

history of the libertarian party

The History of the Libertarian Party: Tracing the Roots of America's Third Major Political Force

history of the libertarian party is a fascinating journey into the evolution of a political movement that champions individual liberty, limited government, and free-market principles. Unlike the long-established Democratic and Republican parties, the Libertarian Party emerged as a distinct voice advocating for personal freedom and minimal state intervention. Understanding its origins and development provides insight into how alternative political ideas can influence the broader American political landscape.

The Birth of the Libertarian Party

The Libertarian Party was officially founded in December 1971, a period marked by political unrest and growing skepticism toward government authority in the United States. This era witnessed the Vietnam War's controversy, the Watergate scandal, and an expanding welfare state—all of which fueled public disillusionment with mainstream politics.

At a meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a group of politically active individuals, including David Nolan, came together with the idea of creating a political party that emphasized civil liberties, non-interventionism, and free-market economics. David Nolan, often credited as the party's primary founder, crafted the "Nolan Chart," a graphical representation of political ideologies that highlighted libertarianism as distinct from traditional left-right politics.

Why Was the Libertarian Party Created?

The founders felt that neither the Democratic nor Republican parties adequately represented the ideals of personal freedom and limited government. They sought to provide voters with a clear alternative—one that opposed excessive taxation, government overreach, and infringements on individual rights.

The party's platform was revolutionary for its time, advocating for:

- The abolition of conscription and the military draft
- Drug legalization and criminal justice reform
- Free trade and deregulation
- Protection of civil liberties, including freedom of speech and privacy

This fresh approach resonated with many Americans frustrated by the political status quo.

Growth and Challenges in the Early Years

Launching a new political party in the United States comes with significant hurdles, and the

Libertarian Party was no exception. In its early years, it struggled with limited funding, low name recognition, and the challenges of breaking into a predominantly two-party system.

First Electoral Efforts

In 1972, the Libertarian Party fielded its first presidential candidate, John Hospers, who ran alongside Tonie Nathan. Although they received only about 4000 votes nationwide, the campaign was historic for earning Tonie Nathan the first-ever electoral vote for a woman and a third-party candidate through a faithless elector.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the party gradually expanded its presence by running candidates in various local, state, and federal elections. While winning major offices proved difficult, the Libertarian Party steadily built a reputation as a principled advocate for liberty.

Key Milestones and Expanding Influence

- In 1980, Ed Clark became the party's presidential nominee and achieved the highest popular vote total for a Libertarian candidate at the time, capturing nearly 1% of the vote.
- The 1990s saw the party focusing on ballot access nationwide, ensuring Libertarian candidates could appear on the ballot in all 50 states—a crucial step for increasing visibility.
- The party also gained attention through notable candidates like Harry Browne, who ran for president twice and articulated the Libertarian message with clarity.

The Libertarian Party's Role in Modern Politics

As the 21st century progressed, the Libertarian Party continued to influence national discourse, particularly on issues such as government surveillance, drug policy reform, and economic freedom. With growing public awareness of civil liberties and skepticism toward government intervention, libertarian ideas found new audiences.

Prominent Candidates and Election Impact

- In 2016, Gary Johnson, a former two-term Republican governor of New Mexico, became the party's presidential nominee. His campaign was notable for reaching a broader electorate, gaining over 4 million votes—a significant milestone.
- Johnson's running mate, former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, brought further credibility and media attention.
- In 2020, Jo Jorgensen carried the Libertarian banner, continuing efforts to present the party as a serious alternative.

Though no Libertarian candidate has won a major national election, their presence has influenced debates and occasionally swayed outcomes in close races by drawing votes from dissatisfied voters.

Challenges Facing the Libertarian Party Today

Despite its growth, the party faces ongoing challenges, including:

- Overcoming the entrenched two-party system and electoral barriers such as stringent ballot access laws.
- Balancing diverse viewpoints within the party, from more pragmatic centrists to radical libertarians.
- Increasing media coverage and public awareness to translate ideological support into electoral success.

The Philosophy Behind the Party: A Commitment to Liberty

To truly appreciate the history of the Libertarian Party, one must understand its core philosophy. Libertarianism centers on the belief that individuals should have maximum freedom to live their lives as they see fit, provided they do not infringe on the rights of others.

