



Leading Political Parties Experience: the role of Organizational-Legal and Ideological Aspects in Party Activity

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ABSTRACT

First of all, it is of utmost importance to thoroughly analyze the comprehensive functions of the political parties prior to assess their activities. Such kind of analysis reveal that there has not been carried out enough research to study the experience of leading political parties in developed countries and to introduce some of their aspects in the activities of our parties.

The experience of leading political parties is an essential means for parties functioning in any country of the world. The experience of leading parties can be helpful for political parties that are just about to start their activities or for those that are encountering a number of critical issues, and can motivate them to reconsider and adjust their actions.

While studying the leading foreign experience, it is crucial, firstly, to determine which aspects should be focused on. In fact, the experience in every area has to be researched and studied while studying the experience of political parties operating comprehensively. However, current research covers the organizational, legal, and ideological features that have led political parties to take a leading position in developed countries around the world.

Keywords:

Introduction

The presence of various political parties in society and being a key component of the political infrastructure, as well as their coordination of relationships between the state and society, determine the level of democratization of any country.

Nowadays, the activities of political parties are evaluated by their status in the political, economic and cultural life of a society, mainly, by a clear vision of their political status, practical role in accordance with their role, goals and objectives in society. The main purpose of improving the activities of political parties is to ensure and protect the concordant balance of interests of a society, strengthen justice as a sound alternative force in the

political and social spheres, achieve the supremacy of law, make an adequate contribution to the formation of a legal, democratic state and civil society.

At the current stage, it is essential to analyze and study the activities of leading political parties in developed countries, and disseminate their best practices and introduce them to the activities of other parties. In this regard, this research **aims to** analyze the organizational, legal, ideological and practical aspects of the activities of leading political parties.

Organizational and legal issues are considered to be the basis of the activities of any political party. The establishing a party as a socio-political movement, the creation and

registration of normative and legal acts in the prescribed manner, and the formation of the organizational structure and the constituent bodies can be pointed out as aspects that define the existence of each party.

There have been attempts to classify the activities of political parties into different types (Gunther and Diamond, 2001), (Strmiska and Chytlek, 2010) and to evaluate their activities from various approaches (Scott and Torcal, 2006), (Van Biezen, 2012). In this research, we decided to focus on some specific features of the activities of political parties in the world's leading countries by analyzing their organizational, legal, and ideological aspects.

In the course of our research, we raise the following questions and try to reflect on them:

1. What is the organizational and legal basis of political parties?
2. What are the program goals and objectives of the leading political parties and how are they implemented?
3. What are the ideological peculiarities of the activities of leading political parties? (This question is covered based on the analysis of the activities of leading political parties in China and Japan).

Main part

It is important to identify how the activities of political parties in developed countries are organized, and what documents and superstructures serve as the political and legal basis of their activities. Because the organizational aspects of the activities of a political party, its political and legal basis affect the entire activities of the party.

In scientific literatures, the organizational aspects and procedures of political parties are described by the term **"institutionalization"** (Randall and Sväsand, 2002, pp. 5-29) or **"institutionalizing"**.

A number of European scholars state that institutionalization is the process by which a political party's functioning structure is well-established and widely disseminated, and this process is recognized by the entire society (Scott and Torcal, 2006, pp. 204-227).

The institutionalization of political parties means that both state and society are aware of the need for these socio-political structures, their positive characteristics and mobility. This process has been going on since the beginning of the 19th century, when the leading political parties in most developed countries were established.

Russian scientist B. Isaev clearly and precisely defines the concept of institutionalization of political parties. In his opinion, this means the creation of a legal basis for the activities of political parties, and defining their places and roles in the state and society by law. The process of establishing a legal basis for the activities of political parties started in the second half of the twentieth century and has not yet been completed. This is due to the fact that, on the one hand, political scientists have different views on the role and status of political parties in society, and on the other hand, lawyers have criticized political parties in their comments to constitutions and laws of different countries. It should be noted that because of these reasons, a single approach and views on the institutionalization of political parties have not been formed yet (Isaev, 2008, pp. 112-113).

