



AP Government & Politics: U.S. 2000 Student Samples

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The north eastern part of the United States, also known as New England has, in the most election since Franklin Roosevelt been strongly Democratic, although they were before that time much more Republican. The 1992 and 1996 presidential elections strongly continued this trend as all the states in "AREA 6" voted in favor of the Democrat Bill Clinton. Two factors have helped to make this area a Democratic stronghold - the presence of big cities, and a strong union presence in this area.

This area is full of large cities. Big cities have always been paramount for the Democrats. Many of these cities have large minority populations which tend to favor the Democratic party by enormous proportions. Cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and Washington D.C. gave Clinton percentages better than 2:1 over both Bush and Dole.

But in "Area 6" the success of the Democratic candidate Bill Clinton ~~could be~~ cannot be limited to the Big Cities. He carried the entire state of New York - every Congressional district, with a final vote tally of 2:1. He also won in Massachusetts by 2:1, and in all his margins of victory in New Jersey by almost 20 percentage points in 1996. The ~~could be~~ fact that there is

a strong traditional union basis in many of these states ^{where} the voters, unions which continue to represent many blue collar workers, are strong in favor, at least in most cases (i.e. Texas proponent of GOP in 92 + no endorsement in 96), of Democrats led by the AFL-CIO. They are able to activate their voters. Not all people who votes

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for Bill Clinton himself in census. But may had family relatives who may have been immigrants + laborers and their census. Some of these people still feel a connection to the Democratic Party.

Area 3" of the map shows itself to be as solidly Republican as area 6" was Democratic. Most of these states have voted for the GOP in the last few decades. Kansas, Nebraska & north have traditions with the GOP, that last from the Civil War. While OK and Texas are more "recent" ^{and} are part of the no longer solid south. This factor influences the vote in the West - the push for less government and the support of more "traditional values."

Out west, where there is much open space, people tend to feel less need for government regulation, taxation or laws. The Republican party has been associated with smaller, more limited government, with a focus on reducing taxation. This majority of the GOP fits in nicely with the mentality of many people in the wide open spaces of the midwest.

Another factor on the support of "traditional" values. There can be debate on what this means. But some in the Mid West consider the Democratic party to espouse things contrary to their morals such as abortion, homosexual rights and other issues. The Republican party supports a constitutional amendment banning abortion and prefers "natural" marriages. As in the earlier case the GOP and the midwest seem to find well together.

On the ~~top~~ ^{mid} northwestern corridor the people

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fail to vote Democrat because of their union status
and this ~~belief~~^{view} that Democrats best know how to run cities,
provide services and protect civil rights.

As the Midwest people vote Republican because they
perceive it as the party which is interested in a structured,
limited government which will protect values which Midwesterners
consider important.

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In the 1992 and 1996 elections Bill Clinton was elected president. There ~~are~~ ^{are} major voting patterns which I will explain ~~in~~ in my essay. In the 1992 and 96 elections the west coast voted primarily for Clinton and subsequently in these elections, the midwest voted primarily Republican.

There are several reasons why the midwest voted Republican in these elections. First, in the 1996 ^{election} the Republican candidate Bob Dole was a favorite son from the midwest state of Kansas. Favorite son meaning he was from that area and most likely to win there. The south for about 35 years has been predominately Republican. However, since Democrat ^{Bill Clinton} was from ~~that state~~ a state in the south, Arkansas he was able to garner support there and neighboring states proving there is a favorite son advantage.

Another reason why the midwest ^{voted} Republican is because they tend to be more conservative and agree more with the Republican platform.

As I mentioned earlier the west coast voted primarily Democrat; there are several reasons that help explain this. First, people in urban areas (labors) tend to be much liberal and thus vote Democrat.

The west coast contains several urban states including California and Nevada. It is also evident looking on the map that Clinton had an advantage in other urban areas including the northern east-coast.

Another reason for Bill Clinton's success on the west coast is his ability to gather support

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from minority voters. The west coast has a high proportion of minority (especially California, the state with the most electorate voters) who tend to vote for Democrats and especially voted for Clinton.

Thus it can be seen that the results of the 1992 and 1996 election can be explained by voting patterns. There were several variables such as traditional voting patterns and "favorite sons" which help explain the election.

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In both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, the West has been a Democratic stronghold, while many of the midwestern plains states are predominantly Republican. On the map, the most influential area for the Democrats may be region #1. California is in this region, and can cause a huge turn in elections. Region #3 is the Republicans biggest stronghold, with Texas being the most influential state. Some reasons for these areas of influence are the ideological beliefs of the areas. For example, the West is very liberal. The fact that the main ~~the~~ economic business of ~~most~~ most of the states in region #3 may also have an impact.

California is definitely the biggest reason that region #1 is so beneficial for the Democrats. California itself carries over 50 electoral votes, and has major impacts on elections. California is home to much of the new technological revolution in this country. One of the areas is Silicon Valley. With all this change, California tends to be a more liberal state, and support the Democratic party. ~~Other~~ More areas in region #1 that go along with this are the Seattle area, and Las Vegas. Another interesting fact of the area is in Hawaii. They have made same sex marriages legal under their constitution. Since the Republican party does not support this, and the Democrats support the choice of the people, Hawaii supports the Democratic party.

In region #3, which contains states that has farming as a main industry, Texas has the greatest influence. All the states in this ~~region~~ region have a large number of farmers. The Republican party supports farm subsidies. This is giving ~~the~~ government money to farms to keep them in business. For example, when farmers have a bad harvest, or a mass surplus of ~~the~~ harvested crops,

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The government will give them aid, or buy their surplus crops. So, it is not surprising that these farming states support the Republican Party. Along with being a farming state, Texas has had a very popular Republican Governor during the 1992 and 1996 elections. Texas governor George Bush has ~~also~~ strongly supported the Republican Presidential candidate in both of these elections, which coincidentally ~~is~~ his own father. Since the people of Texas support their governor, they were more likely to vote for the Republican candidate, ~~his father,~~ for president.

These two regions are the ~~most~~ biggest strongholds for their respective parties. This is mainly because of the two large states, California and Texas, in each region. The beliefs of these large states reflects the beliefs of the parties that they each favor. So unless the opinions of these states change, they will be large prizes to their respective parties in elections.

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