AP Government & Politics: U.S.
2000 Student Samples

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The north eastern part of the United States, also known as New England, has in the most election since Franklin Roosevelt been strongly Democratic, although they were future that time much more Republican. The 1992 and 1996 presidential elections strongly continued this trend as all the states in AREA 6 voted for the Democrat Bill Clinton. Two factors have helped to make this area a Democratic stronghold - the presence of large cities, and a strong union presence in this area.

This area is full of large cities. Bigger cities have always been important for the Democrats. Many of these cities also have large minority populations with trends for the Democratic party by enormous proportions. Cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and Washington D.C. gave Clinton percentage both times 2:1 over both Bush and Dole.

But in Area 6, the success of the Democratic candidate Bill Clinton could be seen not to be limited to the Big Cities. He carried the entire state of Kentucky, Congress and District with a final vote tally of 2:1. He also won in Massachusetts by 2:1, and increased his margin of victory in New Jersey by almost 20 percent points in 1996. The could be fact that there's a strong tradition of unions, who in many of these states influence the vote. Unions which continue to represent many blue collar workers, are strong in least a minimum of 6 (i.e. Teachers, doctors, etc...) in 92 and an increase in 96). Of Democrats led by the AFL-CIO. They are able to activate their workers. Not all people who voted...
for Bill Clinton, was stilletrnic. But may had family relatives who may have been conscientious objects and are in the Peace Corps. Some of these people still feel a connection to the Democratic Party.

Area 3, The area where itself to be a solidly Red states in 1960 was Democratic. Most of these states have voted for the GOP in the last few decades. Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa have traditions with the GOP that date from the Civil War. While OK and Texas are more recent and are part of the new highly solid South. These factors influence the vote in the West. The push for less government and the support for "traditional values." Out west where there is much open space, people tend to feel less need for government regulation of taxes and laws. The Republican party has been associated with smaller, more limited government, with a focus on reducing taxes. This majority of the GOP fits in nicely with the mentality of many people in the wide open spaces of the West.

Another factor is the support of "traditional" values. There can be debate on what this means. In the Midwest, the Democratic party is associated with things contrary to the norms, such as abortion, homosexual rights, and others. The Republican party supports a constitutional amendment banning abortion and prizes "natural" marriage. In the earlier case, the GOP and the midwest seems to grid well together.

In the Northeast, consider the people...
It is not a mistake to vote Democrat because of the union stance.
Given the belief that Democrats best work for cities to provide services and protect civil rights.
In the Midwest, people vote Republican because the party values a strong, limited government which will protect values which Midwesterners consider important.
In the 1992 and 1996 elections Bill Clinton was elected president. There are major voting patterns which I will explain in my essay. In the 1992 and 1996 elections the west coast voted primarily for Clinton and subsequently in those elections, the midwest voted primarily Republican.

There are several reasons why the midwest voted Republican in those elections. First, in the 1996 election the Republican candidate Bob Dole was a favorite son from the midwest state of Kansas. Favorite son meaning he was from that area and most likely to win there. The south for about 35 years has been predominantly Republican, because since Democrat were from the state in the south Arkansas he was able to garner seat support there and neighboring states proving there was a favorite son advantage.

Another reason why the midwest voted Republican is because they tend to be more conservative and agree more with the Republican platform.

As I mentioned earlier, the west coast voted primarily Democratic; there are several reasons that help explain this. First, people in urban areas (labor) tend to be much liberal and thus vote Democrat. The west coast contains several urban states including California and Nevada. It is also evident looking on the map that Clinton had an advantage in other urban areas including the northern east coast. Another reason for Bill Clinton's success on the west coast is his ability to gather support
from minority voters. The west coast has a high proportion of minority (especially California, the state with the most electorate votes) who tend to vote for Democrats and especially voted for Clinton.

Thus it can be seen that the results of the 1992 and 1996 election can be explained by voting patterns. There were several variables such as traditional voting patterns and "favorite son" which help explain the election.
In both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, the West has been a Democratic stronghold, while many of the Midwestern plains states are predominantly Republican. On the map, the most influential area for the Democrats may be Region #1, California is in this region, and can cause a huge turn in elections. Region #3 is the Republicans biggest stronghold, with Texas being the most influential state. Some reasons for these areas of influence are the ideological beliefs of the areas. For example, the West is very liberal. The fact that the main economic business of most of the states in region #3 may also have an impact.

California is definitely the biggest reason that Region #1 is so beneficial for the Democrats. California itself carries over 50 electoral votes, and has major impacts on elections. California is home to much of the new technological revolution in this country. One of the areas is Silicon Valley. With all this change, California tends to be a more liberal state, and support the Democratic party. More areas in region #1 that go along with this are the Seattle area, and Las Vegas. Another interesting fact of the area is in Hawaii. They have made same sex marriages legal under their constitution. Since the Republican party does not support this, and the Democrats support the choice of the people, Hawaii supports the Democratic party.

In region #3, which contains states that has farming as a main industry, Texas has the greatest influence. All the states in this region have a large number of farmers. The Republican party supports farm subsidies. This is giving government money to farms to keep them in business. For example, when farmers have a bad harvest, or a mass surplus of harvested crops,
the government will give them aid, or buy their surplus crops. So, it is not surprising that these farming states support the Republican Party. Along with being a farming state, Texas has had a very popular Republican Governor during the 1992 and 1996 elections. Texas governor George Bush has strongly supported the Republican presidential candidate in both of these elections, which coincidentally is his own father. Since the people of Texas support their governor, they were more likely to vote for the Republican candidate for president.

These two regions are the biggest strongholds for their respective parties. This is mainly because of the two large states, California and Texas, in each region. The beliefs of these large states reflect the beliefs of the Parties that they each favor. So unless the opinions of these states change, they will be large prizes to their respective parties in elections.