Discussion Sheet #4: PRIMIS: Political Forces: Parties

What: Please complete this discussion exercise for Landy-Milkis, *Political Parties*, page 124
How? Use the form and space below.
When? Due at the beginning of class, Monday, November 8

Landy-Milkis

1. What is the basic difference between partisanship and non-partisanship in politics and government? Why did parties develop within the US system? Comment on the relation of parties to democracy and liberty using an illustration for each.

2. Why are political parties less important in contemporary American politics? In your view, is this a good thing or not? Explain using examples.
3. Use the concepts of party realignment, coalitions, party identification, and critical elections to explain the “Republican Resurgence.”

4. With the concepts from question #3 in mind, comment on whether or not the 2004 presidential election was a critical election.