

POLITICAL PARTIES

What functions do parties serve?

- Generally, parties are a link between people and government

Functions:

- ⦿ Nominate, or name, candidates for office
- ⦿ Inform and inspire their members
- ⦿ Ensure that office holders are qualified and do their job
- ⦿ “Government by party”
- ⦿ Act as a watchdog over the party in power

Two-Party System

- Why do we have a two-party system?
- Why not 5 parties?

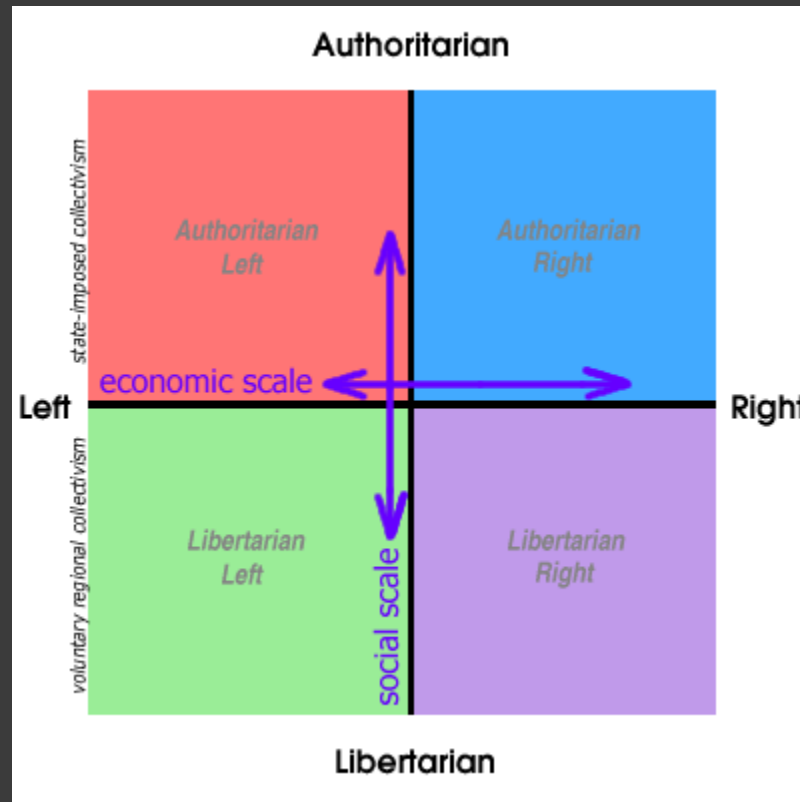
Reasons:

- ⦿ History:
 - First parties: Federalists and Anti-Federalists
 - Founders of the country did not like parties
 - Constitution does not mention parties
- ⦿ Tradition
- ⦿ Electoral System
- ⦿ Ideological consensus: we agree on most things

Single-member Districts

- Winner-take all elections
- Plurality (largest number of votes) wins
- Result: votes for minor party candidates are wasted

Political Spectrum



History of Two Party System

● Pg. 126

Minor Parties

- Pg. 132