This ideology extends to various policy areas:

- **Economic Freedom:** Advocating for free markets, minimal taxation, and deregulation.
- **Personal Liberty:** Supporting freedom of speech, privacy rights, and opposition to government surveillance.
- **Non-Interventionism:** Promoting a foreign policy that avoids unnecessary military conflicts and respects national sovereignty.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Calling for drug decriminalization, prison reform, and protection against over-policing.

This comprehensive approach attracts voters who feel alienated by both traditional conservative and liberal platforms.

Influence Beyond Elections: Cultural and Political Impact

While electoral success has been limited, the Libertarian Party has made significant contributions to American political thought. Its advocacy has helped shift public opinion on several issues once considered fringe.

For example:

- The movement's early and consistent support for drug legalization has contributed to the broader acceptance of cannabis reform across many states.
- Libertarian skepticism of government surveillance has gained traction amid debates over privacy in the digital age.
- Calls for criminal justice reform have influenced bipartisan efforts to address mass incarceration.

Moreover, libertarian ideas have permeated academia, think tanks, and policy debates, shaping discussions far beyond the party's electoral footprint.

Tips for Engaging with Libertarian Ideas

If you're curious about the history of the Libertarian Party or interested in exploring its philosophy, consider these approaches:

1. **Read Foundational Texts:** Books by thinkers like Ayn Rand (though not a libertarian herself), Murray Rothbard, and Ludwig von Mises provide context on libertarian economic and political theory.
2. **Follow Current Events:** Stay updated on how libertarian perspectives influence contemporary policy debates.
3. **Engage Locally:** Many Libertarian Party chapters organize events and discussions that welcome newcomers.
4. **Critically Evaluate:** Understand the strengths and criticisms of libertarianism to form a well-rounded view.

The party's history is not just about elections; it's about an ongoing dialogue on freedom and governance.

Looking Ahead: The Future of the Libertarian Party

The history of the Libertarian Party is still being written. As American politics continues to evolve, the party's emphasis on individual rights and limited government appeals to a growing segment of voters disillusioned with partisan gridlock.

Innovations in technology, changing demographics, and shifting cultural attitudes may offer new opportunities for the party to expand its influence. Whether through electoral breakthroughs or shaping public policy, the Libertarian Party's commitment to liberty ensures it remains a vital part of America's political fabric.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the Libertarian Party founded?

The Libertarian Party was founded in 1971 in Colorado, United States.

What motivated the creation of the Libertarian Party?

The Libertarian Party was created as a response to growing government intervention and the desire to promote individual liberty, limited government, and free-market principles.

Who were some of the key founders of the Libertarian Party?

Key founders include David Nolan, John Hospers, and Ed Crane, among others who were advocates for personal freedom and limited government.

What is the significance of the 1972 presidential election for the Libertarian Party?

In 1972, John Hospers became the Libertarian Party's first presidential candidate, marking the party's debut in a national election and earning the party its first electoral vote from a faithless elector.

How has the Libertarian Party influenced American politics over the years?

The Libertarian Party has influenced American politics by promoting libertarian ideas, shaping debates on civil liberties, economic freedom, and government size, and providing an alternative to the two major parties.

What are some major milestones in the history of the Libertarian Party?

Major milestones include the party's founding in 1971, first presidential run in 1972, gaining ballot access in all 50 states, and winning local and state offices across the country.

How has the Libertarian Party's platform evolved since its founding?

While the core principles of individual liberty, limited government, and free markets have remained, the platform has expanded to address modern issues like drug legalization, non-interventionist foreign policy, and digital privacy.

What challenges has the Libertarian Party faced throughout its history?

Challenges include limited media coverage, difficulties in gaining ballot access, competition with the two major parties, and overcoming public perception as a fringe or single-issue party.

Who are some notable Libertarian Party candidates in recent history?

Notable candidates include Gary Johnson, who ran for president in 2012 and 2016, and Jo Jorgensen,

the party's 2020 presidential nominee, both of whom brought increased visibility to the party.

