Political parties in the United States are mostly dominated by a two-party system consisting of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The United States Constitution has always been silent on the issue of political parties, since at the time it was signed in 1787 there were no parties in the nation. The need to win popular support in a republic led to the American invention of voter-based political parties in the 1790s. Americans were especially innovative in devising new campaign techniques.
Before the middle of the 19th century, politics in the United Kingdom was dominated by the Whigs and the Tories. These were not political parties in the modern sense but somewhat loose alliances of interests and individuals. The Whigs included many of the leading aristocratic dynasties committed to the Protestant succession, and later drew support from elements of the emerging industrial interests and wealthy merchants, while the Tories were
Dalton, R. J. (2006) Social modernization and the end of ideology debate: patterns of ideological polarization. Young people, political participation and trust in Britain. Parliamentary Affairs, 65, 47–67. CrossRef Google Scholar. Hoffman M., LeÓN G., & Lombardi M. (2015). United States - United States - Political parties: The United States has two major national political parties, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Although the parties contest presidential elections every four years and have national party organizations, between elections they are often little more than loose alliances of state and local party organizations. Other parties have occasionally challenged the Democrats and Republicans. Democrats in the Southern states are generally more conservative than Democrats in New England or the Pacific Coast states; likewise, Republicans in New England or the mid-Atlantic states also generally adopt more liberal positions than Republicans in the South or the mountain states of the West.
The citizens of advanced industrial democracies believed in the democratic creed and wanted their governments to meet these expectations. The first edition presented evidence that contemporary publics were becoming more active in the political process, more likely to participate in elite-challenging activities, more likely to vote on issues and other policy criteria, and more demanding of their representatives. If democracy was in crisis, it was a crisis of institutions and not the spirit of democracy or its participants. This contrarian argument in support of democracy has been overtaken by a