

COMPARATIVE POLITICS

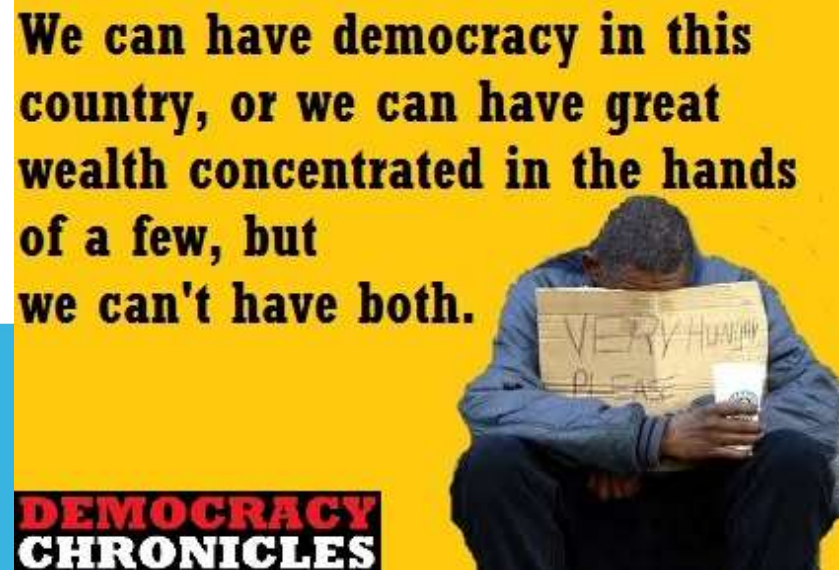
Institutions of Participation and Representation in Democracies

The logo for the Department of Political Science features a blue background with an orange triangle on the left side. The text "DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE" is displayed in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

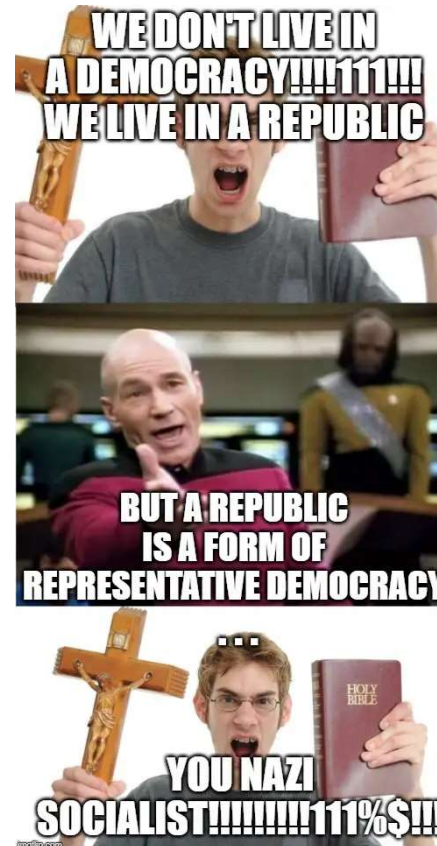
INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS AND KEY QUESTIONS

Orvis and **Drogus** suggest that virtually all [democratic] regimes allow some degree of participation and representation, if only to shore up their own legitimacy or at least the appearance of it.



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Regimes differ dramatically, however, in the degree to which they seek to control and limit participation and representation.



Participation and representation clearly have major implications for answering the question, “Who rules?”

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Elite theorists argue that modern electoral democracies in reality give limited power to those in marginalized positions; elites dominate the national discourse, control major institutions, and influence voters more than voters influence who is in office.



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Another question regarding participation and representation: Why do people participate in politics in the first place?



Democracy is not a spectator sport, it's a participatory event. If we don't participate in it, it ceases to be a democracy.

— *Michael Moore* —

AZ QUOTES

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Democracies must resolve this collective action problem:

Individuals are unwilling to engage in a particular activity because of their rational belief that their individual actions will have little or no effect...yet when they all fail to act, all suffer adverse consequences.