Additional Resources

History of the Libertarian Party: Tracing the Evolution of American Libertarianism

history of the libertarian party is a compelling narrative that reflects the growing desire for individual liberty, limited government, and free-market principles in the United States. Since its inception in the early 1970s, the Libertarian Party has carved a unique political space, advocating for minimal state interference and maximum personal freedom. This article explores the origins, development, ideological shifts, and contemporary relevance of the Libertarian Party, providing a thorough analysis of its role within American political history.

Origins and Founding Principles

The history of the Libertarian Party begins in 1971, a period marked by widespread political turmoil in the United States. The Vietnam War, civil rights movements, and increasing distrust in government institutions fueled discontent among various ideological groups. Against this backdrop, the Libertarian Party was established by a group of activists who felt that neither the Democratic nor Republican parties adequately represented the values of individual liberty and economic freedom.

The party was officially founded on December 11, 1971, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Its founding platform emphasized non-interventionism in foreign policy, deregulation of the economy, protection of civil liberties, and a reduction of government size and scope. These principles aligned closely with classical liberalism and Austrian economic thought, which championed free markets and skepticism of centralized power.

Key Founders and Influential Figures

Several prominent individuals were instrumental in shaping the Libertarian Party's early trajectory. David Nolan, often credited as the primary founder, developed what became known as the "Nolan Chart," a two-dimensional political spectrum illustrating the party's commitment to both economic and personal freedom. Other early leaders included John Hospers, the party's first presidential candidate in 1972, who helped articulate the party's platform and increase its visibility.

Hospers' candidacy was particularly notable for winning an electoral vote in the 1972 presidential election, marking the first time a third-party candidate had achieved this feat in decades. This early success underscored the growing appeal of libertarian ideals among a segment of the electorate dissatisfied with the status quo.

Growth and Electoral Performance

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the Libertarian Party steadily expanded its organizational structure

and membership base. While it never achieved significant victories in major national elections, it became the most enduring and successful third party in the U.S. by consistently fielding presidential candidates and competing in state and local races.

Electoral Milestones

- **1972:** John Hospers becomes the first Libertarian presidential candidate; receives one electoral vote.
- **1980:** Ed Clark's presidential campaign garners nearly one million votes, the party's best showing to date.
- **1996:** Harry Browne's campaign further cements the party's presence, emphasizing fiscal conservatism and civil liberties.
- **2016:** Gary Johnson achieves over 4 million votes, approximately 3.3% of the popular vote, marking a new high-water mark in national support.

Despite these milestones, the Libertarian Party has faced systemic challenges inherent to third-party politics in the U.S., such as restrictive ballot access laws, limited media coverage, and the winner-takes-all electoral system. These obstacles have constrained its ability to convert ideological momentum into electoral power.

Platform Evolution and Ideological Shifts

Over the decades, the Libertarian Party's platform has evolved to address new social, economic, and geopolitical realities. While the core tenets of limited government and personal freedom remain intact, the party has adapted its positions on issues like drug legalization, criminal justice reform, and digital privacy to resonate with contemporary concerns.

For example, the party has consistently championed the legalization of marijuana and other drugs, positioning itself ahead of many mainstream parties on this issue. It also advocates for the abolition of the Federal Reserve and a return to sound money principles, reflecting its deep skepticism of centralized financial control.

Impact on American Politics and Policy

Though the Libertarian Party has not held major elected offices at the federal level, its influence extends beyond electoral politics. The party's persistent advocacy for civil liberties, economic deregulation, and non-interventionist foreign policy has helped shift public discourse and pressured major parties to reconsider certain policy positions.

Influence on Mainstream Parties

At various points, Republican and Democratic politicians have incorporated libertarian-leaning ideas, particularly on issues like criminal justice reform and government surveillance. The rise of libertarian-leaning figures within the Republican Party, such as former Congressman Ron Paul, demonstrates the ideological crossover and the Libertarian Party's role in shaping broader political debates.

Challenges and Critiques

Despite its clear ideological stance, the Libertarian Party faces criticism on several fronts. Critics argue that the party's commitment to minimal government is impractical in addressing complex social issues like healthcare, environmental protection, and income inequality. Additionally, the party's emphasis on individual responsibility may overlook systemic factors influencing economic and social outcomes.

Furthermore, internal divisions occasionally arise between purist libertarians and pragmatic candidates seeking broader appeal. This tension reflects a broader challenge in third-party politics: balancing ideological purity with the necessity of coalition-building and electoral viability.

