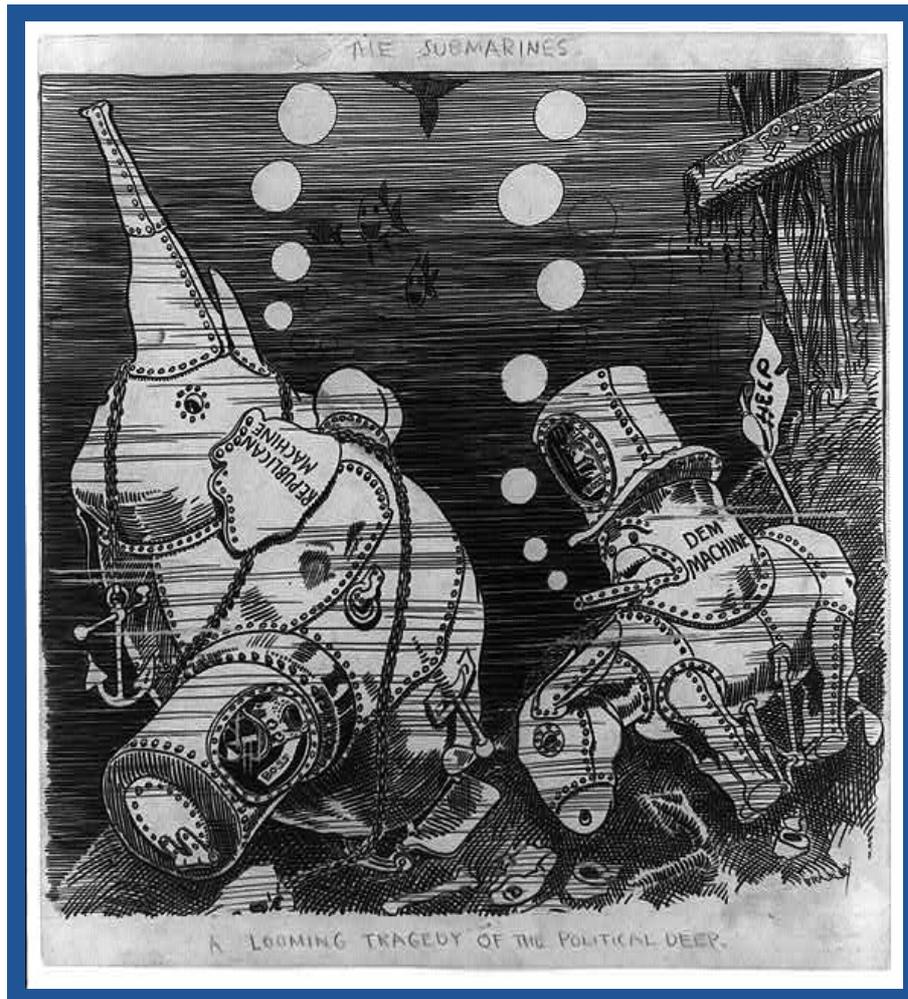


How well do our parties represent us?



Supporting Questions

1. What are political parties and why do we only have two in the U.S.?
2. How did political parties gain and nurture their constituents in the later 19th century?
3. What actions by political parties in the mid-20th century have brought satisfaction/dissatisfaction among constituents?

Grade 12 Inquiry with Library of Congress Resources Hub American Political Parties
Inquiry by Paige Solomon

How well do our parties represent us?

Inquiry Standard	VA standards; AP Gov. standards
Staging the Compelling Question	<p>Paper Bag Supporters by Steve Kelley http://www.cagle.com/steve-kelley/2016/10/paper-ba..</p> <p>Discuss the ideas presented by the cartoonist. How happy have voters been with our current political parties? Are our major parties out of touch with the American people? Is the two-party system best for our country?</p>

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
What are political parties and why do we only have two in the U.S.?	How did political parties gain and nurture their constituents in the later 19th century?	What actions by political parties in the mid-20th century have brought satisfaction/dissatisfaction among constituents?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Write a paragraph that traces the formation of our major and minor parties and explain the platform or interests that those parties promoted.	Make a timeline that shows how and when the political parties have increased or lost popularity.	List the times that the major parties have undergone realignment/dealignment and for what reason(s).
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
Source A: An heir the throne or the next Republican candidate Source B: Tammany "workers" at the polls in Pell Street, New York - the beginning of a free fight / W.A. Rogers. Source C: The allies under the new flag - the Republicans and the monopolists train their guns on the workingmen Source D: Coronation of the autocrat of protection Source E: William McKinley Campaigns and Elections: The Campaign of 1896 Source F: The submarines; a tragic possibility of the political deep Source G: I want to make it perfectly clear that national defense requires 18-cent oil	Source A: But How to Let Go— Gracefully Source B: Waiting for Reagan Source C: Have You Seen This Man? Source D: An American Tragedy	Source A: The tariff triumph of pharaoh Wilson Source B: The Shadow Source C: True, I had coffee with those big contributors, but I didn't swallow Source D: One of these days Source E: Quitting time and all's well! Source F: Trump's New Wall

