

## Third Parties in United States History

	Liberal Party, 1840–1848; Free Soil Party, 1848–1852	American Party (Know-Nothings), 1849–1856	People's Party (Populist), 1892–1903
<b>Background</b>	Grew out of split in abolitionist movement in late 1830s  Liberty party merged into the Free Soil party in 1848	Grew out of nativist sentiment of the 1830s and 1840s  Started as the “Supreme Order of Star-Spangled Banner”	Grew from farmer grievances against railroads and banks after the Civil War
<b>Candidates</b>	James Birney John P. Hale Martin Van Buren	Millard Fillmore	James B. Weaver William J. Bryan Tom Watson
<b>Principles</b>	Opposed the spread of slavery into territories  Motto: “Free soil, free speech, free labor and free men”  Free homesteads  Repeal of Fugitive Slave Law  End slavery in Washington, D.C.	Secrecy surrounded policies and members  Immigration restrictions  Anti-Catholic  Literacy test to vote  Tried to avoid a position on slavery (failed)  Opposed Kansas-Nebraska Act	Free coinage of silver  Public ownership of railroads/communications systems  Income tax  Eight-hour work day  Immigration restrictions  Direct election of U.S. senators
<b>Impact</b>	First political parties to oppose spread of slavery into territories  Forerunners of the Republican Party of 1850s  May have cost Henry Clay the 1844 election when Birney ran strong in New York State	Focused anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic resentment that had been building for years  Briefly poised to replace Whigs as second national party  Strong in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts  Eventually split over slavery	Omaha Platform of 1891 became blueprint for progressive reforms of twentieth century  1892 won 22 electoral votes  Silver issue had little appeal to nonfarmers  Failed to gain support of urban laborers