Contemporary Status and Future Prospects

As of the early 2020s, the Libertarian Party remains the largest third party in the United States by membership and ballot access. Its presence is felt most strongly in local and state elections, where candidates have succeeded in winning offices such as city council seats and county positions.

The party continues to leverage digital platforms and social media to amplify its message, connecting with younger voters disillusioned with the two-party system. Its emphasis on civil liberties, especially in areas like digital privacy and free speech, resonates in an era marked by technological change and political polarization.

Looking forward, the Libertarian Party faces an evolving political landscape. The increasing polarization of American politics creates both opportunities and challenges. While some voters may seek alternatives to the traditional parties, the Libertarian Party must navigate the delicate balance between maintaining its core principles and expanding its appeal to a broader electorate.

- **Opportunities:** Growing disenchantment with establishment politics; rising interest in civil liberties and privacy; potential alliances with independent voters.
- **Challenges:** Electoral system barriers; limited funding and media exposure; internal ideological divisions.

The history of the Libertarian Party is a testament to the enduring appeal of liberty-focused politics in the United States. As political dynamics continue to shift, the party's ability to influence discourse and

policy will depend on its adaptability and resonance with emerging voter priorities.

History Of The Libertarian Party

history of the libertarian party: Left, Right, Out: The History of Third Parties in America

David A. Epstein, 2012-05-01 Left, Right, Out is the untold story of American political history. Exploring American history from its founding, David A. Epstein presents the phenomena that shaped the nation and its politics through the prism of third party politics. Whether short-lived or longer-lasting, each party examined in Left, Right, Out represents a unique and acute expression of the great social, economic, and political forces that influenced the evolution of the United States. Left, Right, Out reveals how much that we take for granted in American politics and society finds its origins in third party politics. Monumental movements such as Abolition, Prohibition, and Civil Rights, long associated with major party politics, originated in the efforts of pioneering third parties and their adherents. Left, Right, Out takes you into the remote corners of U.S. history and explores the forces and personalities forgotten in a standard reading of American political history.

history of the libertarian party: The Concise Princeton Encyclopedia of American

Political History Michael Kazin, Rebecca Edwards, Adam Rothman, 2011-08-08 An essential guide to U.S. politics, from the founding to today With 150 accessible articles written by more than 130 leading experts, this essential reference provides authoritative introductions to some of the most important and talked-about topics in American history and politics, from the founding to today. Abridged from the acclaimed Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History, this is the only single-volume encyclopedia that provides comprehensive coverage of both the traditional topics of U.S. political history and the broader forces that shape American politics—including economics, religion, social movements, race, class, and gender. Fully indexed and cross-referenced, each entry provides crucial context, expert analysis, informed perspectives, and suggestions for further reading. Contributors include Dean Baker, Lewis Gould, Alex Keyssar, James Kloppenberg, Patricia Nelson Limerick, Lisa McGirr, Jack Rakove, Nick Salvatore, Stephen Skowronek, Jeremi Suri, Julian Zelizer, and many more. Entries cover: Key political periods, from the founding to today Political institutions, major parties, and founding documents The broader forces that shape U.S. politics, from economics, religion, and social movements to race, class, and gender Ideas, philosophies, and movements The political history and influence of geographic regions

history of the libertarian party: The ^AOxford Companion to United States History

Paul S. Boyer, 2001-07-04 Here is a volume that is as big and as varied as the nation it portrays. With over 1,400 entries written by some 900 historians and other scholars, it illuminates not only America's political, diplomatic, and military history, but also social, cultural, and intellectual trends; science, technology, and medicine; the arts; and religion. Here are the familiar political heroes, from George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, to Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. But here, too, are scientists, writers, radicals, sports figures, and religious leaders, with incisive portraits of such varied individuals as Thomas Edison and Eli Whitney, Babe Ruth and Muhammed Ali, Black Elk and Crazy Horse, Margaret Fuller, Emma Goldman, and Marian Anderson, even Al Capone and Jesse James. The Companion illuminates events that have shaped the nation (the Great Awakening, Bunker Hill, Wounded Knee, the Vietnam War); major Supreme Court decisions (Marbury v. Madison, Roe v. Wade); landmark legislation (the Fugitive Slave Law, the Pure Food and Drug Act); social movements (Suffrage, Civil Rights); influential books (The Jungle, Uncle Tom's Cabin); ideologies (conservatism, liberalism, Social Darwinism); even natural disasters and iconic sites (the Chicago Fire, the Johnstown Flood, Niagara Falls, the Lincoln Memorial). Here too is the nation's social and cultural history, from Films, Football, and the 4-H Club, to Immigration, Courtship and Dating, Marriage and Divorce, and Death and Dying. Extensive multi-part entries