Summative Performance Task	<p>ARGUMENT</p> <p>Assess the viability of our current major parties. How have they lost touch with their constituents? Cite particular issues/policy areas that have become problematic. In what ways do they seem out of touch with the American people?</p> <p>EXTENSION</p> <p>Create a public service message in the form of one page ad or a short video (30 seconds to one minute in length) to focus the attention of the public on a specific concern that you have regarding the responsiveness of our political parties to the people.</p>
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Taking Informed Action	<p>UNDERSTAND List the ways in which electoral processes support and perpetuate the two party system. Review current party primary rules. Investigate how the political parties incorporate public opinion into the crafting of their platforms. Describe how partisanship has increased in recent decades with the creation of safe districts.</p> <p>ASSESS Decide on a course of action - what could be one significant reform either in our electoral processes or at the party level could result in greater responsiveness by the political parties to the will of the people?</p> <p>ACTION Propose your idea to the appropriate institution/ representative/body for consideration. Write a letter which outlines your plan and send it to party leaders who are in a position to act upon it/Send a copy to your local newspaper/Write your Congressperson to recommend a specific reform/Start a grassroots movement.</p>
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Supporting Question 1

Supporting Question	What are political parties and why do we only have two in the U.S.?
Formative Performance Task	Write a paragraph that traces the formation of our major and minor parties and explain the platform or interests that those parties promoted.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source A: An heir the throne or the next Republican candidate ● Source B: Tammany "workers" at the polls in Pell Street, New York - the beginning of a free fight / W.A. Rogers. ● Source C: The allies under the new flag - the Republicans and the monopolists train their guns on the workingmen ● Source D: Coronation of the autocrat of protection ● Source E: William McKinley Campaigns and Elections: The Campaign of 1896 ● Source F: The submarines; a tragic possibility of the political deep ● Source G: I want to make it perfectly clear that national defense requires 18-cent oil

Supporting Question 2

Supporting Question	How did political parties gain and nurture their constituents in the later 19th century?
Formative Performance Task	Make a timeline that shows how and when the political parties have increased or lost popularity.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source A: But How to Let Go—Gracefully ● Source B: Waiting for Reagan ● Source C: Have You Seen This Man? ● Source D: An American Tragedy

