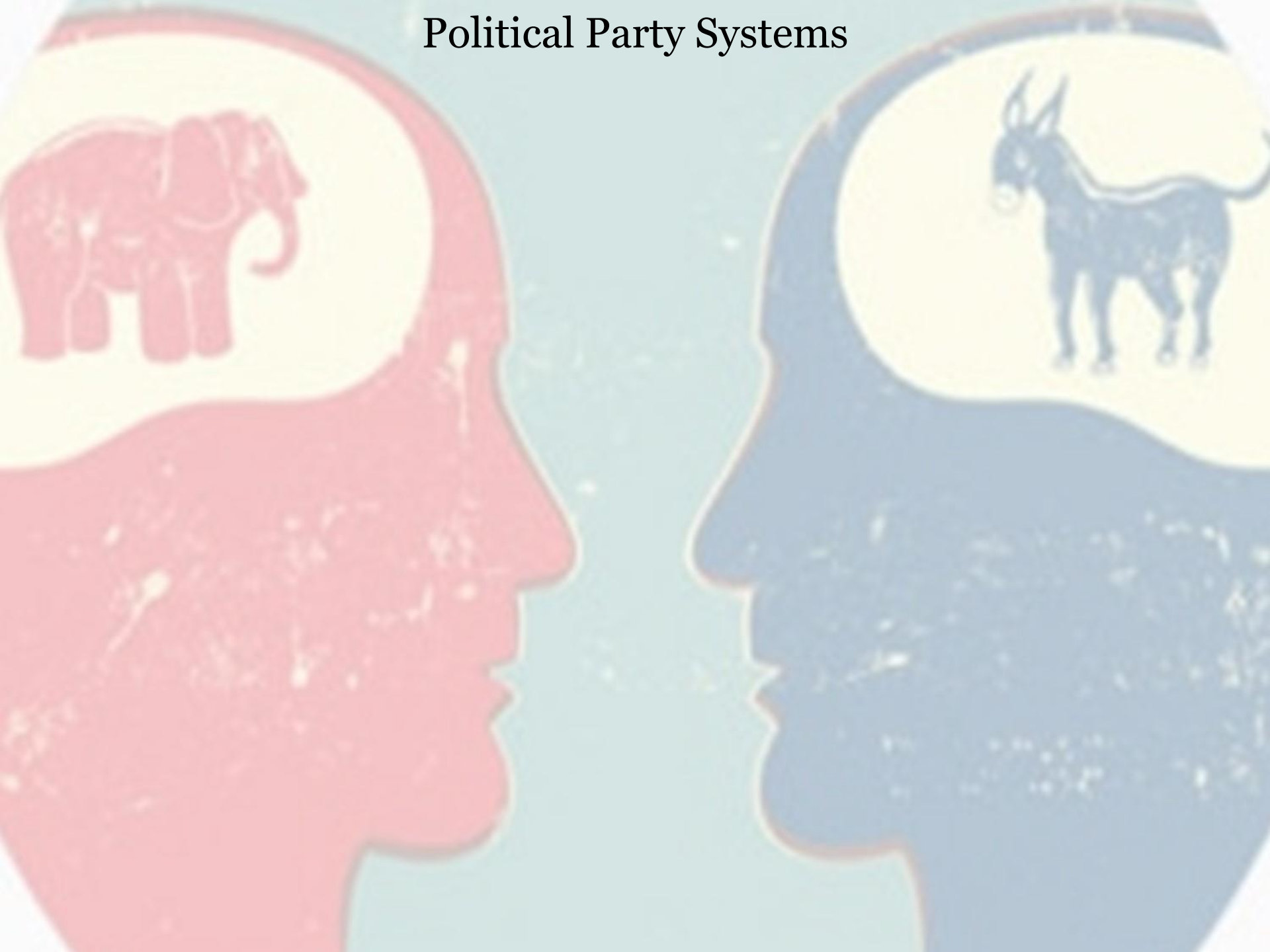


Political Party Systems



Political Parties

Group of people with similar beliefs and ideas about government (used to be referred to as factions)

-Every political party has their stance on the many issues facing their country; they change over time

Two major types of issues a society differentiates between:

1. Domestic issues (happening within the country): taxes, “social safety net” programs, gun control, abortion, the economy, regulation of business, energy (sources and regulation), protection of the environment, cybersecurity, immigration, etc.



2. Foreign policy issues (happening between us and other societies around the world): national defense, trade/commerce, diplomacy, and foreign aid, humanitarian issues, counterterrorism, etc.

