PLS 405 PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS IN THE U.S.

Hershey Chapter 7 Party Coalitions and Party Change

- Untitled introduction: basic definitions
 - A. Party coalitions: the socioeconomic groups that support a party
 - B. Party realignments: significant and enduring changes in party coalitions usually (but not always) leading to a new majority
- The American party systems | Table 7.1, p. 120 & partisan realignment handout | [Hershey defines the beginning of each party II. system by the year in which the new majority party coalition first took office; I use the election year in which the new party system first formed]
 - A. The first party system (1788 1820) [it took until 1789 for 3/4ths of the states to ratify the newly proposed Constitution]
 - 1. Aligning issue: federalism (freedom v. order)
 - 2. Party positions
 - 3. Party balance
 - B. **Second party system** (1824 1856)
 - 1. Dealigning issues:
 - a. Nation-building (freedom v. order) laissez-faire v. govt. subsidization of business
 - b. Slavery/states' rights (freedom v. order) freedom of slave owners v. union
 - 2. Party positions
 - 3. Party balance
 - C. Third party system (1860 1892)
 - 1. Realigning issues: slavery/states' rights (freedom v. order) freedom of slave owners v. union
 - 2. Party positions
 - 3. Party balance
 - D. **Fourth party system** (1896 1928)
 - 1. Realigning issues: monetary, foreign trade, and immigration policies (freedom v. order)
 - 2. Party positions
 - 3. Party balance
 - E. **Fifth party system** (1932 1964)
 - 1. Realigning issue: government regulation of the economy & public welfare (freedom v. equality) I^{st} era in which freedom v. equality was the major realigning issue
 - 2. Party positions
 - 3. Party balance
 - F. **Sixth party system** (1968 2004)
 - 1. Dealigning (wedge) issues that do no align with each other: (a mix of both freedom v. order & freedom v. equality issues)
 - 1960s: Vietnam, civil rights, public order a.
 - b. 1970s: Watergate, energy crisis, affirmative action
 - 1980s: Iran-Contra, public education, family values
 - 1990s: Zipper-gate, fall of Soviet Union, health care, social security
 - Early 2000s: terrorism & war in Iraq, tax cuts & budget deficits, globalization & job outsourcing, gay & lesbian rights
 - Party positions
 - Party balance
- III. The social bases of party coalitions Table 7.2, p. 124
 - A. Socioeconomic status divisions
 - 1. Compared to European democracies
 - 2. Pragmatic v. ideological appeals
 - Sectional divisions
 - 1. Tidewater v. interior
 - 2. East v. West & South
 - 3. South v. non-South
 - 4. Rust/frost/snow belt v. Sunbelt
 - 5. Rocky Mountains, Plains, & South v. Northeast, Midwest, & West Coast
 - C. Religious divisions

- 1. Denominational affiliation
 - Democratic leaning: seculars, Jews, black Protestants
 - b. Centrists: Catholics
 - Republican leaning: mainstream white Protestants and evangelical white Protestants (moderates, fundamentalists, & Pentecostals)
- 2. Religiosity (frequency of attendance at religious services)
- D. Racial divisions
 - 1. 1860s 1930s
 - 2. 1930s 1960s
 - 3. 1960s present
- E. Ethnic divisions
 - 1. Native Americans
 - 2. Anglo-Saxons
 - 3. Irish
 - 4. Asians
 - 5. Southern & Eastern Europeans
 - 6. Latinos (largest minority group but also quite diverse)
- F. Gender divisions in voting
 - 1. 1920s 1950s: women most likely to vote the same as their fathers or husbands
 - 2. 1950s 1970s: women more likely than men to vote Republican
 - 3. 1970s present: women more likely than men to vote Democratic
- IV. Issues are central to the parties' coalitions

Table 7.3, p. 129

- A. One-dimensional: SES v. non-SES
- B. Two-dimensional:

Class War	STRONG GOVERNMENT IS NEEDED TO GUARANTEE EQUALITY			
	Versus V V	liberals mixed views on strong national government because liberals favor equality > freedom > order	populists or communitarians positive views on strong national government because populists favor both equality and order > freedom	
		libertarians negative views on strong national government because libertarians favor freedom > either equality or order	Conservatives mixed views on strong national government because conservative favor order > freedom > equality	
	GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEFER TO INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM	d d d d d d d versus + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +		STRONG GOVERNMENT IS NEEDED TO GUARANTEE ORDER
	Culture War			

- C. Reinforcing v. cross-cutting (wedge) issues
- The development of the sixth [seventh] party system
 - A. Major changes in the parties' supporting coalitions

Table 7.4, p. 132 & Box, p. 133

- 1. Ideology
- 3. Class (income, education, occupation)
- 4. Region & place of residence (urban/suburban/rural)
- 5. Religion
- 6. Gender/marital status
- B. How can we characterize these changes: realignment, dealignment, or what? Figure 7.1, p. 134

- 1. Realigned coalitions have led to parity
- Divided control of government
- C. Problems with the idea of realignment