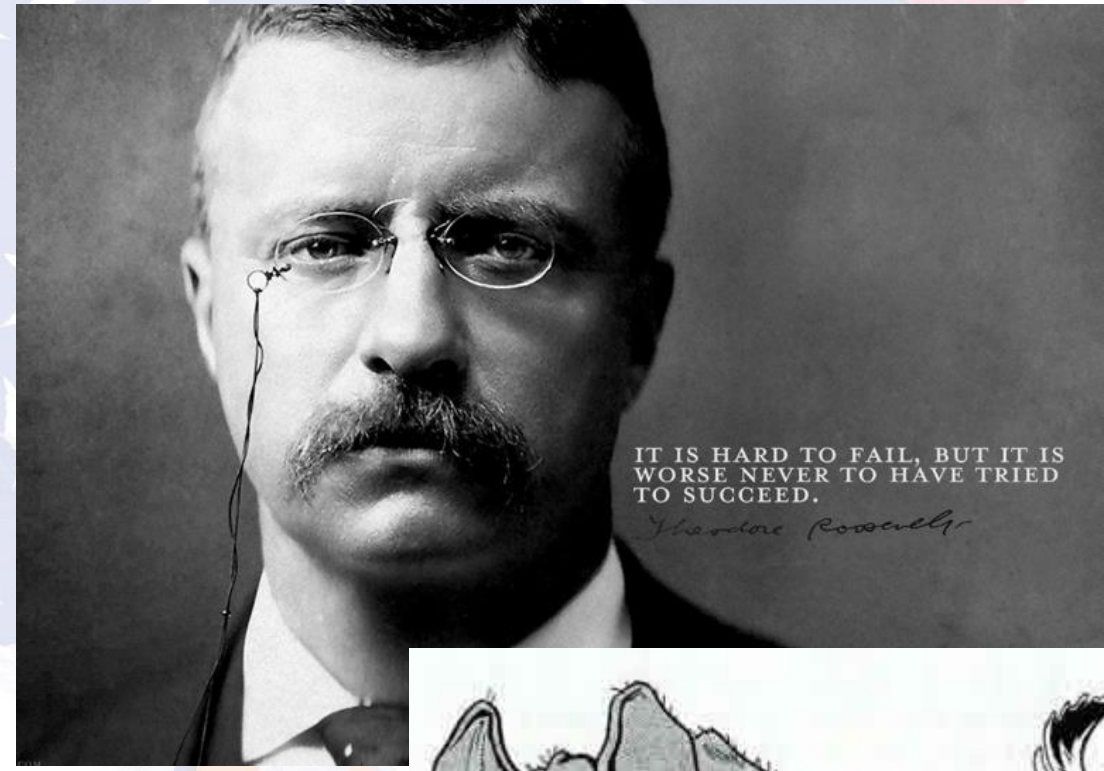


-1877: after years of Reconstruction, Republicans and Democrats agree to the Compromise of 1877 after the Election of 1876, removing military oversight of Southern states (which was an attempt to force them to comply with the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments) → the white “Solid South” will support the Democratic Party for decades



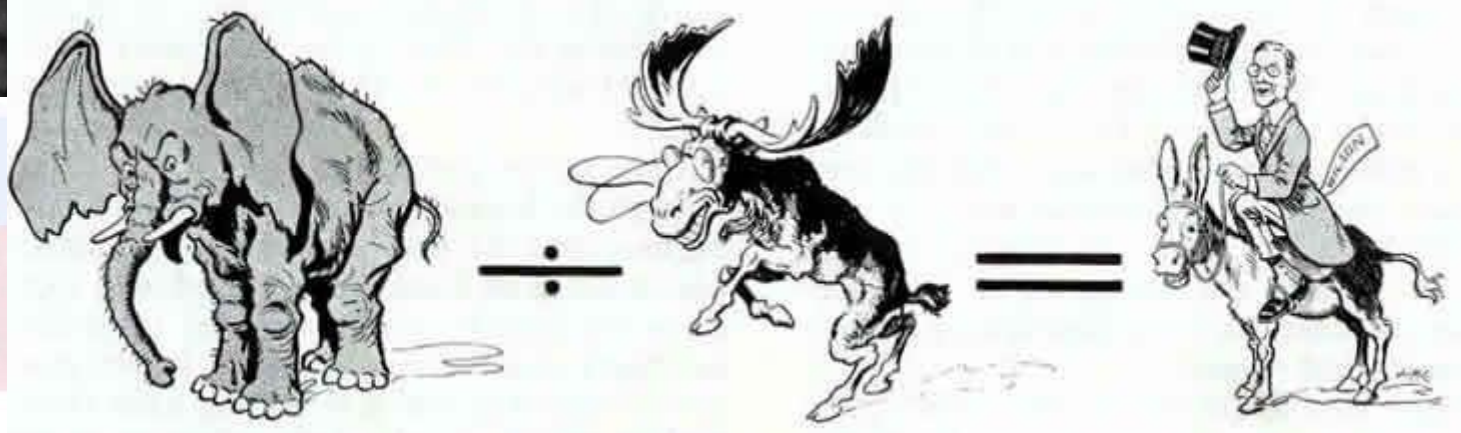


-Election of 1912: Theodore Roosevelt, angered by President Taft's failure to continue his progressive policies, runs as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate, splitting the Republican votes and handing the victory to Democrat "progressive" Woodrow Wilson

