

United States of America

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The United States of America has a democratic presidential regime throughout the entire period of analysis. Universal suffrage was attained in 1920. In the pre-45 period, two parties vie for control of the presidency: the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. We code a SOLS change whenever the presidency shifts from one of these parties to the other. The Republican Party dominated in the twenties and had its support base outside the south, black voters, and industry and business. The Democratic Party dominated in the thirties and found its support base in the South; and from the thirties onward in the lower and working class, organized labor, Catholics, Jews, and Blacks in the urbanized centers of the Northeast and Midwest (Maisel & Berry 2010, Schantz 1996).

At the start of the data set, the USA had a Democratic president Wilson, who was replaced by a spell of Republican presidents in 1921 (SOLS change). Following the election of Roosevelt in 1933 (SOLS change), however, the Democratic Party dominated until beyond the pre-forty-five period under Roosevelt's leadership. (Schantz 1996, worldstatesmen.org)

At the beginning of 1945, Franklin Roosevelt of the Democratic Party was president. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945 and was replaced by his Vice President, Harry Truman. This is not a SOLS change. Truman ran in the next election and won, remaining in office until 1952. Dwight Eisenhower of the Republican Party won the 1952 elections and took office in 1953. This is a SOLS change.

The election of 1960 resulted in a victory for Democratic candidate John F. Kennedy, who took office in 1961. This is a SOLS change. When Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Vice President Lyndon Johnson took control of the presidency. This is not a SOLS change. Johnson won the election of 1964 and continued in office until 1969. Republican candidate Richard Nixon won the election of 1968, taking office in 1969. This is a SOLS change. Though Nixon was successful in his bid for a second term, he resigned in 1974 as a result of corruption charges. Gerald Ford (the Vice President, also of the Republican Party) finished the remainder of the term. This is not a SOLS change.

James Carter of the Democratic Party won the election of 1976, taking office in 1977. This is a SOLS change. In 1980, Republican candidate Ronald Reagan defeated Carter, taking office in 1981. This is a SOLS change. Reagan served two terms. The Republican Party maintained control of the presidency following the 1988 elections, with George H. W. Bush assuming the presidency in 1989. This is not a SOLS change. In the 1992 elections, Democratic candidate William Clinton defeated Bush and took office in 1993. This is a SOLS change. Clinton served two terms. Republican candidate George W. Bush won the 2000 presidential elections and assumed office in 2001. This is a SOLS change. Bush served two terms. The 2008 presidential elections led to the victory of Barack Obama of the Democratic Party, though he did not assume office until 2009, which is outside the temporal domain of this project (Cahoon 2000; Jenkins 1997).

Sources

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