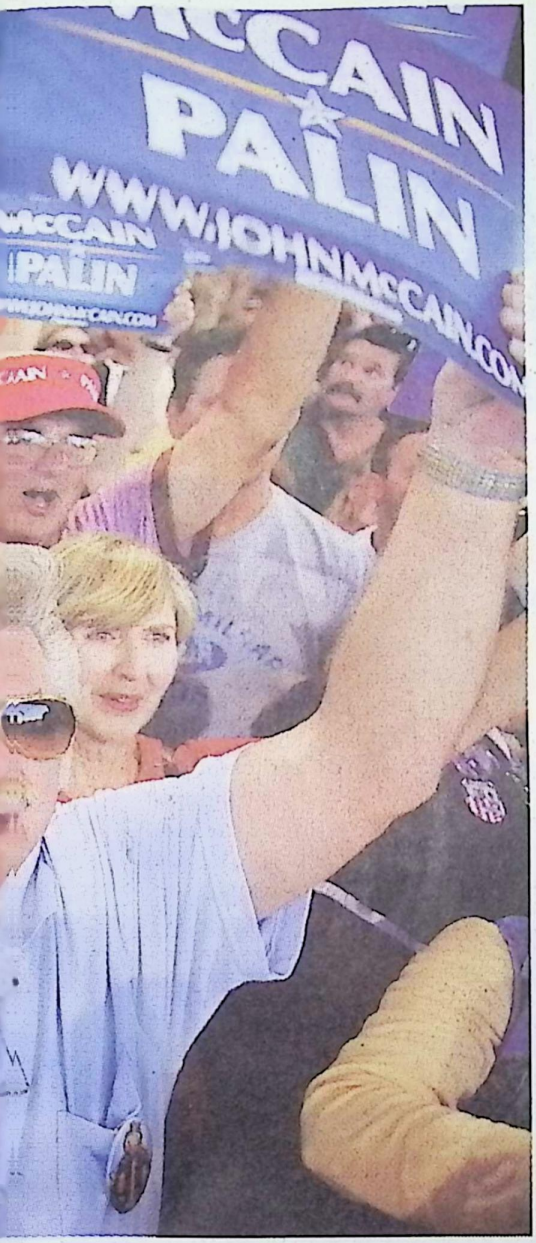


AFP

The pictures were accurate. The Republican Party, by design, has become the party of America's whites, and the Democratic Party the party of enlightened whites and everyone else.

Ironically, the Republican Party, or the Grand Old Party (GOP), was founded as an anti-slavery, abolitionist party in 1854. America's greatest president, the "inexperienced" Illinois state senator and one-term US congressman (sounds familiar?), Abraham Lincoln, was the first Republican to be elected president in 1861. Because of the Republican Party's support for the abolition of slavery under Lincoln, African-Americans voted overwhelmingly (they were usually not allowed to vote in the South) for "Lincoln's Party" the Republicans, between the Civil War and the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt began the process of prying the blacks loose from the Republican Party in the 1930s with the promise of civil and economic rights through his New Deal. The process of realignment was completed by Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson, through the enactment of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965. While signing these legislations, Lyndon Johnson famously prophesised that he was handing the South over to the Republicans.

Immediately, presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon adopted the Southern Strategy, wooing Southern whites, who until then were Democrats, with overt and covert racism. He used coded phrases, such as the need for "law and order" to deplore black rioting. Ronald Regan completed the process (he had little or no support among the blacks); now the American South is solidly Republican or "Red."

One of the major attractions of the Republican Party for the whites is that it is so white, and they want to keep it that way. Sure, there are prominent blacks in the Republican Party, such as Colin Powell and Condi Rice. But blacks say they are black in name only; they cater to white interests.

Lyndon Johnson appointed the first black, Thurgood Marshall, a stalwart of the civil rights movement who argued for the plaintiff in the landmark desegregation case, Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954, to the Supreme Court in 1967. When Marshall retired in 1991, President George Herbert Walker Bush nominated the least qualified justice in America's history, African-American Clarence Thomas.

Justice Thomas is the most right-wing of all the current justices. A product of affirmative action, Thomas opposes it and always votes against the interests of African-Americans. So, a Republican president replaces the most liberal and pro-black African-American on the Supreme Court (Marshall) with a self-hating black who votes against black interests. This explains why blacks shun the Republican Party, which is fine by the white Republicans.

It is almost inconceivable that the Republican Party would nominate a black like Barack Obama, or a Greek-American like Michael Dukakis as their presidential nominee. From the 1850s to McCain/Palin, all the Republican presidential nominees have been White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs).

In the Republican Convention, speaker after speaker berated the Democrats as liberals "who do not have a clue," and stated that "we need a change, a change from a liberal Washington to a conservative Washington."

In a brilliant piece on September 9, The New York Times columnist Bob Herbert documented how liberal Democrats have been at the forefront of every change that made American society great; and how conservative Republicans opposed each and every one of those social advances.

In fact, had the conservatives had their way, America would not have been independent. The conservatives were eager to cooperate with the British monarchy as long as the monarchy allowed them to conduct business, the main (modern day) Republican passion. It was the radical liberals who engineered