

Chapter 3: The Political Environment

I. Introduction

II. Turnout

A. Definition

B. Trends

1. Over time Table 3-1, p. 67
 - a. 1780s - 1810s
 - b. 1820s - 1920s
 - c. 1930s - 1960s
 - d. 1970s - present
2. The expansion of suffrage
 - a. Authority: Art. I, sec. 4
 - (1) Pre-civil war
 - (2) Post-civil war
 - b. Examples
 - (1) State action -- religion, property, citizenship
 - (2) Constitutional amendment -- race (1870), gender (1920), poll tax (1964), age (1971)
 - (3) U.S. Supreme Court decision -- Guinn v. US (1915), Smith v. Allright (1944)
 - (4) Congressional statute -- Voting Rights Act (1965), Motor-Voter Act (1995)

C. Other influences on turnout Table 3-2, p. 71

1. Institutional
 - a. Registration system Box 3-1, p. 72
 - b. Unitary v. federal structure
 - c. Multi- v. single-member legislative districts
 - d. Parliamentary v. presidential structure
 - e. Frequency of elections
 - f. Length of ballot
 - g. Choice of election day
2. Political
 - a. Aggregate level
 - (1) Party competition
 - (2) Fraud
 - b. Individual level
 - (1) Partisan identification
 - (2) Political ideology
3. Psychological
 - a. Political efficacy
 - b. Political trust
4. Social Table 3-3, p. 73
 - a. Class
 - b. Age
5. Media coverage
 - a. High v. low stimulus
 - b. Positive v. negative focus -- e.g., waving bloody shirt in post-CW era
 - c. Predicting outcomes -- no conclusive evidence

D. Turnout and partisanship

1. Electoral outcomes
2. Get-out-the-vote strategies
 - a. Depress opponents
 - b. Mobilize supporters

III. The partisan basis of politics

A. Models of voting

1. Class voting: Berelsen, Lazarsfeld, McPhee, Voting (1954)
2. Party voting: Campbell, Converse, Miller, & Stokes, The American Voter (1960)
3. Issue voting: Key, The Responsible Electorate (1966)
4. Retrospective voting: Fiorina, Retrospective Voting in American National Elections (1981)

B. Partisan voting patterns

1. Nature
2. Causes
 - a. Long-term forces (cause the normal vote)
 - (1) Party identification Table 3-4, p. 82
 - (2) Other group identification
 - b. Short-term forces (cause deviations, realignments, & disalignments)
 - (1) Candidates
 - (2) Issues
3. Implications

C. Partisan deviations in voting,

1. Level
2. Source
3. Implications

IV. The social basis of politics

A. The Industrial Revolution realignment (1896)

1. Democratic coalition: southern white Protestants
2. Republican coalition: non-southern groups
 - a. Labor
 - b. Business/professional
 - c. Blacks

B. The New Deal realignment (1932)

1. Democratic coalition
 - a. Southern white Protestants
 - b. Non-southern big city
 - (1) Labor
 - (2) Catholics
 - (3) Blacks
 - (4) Jews
2. Republican coalition
 - a. Non-southern
 - (1) Business/professional
 - (2) White protestant
 - (3) Northeastern rural

C. Evolving political coalitions Table 3-5, pp. 88-91

1. In the south
2. In the non-south

D. A new partisan majority?

1. Dealignment (1968)
2. Realignment (1980-)
 - a. Democratic core
 - (1) Blacks
 - (2) Hispanics
 - b. Republican core
 - (1) Business/managerial
 - (2) Southern white Protestants
 - (3) Youth
 - (4) Christian fundamentalists

V. The future of the parties

VI. Summary