MATT KENYON



Types of Party Systems

1. One-party systems: one party choice to elect (e.g., China)
2. Two-party systems: two choices who have won the majority; found in a democracy BUT rare for a democracy to only have two (e.g., United Kingdom, U.S.)
3. Multi-party systems: several choices for elections; most democracies are multi-party (e.g., Switzerland, France, Germany, New Zealand)



The most basic difference between political parties is the opinion to the question, “How much should the government be involved in the lives of citizens?”



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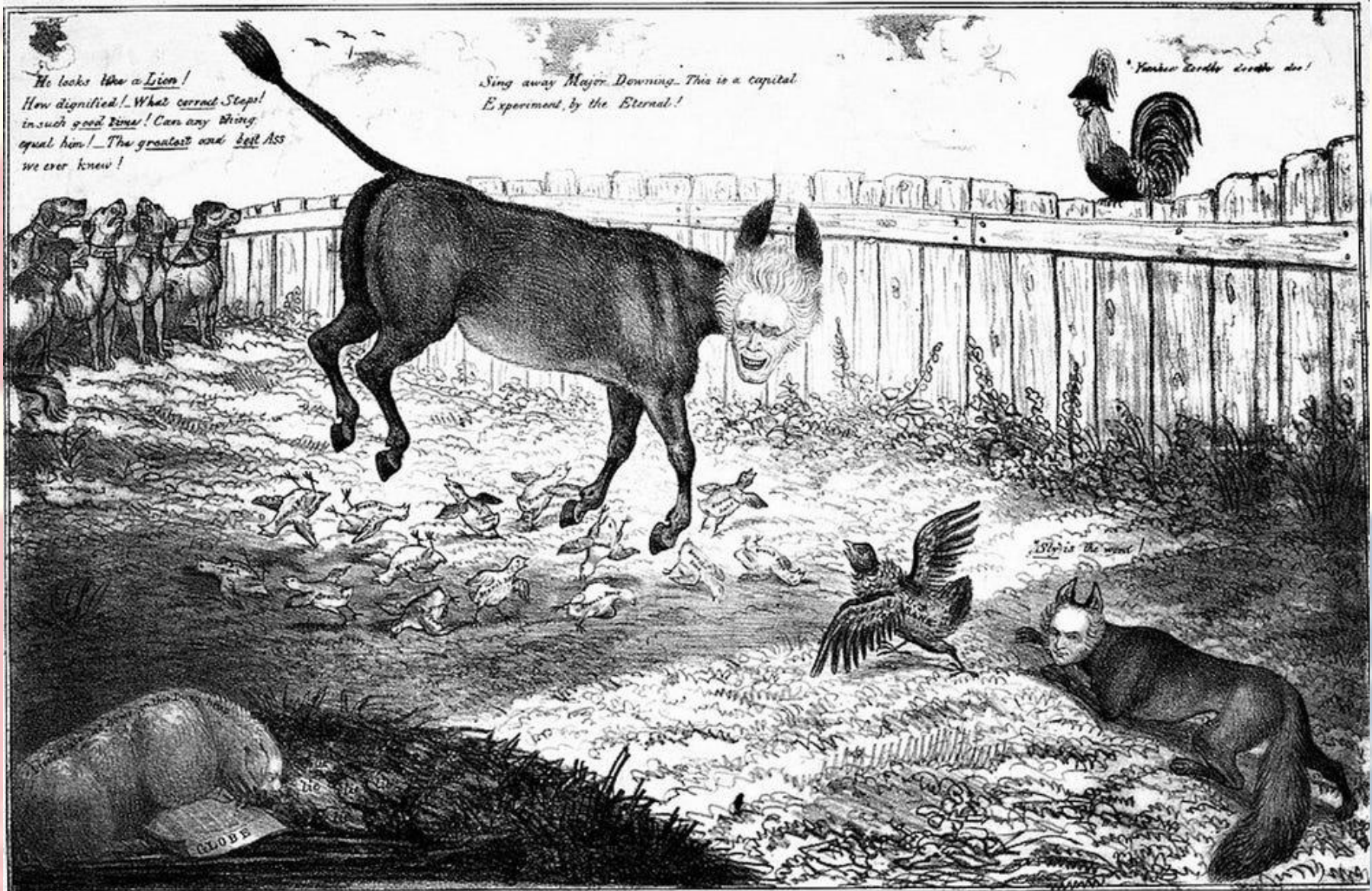
Radical	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Reactionary
Favors extreme changes to create an altered or entirely new social system	Believes that the government must take action to change economic, political, and social systems	Holds beliefs that fall between liberal and conservative views	Seeks to keep in place the traditional economic, political, and social systems	Favors extreme changes to restore society to an earlier state

Our Two-Party System

-From 1800 until now only 2 have existed **in the majority**

1. Democratic Party: color blue; donkey
2. Republican Party (GOP – Grand Old Party): color red; elephant





He looks like a Lion!
How dignified! What correct Steps!
in such good times! Can any thing
equal him! The greatest and best Ass
we ever knew!

