

POLI 100E: Interest Groups

Agenda Topic 1: Why Study Interest Groups?

A. The Context of Madison's *Federalist #10*

B. Madison's Argument for the Constitution

- 1. "Factions" (Parties) are the Price one Pays for Liberty**
- 2. Insights into the nature and sources of political conflict**

C. Flaws in Madison's Argument

- 1. Why do you need the separation of powers if a Large Republic takes care of the problem?**
- 2. Tension in the argument – Madison wanted an *Energetic* Government – How was that going to happen and still guard against Tyranny?**

D. Madison's Basic beliefs shared by the other Founders.

E. The Missing Element – Political Parties – How the views evolved.

F. Drawing the Line Between an Interest Group and a Political Party

- 1. Political Relevance**
- 2. Definition of a Political Party**
- 3. Definition of an Interest Group**
- 4. Economic & Idealistic Interest Groups**

G. Are Political Parties simply coalitions of Interest Groups?