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## United States Political Realignment in the Present Day

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This research analysis explores the question of whether the United States is currently experiencing or has recently experienced a political realignment. Understanding political realignments helps us understand voting behavior and predict voting trends. My initial hypothesis is that Donald Trump's 2016 election marked a political realignment. Through analyzing various political speeches including State of the Union addresses, inaugural addresses, nomination acceptance speeches, and opposition responses to the State of the Union. Textual data extends from 1968 (Nixon presidency) to 2021 (Biden presidency). Using *Diction 7.2* text analysis software, it seems likely that the Republican Party is experiencing and/or has experienced an internal realignment. An internal realignment is a restructuring of issues within a political party, while a critical realignment occurs between political parties. *Diction 7.2* tracks important words within different categories of political speech in order to determine whether significant changes in priority and emphasis have occurred between political parties and over time. Changes in political rhetoric for Republicans on topics such as immigration, welfare and labor, and terrorism support the idea of an internal realignment. It remains unclear whether this internal realignment is connected to a critical realignment. The trend of Democrats almost exclusively winning the popular vote in presidential elections since Bill Clinton's election in 1992 might be evidence of a connected critical realignment. Further, there is some evidence to suggest that a critical realignment has occurred as well. Most convincingly, emphasis on foreign policy has drastically shifted from Democrats to Republicans. Emphasis on military-related issues has also shifted from Republicans to Democrats. Full conclusions and results will be presented at the Undergraduate Research Forum. Ultimately, this research provides insight into the indicators of partisan realignment based upon political rhetoric and language.