Sing away Major Downing. This is a capital
Experiment, by the Eternal!

Yankee Doodle doo doo!

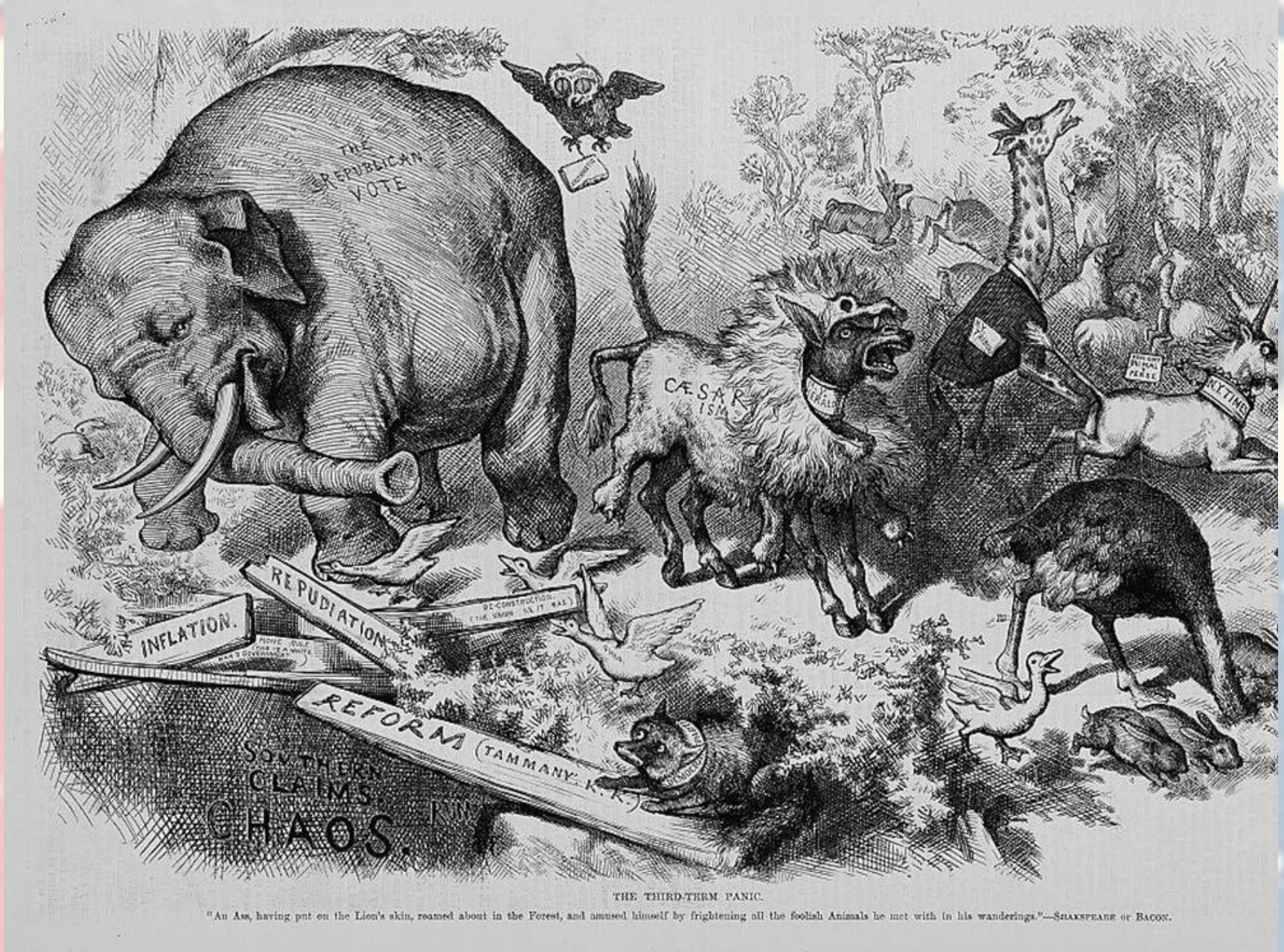
Stop is the word!

