The United States of America, and its Congress, is now entering its third century, with little stability remaining against its original institutions. Modified but largely intact. Such stability, measured against the instability common to politics, was a surprise. The institutional framework of the Civil War and its aftermath, once a model for the rest of the world, is now a shadow of its former self. The concepts of civil rights, as enshrined in the Constitution, are now under threat. The establishment of a two-party system in the 18th century has given way to a system of divided government, where parties are more ideological than ideological. The Electoral College, a remnant of a more democratic age, continues to play a role in presidential elections, despite being viewed as undemocratic by many. The Supreme Court, as the arbiter of the Constitution, faces increasing scrutiny as political polarization continues to rise. The 21st century has brought new challenges to American democracy, as the country grapples with issues of race, immigration, and economic inequality. The Unidimensional Congress...
Congress: Congress in this Century

By

In Congress, we look back at the long tradition of American democracy, and its commitment to the principles of representative government. The Constitution established a bicameral legislature, consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate, to represent the people and to make laws. Over the centuries, Congress has evolved, adapting to the changing needs of the nation and the world. Today, it remains a crucial institution in American democracy, playing a vital role in shaping policy and governance.

The mission of Congress is to represent the people, to ensure that their voices are heard, and to work towards the common good. As representatives of the American people, Congressmembers are elected to serve in Congress, where they work to advance legislation that will benefit their constituents and the nation as a whole. Their work involves balancing the needs of the people with the demands of the government, and making difficult decisions about the future of the country.

In Congress, we also play a key role in overseeing the federal government, ensuring that it is held accountable to the people. Congress has the power to investigate and scrutinize the actions of the executive branch, and to hold hearings and debates on important issues. This role is crucial in safeguarding the integrity and effectiveness of the government, and in ensuring that the people's interests are protected.

As we look to the future, we must continue to uphold the principles of representative democracy, and to work towards a brighter and more prosperous future for all Americans. Congress remains a vital institution in American democracy, and its members are called upon to serve as guardians of the people's interests, and to work together to build a better future for our nation.

Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Votes
The congressional block charts (note that there are only 2 black blocks) reflect the close relationship between the Republican and Democratic parties. The charts show the distribution of seats held by each party in both houses of Congress. The Republican control of the House is evident in the block charts, with a majority of seats held by Republicans. The distribution in the Senate is less clear, with both parties holding significant numbers of seats.

The charts also indicate that the Republican Party has a stronger presence in the House, with a larger margin of seats. The Democratic Party, while not as dominant, still holds a significant number of seats in both houses. The charts are a testament to the political divide in Congress and the importance of party control in shaping legislation and policy-making.