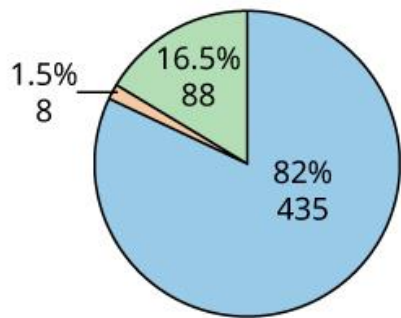
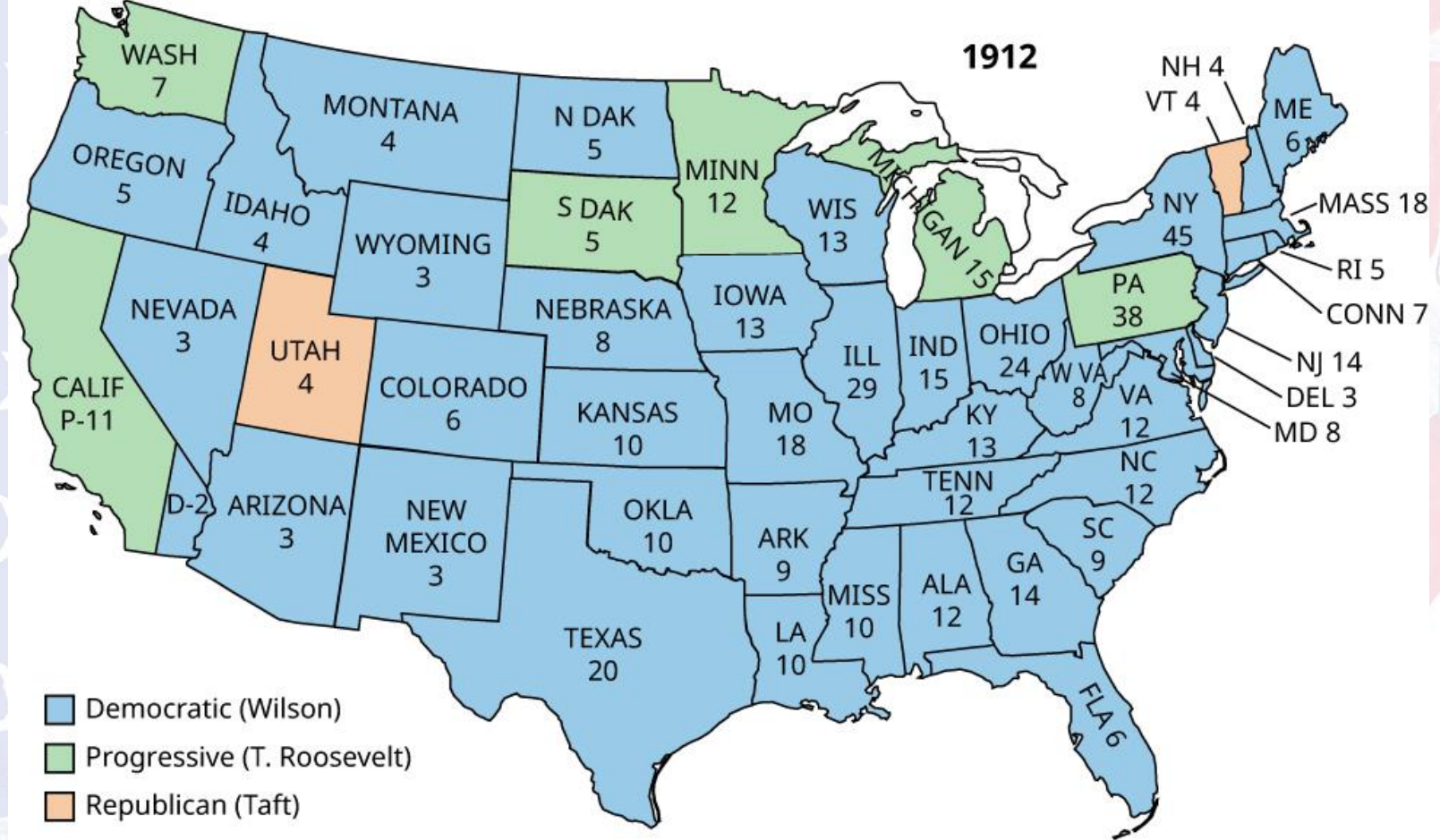


IT IS HARD TO FAIL, BUT IT IS WORSE NEVER TO HAVE TRIED TO SUCCEED.