Joseph J. Scott

LET EVERY ONE TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
(As the Jack ass said when he was dancing among the Chickens.)

Published and for sale whole sale and retail at Imbert's Curiosity Shop No 184 Broadway N.Y.

“Let everyone take care of himself”, Anthony Imbert, 1833



"The third-term panic.", *Harper's Weekly*, Thomas Nast, 7 November 1874

Party Differences

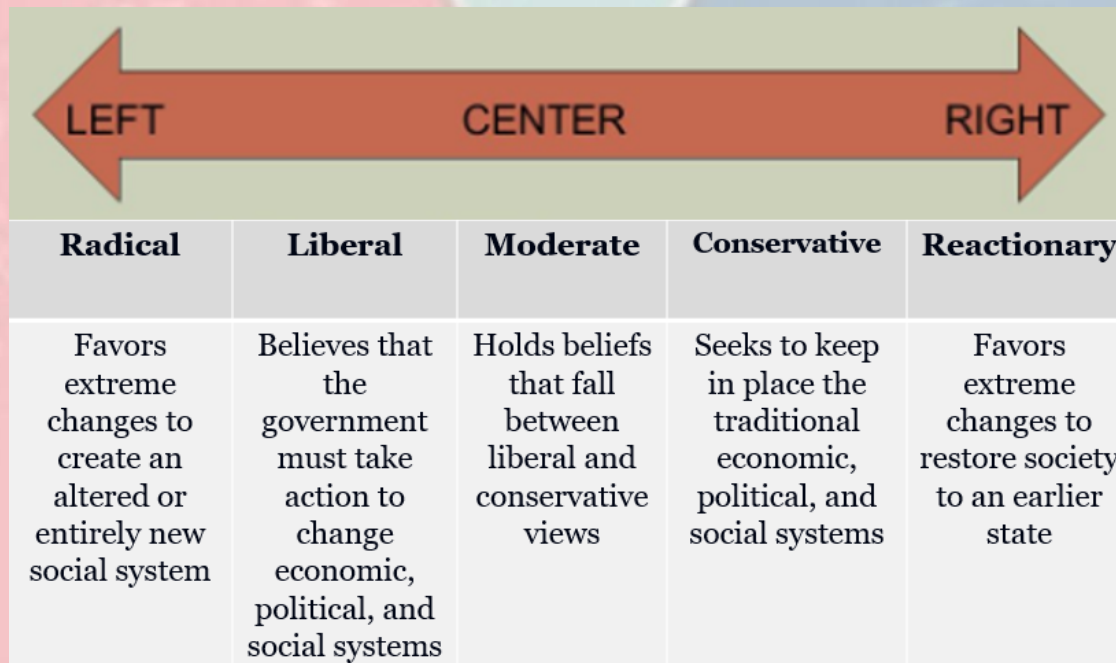
-Compared to other countries, our two parties are actually very close on the political spectrum

-Democrats: liberal; left of the political ideology spectrum

Believe the government should be more involved in regulating business to be able to assist citizens' economic and social needs

-Republicans: conservative; right of the political ideology spectrum

Believe the government should be less involved in regulating business to be able to assist citizens' economic and social needs