cover such key topics as the Civil War, Indian History and Culture, Slavery, and the Federal Government. A new volume for a new century, *The Oxford Companion to United States History* covers everything from Jamestown and the Puritans to the Human Genome Project and the Internet--from Columbus to Clinton. Written in clear, graceful prose for researchers, browsers, and general readers alike, this is the volume that addresses the totality of the American experience, its triumphs and heroes as well as its tragedies and darker moments.

history of the libertarian party: *The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America* Wilbur R. Miller, 2012-07-20 Several encyclopedias overview the contemporary system of criminal justice in America, but full understanding of current social problems and contemporary strategies to deal with them can come only with clear appreciation of the historical underpinnings of those problems. Thus, this five-volume work surveys the history and philosophy of crime, punishment, and criminal justice institutions in America from colonial times to the present. It covers the whole of the criminal justice system, from crimes, law enforcement and policing, to courts, corrections and human services. Among other things, this encyclopedia: explicates philosophical foundations underpinning our system of justice; charts changing patterns in criminal activity and subsequent effects on legal responses; identifies major periods in the development of our system of criminal justice; and explores in the first four volumes - supplemented by a fifth volume containing annotated primary documents - evolving debates and conflicts on how best to address issues of crime and punishment. Its signed entries in the first four volumes--supplemented by a fifth volume containing annotated primary documents--provide the historical context for students to better understand contemporary criminological debates and the contemporary shape of the U.S. system of law and justice.

history of the libertarian party: *Why Americans Hate Politics* E.J. Dionne, 2013-10-08 In this new edition of his national bestseller, E. J. Dionne brings up to date his influential proposals for a politics that can and must find a balance between rights and obligations, between responsibility and compassion. All over the United States, Americans are deserting the political process. Why? In this national bestseller, one of our shrewdest political observers traces thirty years of volatile political history and finds that on point after point, liberals and conservatives are framing issues as a series of false choices, making it impossible for politicians to solve problems, and alienating voters in the process. Now with a new afterword discussing the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings and the 1992 presidential election, Dionne explores what has gone wrong with the American system and offers a back-to-basics approach to politics designed to respond to the anger of America's restive majority. From the New, Updated Introduction: At the heart of *Why Americans Hate Politics* is the view that ideas shape politics far more than most accounts of public life usually allow. I believe ideas matter not only to elites and intellectuals, but also to rank and file voters. Indeed, I often think that the rank and file see the importance of ideas more clearly than the elites, who often find themselves surprised by the rise of the movements that arise from the bottom up and shape our politics.

history of the libertarian party: *The Libertarian Party and Other Minor Political Parties in the United States* Joseph M. Hazlett, 1992 With a compilation of information that has never before been available in one source, this exhaustive reference work provides complete published election returns for all popular Congressional elections, including special elections, in the United States--over 36,000 since 1788. For all candidates, party affiliation, number of votes received, and percentage of popular vote are given. A brief history of congressional elections is provided, outlining the variations between states in the early years and detailing the changes caused by the Civil War and the Reconstruction era.

history of the libertarian party: *The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism* Ronald Hamowy, 2008-08-15 As a continuation of the older tradition of classical liberalism, libertarian thinking draws on a rich body of thought and scholarship. Contemporary libertarian scholars are continuing that tradition by making substantial contributions to such fields as philosophy, jurisprudence, economics, evolutionary psychology, political theory, and history, in both academia and politics. With more than 300 A-to-Z signed entries written by top scholars, *The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism* is purposed to

be a useful compilation of and introduction to libertarian scholarship. The Encyclopedia starts with an introductory essay offering an extensive historical and thematic overview of key thinkers, events, and publications in the development of libertarian thought. The Reader's Guide groups content for researchers and students alike, allowing them to study libertarianism topically, biographically, and by public policy issues. Key Features Entries conclude with bibliographies and references for further reading and cross-references to related entries. Each entry provides an introduction to a topic or policy question relevant to libertarianism or a biography of a person who has had an impact on libertarianism. Editors take special care to ensure entries clearly explain libertarian approaches to issues, do not take sides on disputed matters or engage in polemics, and represent the views of all sides fairly and accurately.