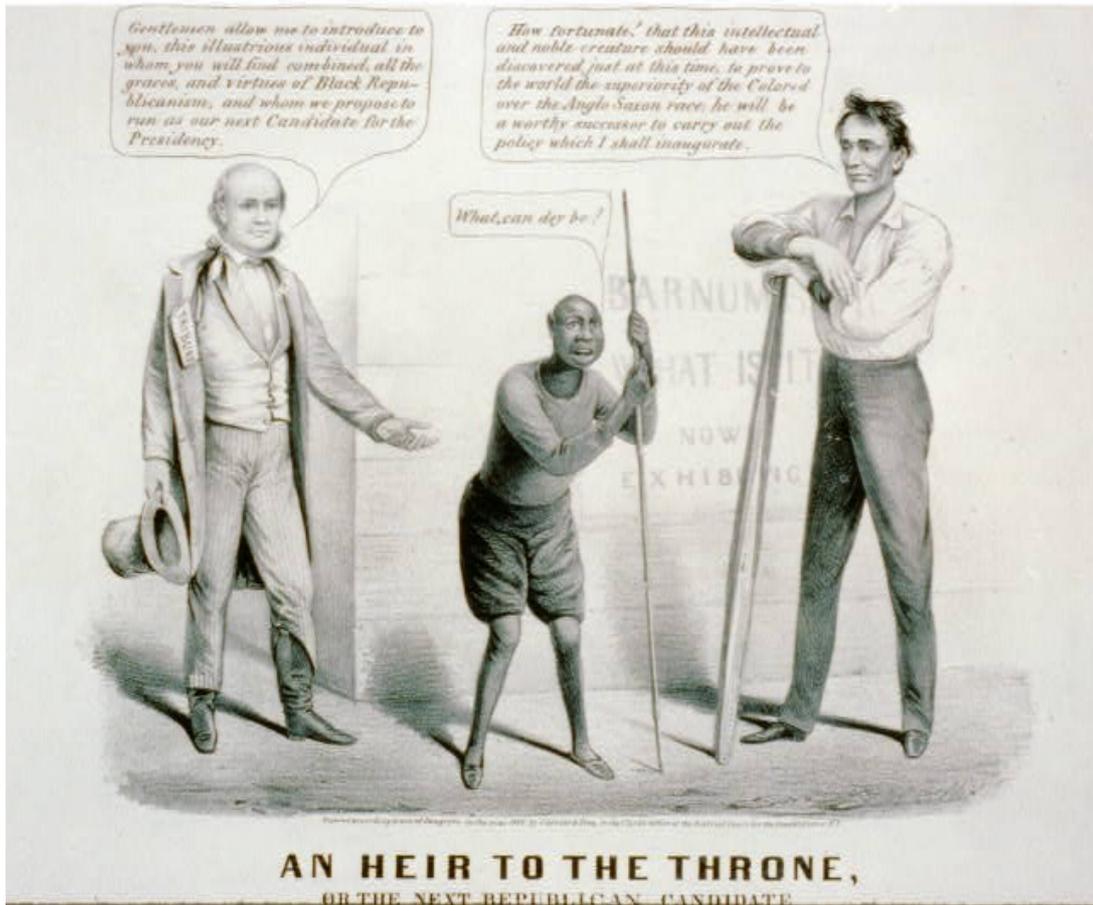
Supporting Question 3

Supporting Question	What actions by political parties in the mid-20th century have brought satisfaction/dissatisfaction among constituents?
Formative Performance Task	List the times that the major parties have undergone realignment/dealignment and for what reason(s).
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source A: The tariff triumph of pharaoh Wilson ● Source B: The Shadow ● Source C: True, I had coffee with those big contributors, but I didn't swallow ● Source D: One of these days ● Source E: Quitting time and all's well! ● Source F: Trump's New Wall

