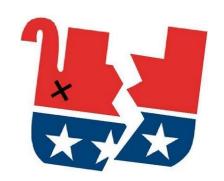
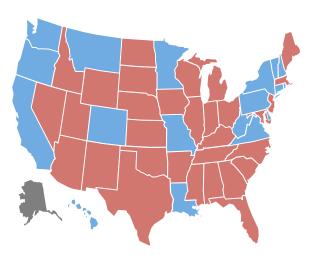
We May Be In the Midst of A Partisan Realignment

A Third-Party Nomination Won't Dissolve The GOP – But May Change It



Potential reasons why Republican Party might disintegrate after 2016

- Donald Trump splits the Republican electorate with only a slim majority of Republicans (51%) satisfied if he were the nominee
- The Republican establishment also does not like him and have preferred establishment candidates like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio
- This large dissatisfaction may translate either in a third-party run by a moderate Republican backed by the establishment or, by Trump himself if he feels the Republican nomination is robbed from him
- This split within Republican Party could translate into the national end of the GOP



Why the Republican Party will most likely not disappear after 2016

- Historically, the Republican Party has split before in 1912 when Teddy Roosevelt ran as a third-party alternative.
- Like Roosevelt, **Trump's campaign is largely personality-driven** and, if he were to run as a third-party candidate, it may dissipate after the election cycle
- Unlike during the infamous Whig Party's collapse, it is much harder for third-party candidates to be put on ballots
- With a strong local and state party infrastructure, Republicans still enjoy large support; the 31 Republican governors will help them weather any national political fallout

Source: Bill Scher, "The Case for Shutting Down the Republican Party," New Republic, March 9, 2016; Michael F. Holt, "Are the Republicans Going the Way of the Whigs?," UVA's Center for Politics, March 10, 2016; Julia Azari, "When Political Parties Splinter," FiveThirtyEight, March 8, 2016.

Historically, When a Major Third-Party Candidate Runs, the Established Parties' Demographics Change

Major Partisan Realigning Elections in the Past Century

1912 O Progressive Republicans Split the Republican Party and Back Teddy Roosevelt

Dissatisfied with the Republican Party's conservative platform and nomination of sitting President William Taft, Progressive Republicans backed former Republican president Teddy Roosevelt as an independent candidate under the Bull Moose Party. As a result, the Republican Party vote was split and Democratic presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson easily won with a plurality of the vote

1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt Constructed the New Deal Coalition

Democratic presidential candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt was able to draw support from Progressive Republicans and drew a majority of black voters who traditionally voted Republican as well. This weakened Republican support and allowed national Democratic dominance for the next twenty years.

1968 Democrats Lost the Southern White Vote

Due to President Lyndon Johnson's support for Civil Rights legislation, Southern whites left the Democratic Party in droves and voted for third-party candidate George Wallace, who embodied their segregation stances. Other Southern whites switched allegiances to the Republican Party, eventually resulting in the South nearly consistently voting for Republican presidential candidates.

1992 The Republican Party Base Became More Religious and Less Moderate

Ross Perot ran as a third-party candidate and peeled away moderate and more secular Republican support from Republican President George H.W. Bush. This split allowed President Clinton to carry former Republican strongholds like California, which has remained Democrat since. The Republican Party base was left more conservative and religious after Bush's defeat.

Republican Establishment Has Discussed Running a Third-Party Candidate if Trump Wins Nomination Republican establishment figures have contemplated running a third-party candidate if Donald Trump wins the nomination. The coalition who would back a third-party candidate might draw from a coalition of libertarians, ideological conservatives, and highly religiously observant Republicans

Source: David Frum, "Conservatives Face an Impossible Choice," March 12, 2016.

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