

A Look At Historical Feuds



Will Donkeys and Elephants Ever Be Friends?

Jim & Sue's Hypothetical Divorce: Chapter 6

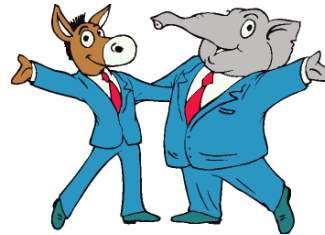
After multiple sessions, Jim and Sue have agreed!

They have decided upon a shared parenting plan that gives both parents an equal amount of time with the kids. They both feel satisfied and okay with the terms and agree to put a clause in the formal agreement that states mediation as an option should further conflict arise.



To many of us, these two political party mascots have never been friendly. They represent the differing opinions, ideals and beliefs their members identify with. There are the small differences that divide them and the larger ones which we're most familiar with: family values, government involvement, taxation and immigration. Yet, how did these parties come to be if they are not even mentioned in the Constitution?

The two-party system arrived in our country at the very beginning, in the 1780s, when the founders were building their new nation. Some believed that the States should have more rights than the Central Government while others disagreed and thought that the Federal Government should carry a stronger presence. Some thought the Constitution should be interpreted strictly and very specifically while others believed there was room for interpretation. Slavery and farming were also among the other



issues highly debated amongst our earliest politicians.

As time passed, technology progressed, and our population grew, the names of these two parties changed: Federalists, Anti-Federalists, Whigs, Democratic-Republicans, Conservatives, Liberals, Progressives, etc. Regardless of the formal name, every president from the 1820s on has been a card carrying member of a political party.

With that said, let's take a closer and general look at the basic tenets of our current and most popular parties, in order to understand the issues that cause them to disagree.

Democrats/Liberals

- Strong Central Government
- More taxation on the wealthier class
- A woman's right to choose
- Greater emphasis on government aid
- Culture of collectivism

Republicans/Conservatives

- Emphasis on States' rights
- Tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans
- Culture of individualism
- Emphasis on traditional family values
- Increase in military spending

This list is in no way completely representative of what each party stands for. But it does give you a small glimpse at their founding principles and why they are in opposition with one another.

Famous (and funny) Conflicting Pairs

The Red Sox and the Yankees

Jon and Kate

David Letterman and Jay Leno

The Hatfields and the McCoys

Tupac and Biggie

Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr

Coke and Pepsi

Hitler and Stalin

Burr

Chocolate or Vanilla

Ketchup or Mustard (or both?)

Palestine and Israel: Decades of Unrest

In trying to understand the present conflict that exists between these two small countries, it is important to understand where it began. In very simple, unbiased terms, this is the essence of the conflict.

In 1947, after the world experienced the death and atrocities of the Holocaust, the United Nations granted Jewish people a state of their own, on 78% of land that had been occupied by Palestine. Technically, the UN voted to divide Palestine into two regions to appease both countries. As a result, thousands of Palestinians fled the area and were forced to find refuge in neighboring countries.

Twenty years later, after what is known as the Six-Day War, Israel took over the rest of what was Palestinian territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Jews have called the war, one for "independence." Palestinians refer to it as "al-Nakba" or "the catastrophe" (*Weekly Reader*, 2006, p. 1).

More specifically, The Jewish narrative draws, in large part, from the horrific losses they experienced in WWII. They argue that Israel is rightfully their land based on the word of God.

On the other hand, the majority of Palestinians, who did not flee in 1948 when Israel was established, believe that the land was crudely taken from them and should be given back, without question and with the use of force if needed.

Despite the bleak and often times grim situation that still endures in Israel, to this very day, something needs to be done. In order for peace to be achieved, many careful and intelligent steps need to be employed.

Putting economics aside, the first step is for both groups to understand and believe that living harmoniously, as two separate religions/nations, is a better option than the current one. Through third party negotiators, carefully selected and prepared, each side needs to know that it is not only okay for a permanent resolution, but absolutely necessary for the future of their lives and families.

Although this is an idealistic and difficult task, it is the hope of many that it will be achieved in this lifetime.

Asali, Z. (2003). *Palestine and Israel: Unkind History, Uncertain Future*.
Tikkun, p.66.

After Sharon: Israel faces tough choices and continuing conflict. (2006).
Current Events, a *Weekly Reader* publication, p. 1.