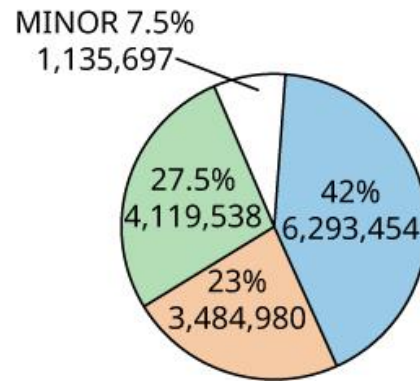
*Theodore Roosevelt*



**GOP Divided by Bull Moose Equals Democratic Victory (Puck, 1912.)**



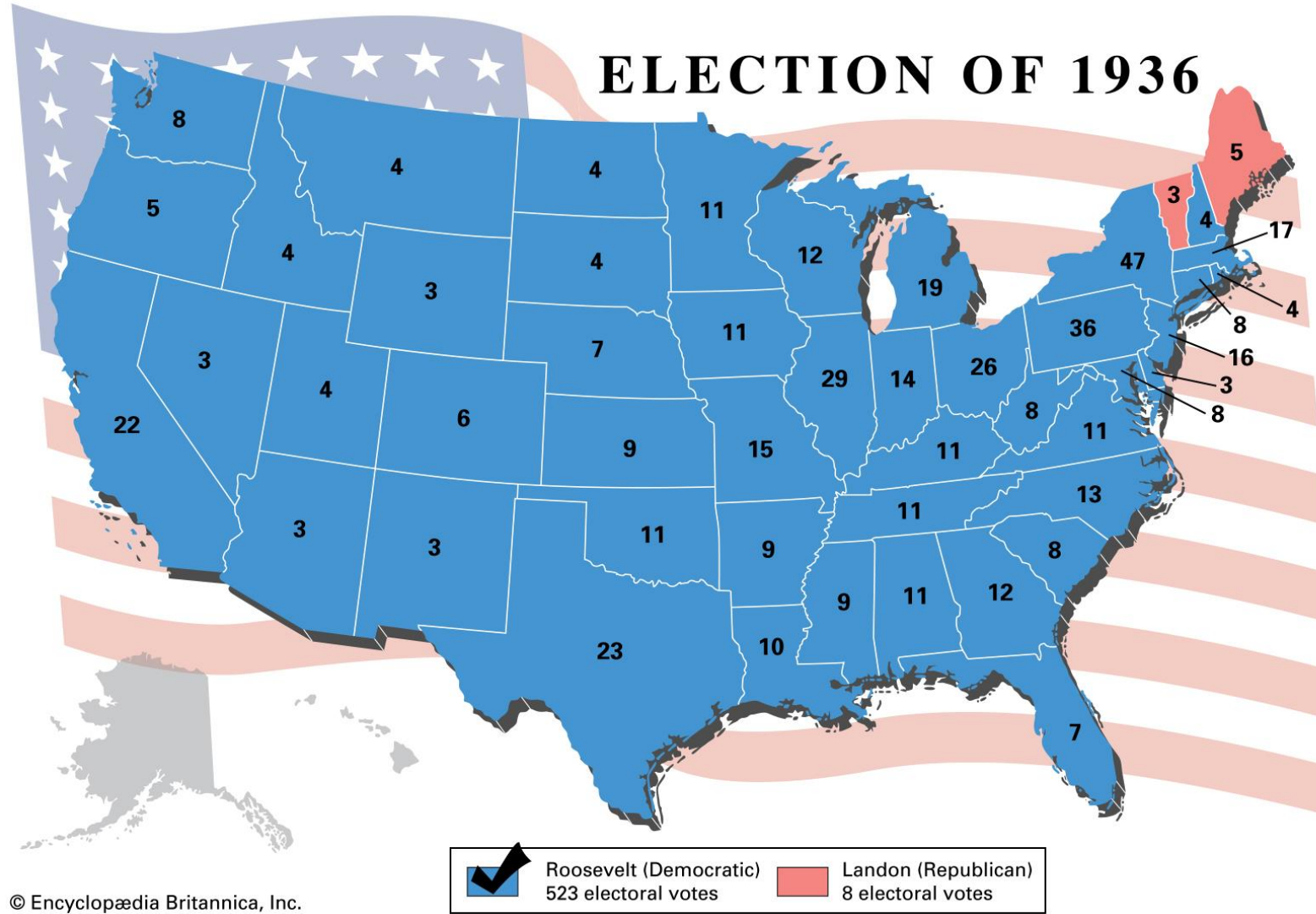
**ELECTORAL VOTE  
TOTAL: 531**



**POPULAR VOTE  
TOTAL: 15,033,669**



-Election of 1936: major voter base shift when Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt runs for reelection after rolling out his New Deal program to help end the Great Depression



# The Roosevelt Coalition

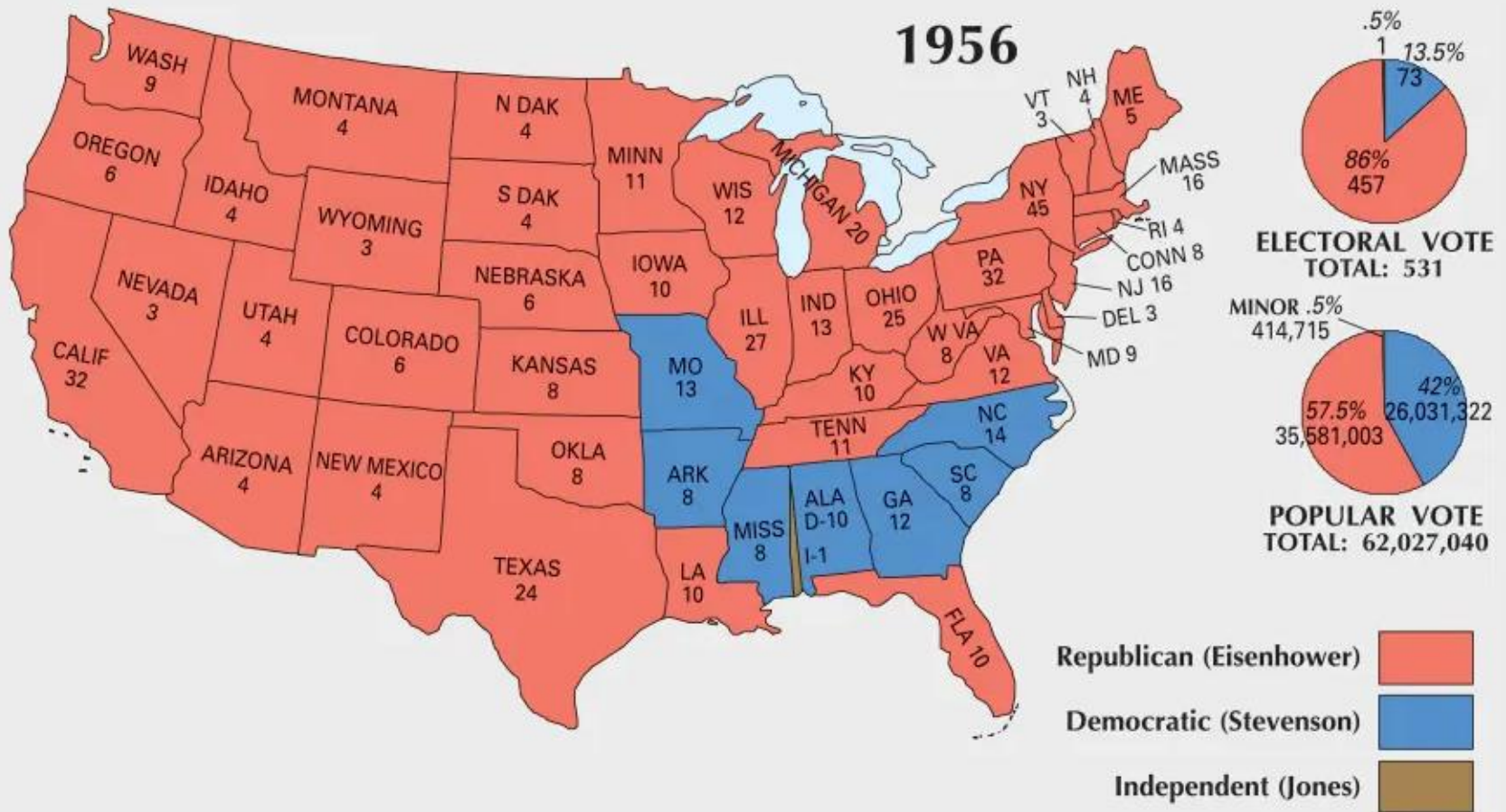
- Democrats broadened their constituency by appealing to white Southerners, farmers, women, blacks, urban political bosses, ethnic blue-collar workers, Jews, progressives, intellectuals
- Also known as the “New Deal Coalition”
- 71% of blacks supported Roosevelt, and from this election moving forward, the Democratic Party would receive the majority of their vote (however, party affiliation was still up for grabs)