The term **"constitutionalization"** or **"constitutionalizing"** denotes the formation and reflection of the political and legal basis of the activities of political parties, the normative and legal framework in prescribed manner. The constitutionalization of the activities of political parties means the importance of the legal norms of those socio-political structures and their consolidation as constitutional norms. As a practical manifestation of this situation, one must understand that the legal norms of political parties are reflected in the constitution of a particular state, and it is political parties that have achieved the definition of simple legal norms as constitutional norms, because they want their activities to have a high political and legal basis. Such a process should also be accepted as a natural procedure. Because looking back at the history of the activities of political parties, it is clear to what extent their function used to be complicated (lack of legal basis for their activities, constant pressure

from the state, financial issues, etc.). Therefore, it can be understood that political parties have been striving to legitimize their activities and to ensure that it is reflected in the country's highest legal document.

When it comes to the constitutionalization of political parties defines strengthening the place and role of these socio-political institutions in constitutions, or at least, mentioning them in the basic law of the state as institutions belonging to society and the state.

According to Ingrid van Biezen, a professor of political science at Leiden University (Netherlands), the liberal democratic processes that began in European countries after the end of World War II also affected the activities of political parties (Van Biezen, 2012, pp. 187-212). In accordance with the views of Van Biezen, having analyzed the constitutions of a number of leading European countries the following has been revealed. In particular, it is clear that the constitutionalization of political parties was first reflected in the newly adopted Italian Constitution in 1947, where Article 49 states that "all citizens have the right to freely associate with a political party in order to contribute to national policy democratically." (Constitution of the Italian Republic, 1947). Afterwards, similar norms were introduced in the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany adopted in 1949 (Article 21) (Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany (Grundgesetz), 1949), in the Constitution of the French Republic adopted in 1958 (Article 4) (Texte intégral de la Constitution du 4 octobre 1958) and in the basic laws of many other countries of the world.

Since the end of the twentieth century, the process of institutionalization and constitutionalization of political parties has accelerated, i.e. this process began in developed countries and now has become global matter, and norms on political parties were introduced in the constitutions of most countries, moreover, in many countries special laws on political parties were enacted based on those norms. In addition, political parties are referred to as socio-political institutions in other laws too. This process can be explained,

on the one hand, by the growing role of political parties in developed countries, and, on the other hand, by a necessity in order to overcome the financial and legal difficulties which they constantly face.

At the present stage, the institutionalization and constitutionalization of political parties are taking place as a single process.

The main areas of this process include:

- Recognition of political parties as political institutions, legal strengthening of their role, goals and objectives in the political system, development of the regulations for their activities;
- Envisage the norms and conditions in the legislation that political parties are required to comply with in order to maintain their status, thereby strengthen the organizational capacity of political parties;
- Introduction of financial support of political parties by the state, as well as strict control over their financial activities, regulation of the allocation of personal funds for the activities of political parties;
- try to preserve the existing party system through legislation and create a strict procedure for the organization and registration of political parties;
- Establish and strengthen relations between political parties and the state.

The institutionalization of political parties also occurs in the aspirations of the state to regulate party activities. However, the experience of developed countries shows that no one should attempt to regulate the activities of political parties. This is, especially, useful for developing countries. Excessive institutionalization can lead to the following negative consequences:

- Political parties should not become a state institution, but remain a public and state institution, which will have a positive impact on both the state and civil society in the country;
- In the case of unsatisfactory performance of political parties, the excessive control of state structures

over them does not result the revival of the activities of those parties, but rather hinders the activities of the party and the implementation of its functions (Isaev, 2008, pp. 114-115).

It can be observed that the process of organizational formation of political parties, in other words, the process of institutionalization, took place quite rapidly in Germany. In 1967, **the Law on Political Parties** was passed in Germany, and it was recognized as exemplary one by many political scientists and party scholars. Later, similar laws were passed in other European countries as well.

Besides, one of the most important laws in the process of institutionalization of political parties is **the law on elections**. This law sets the norms for the activities of political parties during the election campaigns.

In most developed countries, the practice of state funding of political parties is widespread, and in this regard, **laws on funding of political parties** were adopted. There are also restrictions on voluntary donations to the election funds of political parties. In this regard, it would be appropriate to mention "**The Federal Election Campaign Act**", which is in force in the United States of America (The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971), as a model and improved law.

Studying U.S. laws on political parties (including the laws of 1954, 1965, 1970, 1974) and the norms set out in them, in particular, the existence of a simplified procedure for registration and participation of political parties in elections, transparency of activities, norms of relations with society, state and citizens; their liberal nature, effectiveness and efficiency in regulating relations in the field, as well as the perfection of implementation mechanisms can be observed.

