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American vs. British Voting Systems: Comparative Study

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Dedication

We would be grateful to the almighty merciful God for his blessings and wise guidance throughout our lives. Prayers and peace be upon his prophet Mohammed.

This humble work is dedicated to our parents who spared no efforts to give all love and support we need, and who were the cornerstones of who we are today. This research work is also dedicated to our families and friends, with whom we shared the happiest moments of life.

I dedicate this work to teacher Omar who inspired my pursuit of English language, and enhanced my passion, to my life partner Ali who considers my success a part of his. And to my dearest sister khadija and closest friends Maroua, Majda, Aicha, Amira, and Khaoula (Khansa)

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Abstract

The aim of the current study is to explain the structure of the political system and the process of election in the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK), and to examine the similarities and differences between them. The UK and the USA are known for their interesting political structures which are considered to be sophisticated. Elections in both sides of the equation are the pillars of their strength and authority over the world. Britain at the first hand, is a parliamentary democracy under the umbrella of a constitutional monarchy system. In Britain, the Monarch who belongs to the English church serves as the head of the nation; while the real authority is in the hand of the parliament. The role of the monarch is merely ceremonial; it undertakes constitutional and representational duties. It cannot make or pass legislations but to represent the nation in international forums. America in the other hand is Federal Constitutional Republic. In America, the highest authority belongs to the president and the congress who works separately from the executive and judiciary. The president in America serves as the head of the head of and state and the head of government; He is elected through a process called "Electoral College". The method adopted to conduct this research and achieve its objectives is descriptive analytical that depends on a qualitative research since it is based on collecting data via reviewing book, articles and surfing websites; meanwhile, it attempts to analyze and interpret constitutions` clauses that are associated with the political and electoral systems in both countries. The study intends to describe the political and electoral system of the USA and the UK and depicts the differences and similarities between them. The findings of the study revealed that the United Kingdom and the United States of America share numerous common features as well as distinctive ones in terms of political and electoral systems.

Key words: American political system, American voting system, British political system, British voting system, Election.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

GBPS	Great Britain Pound Sterling
GOP	Grand Old Party
Lip Dims	Liberal Democrats
MORI	Market and Opinion Research International
MPS	Members of Parliament
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USA	United States Of America

List of Figures

Figure 2.1 Federal Government Election Cycle, 2004-2008.....	page38
Figure 3.2 Barack Obama (Anthony Devlin/PA)	page 56
Figure 3.3 Gordon Brown was never voted in as Prime Minister	page 56
Figure 3.4 Inside the House of Commons..	page 57
Figure 3.5 Tony Blair won three back-to-back elections	Page 58
Figure 3.6 Donald Trump was the 45th President of the United States.....	Page60
Figure 3.7 British Prime Minister Boris Johnson	page61
Figure 3.8 :General election of 2019	page61

Table of Contents

Dedications	I
Acknowledgements.....	II
Abstract.....	III
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	IV
List of Figures	V
List of Tables	VI
Table of Contents.....	VII
General Introduction.....	1

Chapter One: British Political and Electoral System

1.1. Introduction	page07
1.2. A brief history of British Constitution.....	page08
1.3. The UK constitution.....	page09
1.4. Separation of powers.....	page10
1.4.1 The Executive.....	page10
1.4.1.1 The Prime Minister.....	page10
1.4.1.2 The Cabinet	page11
1.4.2. The Legislative	page11
1.4.2.1 The House of Commons	page11
1.4.2.2 The House of Lords.....	page12
1.4.3 The judiciary.....	page13
1.5. The British Monarchy	page13
1.6. Political Parties in Britain	page14
1.6.1. The Formation of Political Parties.....	page14
1.6.2. Main Political Parties in Britain	page14

1.6.2.1 The Conservative Party	page15
1.6.2.2 The Labour Party	page15
1.6.2.3 Liberal Democrats.....	page16
1.6.3 Other parties.....	page17
1.7. Elections in Britain.....	page18
1.8. The Representative and Democratic Functions of Parliament.....	page19
1.8.1 Parliament Role in Government	page19
1.8.2. How Parliament and its Members view their Representational and Democratic Roles	page19
1.9. Britain Voting System	page20
1.10 .Improving Direct Democracy	page22
1.10.1. Petitions.....	page22
1.10.2 .Right of Charities to Campaign	page22
1.11. Conclusion	page23

Chapter Two: Chapter Two: American Political and Electoral System

2.1. Introduction	page27
2.2. The US Constitution	page28
2.3. Separation of Powers	page29
2.3.1. The Executive	page29
2.3.1.1 President	page29
2.3.1.2. Vice President	page29
2.3.1.3. The Cabinet	page39
2.3.2. Legislative	page30
2.3.2.1. Senate	page30
2.3.2.2 House of Representatives	page30

2.3.3 The Judiciary	page30
2.3.3.1 The Supreme Court	page30
2.3.3.2 Federal Courts and Judicial Agencies	page31
2.4. Political Parties in USA	page32
2.4.1 Formation of Political Parties in America	page32
2.4.1.1. The federalists.....	page32
2.4.1.2. The Anti-Federalists	page33
2.4.2. From the Anti-Federalists to the Democrats	page33
2.4.3 From the Federalists to the Whigs to the Republicans	page34
2.5. Electoral System of the US	page35
2.5.1. The Constitutional Framework of Elections	page35
2.5.2 The Representation Process	page35
2.5.2.1 The House of Representatives	page35
2.5.2.2 The Senate	page36
2.5.3 The Presidency	page37
2.5.4 The Electoral College	page38
2.5.5 The Arithmetic of the Electoral College	page39
2.5.6. Electoral Strategy	page40
2.5.7 Third-Party Candidates	page40
2.5.8 Presidential Nominations.....	page40
2.5.9 Presidential Election Campaigns	page41
2.5.10 Presidential Veto Power.....	page41
2.6. Conclusion	page42

Chapter Three: Chapter Three: British and American Electoral System:

Common and Distinctive Features

3.1. Introduction	page46
3.2. Distinctive and Common Features between UK and US Political System	page47
3.2.1 Common Features.....	page47
3.2.1.1 Codification and sources.....	page47
3.2.1.2 Flexibility and amendment.....	page47
3.2.1.3 Sovereignty	page47
3.2.1.4 Separation of powers.....	page48
3.2.1.5. protection of rights.....	page48
3.2.2 Distinctive Features.....	page48
3.2.2.1The Constitution	page48
3.2.2.2 The Executive	page49
3.2.2.3 The Legislative	page42
3.2.2.4 The Judiciary	page53
3.2.2.5 Political parties	page54
3. 3 British vs. American Voting System: Common Points and Distinctive Features.....	page55
3.3.2 Common Features	page55
3.3.1 1. The First-Past-the-Post System	page56
3.3.1.2 .Chief Executive	page57

3.3.1.3 .Candidate Selection.....	page57
3.3.2. Distinctive Features	page57
3.3.2.1. Campaign Period.....	page58
3.3.2.2 .Voting Process.....	page58
3.3.2.3 .Election Process	page59
3.3.2.4. Parliament vs. Congress	page60
3.3.2.5 .Back-to-Back office	page61
3.4. Conclusion	page62
- General Conclusion.....	page63
- List of References.....	page65
- Appendices	
- Appendix A: Resume	
- Appendix B: الملخص بالعربية	

General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The prevailing political systems in the United States of America and Britain, the so-called "liberal democracy", are fundamentally different from each other, but they have common characteristics. The power in these countries is based on the theory of popular sovereignty, and their rulers are chosen via popular vote. These two democracies have a two-party system or a plurality of parties, and the opposition is recognized. Meanwhile, the powers of the rulers in both countries are governed by written constitutional provisions or unwritten constitutional conventions. Their citizens enjoy public freedoms (such as freedom of opinion, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, freedom of belief, and so forth.) The United States of America has adopted the presidential system based on the principle of separation of full authorities; while the parliamentary system is the political regime in the UK.

The United Kingdom is a unitary state within the framework of a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy, in which the monarch is the head of state, while the prime minister is the head of the government. Its government has three branches: the legislative (which makes law), the Executive (which implements and enforces law), and the Judiciary (which prosecutes who breaks the law). The main political powers are in the hand of the parliament, which is made up of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Whereas, the United State is a federal constitutional democratic republic in which the president is the head of state and head of the government. The federal government is made up of three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judiciary, in which each branch has its own powers and responsibilities, including working with the other branches.

2. Statement of the Problem

Although both countries, the United Kingdom and the United States, are considered the pioneers of democracy worldwide where the voice of people is fundamental in the appointment of presidents and prime ministers, and exercising power, the differences in the political and voting systems can be interpreted as non-perfection in these democracies. Hence, the democracy models in the respect of political regime and voting system can be criticized and rejected in new democracies in the world`s five continents.

3. Research Questions and Hypotheses

This study attempts to answer the following key questions:

1. How does the political and electoral system in the UK and the US work ?
2. What are the common and distinctive features that characterize political and electoral system in both states?

The study tries to test the following two (2) hypotheses:

1. The presidential election system in the United States and the parliamentary election in the UK are democratic systems that reflect the will of the British and American people.
2. The political and electoral systems in the UK and the US differ in several respects and share no similarities. This can give a negative reading stressing the necessity of subjecting them to serial modifications and revisions targeting the perfection in both systems.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Study

On the ground of what is stated above, the current study aims to investigate the structure of the political system and the electoral process in the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as the similarities and differences between them. This study sheds light on the political

system in the United States and Britain, its structure and major features. In addition, it attempts to explain their unique model of election, its various stages and the bodies involved in it.

The focus will be on the American presidential election system, in which the president and the vice president are elected by a body called the Electoral College whose members are elected by direct vote in the different states and the British parliamentary one, in which the prime minister is chosen by members of the legislative (parliament) from among their own number and, in practice, is the leader of the majority party in the legislative. This study intends to tackle the differences and the similarities at the level of the political and electoral systems of the UK and the US.

5. Research Methodology

The method used to conduct this research is descriptive analytical. In this respect, it is considered a qualitative research where the necessary data relevant to the research theme is gathered via reviewing reliable books and articles and analysing official documents, the constitution provisions relevant to the political and voting systems in both countries. The study ends up with reshaping the data gathered from different sources through description and analysis to generate the common and distinctive features between the UK and the US in political and voting systems.

6. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study stems from several points of different angles. Firstly, it is purely comparative political and historical study shedding light on two outstanding democracies focusing on the political and voting systems in the UK and the US. Secondly, the data gathered from this study can be used in further research by researchers in the field of politics as it provides rich and reliable information about the UK and British political and voting systems.

Finally, this research work opens the door to criticize these two democracies and reveals the imperfection in their political and electoral systems.

7. Structure of the Study

The research work theme is divided into three (3) chapters. The first chapter discusses the political and electoral system in the United Kingdom. First, it focuses on the British political system, the main institutions of government, including the executive, legislative, and judicial, as well as the major political parties. Then, it sheds light on the UK election system and walks through the various stages of this process. The second chapter is dedicated to discussing the political and electoral system in the United States. This chapter examines the American political system, concentrating on the three major institutions of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial, the major political parties also take space in the chapter. Then it sheds light on the election system in the United States and spots light on the various stages of the process. The Third chapter is devoted to identifying the main distinguishing and common features of the political and electoral systems in the United Kingdom and the United States.

