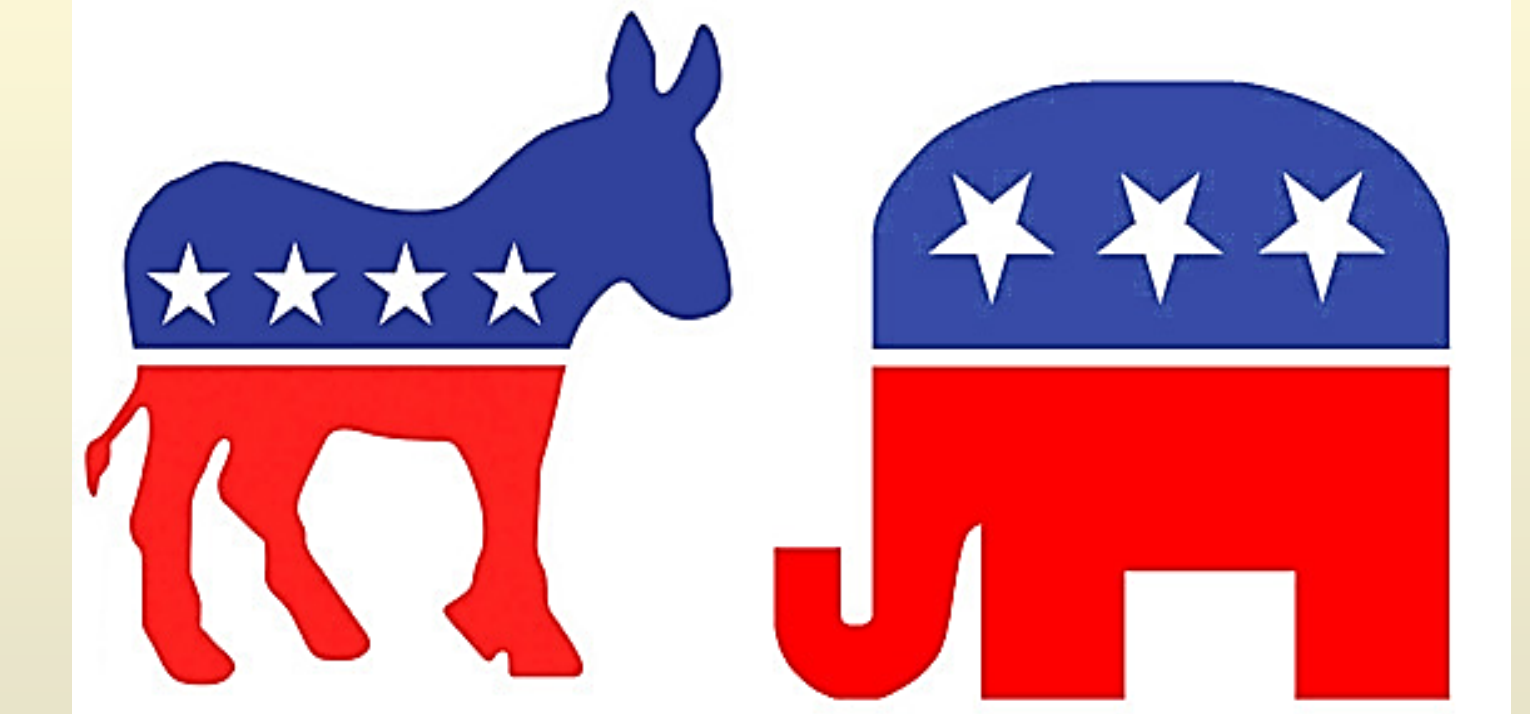




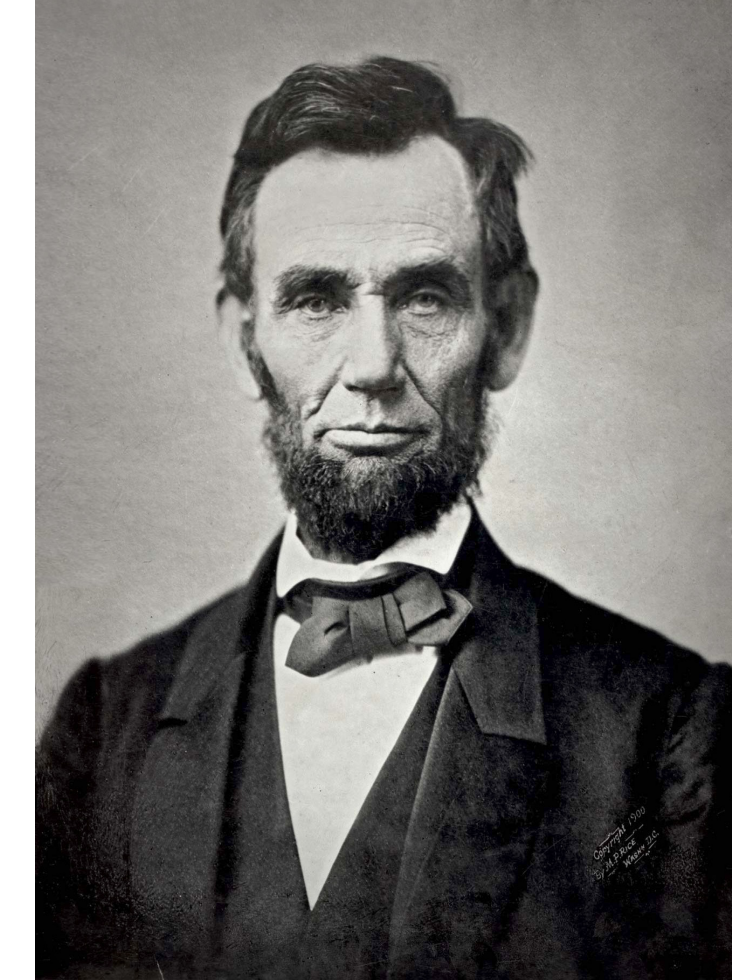
# Realignment: a Century of Political Evolution