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source A

An heir to the throne or the next Republican candidate

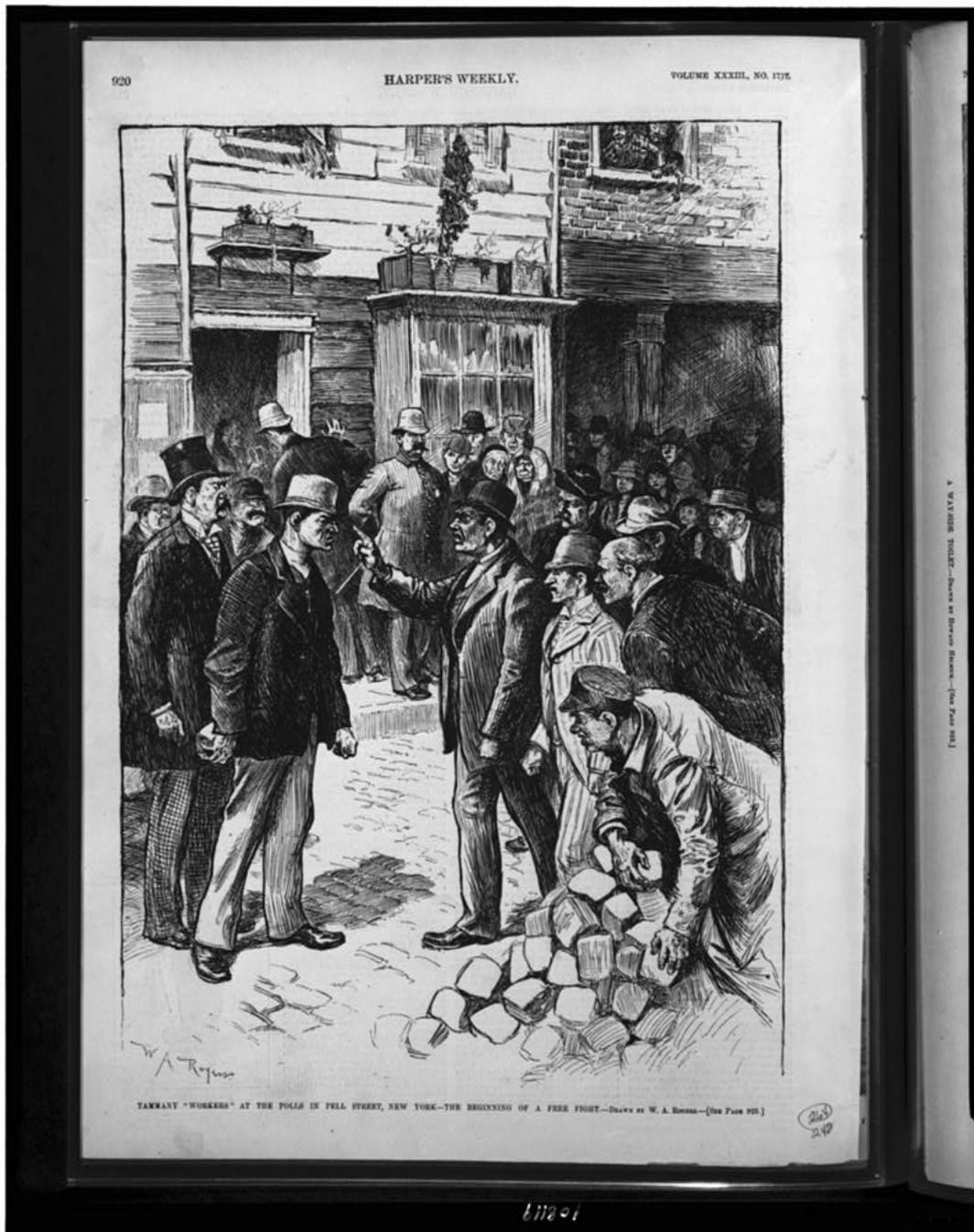


Currier & Ives & Maurer, L. (ca. 1860) *An heir to the throne, or the next Republican candidate* New York: Published by Currier & Ives. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003674574/>.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source B

Tammany "workers" at the polls in Pell Street, New York - the beginning of a free fight / W.A. Rogers.



Rogers, W. A. (1889) *Tammany "workers" at the polls in Pell Street, New York - the beginning of a free fight* / W.A. Rogers [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/93509652/>.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source C

The allies under the new flag - the Republicans and the monopolists train their guns on the workingmen



Gillam, B. (1883) *The allies under the new flag - the Republicans and the monopolists train their guns on the workingmen / Gillam*. N.Y.: Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, August 8. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012645503/>.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source D

Coronation of the autocrat of protection



Dalrymple, L. (1896) *Coronation of the autocrat of protection, June 16, 1896* / Dalrymple N.Y.: Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012648538/>.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source E

William McKinley Campaigns and Elections: The Campaign of 1896

Excerpt

The Panic of 1893, one of America's most devastating economic collapses, placed the Democrats on the defensive and restored Governor McKinley's stature in national politics. McKinley dominated the political arena at the opening of the 1896 Republican presidential nominating convention held in St. Louis. His commitment to protectionism as a solution to unemployment and his popularity in the Republican Party—as well as the behind-the-scenes political management of his chief political supporter, affluent businessman Marcus Hanna of Ohio—gave McKinley the nomination on the first ballot. He accumulated 661 votes compared to the 84 votes won by his nearest rival, House Speaker Thomas B. Reed of Maine.

The Republican platform endorsed protective tariffs and the gold standard while leaving open the door to an international agreement on bimetallism. It also supported the acquisition of Hawaii, construction of a canal across Central America, expansion of the Navy, restrictions on the acceptance of illiterate immigrants into the country, equal pay for equal work for women, and a national board of arbitration to settle labor disputes.

The Democrats, meeting in Chicago, rallied behind William Jennings Bryan, a former congressman from Nebraska. A superb orator, Bryan stirred Democrats with his stinging attack on the gold standard and his defense of bimetallism and free silver. He won the nomination on the fifth ballot. The Democrats pegged their hopes for victory on their opposition to (1) the protective tariff, (2) the immigration of foreign "pauper labor," and (3) the use of injunctions to end strikes. They also supported a federal income tax, a stronger Interstate Commerce Commission, statehood for the western states (Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona), and the anti-Spanish revolutionaries in Cuba, who were also supported by the Republicans.

Realizing that the Democrats had stolen their thunder on free silver, the insurgent Populist Party, which sought to organize and support farmers' interests, fused with the Democrats to nominate Bryan for President. Faced with the loss of the Solid South and the Far West, owing to the silver issue, the Republicans raised a staggering \$4 million for the campaign. A majority of the contributions came from business, particularly protectionist manufacturers who supported high tariffs and bankers who wanted to maintain sound money policies. Most of these funds went into the printing and distribution of 200 million pamphlets. McKinley, following the tradition of previous candidates who campaigned for President from their homes, delivered 350 carefully crafted speeches from his front porch in Canton to 750,000 visiting delegates. Some 1,400 party speakers stumped the nation, painting Bryan as a radical, a demagogue, and a socialist. Republican speakers de-emphasized their party's stand on bimetallism and instead championed a protective tariff that promised full employment and industrial growth.

Bryan, in response, stumped the nation in a strenuous campaign, covering 18,000 miles in just three months. He spoke to wildly enthusiastic crowds, condemning McKinley as the puppet of big business and political managers. However, midway through his campaign, Bryan's pace faltered. His strategy for dual party support failed. Gold Democrats bolted the party, unhappy with Bryan's stand on bimetallism and free silver. Some urban-based progressives, who worried about Bryan's evangelistic style and moralistic fervor, also deserted the Democrats. Moreover, Bryan failed to build support outside his Populist and agrarian base, especially in the face of McKinley's effective campaigning on economic issues.