CHAPTER ONE:

British Political and Electoral System

Chapter One: British Political and Electoral System

1.1. Introduction	page07
1.2. A brief history of British Constitution.....	page08
1.3. The UK constitution.....	page09
1.4. Separation of powers.....	page10
1.4.1 The Executive.....	page10
1.4.1.1 The Prime Minister.....	page10
1.4.1.2 The Cabinet	page11
1.4.2. The Legislative	page11
1.4.2.1 The House of Commons	page11
1.4.2.2 The House of Lords.....	page12
1.4.3 The judiciary.....	page13
1.5. The British Monarchy	page13
1.6. Political Parties in Britain	page14
1.6.1. The Formation of Political Parties.....	page14
1.6.2. Main Political Parties in Britain	page15
1.6.2.1 The Conservative Party	page15
1.6.2.2 The Labour Party	page15
1.6.2.3 Liberal Democrats.....	page16
1.6.3 Other parties.....	page17
1.7. Elections in Britain.....	page18
1.8. The Representative and Democratic Functions of Parliament.....	page19
1.8.1 Parliament Role in Government	page19
1.8.2. How Parliament and its Members view their Representational and Democratic Roles	page19
1.9. Britain Voting System	page20
1.10 .Improving Direct Democracy	page22
1.10.1. Petitions.....	page22
1.10.2 .Right of Charities to Campaign	page22
1.11. Conclusion	page23

Chapter One: British Political and Electoral System

1.1. Introduction

The United Kingdom is a devolved unitary state administered by a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy in which the monarch, presently Queen Elizabeth II, is head of state and the prime minister, currently BORIS Johnson, is head of government. The British government, as well as the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, exercise executive power on behalf of and with the assent of the monarch.

The House of Commons and the House of Lords are the two chambers of the British parliament that have legislative power. The judiciary is separate from the executive and legislative branches.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom is the highest court in the country. In the 17th century, the growing authority of parliament against the monarch was reflected in the emergence of more structured political parties. This feature was created to describe the future of the British two-party political system, in which political power has transferred between two major parties, each of which plays a significant role. The political system of the United Kingdom is multi-party. Since the 1920s, the Conservative Party and the Labour Party have had the highest levels of political participation. The Liberal Party was a major player in British politics ,before the Labour Party rose to prominence in British politics, the Liberal Party, along with the Conservatives, was the other major political party; thus, the British electoral system is seen as undemocratic and unfair to smaller parties seeking a seat in the British parliament. Britain is divided into 659 constituencies for Westminster parliamentary electoral purposes, each with an average of about 65,000 voters. At a general election, voters elect members of the House of Commons.

1.2. A Brief History of British Constitution

The fact that the United Kingdom does not have a written constitution today is ironic, given its long history of pioneering constitutional charters and recording The Great charter of the liberties of England. Magna Carta (1215) is the first and foremost. This established the notion that our rulers, at the time the king, could not do as they pleased and were bound by the laws agreed upon by the barons they ruled. This straightforward premise created the groundwork for constitutional government and legal liberty. Magna Carta determined the direction of travel for our political system towards representative institutions and, much later, democracy itself insofar as it was "the first great public act of the nation (Robert, 2015).

The provisions of Oxford, which are frequently referred to be the world's first codified constitution, established a council of twenty four members through which the king would govern, overseen by a parliament, in 1258. Simon de Montfort called it together for the first time in 1264. During the seventeenth century's constitutional battles, the petition of right (1628) drew on Magna Carta as its legal foundation, laying out the subject's rights and liberties, including freedom from arbitrary detention and punishment. The bill of rights (1689) established parliament's supremacy over the monarch's prerogatives , establishing regular meetings of parliament , free elections to the commons , free speech in legislative debates and several basic human rights , most notably the right to be free from " cruel or unusual punishment . The acts of settlement (1701) which regulated the succession to the crown and established the crucial principle of judicial independence come soon after (Robert, 2015)

There have been a number of acts of parliament on key constitutional matters throughout the last century that, taken together, could be seen as constituting a tier of constitutional legislation, albeit one that is patchy in scope and has no special standing or precedence in law. They include the following:

- The parliament acts (1911-49) govern the two houses of parliament's separate powers.
- Universal voting and other aspects of political representation of the people acts (1918)

- The European communities' act of 1972 established the United Kingdom as legal members of the European Union
- the Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Ireland devolution acts of 1988 (as modified) established separate executive and legislative bodies for each of the three UK nations
- The human rights act of 1988 established a bill of rights and freedoms that can be enforced through the courts by individuals. Some norms, such as the principles of ministerial obligations in the ministerial code, have recently been subjected to ad-hoc codification (Robert, 2015).

1.3. The UK constitution

The constitution is a document that organizes, distributes, and regulates state power. They define the state's structure, key state institutions, and the principles that regulate their interactions with one another and the state's population. The United Kingdom is unique in having a "unwritten" constitution. Unlike the vast majority of countries, there is no single legal text that enumerates the essential laws that govern how the government operates. Instead, Britain has a collection of statutes, conventions, judicial decisions, and treaties that are together known as the British constitution. As a result, the term "British constitution" is more accurate. As a result, rather than referring to the constitution as "written", it is more correct to speak to it as "unmodified" (what is UK constitution, n.d.)

The British constitution is based on several sources. Statutes are the highest form of law, as they are passed by parliament. Conventions are unwritten rules that have evolved over time and govern the administration of justice. The common law is a body of law that has evolved throughout time as a result of decisions made by courts and judges. As a result of the United Kingdom's admission to the European community's act of 1972, European law is progressively influencing the British constitution. International law also applies to the United Kingdom. Finally, because the British constitution is not contained in a single text, politicians and lawyers

have had to rely on constitutional authority to identify and comprehend it (what is the constitution, n.d.).

1.4. Separation of Powers

A state's governance is generally organized into three departments, each with separate and independent rights and responsibilities, according to the idea of separation of powers: an executive, a legislative and a judiciary. This system of power distribution is designed to prevent any one branch or person from becoming supreme, as well as to establish "checks and balances" that allow one branch to constrain another. According to a rigorous view of the separation of powers, none of the three branches may wield the authority of the others, and no person should be a member of more than one of them (the three branches of government, n.d.)

In practice, however, many countries opt for a compromise in which some functions are shared among governmental institutions rather than a complete separation of powers. In the United Kingdom, this is the situation (the three branches of government, n.d.)

The crown and the UK government, which includes the prime minister and cabinet ministers, make up the executive for the United Kingdom as a whole. The executive is in charge of policy formulation and implementation. The UK parliament is made up of the crown, the House of Commons, and the House of Lords. The Supreme Court supervises the judiciary, which consists of judges and other officers from the courts and tribunal of the three UK legal jurisdictions. The crown appoints senior judicial officials (The three branches of government, n.d.)

1.4.1 The Executive

The executive branch is made up of the government machine itself, from the prime minister and his office through local government branches such as municipal mayors. They are in charge of putting the bills passed by parliament into effect. The judiciary and the media are the principal restraints on their actions (What are the branches of government in the UK and what are their key functions? n.d.)

1.4.1.1 The Prime Minister

The prime minister of the United Kingdom is in charge of the country's government. The head of state appoints a member of the House of Commons as prime minister if he or she can command the house's confidence. The prime minister is in office until one of the following events occurs:

- Following a General Election, either the Prime Minister loses the House of Commons' confidence or the Government loses a vote of no confidence in the House.
- If a new government cannot be found, the House of Commons will be dissolved. Within the next 14 days.
- The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom resigns.

(The UK constitution, 2015)

1.4.1.2 The Cabinet

The prime minister and senior ministers make up the cabinet which is the United Kingdom government's collective leadership. Ministers must be members of either house of parliament, and the head of state, acting on the prime minister's recommendations, appoints and dismisses them. The number of ministers who can sit and vote in the House of Commons at any given time is limited to ninety-five (the UK constitution, 2015).

1.4.2. The Legislative

The legislative branch of government in the United Kingdom is the British parliament. It is divided into two parts: the elected House of Lords, which limit each other's power and provide the finest expertise for any legislative that is being considered. Any Bill passed by Parliament only obtains legitimacy when it is approved by the Queen; although, nowadays, this is more of a formal ceremonial than a proper check. Because any MP can be summoned to court to answer for his activities, the judiciary is frequently regarded as the most effective check on Parliament (what are the branches of government in the UK and what are their key functions? , n.d.)

1.4.2.1 The House of Commons

The House of Commons is the United Kingdom Parliament's First Chamber. The House of Commons has 650 members who are directly elected. As members of the legislature Members are chosen by a simple majority vote. First Past the Post is another name for this system. The main functions of the House of Commons are:

- To represent the peoples of the United Kingdom in all matters
- To hold the government to account
- To scrutinize and approve Bills as part of the legislative process
- To authorize taxation
- To scrutinize and approve the Government's budget and planned expenditure on an annual basis
- To debate the public policies of and for the Government of the United Kingdom

(The UK constitution, 2015)

1.4.2.2 The House of Lords

The House of Lords is the United Kingdom Parliament's second chamber. Life Peers, 92 Hereditary Peers, and 26 Lords Spiritual makes up the House of Lords. The Head of State, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoints Life Peers for life. The 92 Hereditary Peers serve for the rest of their lives. When a vacancy occurs, the House holds a by-election to fill it, which is governed by the House's standing orders. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester, and 21 other Bishops of the Church of England, according to seniority of appointment, make up the 26 Lords Spiritual. Members of the House of Lords have the option to resign. The House of Lords has an unlimited number of members. The main functions of the House of Lords are:

- To hold the government to account;
- To scrutinize, amend and approve bills as part of the legislative process. The House of Lords has no power to veto legislation approved by the House of Commons, save to veto

any Bill which seeks to extend the life of a Parliament beyond 5 years (the UK constitution , 2015)

1.4.3 The Judiciary

In the United Kingdom, the judiciary is made up of the court system, with the Supreme Court at the top. Its members wield enormous authority because they decide what the law actually means in each given situation. Because the united kingdom does not have a written constitution , judges have even more power because there is no supreme set of laws gathered in one place for citizens to access. Because of its great power, the court has a lot of checks and balances in place. For starters, the legal system allows any case to be reviewed by a higher court if the lower court's ruling is deemed unjust. Second, judges are appointed and confirmed by professionals from outside the judiciary, who are presumably unlikely to be biased during the process (what are the branches of government in the UK and what are their key functions? n.d.)

1.5. The British Monarchy

In the United Kingdom, monarchy is the most ancient form of government. The head of state in a monarchy is a king or queen. A constitutional monarchy is what the British monarchy is known for. While the sovereign is the head of state, an elected parliament is in charge of making and passing law. Despite the fact that the sovereign no longer serves in a political or executive capacity, he or she continues to play an important role in society. Despite the fact that the Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, he or she continues to play a significant role in the nation's life. The Monarch, as Head of State, has constitutional and representational responsibilities that have evolved through a thousand years of history. In addition to these official responsibilities, the Monarch serves as the 'Head of Nation' in a less formal capacity. The Sovereign serves as a focal point for national identity, solidarity, and pride, as well as providing a sense of stability and continuity, formally recognizing achievements and greatness, and encouraging voluntary service. Members of the Sovereign's immediate family assist them in all of these responsibilities (the role of the monarchy, n.d.)

