

A NOTE ON THE COVER

Both colors on the book's cover relate to Republican history. Originally, blue was the Republican color. The Union Army fought in blue uniforms against Confederate forces in gray. After the war, government soldiers enforcing Reconstruction were called "the blues." The speaker at a Republican rally in Chicago in 1888 praised the weather "as clear as the record of the Republican party" and the glorious blue sky, which was "True Republican blue at that."

In contrast, red symbolized the 1917 Russian Revolution. So it became associated with communism, socialism, and leftism. Into the 1920s, a "Red scare" of communism filled American media. After World War II, the Republican senator Joe McCarthy led a second "Red scare." In 1953, the Cincinnati Reds baseball team's owner officially changed its name to Redlegs. Founded in 1881, the team dared not reclaim its original name until 1961.

That history of hues led many political scientists to color Republican and Democratic victories blue and red respectively on election maps. The *Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections* website still plots all election results since 1789 in blue for Republicans and in red for Democrats.

Television reversed the historic colors for the two parties in reporting results for the historic 2000 election. The November 7 election was not decided until December 12. Jodi Enda in the *Smithsonian Magazine* wrote: "The 2000 election dragged on until mid-December, until the Supreme Court declared Bush the victor. For weeks, the maps were ubiquitous. Perhaps that's why the 2000 colors stuck."

Today's Republican Party celebrates a traditionally communist color. The cover captures the irony, *Republican* in blue and *Evolution* in red. Momus, the Greek god of mockery, must be smiling at the new "red scare" for Democrats.