



UNIT 5: RED, BLUE,  
SHADES OF GRAY

# Political Parties

- A Political Party is an organization of individuals with broad common interests who organize to win elections and influence policy.
- Ideology: A system of ideas and beliefs that forms the basis of political or economic beliefs.

# Political Parties

- The U.S. is dominated by two parties: Democrats and Republicans
  - Third Parties (minor parties) run, but rarely win major elections
  - **Effects of our two-party system:**
    - Polarizes the population (people are far apart with their ideology)
    - Pick who is hated least
  - **Influences of Third Parties:**
    - Takes votes from major parties (change election results)
    - Spotlight specific issues

# One Party System

- One political party is in control
  - Public has fewer rights
  - Dictatorship
  - Autocracy
    - North Korea
    - Iran

# Multi-Party System

- Aka: coalition government
- Parties get same percentage of seats in Parliament as percentage of votes
  - Italy
  - France

# Early American Political Parties

- Federalists v Anti-Federalists
  - Democrats v Republicans
- Founding Fathers on Political Parties:
  - Not a good idea
  - Washington: "agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another."

# Political Parties

- A Platform is a set of beliefs that a political party supports
- A Plank is an individual part of the platform