**Political Parties**

1. Political Parties
   a. Major Parties
      i. Democratic Party: favors more government support for programs, such as health care and public education.
      ii. Republican Party: favors less government, lower taxes, and more freedom
   b. Third Parties (NOT the big 2)
      i. Libertarian Party: wish to maximize human freedom and to reduce government and taxation.
      ii. Green Party: wants to reduce exploitation of the natural environment
      iii. Socialist Party: favors more public services, public ownership of utilities and some industries
      iv. Communist Party: believes capitalists exploit workers; revolution needed to achieve change

2. Impact of Parties
   a. Positive
      i. Encourage citizens to participate in politics
      ii. Help government leaders organize support
      iii. Act as watchdogs over opposing party
   b. Negative
      i. Divides Americans
      ii. Places pressure on legislators