-1948: Democratic President Truman issues Executive Order 9981 desegregating the armed forces and sending anti-lynching legislation to Congress, causes angry white Southern Democrats to split from the party momentarily to form a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, the “Dixiecrats”





1956: Eisenhower picked up Louisiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia in addition to Southern states he won in '52 after he supported the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* and while he was fighting Governor Faubus in Arkansas to force integration at Little Rock Central



-Election of 1960: Democratic candidate John F. Kennedy runs supporting civil rights → leads to a major demographic shift in the alignment of the Democratic Party

**"We seek to secure these rights"**

1. The right of every American to work as he wants to work.
2. The right of every American to be educated.
3. The right of every American to receive just compensation for his labor, his crops, his goods.
4. The right of every American to live in a decent home in a neighborhood of his choice.
5. The right of every American to obtain security in sickness as well as health.
6. The right of every American to think, to vote, to speak, to read, to worship as he pleases.
7. The right of all people to be free from the terrors of war.

... Senator Kennedy  
NAACP Rally, Los Angeles

**WINNING TEAM**



Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas is the Democratic candidate for Vice President. As Senate Majority Leader he led the fight for the enactment of the Civil Rights Bills of 1957 and 1960. Senator Johnson has pledged to "campaign from one coast to the other on the platform of the Democratic party."

**VOTE DEMOCRATIC**

**Human rights  
Kennedy cares  
Kennedy acts**



**KENNEDY**  
FOR PRESIDENT  
**JOHNSON**  
FOR VICE PRESIDENT

CITIZENS FOR KENNEDY AND JOHNSON,  
261 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.

**A time for moral  
LEADERSHIP**



**KENNEDY**  
for PRESIDENT

President Johnson supported passage of a strong Civil Rights Act and signs **Civil Rights Act of 1964** into law on 2 July 1964; banned discrimination in employment and in public accommodations



Source: *Congressional Quarterly*, 1964 CQ Almanac (roll call vote and summary of House passage of the Civil Rights Act), Feb. 10, 1964 (provided by U.S. Senate Historical Office)

<b>Votes for CRA</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
House of Representatives	152 voted yes (63%) 96 voted no	138 voted yes (80%) 34 voted no
Senate	46 voted yes (69%) 21 voted no	27 voted yes (82%) 6 voted no



# Voting Rights Act of 1965

- A result of the 1964 Freedom Summer and the March to Montgomery
- Forbids states from imposing discriminatory restrictions on who can vote, and provides mechanisms for the federal government to enforce its provisions



Source: *Congressional Quarterly*, 1965 CQ Almanac (roll call vote and summary of House passage of the Voting Rights Act, 9 July 1965 (provided by U.S. Senate Historical Office))

<b>Votes for VRA</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
House of Representatives	221 voted yes (78%) 61 voted no	112 voted yes (82%) 24 voted no
Senate	47 voted yes (73%) 16 voted no	30 voted yes (94%) 2 voted no

## 1968 Election

What is the infamous “Party Switch”?

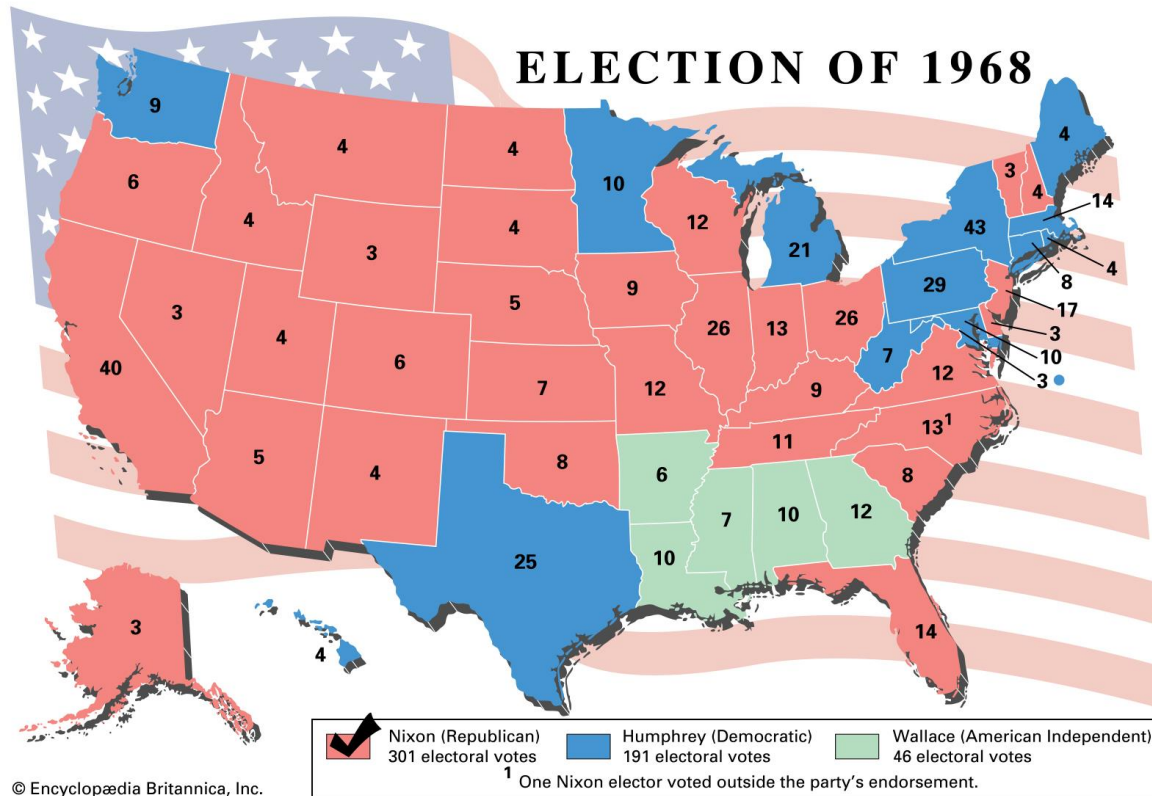
- Southern white Democrats willing to leave the party and vote Republican after the Civil Rights Movement



