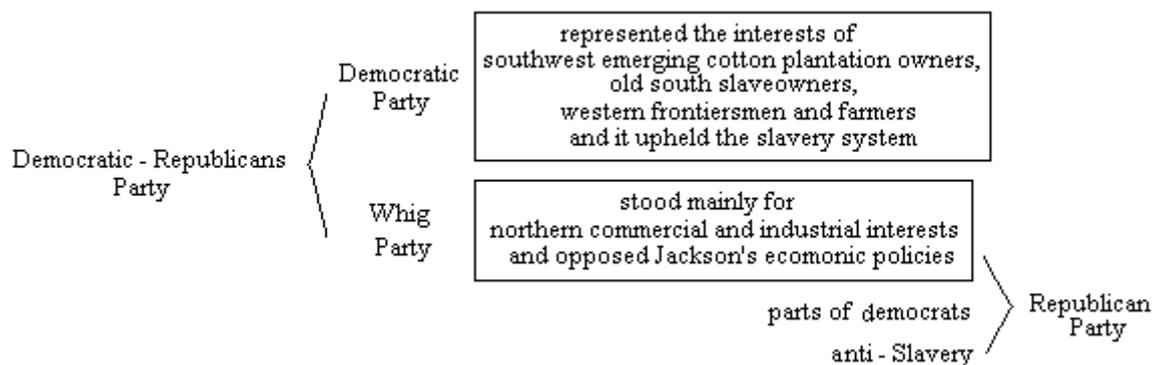


② 1828 – 1860:



③ 1860s – 1920s: Republican Party.

④ 1920s – 1980s: Democratic Party.

3. Differences

① On economic issues: a. Democrats traditionally favour government intervention; b. Republicans stress the role of the market more.

② On social issues: a. Democrats support a strong social security system; b. the Republicans oppose large governmental social security programs.

4. Features

The two parties are actually loose political coalitions. The two parties both believe in individualism, defend capitalism and uphold private ownership of means of production.

5. State parties

The state parties are independent and the National Committee does not have any power over them nor can it remove any of the officials elected by them. In fact, it is a coalition of interests and interest groups.

6. Main function

American politics is party politics and no one can hope to win any election if he does not have a party to back him. So a party's main function is to help its candidates win elections. It is almost impossible for an independent candidate to win an election, especially a nation-wide or state-wide election.

7. Reasons of decline of American political parties' influence

① the decline of patronage using the Party's influence to bring material benefits to its followers;

② the wide use of direct primaries' initial voting by members to select candidates for elections.

Chapter 20 Education

I .Education

1. It is a general view that every American has the right and obligation to become educated. Americans believe that, through education, an individual acquires the knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities which will enable him to fit into society and improve his social status.

2. Characteristics of American Education

① Formal education in the United States consists of elementary, secondary and higher education. Elementary and secondary education, which forms public education, is free and compulsory.

② Education is a function of the state, not the federal government. There is not a national system of education in the United States.

③ Characteristics

a. Diversity is considered to be an outstanding characteristic of American education.

b. On the other hand, there is a remarkable sameness in these systems.

II .Elementary and Secondary Education

1. Elementary and secondary education in the United States covers 12 years for ages 6 through 18.

2. The revenues to operate schools primarily come from states and localities.
3. It is common that each state delegates its power to an elected or appointed state board of education.
4. The typical organizational pattern for elementary and secondary schools is that of graded schools.
 - ① Usually, the elementary school covers grades 1-8 and the high school 9-12.
 - ② The pattern under which the elementary school covers grades 1-5 or 6, the junior high school 6 or 7-9, and the high school 10-12 is also common.
5. There is a certain degree of similarity in the elementary school curriculum. It mainly consists of mastery of the “basics”, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic or mathematics. Social studies, science, foreign languages, music, health and physical education are also included in almost all grades above the third.
6. High schools are made up of comprehensive, academic, vocational and technical schools with somewhat different tasks. A typical high school curriculum includes almost all the subjects for elementary schools, but is more specialized.
 - ① English courses stress grammar and literature.
 - ② History is split into separate courses in American history, American government and European history.
 - ③ Algebra, geometry and trigonometry are offered, and a one-year course in general science, and then more detailed courses in biology, chemistry and physics are usually required.
 - ④ Many high schools offer dozens and sometimes hundreds of electives, ranging from philosophy and creative writing to community services.
7. A typical school day is 6-7 hours, and a typical school year is 180 school days, usually beginning classes in early September and finishing the school year soon after the end of May.

