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| Class Notes / PowerPoint Presentation / Textbook Notes  **American Government**  Name:  Class:  Date:  **Political Behavior: Chapter 5 Section 2: Two-Party System**  **Government By the People in American History**  **in American History** | |
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| *Questions/Main Ideas:* |  |
| **Objectives** | I will be able to…   * Understand the origins of political parties in the USA * Identify & describe the 3 major periods of single-party domination & describe the current era of divided government * Analyze & explain how the two-party system affected the history the U.S. as well as its effects on the function of government today. |
| **Key Terms** | **Definitions** |
| incumbent |  |
| faction |  |
| spoils system |  |
| electorate |  |
| sectionalism |  |
| **FOCUS QUESTION** | **How has the two-party system affected the history of American government?** |
| **The Nation’s First Parties** |  |
| **4 Major Eras of the American Two-Party Political System** | **Directions:** Use p.131 of your textbook to identify & describe the 4 Major Eras of America’s Two-Party Political System. For each era, indicate the following:   * Time period, e.g. 1800 - 1860 * Which political party had dominant control of the Presidency and/or Congress? * Cite statistics to support the electoral victories demonstrating the dominance of either party   **ERA 1**  **ERA 2**  **ERA 3**  **ERA 4** |
| **Democratic-Republican Party** |  |
| **The Democratic Party** |  |
| **The Era of the Democrats** |  |
| **Democrats v. Whigs** |  |
| ***CHECKPOINT!*** | **How are the politics of today different from past eras?** |
| **Era of the Republicans** |  |
| ***CHECKPOINT!*** | **What 3rd Party candidate had an influence on the election of 1912? Explain in his influence on the outcome of the election.** |
| **Economic Turmoil** |  |
| **End of Republican Era** |  |
| **Party Identity: Past and Present** |  |
| **Return of the Democrats** |  |
| **Era of Divided Government** |  |
| **Republicans in the 1980s** |  |
| **Political Parties Today** |  |
| ***CHECKPOINT!*** | **What does “divided government” mean?** |
| ***Critical Thinking Questions*** | **Do you think one-party rule or divided government comes closer to the ideal the Framers had when they envisioned a government without political parties? Explain.**  **How do political or economic crises hurt or help candidates get elected?** |