CHIEF MOURNERS



-Election of 1968: many former Southern Democrats angered by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and Fair Housing Act leave the Democratic Party after the shift of the 60s

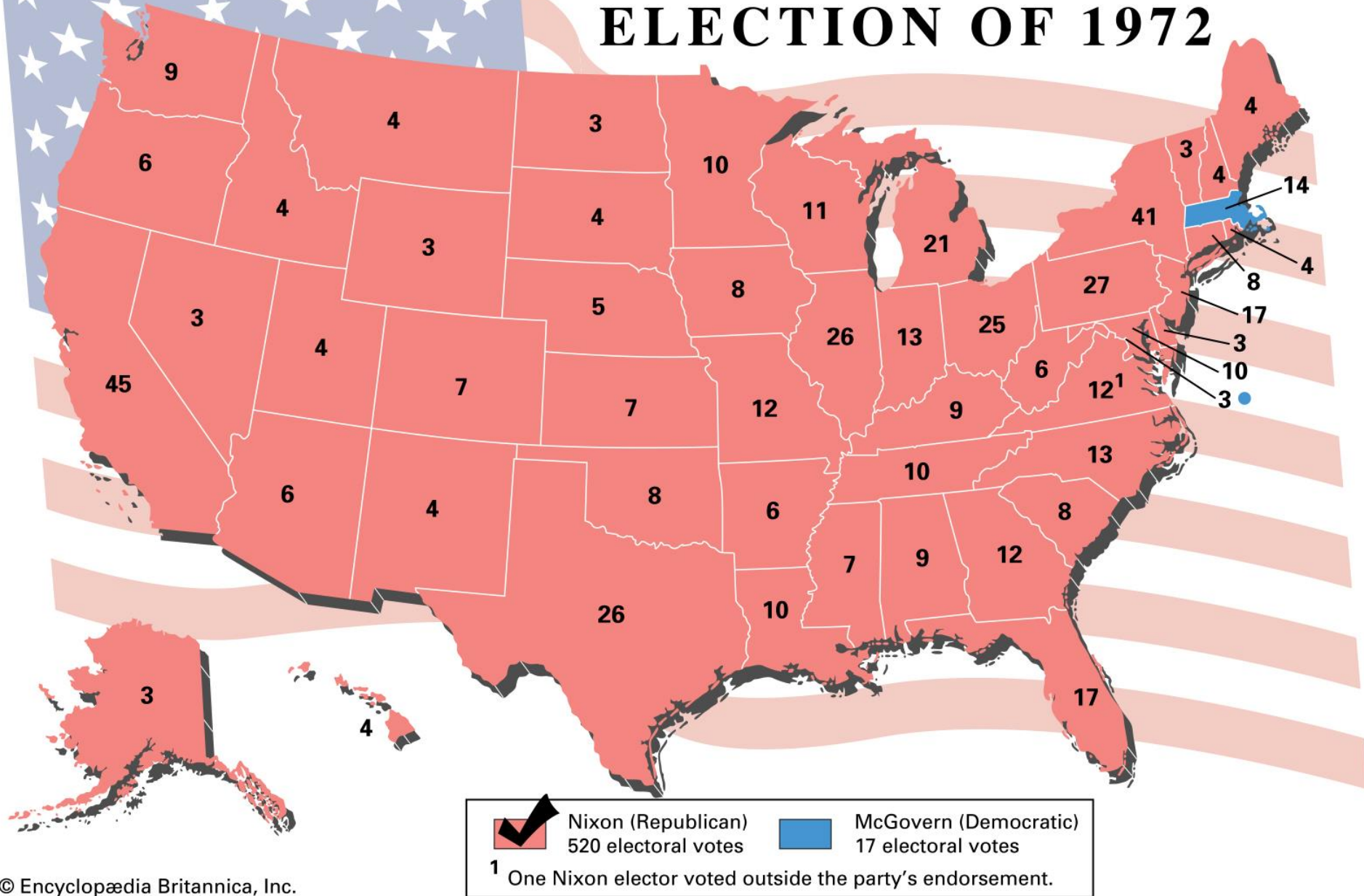


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-Election of 1972: promising an end to the Vietnam War through “Peace with Honor”, Nixon crushes McGovern in ‘72 – but the Watergate Scandal erupts