1.6. Political Parties in Britain

1.6.1. The Formation of Political Parties

Parties have long played an important role in the British political system. They involve and educate their members, who also serve as key personnel in the democratic control of both central and local government. The majority party in the Commons has virtually unrestricted influence over the legislative system and command of the executive machine, provided it can maintain cohesion and discipline. Parties serve as a vital link between voters and Parliament. However, questions have been raised about whether parties are performing this final function as effectively as they once did (Jones, Moran, Kavanagh, Moran, Morton, 2007: 282).

While pressure groups are concerned with influencing specific policies, political parties set themselves loftier goals. They seek to initiate instead of simply influence policy, to address the full range of government policies, and to gain control of the political representation. They are not willing to influence the government as much as they want to be the government. However, according to the dominant pluralist theory of democracy, political parties play other important roles such as enabling citizens to be involved in policy by giving them the opportunity to engage in electing their representative in the parliament. Moreover, they train leaders to serve in local councils, parliament, ministerial and cabinet office.

Following the Second Reform Act, parties formed as a disciplined, policy-based and institutional organization in its clearly contemporary way. The two main parties then were the Conservatives and Liberals. In 1880-1918, nevertheless, England had a multi-party system with the existence of about eighty Irish nationalists. The one-party majority administration's expectations are central to the notions of a strong British government. The system of two parties is supposed to make consistent choices during elections, to shape discussion in the House of Commons and to establish the conduct of business. Because the parties are thematic, voters can give the winning party a mandate. (Jones, Moran, Kavanagh, Moran, Morton, 2007).

1.6.2. Main Political Parties in Britain

1.6.2.1 The Conservative Party

The Conservative Party is known for its pragmatism and opportunism, which has let it survive and flourish. For two thirds of the twentieth century, the party was in government alone or in alliance. In the 1945 election, the year of a Labour landslide, it suffered a catastrophic defeat.

After 1945, an issue comparable to that of the Labour Party in the 1980s was experienced by the Conservative Party. Should it remain attached, or should the changing circumstances be met, to policies which the electorate has repudiated? In the redefinition of conservative policies, R.A. Butler and Harold Macmillan had a crucial influence. Until recently, the Conservative Party leader has not been subject to the formal checks and balances of the Labour equivalent. This did not mean that the party leader had a completely free hand. Margaret Thatcher was unable to get the public spending cuts she wished in her first government.

Since 1992, the Conservative Party has seen a tremendous fall. The party consistently received approximately 60% of the Labour/Conservative vote and drew voters from all walks of life. John Major's stint as party leader was tumultuous, and the personal gains of the party's surprise election triumph in 1992 vanished. (Jones, Moran, Kavanagh, Moran, Morton, 2007).

The habit of dissent has been growing in the party for at least two decades, and both Thatcher (eventually) and Major were undermined by the decline in loyalty or deference to the leader. In June 1995, Major challenged his critics to 'put up or shut up' and resigned the party leadership in order to fight to be re-elected. The party had forfeited its reputation for economic competence after the ERM exit and for governing because of internal divisions. Since 1992 no leader, until perhaps David Cameron, has offered a leadership that is strong and consistent. The party was notably divided on Europe but it also suffered from a culture of disloyalty.

A new generation of Conservative MPs regarded the developing EU as a threat to the independence of the British state and to the market economy. William Hague and Iain Duncan Smith struggled to head off demands that the party campaign to pull out of the EU.

1.6.2.2 The Labour Party

The Labour Party has enjoyed its most sustained period of electoral success in its history since the mid-1990s. But major questions have since emerged about its overall direction as a party of power, writes Andrew Keen. The party's supporters argue that it is the center-right in Britain that has been forced to accommodate a social agenda. He argues that the party's achievements were compromised by acquiescence to neo-liberalism.(DIAMOND,2010).

The traditional mould of British politics has been decisively broken, with significant strategic implications for the Labour Party. The formation of New Labour was achieved by fusing ideas associated with the American progressive tradition and European social democracy. The great debate for the future is whether Labour will move closer to the European social model, bringing markets under firmer regulatory control. (DIAMOND,2010).

The Labour Party won 29.1 percent of the vote in the 2010 General Election, the second lowest share of votes in a national election for Labour since the First World War. The dominant issue was how quickly each of the parties would seek to eliminate the UK's structural deficit, which now stands at 12.9 percent of GDP. The Conservative Party said that it would implement immediate cuts, irrespective of the overall health of the economy after the most severe global recession for over 80 years.

Labour's poor electoral performance in 2010 was attributed to a loss of support among aspiration, »middle Britain« voters. The party also lost substantial support in the south and south-east of England, winning only 10 out of 210 parliamentary seats and 16 percent of the popular vote. By May 2010, the two parties were level-pegging on the economy, although in the three previous elections Labour had enjoyed substantial leads.

1.6.2.3 Liberal Democrats

Liberal Democrats stand for liberty, the freedom of every individual to make their own decisions about how best to live their lives. We trust people to pursue their dreams, to make the

most of their talents and to live life as they wish, free from a controlling, intrusive state and a stifling conformity. A free and open society that glories in diversity is a stronger society.

Liberal Democrats believe that individuals have the freedom to live their life as they see fit, to speak what they think and to protest what they don't like, regardless of who disagrees with them.

One of the great rallying cries of the Whigs, our seventeenth- and eighteenth-century forefathers, was "equality before the law." We continue to strive for equality today, as seen by legislation allowing same-sex marriage and efforts to eliminate wage inequalities between men and women and ethnic minorities. We believe in a tolerant and open society in which everyone has the freedom to choose which societies to join or quit, as well as whatever identity or identities to express. However, we recognize that communities may be illiberal and repressive at times, limiting individual freedom in the name of tradition or peer pressure. (DIAMOND,2010).

For the last year, the Liberal Democrats have been in a partnership with the Conservatives. They argue that government failure may be just as dangerous to free markets as market failure. The party claims to have limited governments' power to intervene in the lives of its citizens. This entails making sure that governmental institutions respond to people's demands and desires. It also guaranteed that the Human Rights Act was preserved, and that the Conservatives were stopped from enacting a 'snoopers' charter' that would allow for clandestine surveillance.

According to a former Lib Dem leader, a state that promotes freedom must be democratic.

The Liberal Democrats want to spread authority across society as far as possible. They argue that everyone should have the right to oppose excessive concentrations of power. Rather unlike nationalists who define their nation or race in contrast to others and live on intolerance, liberal Democrats believe in the dignity of every individual. Individuals and international institutions should be empowered, according to the Liberal Democrats. The style and approach of a political party are just as essential as its ideals and values.

They argue that we need to take action both at home and abroad to encourage ecologically friendly practices. They also advocate for strong international organizations, such as the United Nations. (Mark pack, n.d)

1.6.3 Other parties

Jones, Moran, Kavanagh, Moran, and Morton (2007: 297) states:

We all 'know' that the main party battle is between Conservative and Labour, but since 1970 there has been a steady growth in electoral support for 'other parties. Only the disproportional effects of the Westminster electoral system have prevented the votes of the 'other' parties being reflected in a large number of seats.

In five general elections (1983-2001), those parties have gained an average of some 25 per cent of the vote and around forty seats (as opposed to the 160-170 they would have got under a pure proportional system). In 2005 the figures reached new highs of over 30 per cent and over 80 seats. But this third force of parties in the Commons is diverse, including Liberal Democrats, Welsh and Scottish Nationalists, Respect, and four different parties in Northern Ireland as well as an independent.

Among these parties, the UK Independence Party and the Green Party, and some parties which operate specifically in Scotland (the Scottish National party), Wales (Plaid Cymru) or Northern Ireland (such as Sinn Fein for the nationalists and the Democratic Unionist party for the loyalists) (Juan Pablo, n.d).

1.7. Elections in Britain

In today's politics, debating the challenges that mature liberal democracies face as a result of decreased voter turnout has become a well-worn groove. The reasons for this decline in electoral participation, as well as democratic remedies, have spawned a burgeoning academic literature. After fifteen postwar general elections with voter turnout averaging just over 76 percent, the 2001 UK general election saw voter turnout drop to 59.4%, sparking a tidal wave of public and scholarly debate regarding what had caused the drop-off. The reduction in turnout from 1997

fueled speculation about a "apathetic landslide" in the United Kingdom. 1 In 2005, the situation had barely improved .Several UK think tanks and public entities have provided supplementary information demonstrating the health, or apparent lack thereof, of democratic politics in the UK, in response to the electoral statistics. In 2006, the Hansard Society and the Electoral Commission undertook a joint audit of political engagement, which indicated that while 56 percent of those polled expressed an interest in politics, just 39 percent felt educated about politics ,The response of parliament to the phenomenon of the conflicts that exist are exemplified by disengagement from established means of 'doing' politics .In today's Britain, there is a conflict between representation and democracy. This tension is worsened by a misunderstanding of parliament's role as a link between government and the governed, which is fueled by a shifting argument between an emphasis on the quality of representational democracy in the United Kingdom and the quality of participatory democracy in the United States (Dr Alexandra ,2007)

1.8. The Representative and Democratic Functions of Parliament

1.8.1 Parliament Role in Government

Parliaments provide a variety of functions, the most basic of which is to connect the government and the governed. Parliament helps the interest articulation and conflict resolution necessary for a healthy political system by providing a platform where citizens' concerns may be spoken and (potentially) addressed, as well as where government actions can be explained and scrutinize) (Dr Alexandra ,2007)

It has been the only arena through which executive activities might be legitimized as an institution of representation - whereby members of the political nation, as imagined, might reach the executive through representational methods and have their grievances handled. In the British political system, parliament's ancient position as a representative institution allows it to connect the government and the governed (Dr Alexandra, 2007)

1.8.2 How Parliament and its Members view their Representational and Democratic Roles

It is how MPs engage in these procedures. According to the facts, what happens during online consultations isn't even close to being "genuine" engagement. One parliamentary clerk, for example, felt that internet consultation forums had devolved into "a fairly dry and dead succession of remarks," rather than being "a vibrant community of individuals discussing topics." The House of Commons Defense Committee, for example, received 128 responses in April 2006, but only 12 of them came from committee members ,most of them were created to just prompt users for fresh information rather than respond to and engage with the conversation. In this regard, while MPs may have reviewed the remarks submitted throughout the consultation process, it is unclear whether a meaningful discourse between MPs and participants took occurred. Despite this, 73 percent of those who took part in the online consultation said it was a beneficial experience in which they learned from the other participants .At Westminster, these processes are still in their infancy, and much more can be learned, especially in terms of ensuring that participants understand how their contributions affect legislative work, publications, and recommendations. The current practice of online consultation confirms parliament's enduring importance as a venue for traditional representative methods, which is unsurprising. What isn't evident is how committed parliament is to fostering participatory methods that enable a whole new level of political engagement .While online processes are a significant innovation, they now serve primarily to let the public communicate their ideas and facts to MPs in the traditional representative tradition, rather than to create the sort of deliberative discussion advocated by some democratic reform schools. Online consultation, on the other hand, can assist underpin a "more direct type of representation (as opposed to direct democracy) in which the public is less likely to feel unheard" over time (Dr Alexandra, 2007)

1.9. Britain Voting System

The United Kingdom has a number of proportional and plural electoral systems in existence; since 1997, the government has implemented new voting systems for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Mayoral and Assembly elections in London, as well as European Parliament elections. To contribute to the debate, the government is conducting a study of the experience of the new voting mechanisms that have been in place since 1997, as stated in its manifesto. Information on the elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly in March 2007 and the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Parliament in May 2007 will be included in the review. The review is expected to be finished before the end of the year (The Governance of Britain CM 7170, 2007).