history of the libertarian party: *Introduction to the Libertarian Party* Wes Benedict, 2013-06 Many books describe libertarianism, but very few talk about the Libertarian Party. *Introduction to the Libertarian Party* includes plenty of information about the structure, history, and activities of the Libertarian Party. Written by Wes Benedict, former executive director of both the Libertarian Party of Texas and the Libertarian National Committee. Benedict gives a plainspoken and realistic assessment of the current standing of the Libertarian Party, along with suggestions for how libertarians can become valuable Libertarian Party activists.

history of the libertarian party: Political Groups, Parties, and Organizations That Shaped America Scott H. Ainsworth Ph.D., Brian M. Harward, 2019-07-19 This three-volume set explores the multiple roles that parties and interest groups have played in American politics from the nation's beginnings to the present. This set serves as an essential resource for analyzing the emergence and impact of parties and interest groups in the American political system and for understanding the systematic and structural bases for interest group and party behavior. Volume One opens with an introduction by the editors that provides a general overview of the eras and identifies important themes and events, laying a foundation on which the subsequent essays and primary documents for each interest group or political party builds. Narrative essays focus on how specific parties or interest groups have shaped or reflect a particular set of events or general themes in each of the eras in American political history. Topical entries reflect key themes developed throughout the volumes. Entries range from important founding groups and parties to contemporary political action committees and policy advocacy groups. The set also includes primary source documents (e.g., letters, platform documents, court decisions, flyers, etc.) that reveal important dimensions of the corresponding group's political influence.

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history of the libertarian party: *A Future History of Water* Andrea Ballesterio, 2019-05-17 Focusing on Costa Rica and Brazil, Andrea Ballesterio examines the legal, political, economic, and bureaucratic history of water in the context of the efforts to classify it as a human right, showing how seemingly small scale devices such as formulas and lists play large role in determining water's status.

history of the libertarian party: Historical Dictionary of United States Political Parties Harold F. Bass Jr., 2009-09-01 The constitution that establishes the institutional framework for American national government makes no mention of political parties. Yet for over two centuries, political parties have competed in encouraging, organizing, and directing political activity in the United States. This volume compiles entries of concepts, terms, labels, and individuals central to identifying and comprehending these key roles political parties have played in American political life. The second edition of *Historical Dictionary of United States Political Parties* addresses the historical development, organization, operation, and leadership of the parties, as well as their broader environment. This is done through a chronology, an introductory essay, appendixes, a bibliography, and over 800 cross-referenced dictionary entries addressing individuals, institutions, and terms.

history of the libertarian party: Libertarians, Socialists, and Other Third Parties ,

2021-07-15 Since its inception, the United States has been characterized by a two-party political system. It is in many ways indoctrinated in laws and customs, but it does not prevent third parties from participating in the political process. Although no third-party candidate has ever won a presidential election, these candidates have occasionally been elected to local and state positions. Additionally, with issues like environmentalism, immigration, and income inequality receiving more attention, politicians from these parties have also gained greater recognition. This volume examines the role of third parties in American politics and the extent to which they can exercise influence.

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history of the libertarian party: Exploring the Journey Through Life Daniel Finn,

2009-07-22 arts and philosophy

history of the libertarian party: *American Political Parties in the 21st Century* Dave Blevins,

2006-05-16 Since the United States gained its independence, the American political landscape has been dominated by two major political parties--first Whigs and Democrats, and over the last century or so, Democrats and Republicans. In recent years, however, voter disenchantment with the major parties has led to the formation of numerous smaller parties. Often addressing a particular concern (such as the environment) and operating on a local, state or regional level, these parties generally focus on affecting political decisions regarding specific topics of interest. This book catalogs and describes more than 180 political parties that are active in the United States today. Information has been gathered largely from the parties themselves, via direct contact with representatives and from their websites. From the Alaskan Independence Party to the Young Democratic Socialists, entries contain the party name, address, telephone and fax numbers, launch date, and email and website addresses. A review of the party's history and notable activities as well as an abbreviated summary of each party's platform is also provided. Finally, a listing of any affiliates--and their contact information--is also included where applicable.