## ELECTION OF 1972





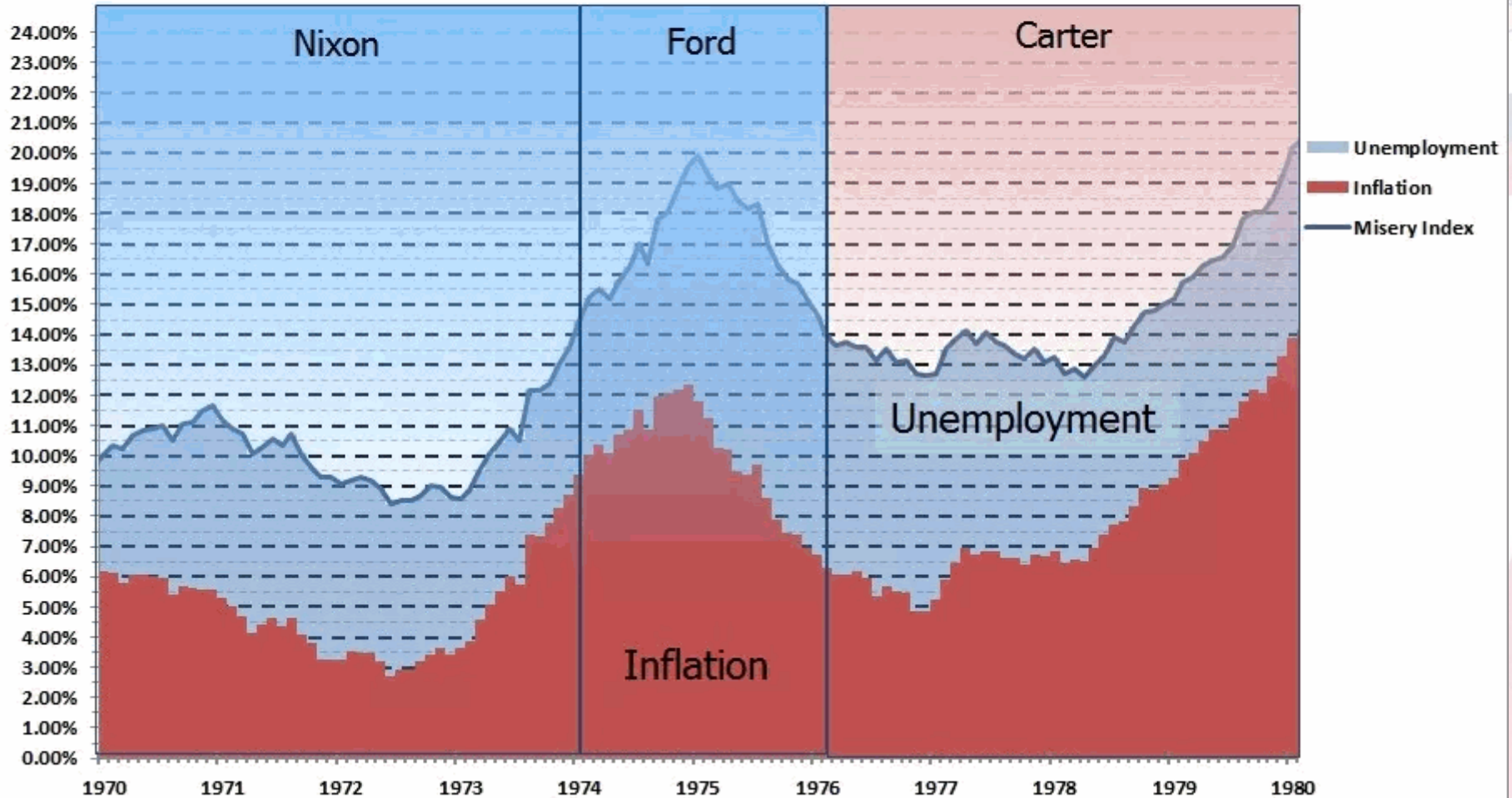
-Scandals that break in the 70s coupled with economic “stagflation” led to an overall feeling of “malaise” and voter apathy

-A resurgence of conservatism begins in the 80s as a reaction to the “Sexual Revolution” of the 60s, 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminism, *Roe v. Wade*, etc.



# U.S. Misery Index 1970's

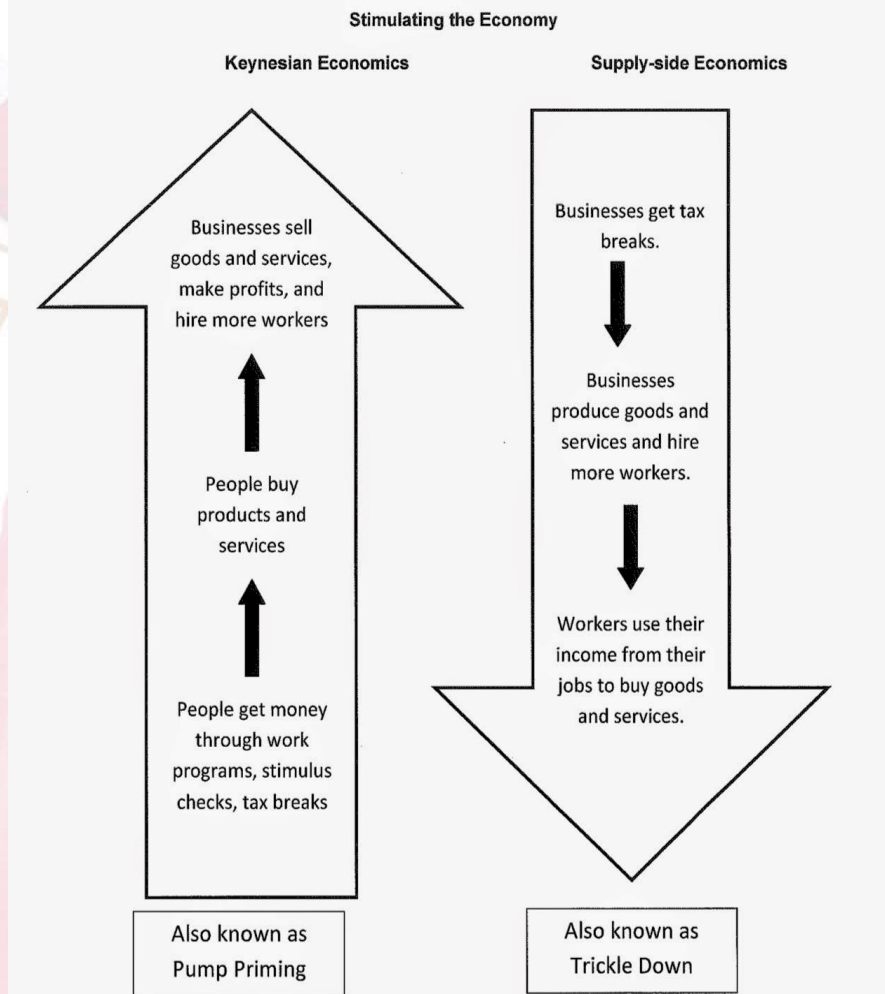
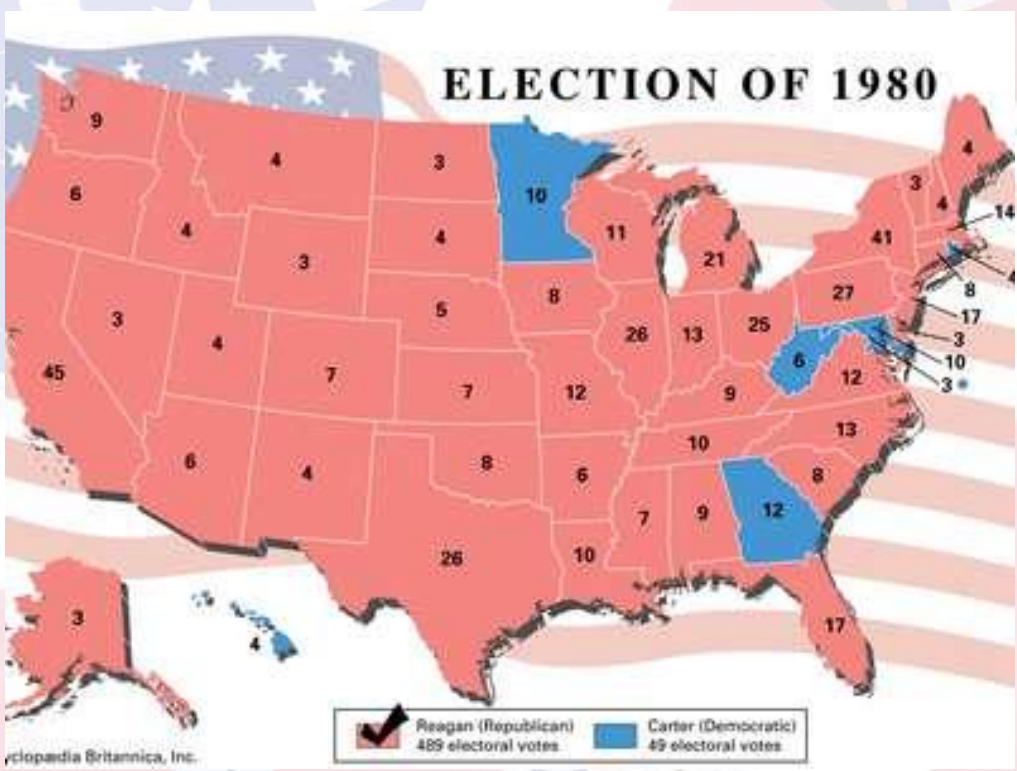
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Prepared By Timothy McMahon  
Updated 6/1/2014