Voting must be accessible in today's society, as people lead busier lives and expect convenience and a variety of options in how they receive services from both the public and private sectors. In 2001, according to MORI data for the Electoral Commission, 21% of non-voters indicated they couldn't get to the polling location because it was too inconvenient. Female voters are more likely to provide this reason, maybe because they must juggle work and childcare obligations in addition to voting with the required legislation, the government has expanded the use of postal voting safeguards and continues to test a variety of voting-related measure more practical. As part of the reform of the electoral system ,At the weekend, the government conducted a test of advance voting. However, in the case of advance voting under present legislation can only be used in addition to regular voting. In the long run, the government is looking into the possibility . Remote electronic voting (through the internet and telephone) has a number of advantages systems), utilizing rapidly evolving communication technologies to provide people more flexibility and choices in how they vote. The United Kingdom is one of only a few Western democracies that hold general elections on a weekday. While elections are held on weekdays in the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, the United States, and Canada, the vast majority of other European countries hold elections on the weekend or on a public holiday Since 1945, every general election in England has been conducted on a Thursday, despite the fact that the only

statutory need is that the election be held on a weekday. General elections were held on a number of days before to 1945; the last UK general election held on a weekend was on Saturday, December 14th, 1918. Local elections are now obliged by law to be held on a Thursday, however they were previously held on Saturdays for certain Urban District Councils.

As a result, the government will confer with local governments and others on the merits of relocating general and/or local election voting days from Thursday to the weekend, as well as the best means to do it. Moving national or local elections to the weekends would necessitate legislation. The consultation will take religious groups' concerns into account, ensuring that those who have religious objections to voting on a Saturday or Sunday can vote in a manner that is compatible with their views. It will also evaluate whether weekend voting would be more expensive than present arrangements, as well as whether it would have a negative impact on local election turnout. This might be a particular problem if both local and national governments are involved. General elections were held on the same day but on different days. These elections to the devolved legislatures would not be affected by the plans (The Governance of Britain CM 7170, 2007)

1.10 .Improving Direct Democracy

1.10.1. Petitions

A modern system for the people to communicate with Parliament, including an e-petitions process, would be provided via a revamped parliamentary petitions system, which would allow Parliament to demonstrate that it actively listens to those it serves. It would not be a replacement for petitioning the Government and the Prime Minister, but it would provide a formal channel for members of the public to address their concerns directly to Parliament as a whole, with the assurance that petitions would be examined (The Governance of Britain CM 7170 ,2007)

1.10.2 .Right of Charities to Campaign

It is frequently noted that while public engagement with the formal political process in terms of membership of political parties and voting in elections has reduced, other forms of engagement

have increased. In particular, levels of membership of pressure groups have grown, while citizens are more likely than ever to sign a petition or boycott a product. Third sector campaigning organizations, such as Make Poverty History, play an ever more important role in driving social, economic and environmental change (The Governance of Britain CM 7170, 2007). Finally, Citizens' ability to advocate and protest is critical to democracy; this right should not be restricted by the government in any way. For decades, section 1 of the House of Commons Act 1952 essentially forbade demonstrations when Parliament was in session, in an area around Westminster. The Government is aware, however, of the strong reactions to the provisions on protests outside Parliament introduced in sections 132-138 of the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act 2005, both in terms of the principle behind these restrictions and how they have operated in practice. (The Governance of Britain CM 7170, 2007).

1.11. Conclusion

Briefly, in this chapter several items of the British politics are discussed. Starting from the British constitution which is non-written constitution, and the role of the British monarch who belongs to the English church and whose function is merely exercising ceremonial function as the head of the kingdom. Moreover, we shed lights on the British parliament which consists of House of Commons, House of Lords and the Crown, and the separation of powers in UK that are the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. In the second section of the chapter we shift the focus on the main political parties who are in a constant competition to win seats at the British parliament. The notable parties in Britain are The Conservative Party which is the oldest, The Labor party, and Liberal Democrats who emerged later with new liberal dimensions. The last section of the chapter is likely to be the most important where we discuss The representative and Democratic Functions of Parliament, Parliament Role In Government, the significance of the Westminster parliament, and how parliament and its members view their representational and democratic roles. We concluded the chapter by explaining the voting systems of UK that is considered unique for its structure.

CHAPTER TWO:

American Political and Electoral System

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2.1. Introduction	page27
2.2. The US Constitution	page28
2.3. Separation of Powers	page29
2.3.1. The Executive	page29
2.3.1.1 President	page29
2.3.1.2. Vice President	page29
2.3.1.3. The Cabinet	page39
2.3.2. Legislative	page30
2.3.2.1. Senate	page30
2.3.2.2 House of Representatives	page30
2.3.3 The Judiciary	page30
2.3.3.1 The Supreme Court	page30
2.3.3.2 Federal Courts and Judicial Agencies	page31
2.4. Political Parties in USA	page32
2.4.1 Formation of Political Parties in America	page32
2.4.1.1. The federalists.....	page32
2.4.1.2. The Anti-Federalists	page33
2.4.2. From the Anti-Federalists to the Democrats	page33
2.4.3 From the Federalists to the Whigs to the Republicans	page34
2.5. Electoral System of the US	page35
2.5.1. The Constitutional Framework of Elections	page35
2.5.2 The Representation Process	page35
2.5.2.1 The House of Representatives	page35

2.5.2.2 The Senate	page36
2.5.3 The Presidency	page37
2.5.4 The Electoral College	page38
2.5.5 The Arithmetic of the Electoral College	page39
2.5.6. Electoral Strategy	page40
2.5.7 Third-Party Candidates	page40
2.5.8 Presidential Nominations.....	page40
2.5.9 Presidential Election Campaigns	page41
2.5.10 Presidential Veto Power.....	page41
2.6. Conclusion	page42

Chapter Two: American Political and Electoral System

2.1. Introduction

In 1776, the American political system began as a test of liberty and democracy; now, the United States is more correctly described as a constitutional federal republic. The term "constitutional" alludes to the fact that the United States' government is founded on the idea that the people hold the ultimate power in the system. Limited Government, Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, Judicial Review, and Federalism are the principles upon which the United States was created. The president leads the executive branch, which is separate from the legislative branch. The senate and the House of Representatives are the two houses of Congress with legislative power. The Judicial branch (or judiciary), which consists of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts, wields judicial power. The role of the judiciary is to interpret both the US Constitution and federal statutes and regulations. This includes resolving conflicts between the Executive and Legislative arms of government. The constitution of the United States established the federal government. Since the American Civil War, two parties have dominated American politics: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, though other parties have flourished. This power is exercised through regularly scheduled presidential elections, in which voters choose the President from among a group of candidates, this power is exercised through presidential elections, which are held on a regular timetable and in which voters elect the President using a specified electoral system. These officials and their staffs are in charge of policymaking. And oversee the government's day-to-day activities.

2.2. The US Constitution

The Articles of confederation were the original constitution of the United States of America, which was enacted by the continental congress on November 15, 1777. (Ken, 2019) Article one the style of this confederacy shall be "the united states of America". Article two Each state retains its sovereignty , freedom , and independence , and every power , jurisdiction , and right , which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the united states , in congress assembled .(Charles , n.d). A few years later, the founding fathers realize that the articles have flaws that must be addressed in order to prevent the thirteen colonies from seceding (faouzi and Ammar, 2018) The Articles established a loose confederation of autonomous nations with a weak central government, with state governments wielding the majority of authority (Ken, 2019) .The country was a loose confederation of states that operated as sovereign countries. There was no president or judicial branch, and the national government was made up of a single assembly, the congress of the confederation. The articles of confederation provided Congress the ability to rule foreign affairs, conduct war, and control currency; but, these powers were severely limited in practice since congress lacked the authority to enforce its requests for money and troops from the states (History editors, 2020). As a result, the necessity for a stronger federal government became obvious quickly, leading to the 1787 constitutional convention (ken, 2019).

The United States of America's Constitution is the fundamental law of the US federal government and a landmark document of the Western world (editors of encyclopedia Britannica, 2003). It established America's national government and core laws, as well as guaranteeing citizens some basic rights. It was signed by delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. The national government was weak and states operated like sovereign countries under America's first governing document, the articles of confederation. Delegates devised a proposal for a stronger federal government with three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial, as well as a system of checks and balances to ensure that no single branch has too much authority (history editors, 2020).

2.3. Separation of Powers

The US constitution divided the government into three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The executive branch enforces the laws, the legislative branch makes law, and the judicial branch interprets the laws (Faouzi and Ammar, 2018). The checks and balances system gives each part of government its own authority to keep the other branches in check and prevent one branch from becoming too strong. For example, congress has the power to create laws, the president has the power to veto them, and the Supreme Court may declare laws unconstitutional (Separation of Power, n.d).

2.3.1. The Executive

The executive branch is in charge of carrying out and enforcing laws. The president, vice president, cabinet, executive departments, independent agencies, and various boards, commissions, and committees make up the executive branch. Citizens of the United States have the right to vote for president and vice president on free and private ballots (Branches of the US government, 2021)

2.3.1.1 President

President is in charge of the country. He or she is the president of the United States, the head of the federal government, and the commander in chief of the armed forces of the United States. The president is elected for a four- year term and can only be re- elected twice (Branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3.1.2. Vice President

The vice president is the president's right-hand man. In the event that the president is unable to serve, the vice president takes over. Even if the president changes, the vice president can be elected and serve an unlimited number of four-year terms as vice president (Branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3.1.3. The Cabinet

Members of the cabinet serves as counselors to the president, Vice presidents, chiefs of executive departments, and other high -ranking government officials are among them. The president appoints cabinet members, who must be confirmed by a simple majority of the senate - 51 votes if all 100 senators vote (Branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3 .2 Legislative

The legislative branch prepares new legislation, confirms or rejects presidential appointment for federal agency heads, federal judges, and the Supreme Court, and has the power to declare war. Congress (the senate and House of Representatives) and special agencies and offices that offer support to congress make up this branch. Senators are elected by citizens of the United States (Branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3.2.1. Senate

Each state elects two senators, for a total of hundred senators. A senate term is six years long, and there is no restriction on how many terms a person can serve.

2.3.2.2 House of Representatives

There are 435 elected representatives, who are distributed evenly among the 50 states based on their population. The District of Columbia and the territories are represented by additional non - voting representatives. A representative is elected for a two - year term, with no limit on the number of terms a person can serve (Branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3.3 The Judiciary

The judicial branch reads laws, applies them to specific instances, and determines whether laws contradict the constitution. The Supreme Court and other federal courts make up this body (branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3.3.1 The Supreme Court

The supreme court of the United States is the country's highest court. The president nominates Supreme Court justices, who must then be confirmed by the senate. The Supreme Court is made

up of nine members, a chief justice and eight Associate justices. To decide a case, there must be a quorum of six justices. If there are an even number of justices on the supreme court and a case ends in a tie, the lower court has the final say When there are an even number of justices on the supreme court and a case ends in a tie, the lower court's decision is upheld Justices do not serve for a set period of time. They serve until they die, retire, or are removed due to extraordinary circumstances (branches of the US government, 2021).

2.3.3.2 Federal Courts and Judicial Agencies

The Constitution empowers Congress to create additional federal courts to hear disputes concerning federal statutes such as taxation and bankruptcy, as well as litigation involving the federal government, state governments, or the Constitution. Other federal judicial offices and programs provide assistance to the courts and do study on judicial policy.

- Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.
- Bankruptcy Courts.
- Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.
- Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- Court of Federal Claims.
- Court of International Trade.
- Federal Court Interpreters.
- Federal Judicial Center.
- Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.
- Supreme Court of the United States.
- Tax Court.
- U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- U.S. Courts of Appeal.
- U.S. Sentencing Commission
- (Branches of the US government, 2021).

2.4. Political Parties in USA

What is the definition of a political party? It's a group that picks candidates for office to represent the party's beliefs, runs election campaigns to get those individuals elected, and organizes government to help the party realize its objectives. Recruiting (looking for and encouraging persons to run) and then executing a nominating procedure to formally pick a nominee from among all contending candidates are both part of the selection process. Parties offer service (such as advertising and polling) to their nominees during election campaigns, and they also persuade people to vote for them. Majority party leadership in Congress or state legislatures, as well as presidential or gubernatorial nominations to the executive and judicial departments, is examples of organization. All of this is geared toward putting in place a wide policy agenda. Furthermore, political party names act as "cues," or shortcuts, to aid us in deciding who to vote for in elections.

For the most part, unlike other multi-party democracies, we have maintained a two-party system. This is significant because the framers had not anticipated their emergence. They were overtly hostile to the concept. In Federalist #10, James Madison discusses how to control the influence of factions. He defined a faction as “a number of citizens ... united... by some common impulse of passion, or of interest ...” (Madison, 1787) a definition in which all modern interpreters include political parties. (Carl D. Cavalli, 2017).

2.4.1 Formation of Political Parties in America

2.4.1.1. The Federalists

The Federalists were the more organized faction at the time of US establishment. Federalists made up the majority of the framers. They considered the Articles of Confederation to be a failure, so they drafted a new constitution. They advocated national authority over local authority in part because they believed that coordination at the national level was necessary to promote and grow the nation's commerce and industry (see, for example, Wood, 1998). The majority

were northerners, owing to the fact that the north housed the majority of the country's commerce and industry. (Carl D. Cavalli, 2017)

2.4.1.2. The Anti-Federalists

Carl D and Cavalli (2017) argue that the Anti-Federalists were at least as numerous, but less organized. Many in the southern Part of the state feared a strong national government and the industrialization that would entail. They intended to keep the country's agrarian foundations. They intended to keep the country's agrarian origins .Opposition to centralized national power was common in rural regions across the countries, in particular “In which small, self-sufficient, and often debtor farmers were most numerous” (Main, 2006, p. 112).

2.4.2. From the Anti-Federalists to the Democrats

The Anti-Federalists began to organize into a true political party in the mid- 1790s. They recognized the value of coordinating their efforts to win elections throughout the nation and to help bridge our system of separation of powers. Under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, they called themselves Republicans.

By the election of 1800, their organizational efforts paid off and they began to win huge majorities in Congress (Senate Historical Office, 2010; Office of the Clerk, 2010) as well as an unparalleled seven consecutive presidential elections. Among intra-party divisions in the 1820s, Andrew Jackson came to lead the party and attempted to preserve its Jeffersonian roots. It was at this time they began to call themselves Democrats.

Even though some left the party, perceiving Jackson’s leadership to be autocratic, they continued to win elections. Including their Jeffersonian Republican forebears, they won all but two presidential elections from 1800 through 1856, and maintained control of Congress for all but a few years during that time.

After a period of dominance by the new Republican Party (see below) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Democratic Party regained its majority in the 1930s under the

leadership of Franklin Roosevelt. They maintained this majority largely intact into the 1970s. It was a changed party, however. From its Anti-Federalist forebears, it came to be the party of the “common man.” While the party maintains a similar focus today as the party of workers, minorities, and women, its view of government has changed drastically. Franklin Roosevelt’s Democratic Party was quite different from Jefferson’s and Jackson’s. Gone were the Anti-Federalist fears of national government. Roosevelt’s “New Dealers” believed in using the power of the national government to fight economic distress and inequality. (Carl D. Cavalli, 2017, p138, 139).

2.4.3 from the Federalists to the Whigs to the Republicans

Though our founding was dominated by Federalists, their dislike of political parties proved to be their downfall. They began organizing into what looked like a political party around the same time as the Anti-Federalists—the mid-1790s. However, as the faction in power, their focus was on policy, not elections. By the time they realized the value of organizing for elections, it was too late. In the elections of 1800, they lost out to their better-organized opponents (see above) virtually everywhere. By the early 1800s, they were finished as an organized group. Their sympathizers did not disappear, however. A combination of former Federalists and Democrats (who feared what they saw as autocratic rule in the election of Democrat Andrew Jackson to the presidency) formed the Whig Party. They were quite successful in the 1830s and 1840s, electing several presidents and building congressional majorities (Senate Historical Office, 2010; Office of the Clerk, 2010). The thorny issue of slavery split and ultimately destroyed the party in the early 1850s. At that time; a new party arose from anti-slavery elements in both the Democratic and Whig parties. To emphasize their belief that they were truly fulfilling the framers’ vision, they called themselves the Republican Party. Under the leadership of John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln, they quickly rose to major party status. From the mid-1850s through today, they have competed with the Democrats as one of the two major political parties in America. Consistent with their Federalist roots, the Republicans have historically been the party of

business and commerce. However, unlike their forebears who saw a strong national government as the key to commercial development, modern Republicans often take a dim view of federal power. More like the Anti-Federalists, modern Republicans generally place more trust in local government. The modern Republican Party supports free-market commerce (i.e., it opposes much government regulation of businesses and industries), small and localized government, and a socially conservative ideology (Carl D. Cavalli, 2017, p139, 140).

2.5. Electoral System of the US

The presidential primaries may become a stage for bitter personal feuds amongst the most powerful leaders of the same political party, played out in full front of the entire country, if not the entire world .

2.5.1. The Constitutional Framework of Elections

Elections in the Constitution of 1787 were established on the premise of popular sovereignty, which holds that government derives its authority from the agreement of the people. However, this did not imply that the framers were devoted to democracy in the modern sense. They supported a republic but opposed the establishment of a democracy; as a result, the constitutional framework for elections aimed to reconcile the ideal of popular sovereignty with a desire to limit the people's ability to control the country. You're probably already aware that the Constitution's separation of powers and checks and balances!' provisions were intended to be anti -majoritarian ,To further stifle democracy, the framers agreed that distinct institutions would be elected by separate constituencies using distinct voting systems. To put it another way, the president, the Senate, and the House of Representatives would all be chosen in various ways, by different people, at different periods. Competing institutions would thus act as a check on one another by reflecting rival constituencies 'interests (Robert.McKeever,2016).

2.5.2 The Representation Process

2.5.2.1 The House of Representatives

The House was designed to be the federal government's popular, democratic institution, so its members would be maintained close to the people in the following ways:

- by being elected directly by the people every two year
- by frequent elections
- by representing tiny, local areas that are elected by people

The House of Representatives was not originally intended in the Constitution. The subsequent growth in population, with one representative for every 30,000 ever, has rendered this apportionment obsolete: based on the 1990 census population figure of over 248 million Americans, constituencies of 30,000 would result in a House with 8,270 representatives. Congress has therefore fixed the number of representatives at 435, and population growth simply means that the number of representatives will increase. A House district now has an average population of 570,000 people. Because of the proportional representation system; some states send far more representatives to the House of Representatives than others. Every state, for example, is entitled to at least one representative, as Wyoming (population 501,000) and Vermont (population 619,000) demonstrate. The most populous states perform far better. California, with a population of 35,484,000 people, has 53 representatives, whereas Illinois, with a population of 12,654,000 people, has 19. Members of the House of Representatives, on the other hand, are elected to represent the interests of their districts, which might differ greatly even within the same state. For example, Harlem inner-city voters have very different needs and concerns than rural constituents in upper New York State.

2.5.2.2 The Senate

The Senate's representative functions were designed to be distinct from those of the House of Representatives. First, rather than representing the people, the Senate were supposed to represent the states. As a result, regardless of population, every state is entitled to two senators.

As a result, though Wyoming only has one legislator and California has fifty-three, both states have two senators. This arrangement was a compromise to the states with the smallest populations, who feared being overwhelmed in the national legislature by the states with the largest populations. Senators are elected by the electorate of the entire state to fulfill this representative responsibility. Senators are elected by the electorate of the entire state to fulfill this representative responsibility. The Senate was created to be a more "aristocratic" chamber that would check popular will. In reality, as many historians have pointed out, the founders viewed the Senate's relationship with the House as being akin to that of the House of Lords and the House of Commons in the United Kingdom. Senators were not supposed to be elected directly by the people because of this aristocratic inclination. Instead, state legislatures would elect or appoint US senators according to their own preferences. This system was in force until the Seventeenth Amendment was passed in 1913, which established direct election of senators by the people. Senators are further separated from popular control by the Constitution's six-year tenure limit. Senators are able to take a longer-term and more impartial view on issues than reps because of this. If a senator goes against the wishes of his or her constituency on an issue, voters' memories will have faded and their political beliefs will have changed by the time the next elections roll around. Nonetheless, the framers included another mechanism to shield the Senate as a whole from popular political pressures at the time. Elections that are staggered while all senators serve six-year terms, they are not all elected at the same time: every two years, one-third of the senators are up for re-election. This indicates that, in any election year, even if a violent political wind blows, every two years, one-third of senators are up for re-election. This means that even if a fierce political wind blows in an election year, two-thirds of the senators will be unaffected electorally. While the House can shift course significantly as a result of election results in a single year, the Senate is far more resistant to such changes, allowing it to function as a brake on the House (Robert. McKeever, 2016).