At this point, it would be appropriate to point out how the institutionalization and constitutionalization of political parties took place in the United Kingdom, one of the leading countries in Europe. It is important to study the accumulated experience of Great Britain, especially, England, as a country where parliamentarism emerged and developed, as well as a place where a specific path of

formation and functioning of socio-political structures and later political parties was passed.

The fact that England, and then Great Britain, did not have a single constitution, and that a number of normative and legal documents in the status of constitutional laws have been serving as the Basic Law for centuries, rather than for years, shows that the country's political system is shaped in specifically traditional way. This peculiarity is also reflected in the activities of political parties, and although we see that the process of institutionalization of political parties in Great Britain has occurred to some extent, the process of constitutionalization of these structures has never happened. Because in a country where there is no Basic Law, there seems to be no legal basis for the activities of political parties. However, even though Great Britain has no officially adopted Constitution, a number of important documents have strengthened the legal basis for the activities of political parties. The Registration of Political Parties Act of 1998 (The Registration of Political Parties Act 1998) and The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act of 2000 (The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000) regulate the activities of political parties in Great Britain today.

Analyses

The organizational aspects of the activities of political parties, their political and legal bases or, in scientific terms, the institutionalization and constitutionalization of political parties should be seen as a process of defining and legitimizing the status and role of these political structures in a society. This process takes place simultaneously both in the state and in the society, and demonstrates the legitimacy of the efforts of public authorities to institutionalize political parties. Moreover, the institutionalization of political parties is also covered in the research of scholars and experts and is reflected in the public consciousness.

In the process of institutionalization and constitutionalization of political parties, the interdependence and interaction of the state and political parties may constantly change. In

developed countries, it can be seen that these relations are well formed and developed greatly.

In the activities of political parties, raising the current problems in society and issues of voters' concerns, declaring them as their program goals and objectives, and focusing on addressing these problems and issues, i.e. the transition to direct measures after the elections, actually, reflects the genuine essence of political parties, and meets the benefits of everyone (political parties, voters). However, it is obvious that not all political parties are able to achieve such challenging goals that will justify the confidence of the electorate. In this regard, the issues of studying, monitoring and introducing the experience of political parties in developed countries to the activities of other political parties are becoming extremely important.

It should be noted that the most urgent, **priority goals** of each political party and **the tasks** and measures to be taken based on them are to be indicated in certain internal **documents** such as the party's charter, program and pre-election platform and various Strategies with the consent and support of the majority party members. These documents should be interpreted as a basis for the activities of political parties, or in other words, as a "lighthouse that illuminates the route."

Political parties with the priority goal to take power are prone to frequently change their internal documents, such as the party's charter, program, and pre-election platform, and over the time, new documents may be adopted or amended, and certain norms of party activity may be changed. In contrast, the political parties, that prioritize the implementation of program goals and objectives, focus on their actions i.e. their strategies and tactics.

It should be noted that among the political parties with the above mentioned two types of goals, the second type of political parties face more challenges in achieving their goals and objectives, since they are achieved primarily by influencing the consciousness and outlook of voters.

In this regard, it would be appropriate to analyze the extent to which the above views are reflected in the activities of political parties in developed countries.

Discussions

American theorists K. Janda and R. Harmel argue that political parties are forced to constantly change their program goals and objectives during their activities although they are supposed to be conservative structures (Harmel and Djanda, 1992). Indeed, any internal changes that take place within a political party (**adoption of a new program or charter**, even minor amendments and additions to these documents, etc.), in particular, amendments that lead to structural, ideological, functional updates takes a lot of time to prepare, coordinate, adopt and implement appropriate decisions, financial costs and the mental work of a large number of specialists and the support by the ordinary members of the party.

It is understood that such political parties can only change under the influence of external forces, the specific environment, or the internal situation. At the same time, the administration of a political party can make a decision on the costs of introducing amendments in the program goals and objectives only if it is justified and strengthens its status and prestige in the party.

Thus, based on the fact that many changes in political parties are made by their administration ("from the top leaders"), it can be said that party reforms are carried out to achieve the goals set out in the program of these structures or to strengthen the status of the party elite.