-Election of 1980: conservatives (those in favor of less government involvement), working together with Christians (angered by what they feel is the assault on the traditional family) and “middle America” elect Republican Ronald Reagan

-Stagflation ends by 1983



FDR  
with his  
New  
Deal

Stimulating the Economy

Keynesian Economics

“Reaganomics”

Supply-side Economics

Businesses sell  
goods and services,  
make profits, and  
hire more workers



People buy  
products and  
services



People get money  
through work  
programs, stimulus  
checks, tax breaks

Also known as  
Pump Priming

Businesses get tax  
breaks.



Businesses  
produce goods and  
services and hire  
more workers.



Workers use their  
income from their  
jobs to buy goods  
and services.

Also known as  
Trickle Down

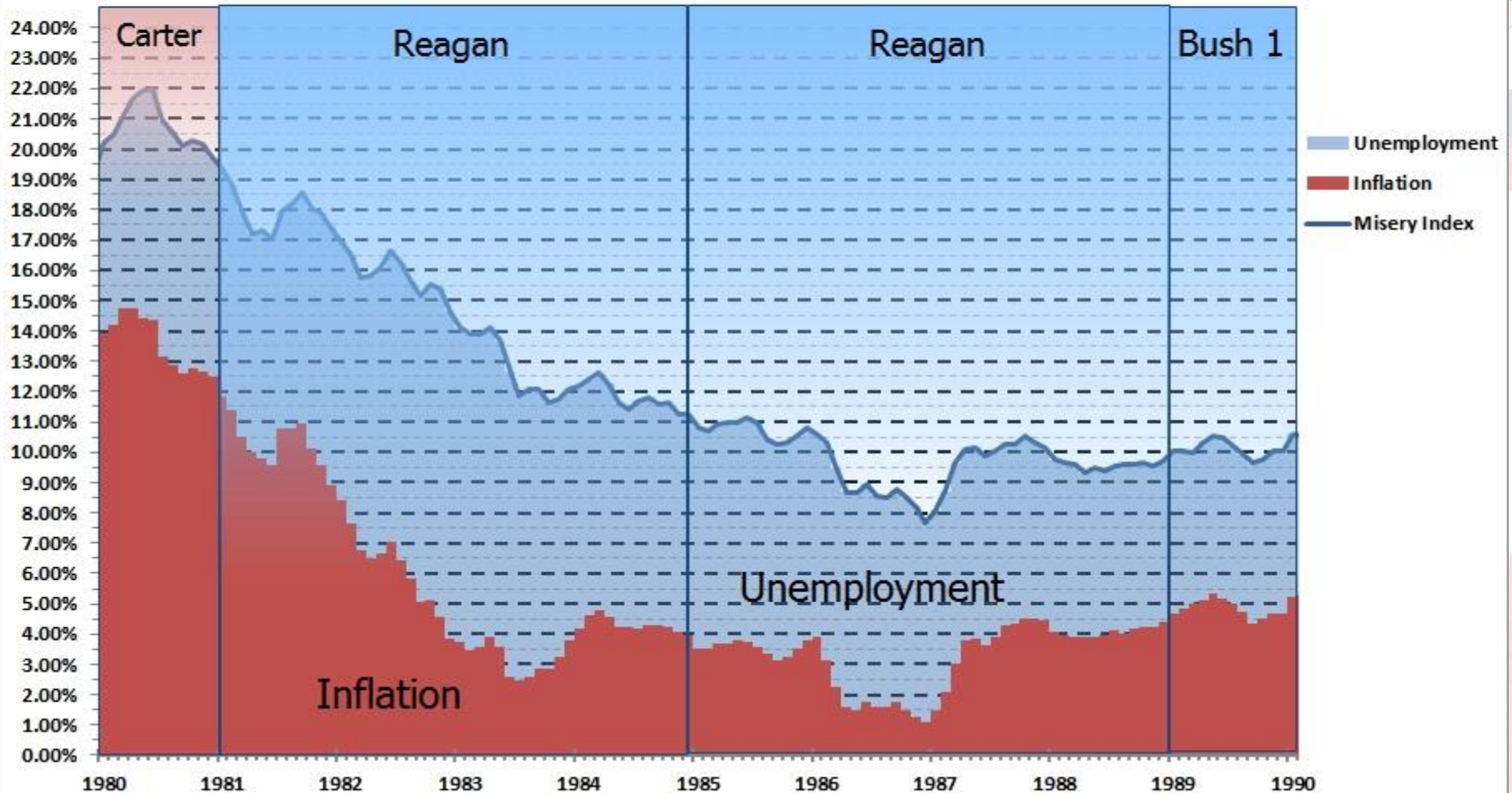
← Consequence:  
less revenue is  
brought in =  
makes up for  
that with less  
spending on  
social safety net  
programs

