

## ECONOMIC GAME CHANGER

Listen to the ROOM 2B podcast **ECONOMIC GAME CHANGER** at mrreview.org and complete the following exercise. Be prepared to discuss with your classmates.

1. How do Democrats and Republicans differ in their economic policy priorities?
2. Explain how Keynesian economics was a game changer in the twentieth century. Investigate those that favored and those that opposed this changing economic theory.
3. Explain how Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) is a game changer in the twenty-first century. Investigate those that favor and those that oppose this changing economic theory
4. Complete the **CONCEPT APPLICATION** practice question below:

Republicans now control all branches of government but have scored only one major legislative victory, and they are facing a substantial backlash. The GOP's current situation raises these questions: Can either political party maintain power while enacting its agenda? Or are governing majorities transient, with policy victories sowing the seeds for future electoral losses?

The evidence we have suggests the latter. When Democrats historically have tried to enact a spate of liberal policies, Republicans have made gains and public opinion has moved in a more conservative direction. Likewise, when Republicans have passed more conservative policies, Democrats have made gains, and public opinion has moved in a more liberal direction. It might not sound intuitive, but policy victories usually result in a mobilized opposition and electoral losses. Or, put another way, voters usually punish rather than reward parties that move policy to achieve their goals.

FiveThirtyEight.com, Oct. 4, 2018

**After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below:**

- A. According to the scenario above, describe a Democratic liberal policy that moved public opinion in a more conservative direction or a Republican conservative policy that moved public opinion in a more liberal direction.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how an impeachment effort against President Trump could impact the mobilization of either Democratic or Republican voters in the 2020 presidential elections.
- C. In the context of the scenario, explain why a solid base of party support is more important than the mobilization of voter turnout.