The goals of a political party (accession to power, raising its influence, increasing the number of members or voters, etc.) are achieved through various methods and require activities to be carried out in different directions. Therefore, a political party that decides to make changes has to select the main goal among others to achieve. It should be noted that **two types** of political parties can be distinguished according to their goals and the

essence of those goals in today's developed countries:

1. Political parties with the priority goal to take power, rule the government;

2. Political parties that prioritize the implementation of program goals and objectives, i.e. the implementation of promises made to the party electorate and voters.

The Republican Party of the USA (Republican Party) was founded in 1854 and formed its program goals based on ideas such as conservatism, neo-conservatism, national democracy, economic liberalism, neoliberalism, and federalism (Wagner, 2007, pp. 12, 72).

The Charter of the Party (Republican Party Charter) is brief and concise and contains 8 articles. It reflects the general provisions, the symbols of the party, its goals and objectives, membership, the Party Congress and administration, as well as the final provisions. In particular, the goals and objectives of the party are as follows:

- Forming a positive image in the interests of the Republican Party in the United States and abroad;
- Ensuring the free expression of citizens on all issues related to public life and making sure that they are heard by the general public and public authorities;
- Participate in the political life of the country by nominating its members to the Congress and the government, as well as submit bills that promote the goals of the party;
- participation in referendums, as well as initiating referendums;
- promoting human rights and freedoms, cooperate in ensuring personal security;
- Participate in the development and implementation of programs for the development of society and the country;
- organization of active participation of citizens in the political, social life of the society and in addressing problems at the state level;
- Disseminate information about the Republican Party, promote party ideas and explain the party's position to citizens (Republican Party Charter).

In the run-up to each presidential election, the U.S. Republican Party develops and adopts new pre-election platforms. This experience can also be observed in the activities of the Democratic Party, a worthy rival of the Republicans.

In most countries, the experience of developing, adopting and directly accessing pre-election platforms in the activities of political parties can only be observed during parliamentary elections.

It would be appropriate to interpret the experience of political parties in the United States of America participating with new election platforms in presidential elections, but not in parliamentary i.e. congressional ones, with the following peculiarity of the country's political system. Given that the President of the United States is not the head of state but the head of the executive branch (The Constitution of the United States, 1787), in order to form a new government, voters must vote for presidential candidates nominated by political parties and the political parties seeking to take the power need to participate in the upcoming presidential elections with a new and updated Action Plan or in other words with a new Platform.

On the eve of the 2016 presidential election in the United States, the Congress of the Republican Party adopted a new Platform, which reflected the following main directions:

- Restoring the American dream;
- A Rebirth of Constitutional Government;
- Conservation of America's natural resources: agriculture, energy, and nature;
- Government reform;
- Improving the American family, education, and health care systems, and crime prevention;
- Restoring U.S. power (internationally) (Republican Platform, 2016).

Commenting on the direct implementation of the above-mentioned internal documents of the Republican Party i.e. the Charter of the Party and the Pre-election Platform, we can say that the Republicans are achieving the goals and objectives set out in their charters. This can be explained by the fact

that the party has been functioning for more than a century and a half, has gained required skills and experience, and the existence of certain conditions (the supremacy of democracy, the practical expression of the principle of separation of powers, etc.) in American society.

However, the Republicans face certain difficulties in the carrying out the Pre-Election Platform and in the direct implementation of its provisions. This can be explained by the followings:

- relatively short implementation period (four years);

- the presence of objections and obstacles by Democrats, a rival party, to fund a particular issue (the Democrats, who form a majority in the House of Representatives, the lower house of Congress, seek to thwart any initiative put forward by the Republican government);

- occurrence of force majeure (coronavirus pandemic);

- the actions of forces opposed to US power in foreign policy, etc.

It is safe to say that the 2020 US Presidential Election was a difficult one in terms of organization in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. Republican Party activists urged the new platform to be promoted in the 2024 election and the party's participation in the 2020 election with its 2016 pre-election platform, given the difficulties in preparing, discussing and adopting a new pre-election platform during the pandemic and resolved to support D. Trump as the party's only candidate for the Presidency of the country (2020 Republican Party Platform Resolution).

Analyzing the activities of **the Democratic Party**, another major party in the United States, it is clear that this party has been striving to achieve its goals and objectives based on the ideas of liberalism, social democracy, centralism and progressivism for almost two centuries.