2.5.3 The Presidency

The president and vice president are the only politicians who are chosen by a national electorate. As a result, they were logically designed to advocate for and represent the national interest, rather than state or local concerns (Senate and House of Representatives, respectively). The presidency's representative function, like that of the Senate and House, is distinct, as are its terms of office and election method. The president serves a four-year term and is limited to two terms of office under the Constitution since the enactment of the Twenty-second Amendment in 1951. In fact, the first president, George Washington, established the norm of not seeking a third term, and the Constitution was only altered in response to Franklin D. Roosevelt's defiance of this rule. Because of the separate terms of office for the president, Senate, and House, a full electoral cycle for the federal government takes four years and three elections (Robert. McKeever, 2016)

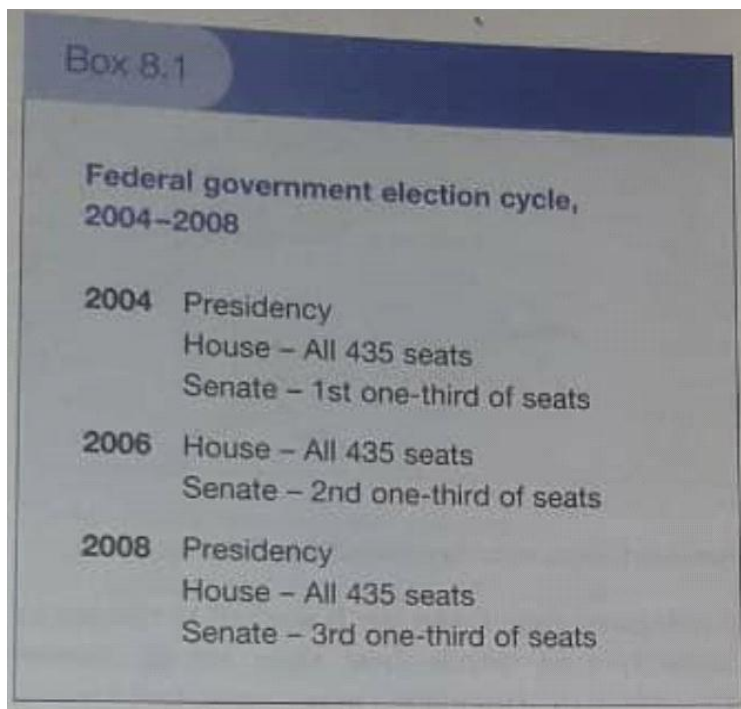


Figure 2.1 : Federal government election cycle, 2004-2008 -(Robert. McKeever.2016, page 107)

2.5.4 The Electoral College

The Electoral College is a group of people who vote in elections. The technique of electing the president is distinct from the others. The first point to mention is that Article II, Section 1) ii (of the Constitution established an indirect form of election, thus again removing direct presidential election from the hands of ordinary voters. This was done for a variety of reasons by the framers. First, the states with the smallest populations feared that the states with the largest populations would always supply the president. Second, the framers did not expect that ordinary citizens in such a huge country would have sufficient ;finally, the framers were apprehensive of giving the people too much power over the election of the president, believing that it might foster demagoguery. They would rather have a statesman as president than a tribune. The president would be chosen by an electoral college, in which each state had a number of representatives, known as electors. It would be up to the states to select how their electors would be elected. Initially, most state legislatures just appointed them, but the practice of holding some sort of popular vote on the issue gradually arose. Only South Carolina did not allow a popular vote by 1832. Electors were not, however, obligated to vote for any particular candidate in the election , Even yet, electors were not obligated to vote for a certain candidate in the electoral college; rather, they were to use their knowledge and experience to choose the best possible president. Electors now, with the exception of a few outliers, vote for the candidate who has won the popular election in their state (Robert McKeever, 2016).

2.5.5 The Arithmetic of the Electoral College

Each state's electors are determined by multiplying the number of representatives by the number of senators. It is so simple to compute the number of electors in every state. As we saw above, Illinois, like every other state, has two senators and nineteen representatives in the House of Representatives. As a result, the state of Illinois has twenty-one delegates in the Electoral College. Wyoming is one of the smallest states in the union having less than one million residents in the Congress; there are fifty-three members, and hence fifty-five senators, plus three

from the state legislatures. As a result, the total number of electors in the Electoral College is equal to the number of federal District of Columbia representatives: 538 in total. Any presidential candidate must receive more than half of the Electoral College votes, or the minimum college, to be elected; California, the most populous state, has three electoral College votes.

2.5.6. Electoral Strategy

The presidential election in the United States is more than just a single election; it is an exercise in electoral strategy. In a significant sense, the presidential election in the United States is made up of fifty-one individual elections held in the states and the District of Columbia. The number of Electoral College votes earned by winning state elections decides victory, not the percentage of votes gained in the national popular vote. A candidate who wins California by a single vote, for example, receives all fifty-five Electoral College votes (Robert. McKeever.2016)

2.5.7 Third-Party Candidates

The Electoral College, paired with practically every state's simple majority voting method (first past the post, winner takes all), not only exaggerates the victorious candidate's mandate, but also severely disadvantages any third-party contender. Ross Perot, for example, received nearly 19% of the national popular vote in 1992, but he received no Electoral College votes because he did not finish first in any state. Other third-party candidates have had a similar experience ,strong third-party candidates; on the other hand, offer a big potential problem in the Electoral College. If the race between the Democratic and Republican nominees is tight, a third-party candidate with some Electoral College votes may be able to hold the balance of power. The founders of the Constitution foresaw this and stipulated that in the event that no candidate receives a majority of Electoral College votes, the election would be decided in the House of Representatives (Robert. McKeever, 2016).

2.5.8 Presidential Nominations

The presidential election is always held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, though the presidential campaign begins much earlier. The first step for anyone seeking the presidency is to secure the nomination of one of the major political parties. Both democratic and republican parties hold nominating conventions to determine who will be the party's nominee for the November general election. For the candidates, the next step is to ensure that a majority of the convention delegates pledge to support them

2.5.9 Presidential Election Campaigns

Each presidential election has its own characteristics; voters are usually mainly concerned with the economy and related issues, as well as the character of candidates from which to select (Robert. McKeever.2016)

In a primary election, voters just go to the polls and vote for their preferred delegate or presidential candidate. Caucuses take longer because voters physically gather in rooms for several hours to decide who they will support. Closed or open primaries and caucuses are possible. If the election is closed, only officially registered democrats and republicans may vote in the democratic primary or caucus; if the election is open, however, officially registered independents or even members of the opposite party may vote in either the democratic or republican choice (Robert. McKeever.2016)

2.5.10 Presidential Veto Power

:The presidential veto is a powerful tool in the president's arsenal. The threat of using the veto can be used to force legislative changes. It is, however, a cumbersome weapon in that the president can only approve or reject a measure in its entirety, as there is no power to veto specific things in a Bill. This reality is sometimes exploited by Congress to add "riders" to bills that they know the president will not veto. Because Congress knows that the president will sign the bill, clauses unrelated to the core subject matter are included ,because Congress knows that if the president had the power, he would veto them. The Republican-controlled Congress, on the

other hand, passed the Line Item Veto Act in 1996, allowing the president to veto individual budget items in bills (M.J.C. Vile, 2007).

This description of the working of the political system undoubtedly overemphasizes the pluralistic features of American government, certainly failing to give sufficient weight to the policy-making functions of the presidency (M.J.C. Vile, 2007, page 105)

2.6. Conclusion

In nutshell, the second chapter sheds light on the major components of US politics starting by a constitutional background and how the American constitution was established by the delegates of the nation in 1787. Moreover it defines the three branches of governments the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary. It tackles their establishment, their authority and their role. It examines how these three branches work together to form a well-constructed and balanced political system. The second part of the chapter deals with political parties and their emergence since 1828 and the major role they play. America at first adopted the first party system, and then it shifted to two-party system. The Democrats and Republicans are the two major parties in America since they are the unique parties with real opportunities of capturing the congress or the presidency alongside with other minor parties (Robert. McKeever, 2006). Furthermore, it cites the reason behind the symbols that each party carries (donkey and elephant) .Besides that the third part of the chapter represents the presidential electoral system held on a regular timetable and in which voters elect the President using a specified electoral system ;through the representative process in both house of representative and the senate ,the presidential nominations and electoral college and the main essential processes concerning the US voting system.

CHAPTER THREE:

British and American Electoral System: Common and Distinctive Features

Chapter Three: Chapter Three: British and American Electoral System: Common and Distinctive Features

3.1. Introduction	page46
3.2. Distinctive and Common Features between UK and US Political System	page47
3.2.1 Common Features.....	page47
3.2.1.1. Codification and sources.....	page47
3.2.1.2. Flexibility and amendment.....	page47
3.2.1.3. Sovereignty.....	page47
3.2.1.4. Separation of powers.....	page48
3.2.1.5. Protection of rights.....	page48
3.2.2 Distinctive Features.....	page48
3.2.2.1.The Constitution	page48
3.2.2.2 The Executive	page49
3.2.2.3. The Legislative	page52
3.2.2.4. The Judiciary	page53
3.2.2.5 Political parties	page54
3. 3 British vs. American Voting System: Common Points and Distinctive Features.....	page55
3.3.2 Common Features	page55
3.3.1 1. The First-Past-the-Post System	page56
3.3.1.2 .Chief Executive	page57
3.3.1.3 .Candidate Selection.....	page57
3.3.2. Distinctive Features	page57

3.3.2.1. Campaign Period.....	page58
3.3.2.2 .Voting Process.....	page58
3.3.2.3 .Election Process	page59
3.3.2.4. Parliament vs. Congress	page60
3.3.2.5 .Back-to-Back office	page61
3.4. Conclusion	page62

Chapter Three: British and American Electoral System: Common and Distinctive Features

3.1. Introduction

Political systems are shaped by the societies in which they function. In this chapter we will discuss the distinguishing and common characteristics of the main three elements of the political system, shedding light on the main differences and similarities between the UK and the US political systems in terms of constitution, separation of powers (executive, legislative and judiciary). Nevertheless, we will cite the shared and different points in political parties in both the UK and the USA politics, and how do parties elect their candidates in both UK and USA. Also, we will explain the parallels and differences between the voting systems, campaign process, campaign period, voting and election process. The British and the Americans have a lot in common, and variations which we will mention throughout the last chapter of our dissertation.

3.2. Common and Distinctive Features of UK and US Political System

3.2.1 Common features

3.2.1.1 Codification and Sources

* Primary elections, judicial review, and other conventions have both written and unwritten sources and conventions.

* Both systems follow convention, with Britain steadily codifying more of its constitution over time.

* Both contain material related to human rights (similarities between UK and us constitutions, n.d.)

3.2.1.2 Flexibility and Amendment

* Both systems are adaptable and evolutionary in nature: The US Constitution's flexibility is increased by the Supreme Court's interpretive additions, and elastic clauses add even more freedom.

* Furthermore, while the US Constitution codifies the federalist system, the evolving character of federalism over the past two centuries indicates the framework's adaptability.

* Because the UK constitution is not codified or entrenched, it can readily be altered with Acts of Parliament and does not necessitate a lengthy amendment process.

* Furthermore, the UK's devolution system is adaptable and evolving, with calls for additional devolution in the form of a "Northern Powerhouse" or Scottish independence, as well as the removal of power from the Northern Irish Assembly (similarities between UK and us constitutions , n.d.)

3.2.1.3 Sovereignty

- * State governments and sub-national assemblies have less power than the federal government.
- * Parliament must continue to represent the people; otherwise, the government is not legitimate.
- * In practice, the United Kingdom has a democracy, with authority devolved to the people, as the US Constitution begins with WE THE PEOPLE, arguably devolving authority to the people (similarities between US and UK constitutions, n.d.)

3.2.1.4 Separation of Powers

- * Separation of powers, yet the US is totally split, whereas the UK's executive and parliamentary branches are merged.
- * vice president, because they can sit in the Senate and break a tie vote = power grab; part of the executive branch, but sits and wields authority in the legislative branch.
- * Both countries have an ostensibly independent judiciary.
- * The UK Supreme Court, like the US Supreme Court, was established in 2005 to create a separation of powers for the court (similarities between us and UK constitutions, n.d.)

3.2.1.5 Protections of rights

- * Both have a Bill of Rights and rights that are legally protected.
- * Act on Human Rights (similarities between US and UK constitutions, n.d.)

3.3.2 Distinctive features

3.2.2.1 The Constitution

The constitution is perhaps the most fundamental distinction between the American and British political systems. The vast majority of nation states, including the United States, have a

written constitution. The constitution of the United Kingdom does not exist as a single text; rather, its provisions are distributed throughout different Acts of Parliament.

* The American constitution is difficult to amend, and in the current political climate, it may be impossible to do so in any meaningful way. The Equal Rights Amendment, which intended to give women equal rights, failed, and there hasn't been a successful amendment to the US Constitution since 1971, with the exception of one technical item. The British Constitution, which is made up of many Acts of Parliament, can be amended by a simple majority in the legislature. For example, by adopting the appropriate legislation, the present Coalition Government established fixed terms for the House of Commons.

