

*Abramson, et al., Ch. 3: The Election Results*

- I. Introduction: the 2000 contest in Florida
  - A. VNS problems
  - B. Automatic recount
  - C. “Butterfly-ballot” controversy
  - D. “Hanging chad” controversy
  - E. Count battles in state and federal supreme courts
  - F. Post-election analysis by eight media organizations
  - G. Nader effect
  - H. Popular-vote winner not electoral-vote winner for 4<sup>th</sup> time Figure 3-1, p. 50
  
- II. The election rules
  - A. Duverger’s Law:
    - 1. A plurality-vote system with no runoffs favors a two-party system
      - a. Mechanical effect
      - b. Psychological effect
    - 2. A proportional-vote system favors a multi-party system
  - B. Majority rule in electoral voting & third-party or independent candidates
    - 1. With regionally concentrated support
    - 2. Without regionally concentrated support
  
- III. The pattern of results (since WWII) Table 3-1, pp. 48-49; Figure 3-1, p. 50; Table 3-2, p. 54
  - A. Two-party parity, with slight Republican advantage
  - B. High voter volatility (frequent incumbent losses) similar to
    - 1. Pre-Civil-War era prior to 1860 realignment
    - 2. Industrial-Revolution era prior to 1896 realignment
  - C. “Split-level realignment”
  
- IV. State-by-state results Figure 3-2, p. 58
  - A. Smallest-population states over-represented in Electoral College
  - B. Largest-population states under-represented
  - C. Yet candidates focus on largest-population states *that are competitive*
  - D. Regional divisions
    - 1. Republican coalition:
      - a. Rocky-Mountain and Great Plains states (larger popular-vote margins but fewer electoral votes)
      - b. Confederate (11 states) and border (5 states) South (smaller popular-vote margins but more electoral votes)
    - 2. Democratic coalition:
      - a. Pacific-coast states
      - b. Midwestern/Northeastern states
  
- V. Electoral change in the postwar South
  - A. Most important factor = partisan change on racial equality
    - 1. Republican:
      - a. 1854-1876: active champion
      - b. 1876-1984: benign neglect
      - c. 1984-present: Southern strategy

2. Democratic
  - a. 1824-1932: active oppressor
  - b. 1932-1948: benign neglect
  - c. 1948-present: active champion

- VI. The electoral-vote balance Figure 3-3, p. 64 and [www.electoral-vote.com](http://www.electoral-vote.com)
  - A. Small partisan bias (currently favoring Republican candidates) but neither party has a “lock” on the Electoral College
  - B. Likelihood of “wrong winner” actually less than before the Southern realignment