history of the libertarian party: The SAGE Encyclopedia of Alcohol Scott C. Martin,

2014-12-16 Alcohol consumption goes to the very roots of nearly all human societies. Different countries and regions have become associated with different sorts of alcohol, for instance, the "beer culture" of Germany, the "wine culture" of France, Japan and saki, Russia and vodka, the Caribbean and rum, or the "moonshine culture" of Appalachia. Wine is used in religious rituals, and toasts are used to seal business deals or to celebrate marriages and state dinners. However, our relation with alcohol is one of love/hate. We also regulate it and tax it, we pass laws about when and where it's appropriate, we crack down severely on drunk driving, and the United States and other countries tried the failed "Noble Experiment" of Prohibition. While there are many encyclopedias on alcohol, nearly all approach it as a substance of abuse, taking a clinical, medical perspective (alcohol, alcoholism, and treatment). The SAGE Encyclopedia of Alcohol examines the history of alcohol worldwide and goes beyond the historical lens to examine alcohol as a cultural and social phenomenon, as well--both for good and for ill--from the earliest days of humankind.

history of the libertarian party: *Goddess of the Market* Jennifer Burns, 2009-10-19

Drawing on unprecedented access to Rand's private papers and the original, unedited versions of Rand's journals, Jennifer Burns offers a groundbreaking reassessment of this key cultural figure, examining her life, her ideas, and her impact on conservative political thought. Burns highlights the two facets of Rand's work that make her a perennial draw for those on the right: her promotion of capitalism, and her defense of limited government. Both sprang from her early, bitter experience of life under Communism, and became among the most deeply enduring of her messages, attracting a diverse audience of college students and intellectuals, business people and Republican Party activists, libertarians and conservatives. The book also traces the development of Rand's Objectivist philosophy and her relationship with Nathaniel Branden.

history of the libertarian party: *Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Election?* Stephen

J. Wayne, 2018-02-01 The 2016 elections are over, but the debate over the fairness and accuracy of our electoral process has never been more contentious. Hacking, fake news, a 'rigged system,' voter

ID challenges, Super PACs, and an Electoral College defying the popular vote count all lead to a common question and concern: Is this any way to run a democratic election? New to the Sixth Edition New data and timely illustrations from the 2016 elections. Social media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) and their impact. Fake news vs. more objective and traditional election news coverage. Election integrity in the face of hacking, rumoring, and instantaneous news. Money—the role of Super PACs and billionaire donors as well as candidates. Updates and refinements to pedagogical features including chapter introductions, end of chapter exercises, and online references in the suggested readings.

history of the libertarian party: *Challengers to Duopoly* J. David Gillespie, 2012-12-07 Building on the foundational importance of its predecessor (*Politics at the Periphery*, 1993), *Challengers to Duopoly* offers an up-to-date overview of the important history of America's third parties and the challenge they represent to the hegemony of the major parties. J. David Gillespie introduces readers to minor partisan actors of three types: short-lived national parties, continuing doctrinal and issue parties, and the state and local significant others. Woven into these accounts are profiles of some of the individuals who have taken the initiative to found and lead these parties. Ross Perot, Ralph Nader, Jesse Ventura, and other recent and contemporary electoral insurgents are featured, along with the most significant current national and state parties challenging the primacy of the two major parties. Gillespie maintains that despite the infirmities they often bear, third parties do matter, and they have mattered throughout American public life. Many of our nation's most important policies and institutional innovations—including abolition, women's suffrage, government transparency, child labor laws, and national healthcare—were third-party ideas before either major party embraced them. Additionally, third parties were the first to break every single de facto gender, race, and sexual orientation bar on nomination for the highest offices in the land. As Gillespie illustrates in this engaging narrative, with the deck so stacked against them, it's impressive that third-party candidates ever win at all. That they sometimes do is a testament to the power of democratic ideals and the growing disdain of the voting public with politics as usual.

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