Consequence:  
money we don't  
have is spent  
(debt is created)  
or taxes have to  
increase for the  
wealthy to bring  
in revenue for  
the creation of  
jobs →

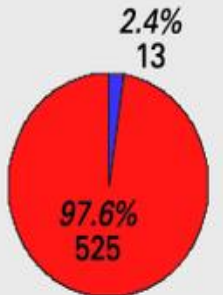
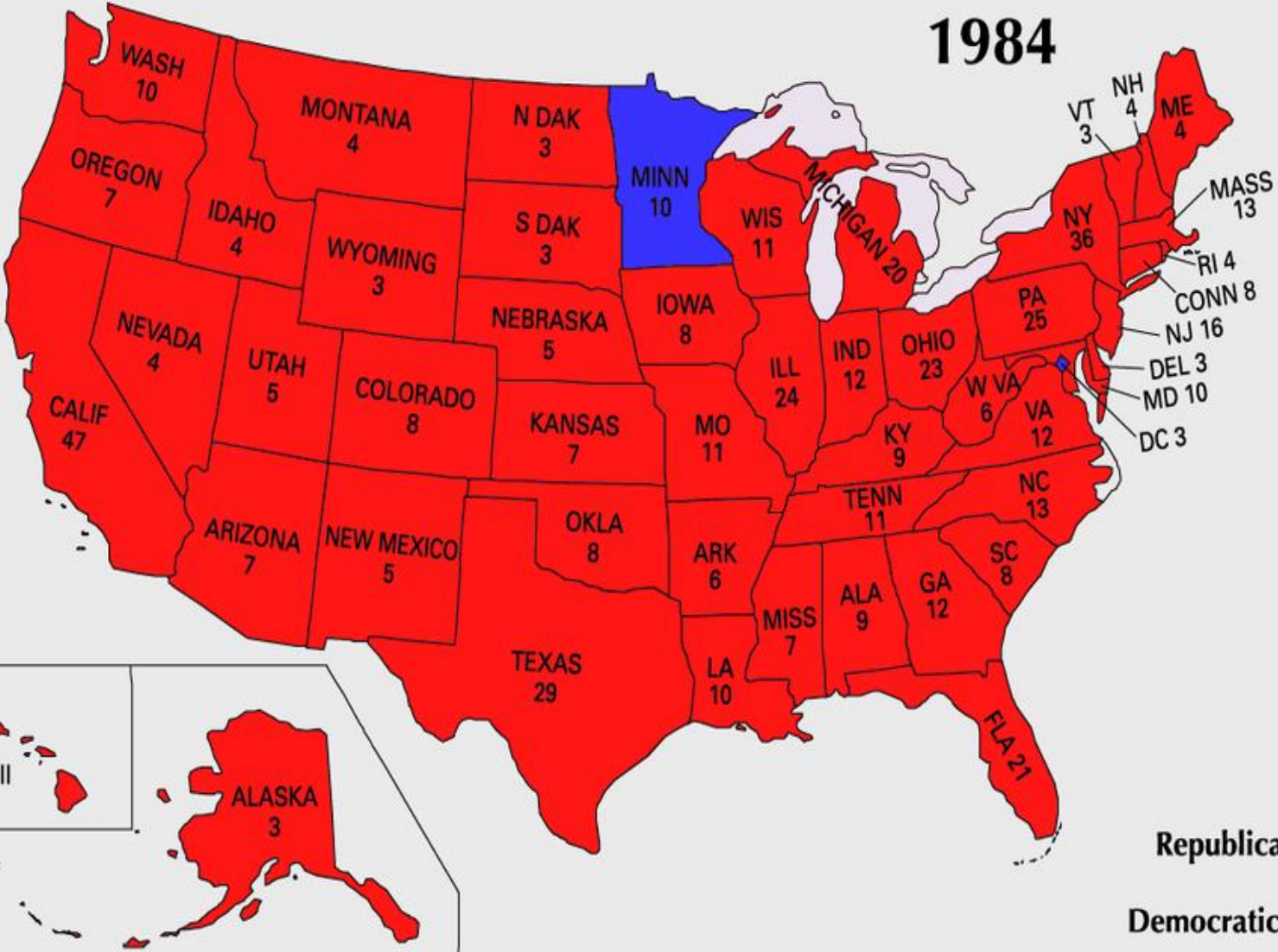


# U.S. Misery Index 1980's

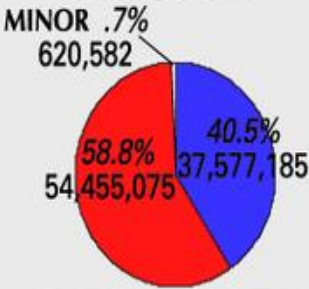
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Updated 1/2/2015





# 1984



**ELECTORAL VOTE TOTAL: 538**



**POPULAR VOTE TOTAL: 92,652,842**

Republican (Reagan)   
Democratic (Mondale) 



-1988: George H.W. Bush continues Reagan's policies for 4 years until 1992, when Democrat Bill Clinton is elected, pursuing a moderate fiscal policy combined with socially liberal programs (often referred to as the "New Democrat")

-2000: George W. Bush wins a highly contested election, and the events of 9/11/01 become the dominating crisis of his presidency

