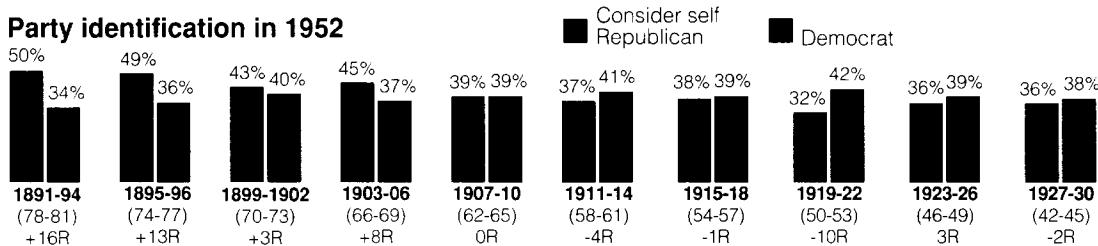


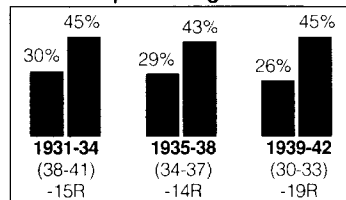
# Politics of the Ages

The spread below illustrates Republican momentum in terms of party identification. Those who came of age politically during Reagan's presidency are more Republican than Democratic. Compare that to the significant advantage Democrats have among those who turned 18 during the Depression years.

## Party identification in 1952



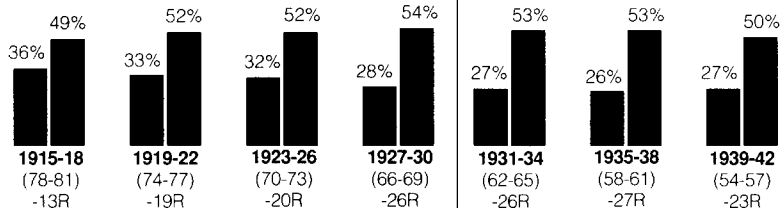
## Depression generation



## In 1978

Those who came of age politically during the Depression (see box) are significantly more Democratic than Republican in their political leanings.

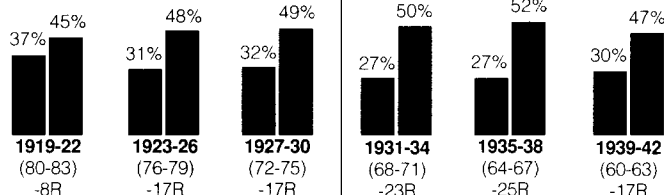
Years when respondent turned 18  
Age today  
Republican-Democrat



## In 1983-84

This Depression generation has remained Democratic, as you can see by following them in 1978, 1983-84, in 1985, and in 1989-91, when they were between 69 and 74 years old.

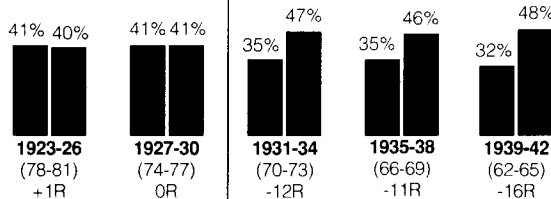
Years when respondent turned 18  
Age today  
Republican-Democrat



## In 1985

Contrast them with those who formed their first impressions of politics during Ronald Reagan's presidency (see box). Their "coming of age" experience has inclined them toward the GOP.

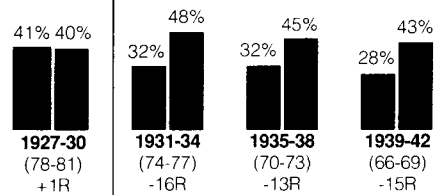
Years when respondent turned 18  
Age today  
Republican-Democrat



## In 1989-91\*

The tendency toward the GOP is strongest among those who turned 18 during the late 1980s (see box). Compare them to the Depression-era Americans who look more Democratic than any other group in the population.

Years when respondent turned 18  
Age today  
Republican-Democrat



Note: \* Gallup surveys for Newsweek October 1989-February 1991 combined.  
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization.

Young people (who look so Republican in this chart) tend to vote less than older Americans. History tells us that they will vote in greater numbers as they age, probably strengthening the GOP's base.