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## Overview: What Became of the Party of Lincoln?

The Republican Party was founded to oppose the expansion of slavery. For decades, African Americans supported the party of Lincoln, while the Democratic Party rallied against "Black Republicans". Now Black voters overwhelmingly support the Democratic Party. How did this transition happen? What began this shift? We have explored several milestones that we believe have led to this significant realignment. The evolving politics and policies of both Republicans and Democrats come into play when analyzing this transition. Events involving Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, and Lyndon B. Johnson present as significant turning points in the realignment of the Black vote.



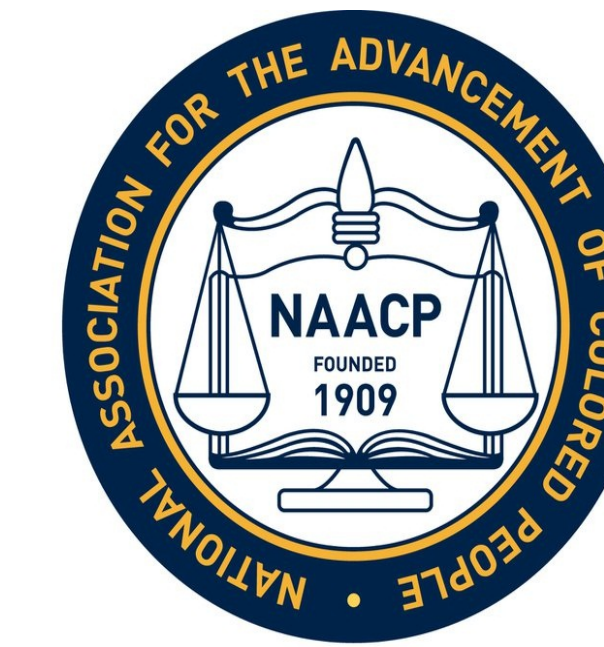
## NAACP and William Howard Taft

### Taft and Race Relations

Making black exclusion consistent with the law was considered progress by Taft as he willingly blinded himself to the reality of the intent of the new series of laws codifying Jim Crow segregation. However, Taft rejected calls to repeal the 15th amendment that granted African Americans the right to vote.

### Establishment of the NAACP

The NAACP's principal objective was to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority citizens and eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and a lack of action by the government and executive office.



## Herbert Hoover and the Mississippi Floods

### Citizens Forgotten

The Great Mississippi Floods of 1927 affected citizens across 7 states, displacing thousands. Under the direction of Secretary of Commerce Hoover, the Red Cross began rescue work immediately. Following these relief efforts came numerous complaints about the mistreatment and neglect of black refugees. Tuskegee Principal Dr. Robert Morton brought the racial discrepancies to the forefront.

### Red Cross Coalition Formed

Hoover appointed a coalition of "representative colored citizens" to analyze the negligence in the relief camps. Through this advisement, the commission made requests for proper treatment.



## Theodore Roosevelt and the Brownsville Affair

### Racial Incident

The tragic events that took place in Brownsville, Texas arose out of tensions between black soldiers and white citizens. But it was the resulting legal treating of those soldiers by President Roosevelt that had the greatest impact.