III. Higher Education

1. Higher education in the United States began with the founding of Harvard College in 1636.
2. According to the 1994 *Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education*, there are 125 research universities, 111 doctoral universities, 529 master's comprehensive colleges and universities, 637 liberal arts colleges offering BA degree, 1471 junior colleges and 722 specialized institutions.
3. The system of higher education in the United States has three principal functions: teaching, research and public service.
4. Famous universities are Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in the east, as well as Stanford and Berkeley on the west coast.
5. The total funding for higher education was approximately \$100 billion. There is a fierce competition for dollars from public and private sources. Administrators both at public and private institutions usually spend a major part of their time trying hard to find resources to support their institutions.
6. New York, Rhode Island, and Michigan set policy for education at all levels, but other states have separate university boards for higher education. Except for some colleges sponsored by the Catholic church, all colleges and universities in the United States, public and private, are governed by a board of trustees composed primarily of laymen.
 - ① The board has total authority as the legal body responsible for the institution, although it delegates much of it to administrators and faculty.
 - ② In most states, trustees (or regents) for boards of state colleges and universities are nominated by the governor of the state, subject to approval by the state senate.
7. Admission to an institution is determined by each college or university. It is selective and competitive, especially in private institutions.
 - ① The general standards for admission include successful completion of high school, high school grade point average (GPA) and class rank, courses studied in areas of English, mathematics, and science, and results from standardized tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing Program's examination (ACTP).
 - ② However open admissions are also being practiced in some public institutions. Admission to some of these institutions requires a high school diploma or its equivalent, but in most cases, involves almost no restriction.
8. Students pay tuition and other educational fees for the higher education they receive. Tuition varies from year to year, state to state and institution to institution, and there is a significant difference between tuition rates in public and

private institutions.

- ① In the past 10 years, tuition has risen tremendously by almost 2 or 3 times.
 - ② Professional programs, both in private and public institutions, are generally even more expensive.
 - ③ For students from other states, the cost is usually doubled. International students fall into the category of out-of-state students, but private colleges and universities charge the same rate of tuition for in-state and out-of-state students.
9. In almost all undergraduate curricula in the United States, the student takes a fixed part of the undergraduate curriculum in general education. The part varies considerably.
 10. The general education requirement in a college or university applies to all students regardless of their field of specialization and includes studies in writing, literature, history, biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, social-behavioral sciences and fine arts, usually at the freshman and sophomore levels.
 11. The community called for education to serve the good of both the individual and society.
 - ① Five main functions.
 - c. It prepares students for transferring to a BA program at a four-year institution.
 - d. It provides vocational training for people who are already working or expect to be working in the near future.
 - e. It gives remedial instruction to higher school students who are under prepared for college academically and adults who did not learn basic skills in elementary or secondary school.
 - f. It offers recreational, cultural activities for adults who are not seeking regular vocational or academic skills.
 - g. It absorbs students in a four-year program who are not qualified into a lower-status vocational program.
 - ② The guiding principle of community college is higher education for everyone and the philosophy that equality must mean equal opportunity for self-realization and for the recognition of individual differences.
 - ③ The community college as an institution is one of the most important innovations in the history of American higher education. It has played an important role in making higher education more accessible and in meeting the needs of educated adults, employees of local business, professionals requiring certification as well as community organizations.

IV. Adult Education

1. It is called “continuing education” programs or “lifelong education” programs.

V. Education Reforms

1. In the 1980s, the problems in education again drew the attention of many people. A report entitled “A Nation At Risk” was issued points as follows:
 - ① high rates of adult illiteracy;
 - ② declining SAT scores;
 - ③ decline of educational standards.
2. At the beginning of 1990s, people found that the reform efforts of the 1980s had little impact. Concern was widespread that American school children were not well-prepared for life in the twenty-first century.
3. In 1995, some improvement has been made in American schools, but there are still some problems. (“America 2000: An Education Strategy”)
 - ① The nation’s high school graduation rate remains 86%.
 - ② There has been no increase in the enrollment for college.
 - ③ Violence is still a serious problem in American schools and the number of students who take drugs keeps going up.

Chapter 21 Literature, Architecture and Music

I. American Literature

1. Benjamin Franklin was the only writer in the colonial period whose works are read today.
 - ① “Lost time is never found again” “God helps those who help themselves” are very famous sayings in his *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, which is an annual collection of proverbs.
 - ② His uncompleted Autobiography is perhaps the first real American writing as well as the first real autobiography in English.