

The United States of America

Rice

The political history of the United States in the 20th century has chiefly been a competition between two political parties called the Republican Party (Rep) and the Democratic Party (Dem), with SOLS changes occurring when the president was of a different party than his predecessor.

In 1919, the president of the United States was Woodrow Wilson, a member of the Democratic Party, who was serving his second term. In the presidential elections of 1920, the Republican Party candidate, Warren G. Harding, won and assumed office in 1921. This is a SOLS change. In 1923, before he could finish his first term in office, Harding died of a heart attack and was replaced as president by his Vice President, Calvin Coolidge, also a Republican. Therefore, this is not a SOLS change. Coolidge served the remainder of Harding's term, and then won an election in his own right in 1924. In the 1928 elections, the Republican candidate, Herbert Hoover was victorious and became the President after Coolidge. This is not a SOLS change, either. In 1929, the American stock market crashed, leading to a time of severe economic depression.

The economic crisis continued into the 1930s. The presidential elections of 1932 resulted in a victory for the Democratic candidate, Franklin D. Roosevelt. This is a SOLS change. He immediately enacted a series of economic recovery measures known collectively as the "New Deal." Roosevelt was reelected in 1936 and 1940, and was president when the United States entered World War II in 1941. He was reelected a third time in 1944, and was in office until his death in 1945.

Franklin Roosevelt (Dem) passed away in office in 1945. His Vice President, Harry Truman, took over, with no change of SOLS. Truman ran for office again and won, staying in power until 1953. General Dwight Eisenhower won the 1952 election and took office in 1953, representing a change of SOLS as he was from the Republican Party.

Eisenhower served two terms and then left office, shifting control back to the Democrats. John F. Kennedy's term, beginning in 1961, marked a SOLS change. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, and his Vice President, Lyndon Johnson, took office and later ran for a second term. Richard Nixon, representing the Republican Party, facilitated a SOLS change away from the Democrats in 1969. He was reelected for a second term, however, resigned under charges of corruption in 1974. His Vice President, Gerald Ford, took office and served for the remainder of the term.

Jimmy Carter (Dem) beat out Ford in the next election and took office in 1977, signaling a SOLS change. At the next election, Carter lost to Ronald Reagan. Reagan, a Republican, took office, indicating a SOLS change in 1981. He served two terms and then was succeeded for one term by his Vice President George Bush from 1989 to 1993. The transition from Reagan to Bush involved no SOLS change.

In 1993, Bill Clinton took office. As a member of the Democratic Party, his takeover represented a SOLS change. Clinton served for eight years, and after he left office, Bush's son George W. Bush (also of the Rep) won the presidential election. The George W. Bush's ascendency to the presidency was a SOLS change, and his term lasted through 2008.

References

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