### Executive Betrayal

After Theodore Roosevelt's treatment of blacks, African Americans began to turn against him. In a statement written by W.E.B. DuBois to Woodrow Wilson, DuBois states, "We did not vote for you and your party because you represent our best judgment. It was not because we loved Democrats more, but Republicans less and Roosevelt least, that led to our action." (The Crisis, March 1913)



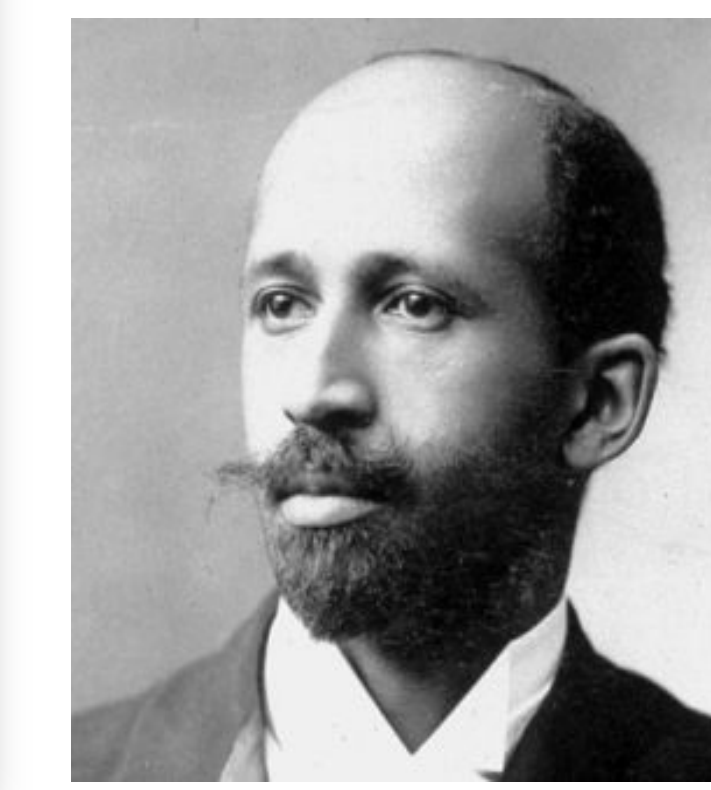
## Woodrow Wilson and W.E.B. DuBois

### Empty Promises

In the campaign of 1912, Wilson promised African-Americans "not more grudging justice but justice executed with liberality and cordial good feeling" ("The Presidential Campaign." (The Crisis, Oct 1916)

### Relationship Changed

Black leaders who supported Wilson in 1912 were angered when segregationist white southerners took control of Congress and many executive departments. Wilson ignored complaints that his cabinet officials had established official segregation in most federal government offices and in some departments, for the first time since 1863.



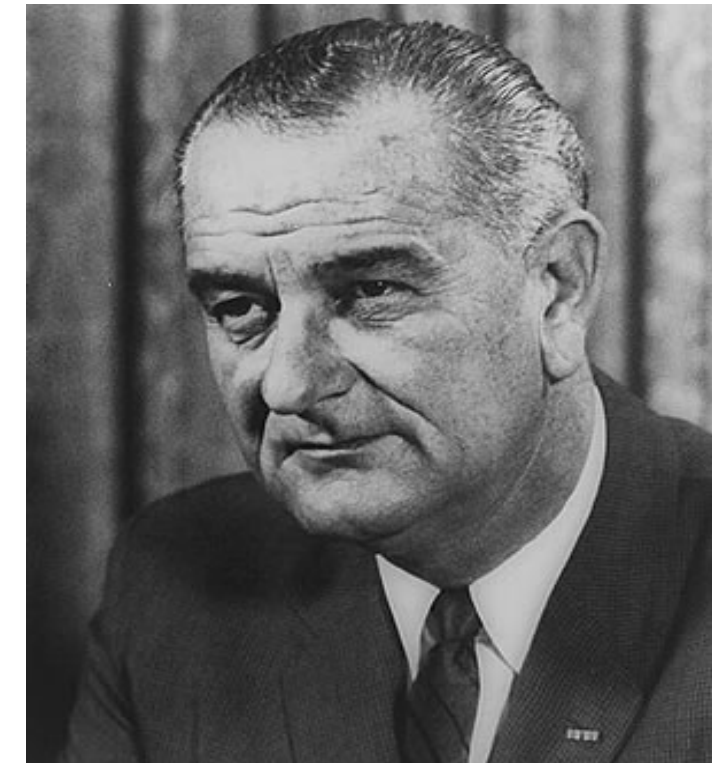
## Lyndon B. Johnson and the Voting Rights Act

### LBJ and Race Relations

President Lyndon B. Johnson, recognized that the Civil Rights Act did not prohibit most forms of voting discrimination, but feared political backlash. Following the events in Selma, Alabama, LBJ called on congress to enact expansive voting rights legislation.

### Impact of the Voting Rights Act

The suspension of literacy tests and assignments of federal examiners allowed for high numbers of racial minorities to register to vote. In 1965 nearly 250,000 African Americans registered to vote. This was a monumental step towards equality, and solidified a minority alignment with the Democratic Party.



## Timeline of Key Events

"Separate But Equal",  
1896

NAACP Founded,  
1909

Mississippi Floods,  
1927

Southern Manifesto,  
1956

Brownsville Affair,  
1906

Federal Segregation,  
1913

Desegregation of the  
Armed Forces, 1948

Voting Rights Act,  
1965