Bryan lost to McKinley by a margin of approximately 600,000 votes, the greatest electoral sweep in twenty-five years. McKinley received over a third more electoral college votes than Bryan. The Republican victory reflected a winning coalition of urban residents in the North, prosperous midwestern farmers, industrial workers, ethnic voters (with the exception of the Irish), and reform-minded professionals. It launched a long period of Republican power lasting until 1932, broken only by Woodrow Wilson's victory in 1912, which occurred principally because of a split in the Republican Party.

The Campaign and Election of 1900

After four years in office, McKinley's popularity had risen because of his image as the victorious commander-in-chief of the Spanish-American War (see Foreign Affairs section) and because of the nation's general return

to economic prosperity. Hence, he was easily renominated in 1900 as the Republican candidate. The most momentous event at the Philadelphia convention centered on the vice presidential nomination of Governor Theodore Roosevelt of New York. Vice President Garret A. Hobart of New Jersey had died in office, and Roosevelt's candidacy added a popular war hero and reform governor to the ticket. Setting up the stage for a rematch of the 1896 election, the Democrats again nominated Bryan at their convention in Kansas City. Grover Cleveland's former vice president, Adlai E. Stevenson, took the second spot on the Democratic slate.

The rematch played to old and new issues. Bryan refused to back off his call for free silver even though the recent discoveries of gold in Alaska and South Africa had inflated the world's money supply and increased world prices. As a result, the U.S. farming industry saw its profits grow as crops such as corn commanded more money on the market. Farmer dissatisfaction was less than it was in 1896, and gold was the reason behind it. Hence, Bryan's silver plank was a nonissue to the farming community, which was one of his main constituent groups. Responding to these voter sentiments, Democratic Party managers included the silver plank in their platform but placed greater emphasis on expansionism and protectionism as the key issues in the election. The Democrats also opposed McKinley's war against Philippine insurgents and the emergence of an American empire, viewing the latter as contrary to the basic character of the nation. The Republicans countered with a spirited defense of America's interests in foreign markets. They advocated expanding ties with China, a protectorate status for the Philippines, and an antitrust policy that condemned monopolies while approving the "honest cooperation of capital to meet new business conditions" in foreign markets.

Duplicating the campaign tactics of 1896, the Republicans spent several million dollars on 125 million campaign documents, including 21 million postcards and 2 million written inserts that were distributed to over 5,000 newspapers weekly. They also employed 600 speakers and poll watchers. As in 1896, McKinley stayed at home dispensing carefully written speeches. His running mate, Theodore Roosevelt, campaigned across the nation, condemning Bryan as a dangerous threat to America's prosperity and status.

Although not a landslide shift comparable to election swings in the twentieth century, McKinley's victory ended the pattern of close popular margins that had characterized elections since the Civil War. McKinley received 7,218,491 votes (51.7 percent) to Bryan's 6,356,734 votes (45.5 percent)—a gain for the Republicans of 114,000 votes over their total in 1896. McKinley received nearly twice as many electoral votes as Bryan did. In congressional elections that year, Republicans held fifty-five Senate seats to the Democrats' thirty-one, and McKinley's party captured 197 House seats compared to the Democrats' 151. Indeed, the Republican Party had become the majority political party in the nation.