The Charter of the Party (Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, 2018) was amended at the meeting of the National Council of the Democratic Party on August 25,

2018 and adopted in the form of 10 articles. It covers the issues such as the structure of the party, the regulations on management and organization of meetings, membership, funding of party activities, general provisions and the procedure for amending this document. Article 1 of the charter defines the following as the goals and objectives of the party:

- nomination and participation of candidates from the party in the upcoming elections for the post of President and Vice President of the United States;
- raising issues related to the life of the country and society and taking appropriate decisions on them;
- assisting party structures in nominating candidates for all elected positions in the country (training and professional development of candidates, the members of party electorate and voters);
- creating equal opportunities for all members of the party to demonstrate their abilities and potential (to run in elections, to hold certain positions, etc.);
- raising funds for the party's activities and its targeted use;
- collaborating with government officials at all levels who are members of the Democratic Party to achieve the goals and objectives of the party;
- promoting and supporting the observance of political ethics and morals by public officials at all levels (The Charter & the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, 2018).

The Charter of the Democrats is characterized as well-developed from organizational and hierarchical perspectives, in which the functions and responsibilities of each structural unit and organization in the party are clearly defined.

In the run-up to the 2016 US presidential election, the Democratic Party also adopted a new Platform, which placed great emphasis on social issues and put forward the following key areas:

- increase middle class incomes and achieve economic stability;

- creating well-paid jobs;
- striving for economic justice and combating inequality;
- removing barriers to greater opportunities and uniting Americans;
- support for suffrage and democracy;
- prevention of climate change and nature conservation;
- ensuring quality education for all citizens;
- ensuring health care and providing medical insurance for all Americans;
- Strengthen the U.S. army and support veterans;
- confronting global threats;
- protection of democratic values;
- Ensuring U.S. leadership in the world.

According to Russian scientist V. Pechatnov, who studied various aspects of the activities of the US Democratic Party, social issues play a leading role in the programs and platforms of the Democratic Party, and it is the successful efforts of Democrats to promote, realize and protect the interests of vulnerable groups in society that prevented several "people's revolutions" in America (Pechatnov, 2008, pp. 7-8). Democrats' approach to social issues as leading their program goals has led to the formation of sufficient experience in them to anticipate and eliminate the moods of social protest that arise in certain strata of society. During B. Obama's presidency (2009-2017), he made lots of efforts over the years to "protect and insure the health of all Americans" (known as "Obamacare"), reflected in the Democratic Party Platform, were overturned by Republican Representative and the winner of the 2016 Presidential Elections D. Trump during his first days in the office.

It is worth mentioning that the Democrats also have extensive experience in educating the population on "democratic values." One of the main goals of the Democratic Party is to propagandize "Democratic values" not only in the United States, but also around the world. In this regard, a number of structures cooperating closely with the Democratic Party operate all around the world. One of such structures is the National Democratic Institute, which deals with

establishing, promoting, and supporting genuine democracy in more than 150 countries around the world (NDI's 35th Anniversary Report, 2019).

It is no exaggeration to say that the Democrats entered the 2020 Presidential Election with thorough preparation. A striking example of this is the newly developed and adopted Pre-election Platform (2020 Democratic Party Platform). The Democrats raised the following issues in the 2020 elections, and it is clear that they formed the main thrust of their pre-election platform:

- protect Americans from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- building a strong and fair economy;
- achieve a universal, open and quality health care system for all;
- gaining and protecting the trust of the population through the reform of criminal courts;
- realization of the "American Dream" (this item mainly focuses on human rights issues, including racial discrimination, women's and LGBT rights);
- combating climate change and ensuring environmental justice;
- restoring and strengthening democracy;
- creation of the immigration system of the 21st century;
- ensuring modern education for all;
- restoring American leadership.

The Democrats' thorough pre-election program, which took into account the interests of the general population, ensured the success of the party's candidate, Joe Biden.

In many political parties in the developed world, a new approach to program goals and objectives and the implementation of large-scale reforms in party structures usually begins with the arrival of a new leader, especially if the leader is much younger, more active and ambitious than his predecessor. A striking example of this is the reforms in the current Labour Party of Great Britain in the last decade of the previous century in connection with the election of a young leader, Tony Blair (Russell, 2005, pp. 57-58).

The British Labour Party is a party with its own traditional views, relying on the ideas of social democracy and working closely with the British trade unions.

Under the leadership of the new and relatively young leader Tony Blair, the Labour Party has managed to restore confidence in the party's goals and reputation among voters, and T. Blair's actions were named as "New Labour" (Griffiths and Hickson, 2010, pp. 5).