The constitution is regularly used in political debate in the United States, with Republicans often saying that Democratic measures are 'unconstitutional.' Aside from the fact that the United Kingdom has a formal constitution, British politicians rarely contend that their opponents' actions or plans are illegal or *supra vi*s.

No Cabinet member can be a member of the Congress in the United States because of the strict separation of powers,' which states that no one can be a member of more than one of the three branches of government. Every Government Minister in the United Kingdom must be a member of one of the two Houses of Parliament, and if he or she is not already a member, he or she is appointed a peer (that is, a member of the upper house of parliament).

Despite the strict' separation of powers' in the American political system, members of the Supreme Court (judiciary) are nominated by one of the other arms of government (the President) and approved by another arm of government (the Senate which is part of the legislature). In the United Kingdom, the political party leaders in the lower house of the legislature effectively choose almost all members of the upper body of the legislature (the House of Lords) and (the House of Commons).

3.2.2.2 The Executive

The United States is a republic with a President who is elected by the people. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, is a monarchy, with the monarchy's head of state being a hereditary member of the royal family (although he or she has no real power but only a ceremonial role)

The United States has a presidential system in which the President is elected indirectly through the Electoral College, whereas the United Kingdom has a parliamentary system in which the Prime Minister holds office and authority as long as he or she has a majority of votes in the House of Commons.

In principle, the American President has far greater power than the British Prime Minister because he is the commander-in-chief and can issue executive orders with full legal effect. The constitutional system of 'checks and balances', on the other hand, severely limits the power of the US President, who frequently struggles to get legislation passed via Congress. A British Prime Minister, on the other hand, normally leads a government with a majority of seats in the House of Commons and the power to pass nearly any legislation.

In the United States, the time between a new president's election and his or her inauguration is two and a half months. The transfer of Prime Ministers in the United Kingdom is almost instantaneous: one person departs 10 Downing Street hours after the election results are announced, and the successor enters the building the next hour.

USA president is limited by the constitution to two four-year terms in office, whereas a British Prime Minister can continue in the position for as long as he or she wishes.

In the United States, government is strongly politicized, with the President appointing executive colleagues nearly entirely from his own political party. In the United Kingdom, government is normally bipartisan, with all ministers belonging to the ruling party. However, in 2010, the Conservatives were forced to form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats, granting them 17 ministerial positions.

The President of the United States appoints the Cabinet, although he does not chair it or even attend it. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom appoints the British Cabinet, who usually attends and chairs all meetings.

The American Cabinet has a set size: it consists of the Vice-President and all heads of executive departments, for a total of 16. The size of the British Cabinet changes depending on the Prime Minister's preferences, which is typically approximately 18, plus a small number of additional Ministers who are not formal members but are, requested to attend on a regular basis.

The American Cabinet is a group of advisers to the President who meets at irregular intervals. The British Cabinet meets once a week and makes formal decisions, usually by consensus and with the Prime Minister's supervision.

In the United States, the incoming President appoints nearly 4,000 people to positions of power. In the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister picks approximately 100 members of the Government, and each member of the Cabinet picks a couple of Special Advisers, for a total of around 150 political appointments.

All of the most senior appointments in the United States - more than 1,200 - are subject to Senate confirmation hearings and votes (which might be controlled by a different party than that of the President and object on political rather than competency grounds). Although the Opposition may theoretically move a vote of no confidence in the appropriate House of Parliament, there is no procedural way to challenge a Minister's appointment in the United Kingdom.

After the Vice-President, the Secretary of State is the most senior member of the Cabinet in the United States, and is known as the Foreign Secretary in many other countries. The political head of each Government Department in the United Kingdom is known as a Secretary of State, and practically every member of the Cabinet is one.

The inaugural address of the new President of the United States is a very public and significant event in the United States. In the United Kingdom, the new Prime Minister simply lays out his or

her vision for the country in a speech to the House of Commons on the topic of the Queen's Speech, which kicks off the new Parliamentary session.

Every year, the President of the United States delivers a high-profile 'State of the Union Address.' There is no analogous ceremony in the United Kingdom, with the Prime Minister's presentation of the Government's legislative plans for the next year or so following the State Opening of Parliament each session being the closest thing.

Except for the yearly 'State of the Union Address,' the US President does not attend or address Congress due to the separation of powers. Because there is no separation of powers in the UK, the Prime Minister is a member of one of the Houses of Parliament, which is almost always the House of Commons these days, and speaks to the Commons on a regular basis, most notably once a week during Prime Minister's Question Time (PMQ). When the President speaks before Congress, he is given a standing ovation. When the Prime Minister speaks to Parliament, he or she is barracked and interrupted, and Prime Minister's Question Time is a gladiatorial event in particular.

A majority vote in the House of Representatives is required to pass articles of impeachment, followed by a two-thirds vote in the Senate to find the President guilty of the accusations. A British Prime Minister can be deposed via a vote of no confidence supported by a majority of the House of Commons. (Contrasts between the American and British political systems, 2021)

3.2.2.3 The Legislature

Both houses of the legislature of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives, are elected directly. The House of Commons is directly elected in the United Kingdom, whereas the House of Lords is mostly appointed (making it unique in the democratic world).

All legislation in the United States is introduced by a member of Congress as a result of the separation of powers, therefore even the hallmark legislation attributed to President Obama on

healthcare reform was really proposed by a Congressman (Democratic member of the House of Representatives Charles Rangel). In contrast, practically all legislation in the United Kingdom is introduced by the government, with only a tiny number of Bills (known as Private Members' Bills) sponsored by individual Members of Parliament (typically on social problems with minor fiscal repercussions).

Senate rules allow a senator, or a group of senators, to talk for as long as they want on any issue they like unless a supermajority of three-fifths of the Senate (60 Senators if all 100 seats are filled) invokes "cloture" to end debate (taken from the French term for closure). There is no similar legislation in either House of the British Parliament to restrict filibustering, but filibustering is uncommon.

One speaker "yields" to another in Congressional debates. One speaker "gives way" to another in parliamentary discussions.

All powerful committees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate are chaired by the majority party. Committee chairpersonships are distributed among the several parties in the two chambers of the British legislature, roughly in proportion to the membership of the party in the House, and the committees are far less powerful than those in the US Congress.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is chosen by the members of the major party, wields significant authority and behaves in a partisan manner. The Speaker of the House of Commons, who is elected by the entire House, is only responsible for procedural matters and acts impartially (in general, he is not opposed in a General Election).

(Contrasts between the American and British political systems, 2021)

3.2.2.4 The Judiciary

The Supreme Court of the United States is a highly politicized institution, with members selected by the President on a partisan basis and decisions that are frequently political and contentious.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, on the other hand, is not selected on a political basis

and, like all British courts, avoids making decisions that it considers to be the domain of politicians and Parliament.

In the United States, at least some competitive judicial elections are held in 39 states. There were no such elections when the country was founded (Mississippi became the first state to require judicial elections in 1832). No judges are elected in the United Kingdom. Indeed, just a few countries in the world enjoy fair elections. Japan and Switzerland are two exceptions. (Contrasts between the American and British political systems, 2021)

3.2.2.5 Political Parties

There are significant distinctions between the parties in the two nations, the most significant of which are:

Parties in the United Kingdom are centralised and extremely regimented.

UK Allow the ruling party to sway Parliament to its will .Not so in the case of United States, where despite the fact that their parties can wield some power, they are weaker, have less party discipline, and a less developed economy national administration.

In the United States, the two parties are more ideologically close to each others, than in the United Kingdom. America is the only liberal democracy without a major party with socialist dimension. Despite being more left-wing or progressive, democrats are more similar to the Liberal Democrats and New Labour in terms of ideology than the Labour Party, which existed in the United Kingdom throughout the most of the twentieth century.

Parties are unlikely to become extinct despite all indicators of weakening and fragmentation in party systems. Even though the connections are somewhat shaky, they remain the primary mechanism that connects voters and politicians.

People who control them, and they continue to perform essential duties that are still needed today. These duties may be summed up as follows:

1. Recruiting members for national legislatures, therefore at least influencing - and in the case of the United Kingdom, determining - the selection of individuals who serve in government;
2. Educating the electorate via policy development, elaboration, and selling

(Krishna, n.d)

Moreover, In the UK, the Conservatives are the Right of Centre party and Labour is the Left of Centre. In the USA, there is no centre party in this sense of one positioned politically between the Republicans and the Democrats. This means that Tea Party candidates' policies would not be supported by any political party in Britain. The Democratic Party is often represented as a donkey, while the Republican Party is featured as an elephant. British political parties regularly change their symbols and very few electors have any idea what they are. They do not choose the party leader (which is done through a separate and broader process varying from party to party)

(Roger, 2021)

3.3. Common and Distinctive Features of UK and US voting system

3.3.1 Common Features

In many ways, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are frequently compared. After all, English is the two countries' official languages, and each country's history has entwined with the other at some point. In terms of politics, the United Kingdom and the United States are comparable in that both are democracies with male leaders. And each country's 2016 elections resulted in big and contentious changes—the UK's Brexit and Donald Trump's victory as President of the United States, for example (. UK vs. USA Elections: What are the differences?, ND)



Figure 3.6: Donald Trump was the 45th President of the United States) Michael Stewart , 2021(

3.3.1.1 The First-Past-the-Post System

In ‘national’ elections, both countries use the first-past-the-post system (simple plurality). Members of the House of Representatives are elected to represent a district, while Senators are elected to represent a state. The candidate who receives more than half of the votes in the Electoral College votes. MPs are chosen to represent a single constituency in the United Kingdom. No one is elected to the House of Lords. In most cases, the Prime Minister is the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons) .(Beatrice Mitchell, 2016)



Figure 3.7 British Prime Minister Boris Johnson) NAOMI Canton ,2021(

3.3.1.2 .Chief Executive

Electoral systems in the United Kingdom and the United States in both nations are similar, a ‘chief executive’ can be elected with a lesser share of the popular vote than the defeated ‘party.’ 1974 (February) in the United Kingdom; 2000 in the United States, for example)..(Beatrice Mitchell, 2016)

3.3.1.3 .Candidate Selection

Candidate selection used to be dominated by party machinery in both the UK and the US. This was frequently claimed to lead to the selection of candidates who were not sufficiently representative of the general public. Candidates were once said to be chosen by local and national party bosses in their "smoke-filled rooms" in the United States. In the United Kingdom, activists who dominated at the level of the Constituency Labour Party or the leading lights in local Conservative associations dominated the process(.Beatrice Mitchell, 2016)



Figure 3.8 : General election 2019)(General election 2019: How political parties choose election candidates , 2019).

3.3.2 Distinctive Features

3.3.2.1 Campaign Period

In the United States, the election campaign lasts a long time and can last years. The campaign season for the 2016 US Elections lasted a whopping 597 days, culminating in November's US Election Day.

This is a representative sample of the official count, but when we look at the actual timeframe, we can see that speculation about the next presidential candidate begins well before the official campaign period begins. Trump's reelection for the 2020 presidential seat, for example, was being discussed as early as 2016, shortly after he was sworn in. However, in the United Kingdom, things are very different. Before voters walk to the polling precinct on Election

Day, the formal campaign period is only 38 days long) .(UK vs. USA Elections: What are the difference, n.d)



Figure 3.2 :Barack Obama (Anthony Devlin/PA) (Here are the key differences between UK and US elections, 2017)

3.3.2.2 Campaign Period

The US Campaign is comprehensive, strategic, and time-consuming. The two major parties, the Democrats and the Liberals, each nominate a presidential candidate who will serve as his vice president. The ability of the vice president to support the campaign is one aspect in his selection.