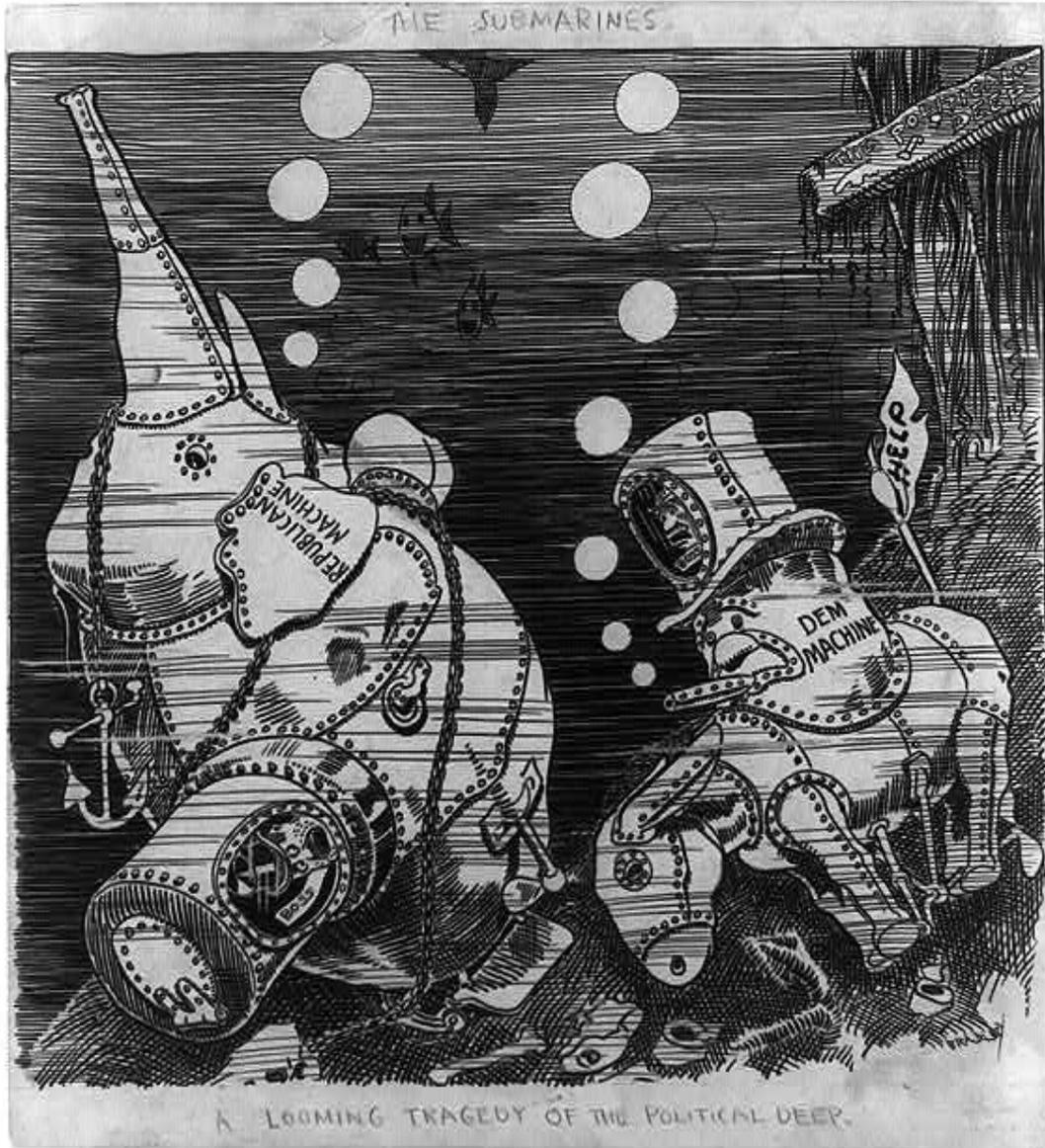
Source:

Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia. "William McKinley: Campaigns and Elections." Accessed January 5, 2017. <http://millercenter.org/president/biography/mckinley-campaigns-and-elections>.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source F

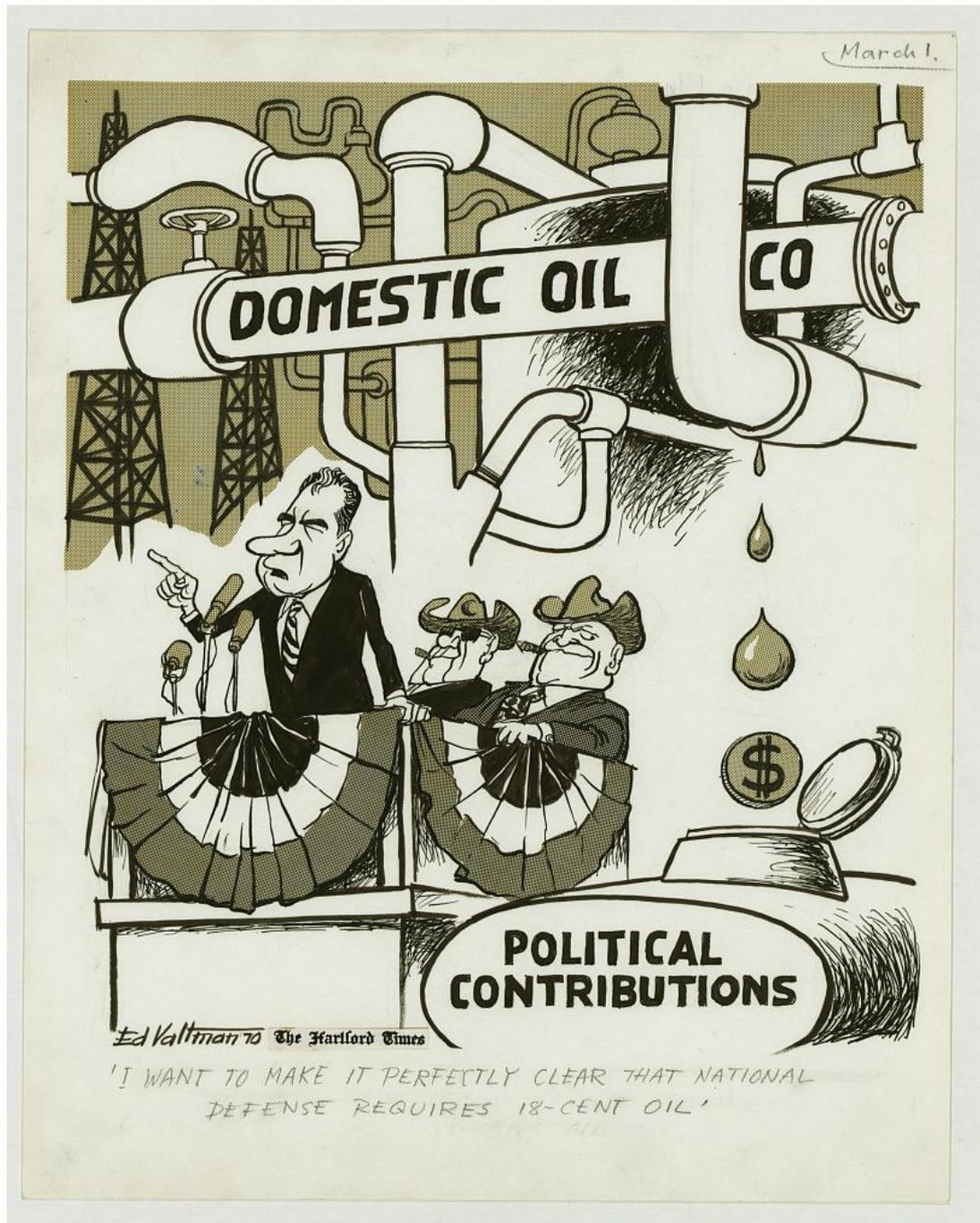
The submarines; a tragic possibility of the political deep



