

POLITICAL PARTIES
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in the UNITED STATES
A N E N C Y C L O P E D I A

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ington, where he served as dean of the law department and then as vice president of the university. In 1877 Republican President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed him minister to Haiti, a post he held till the Democrats returned to power in 1885. He then became president of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute in Petersburg, Virginia. In 1888 he won the Republican nomination for Congress in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District. Though defeated in the ballot count on election day, he successfully contested the outcome and was seated by vote of the House of Representatives in September 1890. After one abbreviated term, he failed to be reelected. Thereafter he turned to the writing of his memoirs, recording with ample pride his long service on the country's racial frontier.

See also: Abolition Movement, Rutherford B. Hayes, Suffrage

Geoffrey Blodgett

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Lyndon LaRouche (1923-)

Perennial extremist presidential candidate. Lyndon LaRouche, a quadrennial third-party candidate for President, first came into national prominence in 1976 when he attempted to challenge Republican President Gerald Ford and Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter for the presidency. Often described as a "right-wing extremist" within the Democratic Party, LaRouche actually began his political career as a left-wing activist.

As leader of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), LaRouche has worked since 1980 to build a wide base of electoral support for himself at the presidential level as well as for his followers seeking office at the congressional and state level. In 1984 his followers were moderately successful in congressional races, particularly in the Midwest where his organization has been strongest. Two "LaRouchians" won the Democratic Party nomination for Congress in Ohio, and other LaRouche followers ran well across the country in House and Senate races in states as diverse as North Carolina, Oregon, California, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Georgia.

In 1986 LaRouche gained national attention when two more of his followers successfully infiltrated regular party ranks in Illinois and seized the Democratic nomination in that state for the offices of lieutenant governor and secretary of state. While none of LaRouche's supporters has yet won high office, the NDPC claims to hold hundreds of offices in government in states throughout the country.

Known most for his flamboyant personality and extremist statements, LaRouche has charged in the past that Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale was a Soviet agent, that Queen Elizabeth II controlled the world drug trade, and that the Holocaust was a hoax. LaRouche has advocated strict quarantine for AIDS patients, the nationalization of the U.S. steel industry, and an expansion of the use of nuclear power, indicating no real ideological consistency in policy positions.

Most recently, Lyndon LaRouche came to national attention when his supporters spread rumors that 1988 Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis had a history of mental illness. LaRouche was convicted of credit card fraud and jailed in 1989; from prison he continued to run for political office.

See also: Jimmy Carter, Michael Dukakis, Gerald Ford, Walter Mondale

Michael Heel

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David Lawrence (1889-1966)

Pittsburgh Democratic boss. David Lawrence, a prominent Pennsylvania political figure and Democratic Party leader, worked his way up through the organizational ranks of the Democratic Party to become one of the most powerful leaders in Pennsylvania. He also had a significant impact on national politics.

Born in Pittsburgh, Lawrence became active in party politics at the age of 14 when he dropped out of school to become an office boy for William J. Brennan, the local Democratic leader. Lawrence served in a variety of official party positions, including the chairmanship of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee, before his election as mayor of Pittsburgh in 1945. In the mayoral seat that he held for four terms, Lawrence, working with the Allegheny Confer-