The president and vice president travel across the country, from state to state, holding large rallies where they present their platforms and future ideas to the public .When it comes to campaign spending, there is no limit. Candidates are free to spend as much money as they like.

In contrast, the campaign procedure in the United Kingdom is less time-consuming and wasteful. Each UK candidate is limited to spending 9 GBP per voter, with parties spending a total of 19.5 million GBP throughout the election. Campaigning is typically conducted through both traditional and new media, in order to make the most of the campaign's limited time frame.

(UK vs. USA Elections: What are the differences, n.d)

3.3.2.3 Voting Process

Voters in the United Kingdom do not directly elect their leaders. On the ballots, the names of the party leaders are not printed. Instead, people elect their local representatives, who make up the 650 Members of Parliament (MPs).

In the United States, voters directly elect their leaders. The presidential, senatorial, gubernatorial, and other candidates' names are printed on the ballots. You will vote for your president, senators, governors, congressman, and other officials as a voter. A total of three elections are held: one for the House of Representatives, another for the Senate, and a third for the president).UK vs. USA Elections: What are the differences, n.d)

3.3.2.4 Election Process

MPs in the United Kingdom are chosen based on a ranking system. This method of ranking is known as "first past the post." This means that whoever receives the most votes will be elected to the House of Commons. The party with the most votes, at least 326 seats in the House of Commons, wins control of the UK government.

A "hung government" occurs when no single political party gains a majority. This is what happened in the 2010 UK elections, when the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats were forced to unite in order to gain a majority. To form a stable government and avoid the necessity for an emergency election, a majority must be attained.

When major parties are in risk of falling short of the needed 326 seats, minor parties will band together in the hopes of achieving the magic number of 326. Four, five, or even six constituent parties can make up these newly created parties from existing ones .The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is the leader of the government, and he governs alongside the monarchy, which is the head of the state. He is similar to the US president in that he is not directly elected. He is frequently a member of either the House of Lords or the House of Commons, and he has earned the most votes against the opposition.

Senatorial elections in the United States are staggered, with a third of senators being reelected every two years. Their term is six years long. A state will have two senators, regardless of its size or population, who will be elected using a similar "first past the post" system .Each party's presidential and vice presidential candidates run in tandem, forming a "ticket." The president is chosen by the party, and he then gets to choose a vice president, who is often a specialist in a

subject other than his own, to ensure public safety. The vice president is picked based on his abilities to help with the campaign.

While the general public can vote directly for the president, the president is not chosen purely on the basis of their ballots. The Electoral College process is used instead. The mechanism by which each state's electors choose the president is known as the Electoral College. The number of electors in each state is equal to the sum of the number of representatives (determined by the number of districts in the state) and senators. The president and vice president who receive the most electoral votes are elected to lead the state and government of the United States of America) (UK vs. USA Elections: What are the differences?, n.d)



Figure 3.3: Gordon Brown was never voted in as Prime Minister (Jane Barlow/PA)) Here are the key differences between UK and US elections,2017(

3.3.2.5 Parliament vs. Congress

Unlike the United Kingdom, where each vote is cast for a parliamentary party as well as a Prime Minister, the United States elects its two legislative chambers separately :the House of Representatives and the Senate. Each of the American states is represented by two Senators and a different number of Members of the House, depending on the size of the state's population. Whereas the UK parliament has 650 MPs representing 650 voting constituencies, each of the American states has two Senators and a different number of Members of the House, depending on the size of the state's population.

In the United States, presidential elections are held every four years, House members every two years, and Senators every six years, with overlapping terms so that only a third of the seats are up for election each cycle.

A general election in the United Kingdom occurs every five years unless the current administration gains Parliament's agreement to move the date forward, as Theresa May did in 2017 (UK vs. USA Elections: What are the differences?, n.d)



Figure 3.4 :Inside the House of Commons (PA) (Here are the key differences between UK and US elections, 2017).

3.3.2.6 Back-to-Back office

President of the United States is only authorized to serve two terms in office. A British prime minister can serve for as long as her or his party is in power, and she or he can remain the party's leader) (Here are the key differences between UK and US elections, 2017)



Figure 3.5: Tony Blair won three back-to-back elections (Niall Carson/PA))/ (Here are the key differences between UK and US elections,2017)

3.4. Conclusion

As a conclusion, the last chapter is the concluding chapter of our study of both British and American politics which is in principle meant to make comparison of the unique two political structures. We start this comparative chapter by mentioning the common points and distinctive features of separation of powers of both sides of the equation which are legislative, executive and judiciary. Moreover, the second section is meant for comparing the political parties of both systems. This is in terms of system, candidate selections and ideologies. We concluded the chapter by comparing the voting system of UK and USA putting the focus on campaigns, elections and congress vs. parliament.

General Conclusion

The present study aims to compare and contrast the UK and the US political and voting systems via reviewing and analysing the existing literature associated with the issue in hand. For that reason, this study firstly introduces the British political system, then the American one, focusing on their constitutions, separation of powers, political parties, and finally their electoral system. Then, the focus is shifted to the common and distinctive features in both countries in the political and voting systems. That is to say, the study attempts to explain the process of presidential election in the US and parliamentary election in the UK.

This study started with describing the United Kingdom political and electoral system through elaborating sub-related issues as the British constitution, the structure of the UK government and its different branches, political parties, and the process of parliamentary election. Similarly, the current study represented the American political and electoral system concentrating on certain points as the US constitution and the constituents of the US government, American political parties, and finally the process of American presidential election. The study ended up with identifying the common and distinctive elements between both countries` political and voting systems.

The study attempted to test the validity of two research hypotheses. The first, stated that the presidential election system in the United States and the parliamentary election in the UK are democratic systems that reflect the will of the British and American people. Indeed, the findings of the study revealed that the voice of people via public election or the election through the representatives of the people is totally respected to shape the framework of the country at the political level. However, the results of the study, and in particular in the US, put some conservations on the electoral colleges roles as might be hinders of the US full democracy.

The second research hypothesis, said that the political and electoral systems in the UK and the US differ in several respects and share some similarities. This can give a negative

reading stressing the necessity of subjecting them to serial modifications and revisions targeting the perfection in both systems. The results of the study prove this assumption as the findings demonstrated the imperfection of the UK and the US political and voting systems. The US and the UK democracy were questioned in several respects. The rejection of the US and UK democracy models in different parts of the world might raise the necessity of subjecting these two democracies to serial modifications to guarantee the full inclusion of the people`s voice in political decision making.

This study is limited in several aspects. First, time constraints affected negatively the edition of this research work in a perfect manner. Additionally, the shortage of reliable references related to the research core theme added to the complexity of conducting this study. Finally, political issues as the issue in hand required the touch of professionals in the field. Yet, the researchers in this study tried to assimilate the role of politics specialists in order to fully examine this complicated theme.

Researchers recommend further research in the theme of the US and the UK political and voting systems from different angles so as to cover the currents study gaps. To illustrate, criticizing the western democracy represented by the US and the UK from politics pillars different perspectives can be an interesting theme to be tackled.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Résumé

Appendix B: الملخص باللغة العربية

Résumé

La politique était et a toujours été au centre de l'attention des dirigeants du monde. Le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis d'Amérique sont connus pour leurs structures politiques intéressantes qui sont considérées comme sophistiquées. Les élections des deux côtés de l'équation sont les piliers de leur force et de leur autorité sur le monde. La Grande-Bretagne, en premier lieu, est une démocratie parlementaire sous l'égide d'un système de monarchie constitutionnelle. En Grande-Bretagne, le monarque qui appartient à l'église anglaise sert de chef de la nation ; tandis que la véritable autorité est entre les mains du parlement. Son rôle n'est que cérémoniel ; il exerce des fonctions constitutionnelles et de représentation. Il ne peut pas faire ou voter des lois mais représenter la nation dans les forums internationaux. L'Amérique, quant à elle, est la République constitutionnelle fédérale. En Amérique, la plus haute autorité appartient au président, au congrès et au législatif qui travaille séparément de l'exécutif et du judiciaire. Le président américain est le chef de l'État et du gouvernement ; Il est élu par un processus appelé « Collège électoral ». L'objectif de la présente étude est d'expliquer la structure du système politique américain, et le système politique britannique et le processus électoral dans chacun des deux pays, et d'examiner les similitudes et les différences entre eux. La méthode adoptée pour mener cette recherche et atteindre ses objectifs est la méthode analytique descriptive qui dépend d'une recherche qualitative puisqu'elle est basée sur la collecte de données via la lecture de livres, d'articles et la navigation sur des sites Web. L'étude vise à décrire le système politique et le système électoral américain et britannique, ainsi que les différences et les similitudes entre eux. L'étude révèle que le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis d'Amérique partagent de nombreuses caractéristiques communes ainsi que des particularités en termes de systèmes politiques et électoraux.

Mots clés : le système politique américain, le système électoral américain, le système politique britannique, le système électoral britannique, les élections.

ملخص

كانت السياسة ولا تزال محور الاهتمام لقادة العالم . تشتهر المملكة المتحدة والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية بهياكلهما السياسية المثيرة للاهتمام، والتي تعتبر متطورة. الانتخابات في كلا الجانبين من المعادلة، هي أركان قوتها وسلطتها على العالم. بريطانيا في المقام الأول، ديمقراطية برلمانية تحت مسؤولية نظام ملكي دستوري ، يعمل الملك الذي ينتمي إلى الكنيسة الإنجليزية كرئيس للأمة ؛ بينما السلطة الحقيقية في يد البرلمان. ، ويضطلع بواجبات دستورية وتمثيلية ولا يستطيع أن يسن أو يمرر تشريعات إلا أن يمثل الأمة في المحافل الدولية. أمريكا من ناحية أخرى هي جمهورية دستورية حيث تعود السلطة العليا في أمريكا إلى الرئيس والكونغرس والمجلس التشريعي الذي يعمل بشكل منفصل عن السلطتين التنفيذية والقضائية كما ان الرئيس في أمريكا بمثابة رأس رئيس الدولة ورئيس الحكومة ؛ يتم انتخابه من خلال عملية تسمى "الهيئة الانتخابية" فالهدف من الدراسة الحالية هو شرح هيكل النظام السياسي الأمريكي والنظام السياسي البريطاني وعملية الانتخابات في كل من الدولتين ، ودراسة أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بينهما حيث ان الأسلوب المتبع لإجراء هذا البحث وتحقيق أهدافه هو الأسلوب التحليلي الوصفي الذي يعتمد على البحث النوعي الذي يقوم على جمع البيانات من خلال قراءة الكتب والمقالات وتصفح المواقع الإلكترونية. و تهدف الدراسة إلى شرح النظام السياسي والنظام الانتخابي الأمريكي والبريطاني ووجه التشابه والاختلاف بينهما كما أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن المملكة المتحدة والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية تشتركان في العديد من السمات المشتركة بالإضافة إلى سمات مميزة من حيث الأنظمة السياسية والانتخابية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النظام السياسي الأمريكي ، النظام الانتخابي الأمريكي ، النظام السياسي البريطاني ، النظام الانتخابي البريطاني ، الانتخابات.