Supporting Question 1

Featured Source G

I want to make it perfectly clear that national defense requires 18-cent oil



Valtman, E. S. (1970) "I want to make it perfectly clear that national defense requires 18-cent oil" / Ed Valtman '70 [March 1] [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2005685927/>.

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source A

But How to Let Go—Gracefully

Excerpt

Cartoon by Vaughn Shoemaker published in in the *Chicago American*, 1965.

President Lyndon Johnson clings grimly to the tail of a giant tiger (labeled “Vietnam”), that lunges wildly through a nocturnal universe in this cartoon by Vaughn Shoemaker (1902–1991). This drawing of 1965 addresses how America would extricate itself from the war in Vietnam. U.S. troops did pull out in 1973. A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Shoemaker studied at the Chicago Academy for Fine Arts, drew editorial cartoons at the *Chicago Daily News* for nearly thirty years, and taught at his alma mater. His artful, gestural style became looser and more painterly in the 1960s.

Source:

Shoemaker, V. (ca. 1965) *But how to let go -- gracefully / Shoemaker* [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/cartoonamerica/cartoon..>

(Click on small image to view large image.)

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source B

Waiting for Reagan

Excerpt

Cartoon by Pat Oliphant. Published by Universal Press Syndicate August 11, 1982. Pat Oliphant (b. 1935) captures President Ronald Reagan's political plight in the summer of 1982 in this dramatic cartoon. The Moral Majority and other rightist groups publicly criticized Reagan for what they perceived as his neglect of social issues important to conservatives. Inspired by Thomas Nast's depiction of the infamous Boss Tweed and his Tammany Hall cronies as vultures, Oliphant pictures Reagan's critics, “The New Right,” as five menacing, vulture-like creatures, out on a limb. One of the great draftsmen in the field, Oliphant combines boldly rendered forms and dramatic perspective in this witty allusion to his artistic predecessor. For more information about his career and work, see [Oliphant's Anthem](#).

Source:

Oliphant, P. (ca. 1982) *Waiting for Reagan / Oliphant* August. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/cartoonamerica/cartoon..>

(Click on small image to view large image.)

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source C

Have You Seen This Man?

Excerpt

Cartoon by John Cole published online, The Cagle Post.

Source:

Cole, J. (n.d.). Cagle Post. Retrieved January 05, 2017, from http://media.cagle.com/20/2005/02/09/13040_600.jpg

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source D

An American Tragedy

Excerpt

Cartoon by Herblock Published in *The Washington Post*, June 5, 1964. Herb Block viewed the 1964 presidential campaign of Republican candidate Barry Goldwater as ruthless and extremist. Goldwater's support of ultra-conservatives contrasted with the long tradition of Republican moderates, which Block depicted as drowning. In his nomination acceptance speech on July 16, 1964, Goldwater said, "I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." The nation's overwhelming support for the Democratic candidate, Lyndon Johnson, tempered Goldwater's victory in the Republican Party.