Disadvantages of the Two-Party System

1. Lack of party choices; many have proposed “exiting” their party

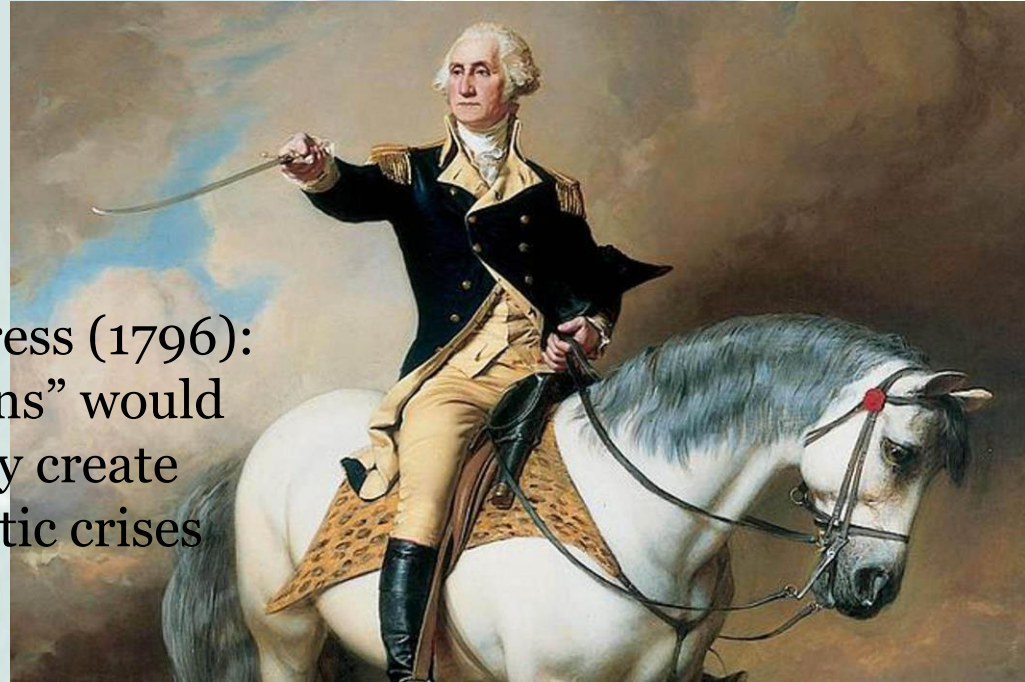
2. Fear that parties divide the nation

-George Washington’s Farewell Address (1796):
warned political parties or “factions” would
have harmful effects; believed they create
division that would lead to domestic crises

(warning was promptly ignored)

