The materials included in these files are intended for noncommercial use by AP teachers for course and exam preparation; permission for any other use must be sought from the Advanced Placement Program®. Teachers may reproduce them, in whole or in part, in limited quantities, for face-to-face teaching purposes but may not mass distribute the materials, electronically or otherwise. This permission does not apply to any third-party copyrights contained herein. These materials and any copies made of them may not be resold, and the copyright notices must be retained as they appear here.
Social cleavages, including ethnicity, region, class, and religion have important implications for political parties. A major social cleavage is ethnicity, which is demonstrated by the National Front. The National Front is an anti-immigrant political party that wants to keep immigrants out of France. The National Front is gaining support for their cause and are trying to pass legislation to ban immigration or at least lower quotas.

In Mexico, PRI has dealt with ethnic cleavages in the North parts of Mexico where resistance is high with the Zapatista movement. PRI has had to battle with revolutionary movements which usually led to military occupation.
Social cleavages. Political parties, which represent political factions, will always reflect social cleavages, or factions. In France, politics have reflected the social cleavages caused by class. The conflict occurs mostly between the bourgeoisie and the working class. The Socialist party responded to it by offering welfare and state-run aid programs. As a consequence, France is one of the largest welfare states with a lot of money spent in programs.

In Nigeria, regions are the major sources of conflict. Obasanjo's party responded to the cleavages by creating a party stand that was national and inclusive of all ethnicity. As a result, Obasanjo made it a requirement that all parties have national support to campaign. Instead of representing one of the three regions, including the Yoruba, the Hausa, Fulani, and others, parties must have votes from all the North, the East and the West. The requirement may lessen regional tension.

Political parties still represent social cleavages, either in the attempt to cross-cut them or reinforce them.
Countries have many social cleavages that may involve ethnicity, region, class, or religion. In France, ethnicity and religion is a major reason for a social cleavage. There are many people who are unaccepting of immigrants because the French are fiercely against losing their own cultural identity by mixing in new cultures. People are also against people with different religions like Muslim religion because the country is 90% Catholic. The party, The National Front, has responded to that social cleavage by being anti-immigration. It is mostly made up of racist, unaccepting people. Because of their platform, the National Front party is not as popular as it could be. They lose supporters because of their racist ideas. They also lose women voters because they are also sexist as well as intolerant of different races and religions.

A major social cleavage in India is also based on religion. India has both Hindu and Muslim people, and they do not get along. There is a party made up of mostly Hindus in India. The party stands for democratic principles, but it is also a supporter of Hindu issues. Whenever a clash between Hindu and Muslim people occur, the Hindu democratic party always comes in
favor of the Hindu side. There are problems in Kashmir, an area that the Hindus and Muslims battle to get, and the party made up of Hindu democrats are on the side of the Hindus.