Source:

Block, H. (1964) *An American tragedy / Herblock* June 5. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-enduring-outr..>

(Click on small image to enlarge.)

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source A

The tariff triumph of pharaoh Wilson



Keppler, U. J. (1913) *The tariff triumph of pharaoh Wilson / Keppler*. N.Y.: Published by Keppler & Schwarzmann, Puck Building, October 1. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011649632/>.

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source B The Shadow Excerpt

Cartoon by Art Wood 1955. In 1955 both Democrats and Republicans in Congress voted overwhelmingly in favor of a \$10,000 pay raise—from \$15,000 to \$25,000—at a time when most Americans earned less than \$3,900 a year. Art Wood implies that the dramatic pay raise not only contributed to the federal debt, but also brought Congressional leadership into question.

Source:

Wood, A. (1955) *The shadow / Art Wood* [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress,

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/cartoonamerica/cartoon..>

(Click on small image to enlarge.)

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source C	True, I had coffee with those big contributors, but I didn't swallow
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Excerpt

Cartoon by Herblock, published in *The Washington Post*, October 9, 1997.

During his 1992 presidential campaign Bill Clinton admitted that, while out of the country as a young man, he had smoked marijuana, but said he had never inhaled. Later, during a Senate investigation into campaign fund-raising abuses, the White House reluctantly turned over video tapes of coffees held with potential donors. Although the tapes ultimately showed no illegal activity, the White House's hesitance to disclose them prompted Republican leaders to call for an independent counsel investigation.

Source:

Block, H. (ca. 1997) *"True, I had coffee with those big contributors, but I didn't swallow" / Herblock* 1997 October 9. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblocks-history/appr..>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source D	One of these days
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Excerpt

Cartoon by Herblock published in *The Washington Post*, August 12, 1978. Revolution is afoot in Herb Block's drawing of frowning figures rolling a guillotine toward the Bastille-like walls of "Royal Congress Palaces." In a banner unfurled from the U.S. Capitol reading "Government By the Congressmen For the Congressmen," Block adapted hallowed phrases from Lincoln's Gettysburg address, "government by the people, for the people." In 1978, there were reports of Democratic congressmen taking bribes, receiving large fees for speaking, and accepting lavish gifts. Passage of Proposition 13 in June in California enacted large state tax cuts, possibly inspiring Block's dream of a Proposition 14 that would unseat corrupt incumbents.

Source:

Block, H. (1978) *One of these days / Herblock* [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-enduring-outr..>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source E	Quitting time and all's well!
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Excerpt

Cartoon by Herblock published in *The Washington Post*, October 3, 1976. This cartoon appeared after Congress failed to censure unethical behavior by elected members in both houses. In September 1976, the Senate ethics committee voted not to pursue allegations that minority leader Senator Hugh Scott (R-Penn) received \$45,000 from Gulf agents, despite Scott's admission of doing so. On October 2, the House of Representatives refused to expel Representative Andrew Hinshaw (R-Calif), who had been convicted of bribery. Herb Block's image of both committees as fortress towers echoed his 1980 published statement: "Perhaps the biggest scandals in Congress are the ones in which it operates as a private mutual protection club."

Source:

Block, H. (1976) "Quitting time and all's well" / Herblock Oct. 3. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-enduring-outr..>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source F	Trump's New Wall
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Excerpt

Cartoon by John Cole published in the Scranton Times Tribune, November 17, 2016.

Source:

Cole, J. (n.d.). PoliticalCartoons.com Cartoon. Retrieved January 05, 2017, from <http://www.politicalcartoons.com/cartoon/8f735be5-..>

Summative Performance Task

Compelling Question	How well do our parties represent us?
Argument	Assess the viability of our current major parties. How have they lost touch with their constituents? Cite particular issues/policy areas that have become problematic. In what ways do they seem out of touch with the American people?
Extension	Create a public service message in the form of one page ad or a short video (30 seconds to one minute in length) to focus the attention of the public on a specific concern that you have regarding the responsiveness of our political parties to the people.

Taking Informed Action

Understand	List the ways in which electoral processes support and perpetuate the two party system. Review current party primary rules. Investigate how the political parties incorporate public opinion into the crafting of their platforms. Describe how partisanship has increased in recent decades with the creation of safe districts.
Assess	Decide on a course of action - what could be one significant reform either in our electoral processes or at the party level could result in greater responsiveness by the political parties to the will of the people?
Action	Propose your idea to the appropriate institution/ representative/body for consideration. Write a letter which outlines your plan and send it to party leaders who are in a position to act upon it/Send a copy to your local newspaper/Write your Congressperson to recommend a specific reform/Start a grassroots movement.