3. The needs and wants of the party that is
currently the minority may be ignored by the
majority

4. Only a slight change over time → creates
stalemate

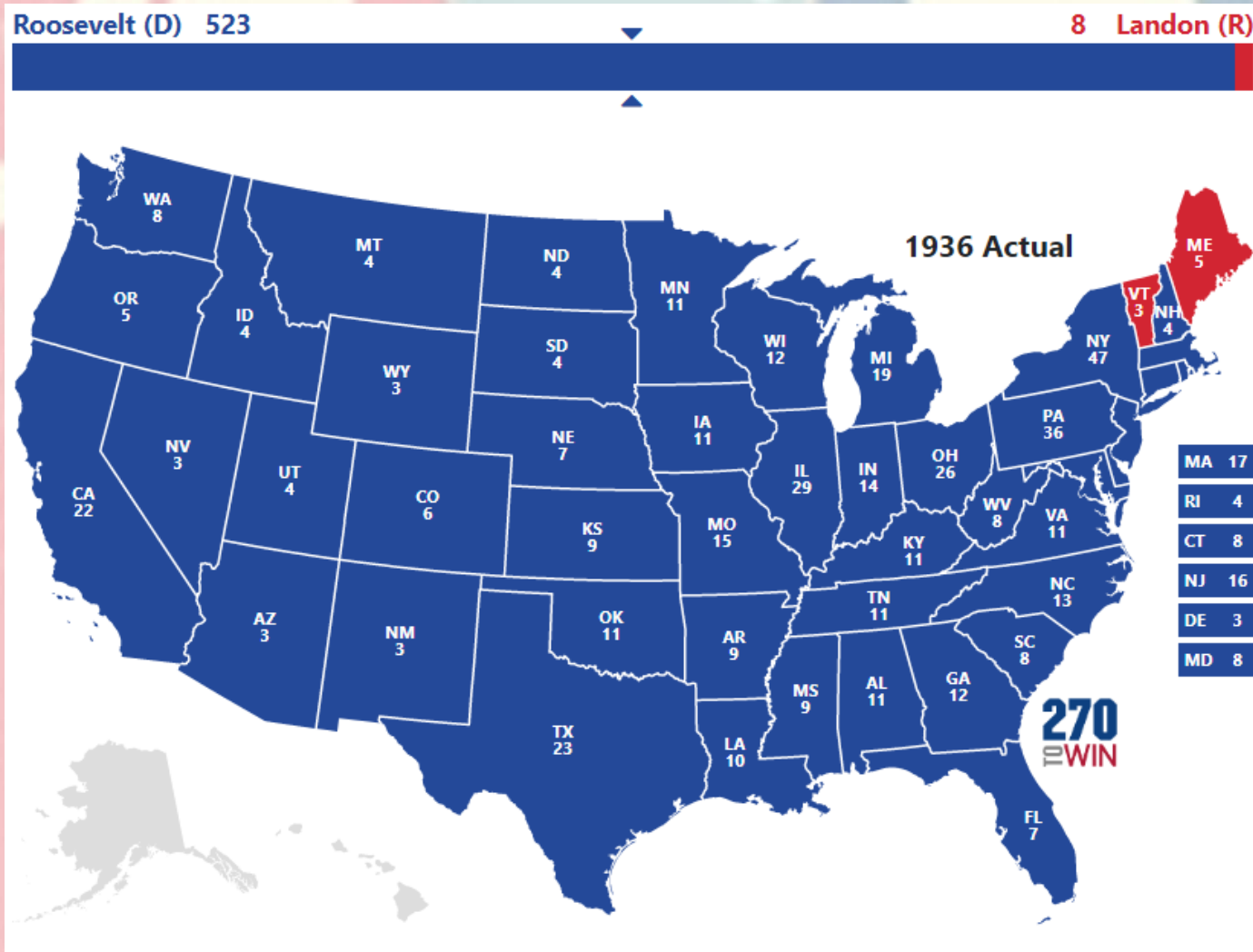


“[Political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.”

—President George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796.

Advantages of the Two-Party System

1. Stability in government: two choices, few shifts
2. Having only two parties has allowed us to track our stance on important issues over time

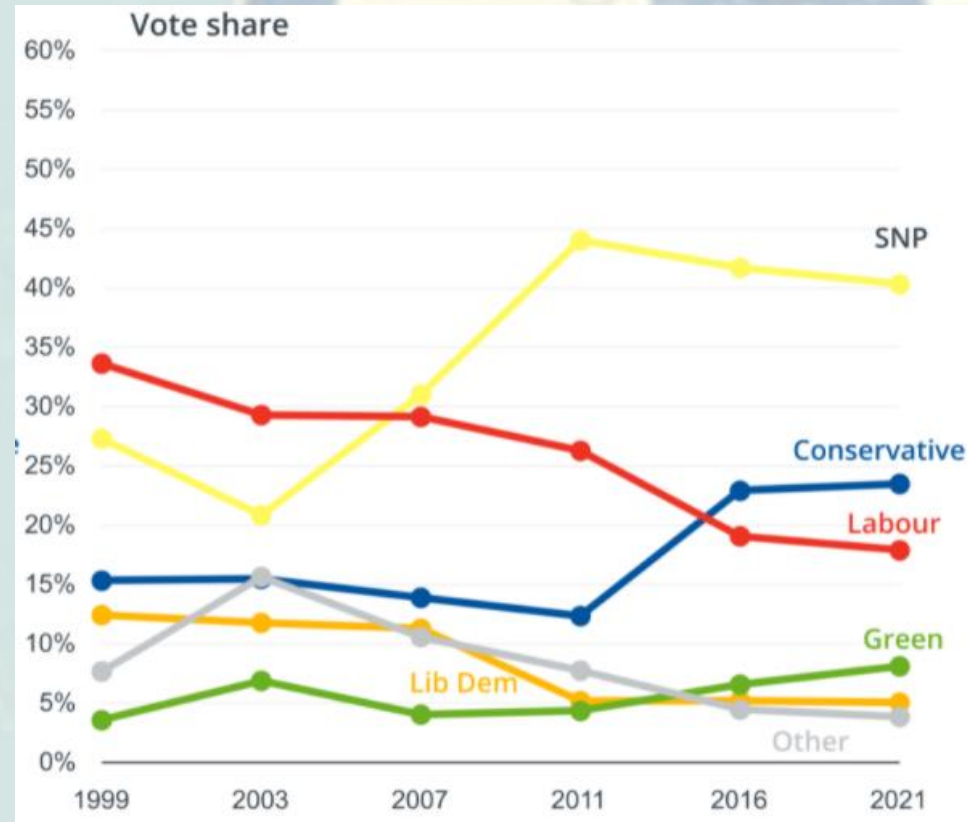


Advantages and Disadvantages of Multi-Party Systems

1. Variety of choices to meet more citizens' vision of the ideal government
2. Single party majorities are rare →
3. Which leads to the formation of coalitions: one party rarely wins enough support to win an election, so two or more parties join together in order to obtain a majority

coalitions are formed in most multi-party systems

4. Can be unstable: coalitions frequently fail due to infighting



Elections in Scotland

One-Party Systems

Only one political party = one choice is no choice (often the presence of a one-party system indicates authoritarianism)

1. Competition from other parties usually not allowed; competition forces parties to meet citizens' needs

2. Elections (if held) are often for show: government controls most or all aspects of citizens' lives

