

## Dissecting Political Parties

When we turn on the television, scroll on our Twitter feed, or tune in to the radio it is inevitable we hear the ongoing battle between Democrats and Republicans. From healthcare to gun control, to immigration all the nonsense blurs together when one doesn't even know the difference between the two political parties or even what a political party is! This article is to explain the basic difference between the Democratic and Republican parties and where you might stand on the political spectrum.

*What is a political party?*

A political party is a group of organized individuals who share the same political ideologies about how the government should function. They have shared policy goals and attempt to elect candidates of the same party to enforce the party's political agenda.

*Why are there only two political parties?*

The United States is mainly a two-party system (Democrats and Republicans), but there are others called third parties. Some of the major third parties are the Libertarian Party, the Green Party, and the Reform Party. These parties don't have much of a say of what happens in government but can affect presidential elections. To this date, no third-party candidate has been elected as president.

*What does it mean if my state is red or blue?*

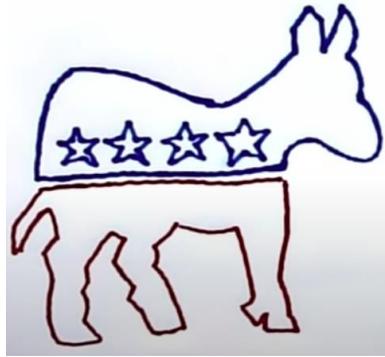
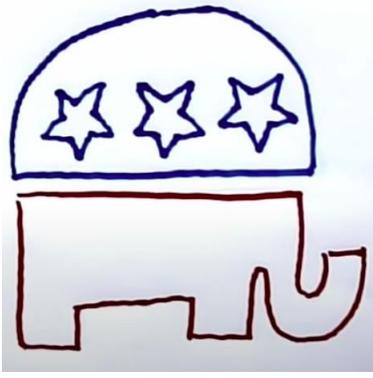
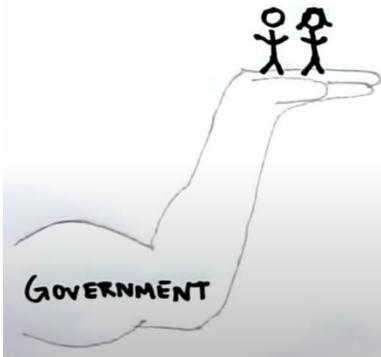
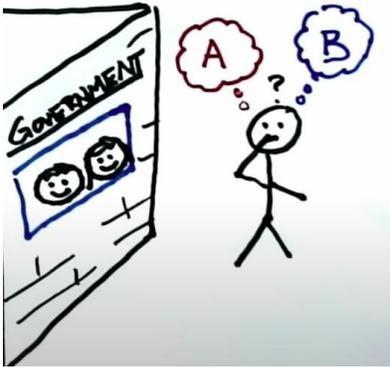
The political color scheme for the United States is the Democratic Party is **BLUE** and the Republican Party is **RED**. This color scheme only dates back to 2000, and the original color scheme was based off the United Kingdom where it is the opposite.

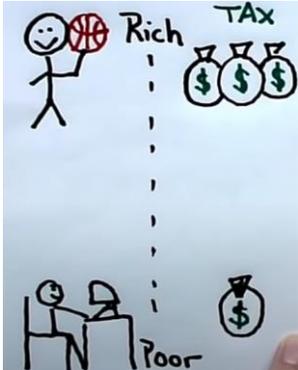
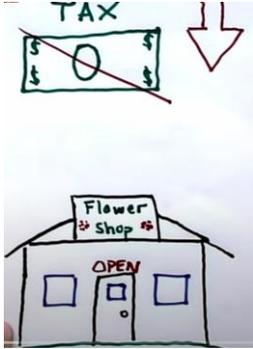
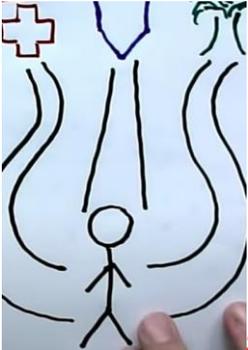


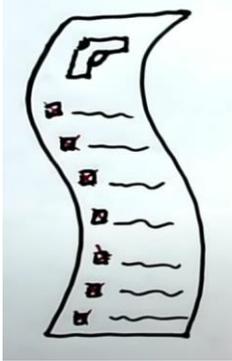
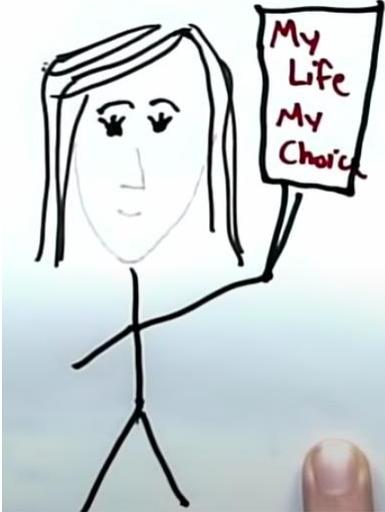
Each party has their own platform of basic beliefs. However, just because your a Republican doesn't mean you agree with everything the Republican Party stands for or if your a Democrat doesn't mean you agree with everything the Democrat Party stands. While it might seem there are only two sides, politics is a spectrum (left-wing and right-wing) and you can fall anywhere between the two parties.

Below is a table of the basic difference between the parties and a video explanation. After reviewing the table the online quiz to see where you fall on the political spectrum!

Democrats vs Republicans | What is the difference between Republicans and Democrats?:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PrvciTGpRI>

	Democrat (left side)	Republican (right side)
Logo		
Ideals	 <p>Strong government. More liberal in their views on the rights of citizens.</p>	 <p>Limited government. A more conservative approach to most rights of citizens.</p>

<p><b>Economy</b></p>	 <p>Rich TAX Poor</p> <p>Push for progressive taxation</p>	 <p>TAX</p> <p>Flower Shop OPEN</p> <p>Support cutting taxes when possible and the free market</p>
<p><b>Healthcare</b></p>	 <p>OBAMACARE</p> <p>Support federally funded healthcare programs.</p>	 <p>Support private healthcare.</p>
<p><b>Military</b></p>	 <p>Believe in safeguarding nuclear weapons and decreasing military spending.</p>	 <p>Believe in a strong, traditional, comprehensive defense system</p>

<p><b>Gun Control</b></p>	 <p>Restrict and monitor gun control</p>	 <p>Limit amount of gun control restrictions</p>
<p><b>Abortion</b></p>	 <p>Pro-Choice... Believe that it is your choice to choose</p>	 <p>Pro-life... support alternatives such as adoption</p>
<p><b>Immigration</b></p>	 <p>Don't promote strict immigration restrictions</p>	 <p>Strict immigration restrictions</p>

**Quiz:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-party-quiz/>

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