During T. Blair's leadership, the fight against crime became one of the party's top priorities, he opposed "high taxes and high expenditures" policy, and also embarked on the privatization of the country's industry and sought to restore previous status of trade unions.

According to Florence Faucher-King, a scholar who has studied changes in the activities of political parties in Great Britain, the working style and experience of the Labour Party and government led by T. Blair have changed the institutional, legal, cultural, and political environment in many political parties, and the rivals of Labour Party did not only try to duplicate his programs, but also adopted some approaches and innovations (Faucher-King, 2005, pp. 20-22).

As the leader of the Labour Party, in his first speech at the Party Congress, T. Blair emphasized "invariable parties will get extinct, while the Labour Party is not just a historical monument, but a living structure in continuous motion". Since 1994, Blair has been tirelessly reforming the party, and "modernization" has become a slogan of Labour Party. All the vices of the party (incompetence, division, bureaucracy, lack of democracy) were eliminated and the self-reform of the party was to play an important role in the upcoming elections, which was supposed to convince the electorate that the party was completely reformed and was truly different from the previous one, and through persuading the voters they aimed at gaining majority votes (Faucher-King, 2005, pp. 20-22).

The Labour government, which has successfully pursued the party's program goals and objectives in internal policy, has provoked strong protests within the country as it

supported the actions in Iraq carried out by the USA, its foreign policy ally. In 2007, representatives of the party electorate and the majority of voters started to distrust T. Blair's government; this was caused by the deployment of British troops in Iraq. After these protests, although T. Blair resigned and the government was passed to G. Brown, the leader of Labour Party, the party's status waned considerably and the Labour Party lost the 2010 parliamentary elections. Since then, several leaders in the Labour Party have changed, although the party's program goals and objectives somewhat have changed, the party has not been successful in the parliamentary elections so far.

An analysis of the Labour Party's performance over the past two decades suggests that some of the wrongdoings in foreign policy will have a negative impact on the party's domestic success in internal policy and will be reflected in the party's future activities for a relatively long time.

The program goals and issues related to their implementation of the two leading political parties in the United States of America and the Labour Party, which ruled Great Britain in the late twentieth and for 13 years in early twenty-first centuries were analyzed above.

The programs of these political parties are well-designed, developed in favor of the interests of the party electorate and voters, and their goals and objectives are designed for relatively long-term.

The Republican Party of the United States has reflected its conservative views in its program goals and objectives, in the party's internal documents. The goals and objectives of the Republicans are to create favorable conditions for citizens by strengthening the country.

Although the program goals and objectives of the Democratic Party of the United States are not directly based on the traditions of social democracy, in accordance with the policy and activities of the party, it could be considered as one of the Social Democratic parties and could be recognized as the world's leading social democratic party.

As a factor in the success of the Labour Party in Great Britain at the present stage, it was this party that changed its program goals and objectives that led to its long-term success and ensured its maintenance of power. Gaining the trust of the English society, which traditionally evaluates the activities of political parties in a conservative spirit, had brought success to the Labour Party led by T. Blair.

Conclusions

Institutionalization is when a political party as a socio-political structure is organizationally improved and unites a certain part or layer of society, whereas, the development and introduction of the legal basis for the functioning of these structures are referred as constitutionalization.

Political parties in developed countries have already gone through the process of institutionalization and constitutionalization, and have become structures with their own status, role and influence in society.

Another aspect that should be focused on in the activities of political parties in developed countries is the relevance of program goals and objectives, and their commonality with the interests and aspirations of the electorate. Conducting ongoing research on the issue has already become a priority task of leading political parties.

Analyzing the goals and objectives of the two leading parties and the practical actions taken based on them in the United States of America, we can see that in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, the Democratic Party was a more proponent of reform, proposing and implementing many innovations for American society and the country itself. On the contrary, it is clear that the Republican Party remained committed to the ideas and position of conservatism during this period.

The Democratic Party of the United States can be classified as a social democratic party based on an analysis of its goals and objectives and the policies it pursues.

It should be pointed out that in developed countries, the parties in opposition to ruling political parties are prone to be

particularly active in updating their programs and restructuring their organizational structures. In such political parties, the change of the majority members in the party administration along with the leader and the reorganization of the party apparatus are generally described as democratization of party relations. It should be noted that these features were manifested in the activities of the British Labour Party from the second half of the 1990s to the first decade of the twenty-first century.

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