Democracy has proved only that the best way to gain power over people is to assure the people that they are ruling themselves. Once they believe that, they make wonderfully submissive slaves.

— Joseph Sobran —



(For democracies, that means losing control to the elite!)

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A fix?
Political
institutions can
help overcome
the collective
action problem.



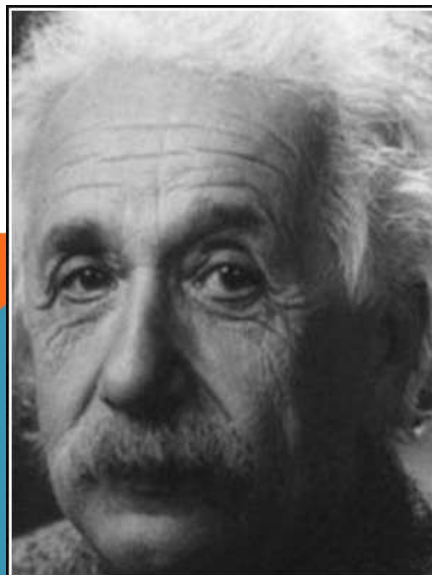
All political institutions are manifestations and materializations of power; they petrify and decay as soon as the living power of the people ceases to uphold them.

— Hannah Arendt —

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A final important question: What influence do institutions (electoral and party systems) have on political leaders behavior? What incentives do they give leaders? Do these incentives encourage leaders to promote more participation and representation, or less?



Political leaders or governments owe their position partly to force and partly to popular election. They cannot be regarded as representative of best elements, morally or intellectually, in their respective nations.

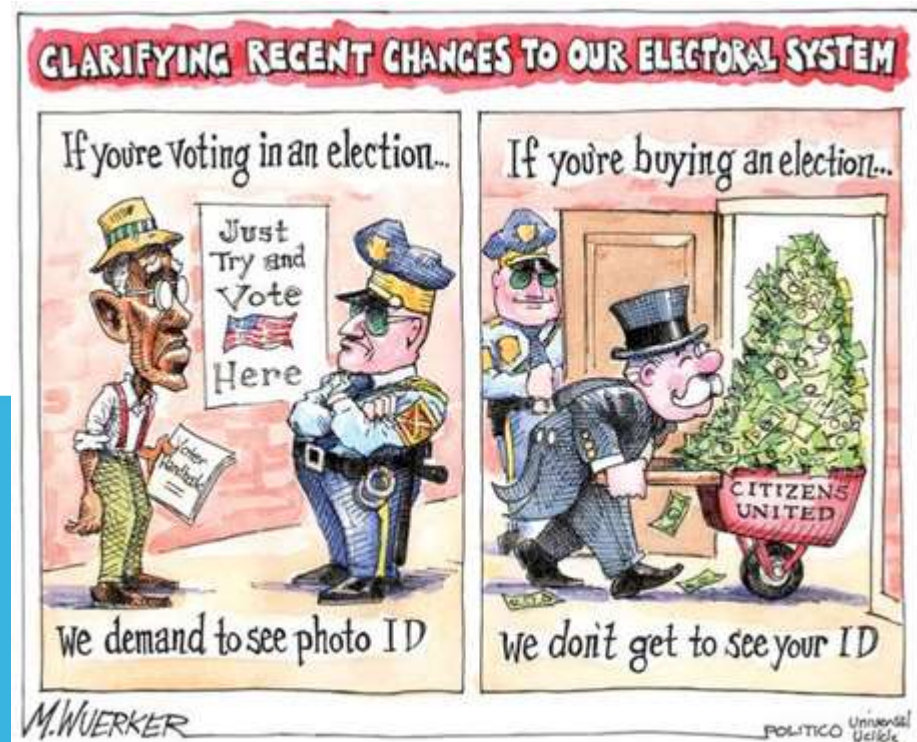
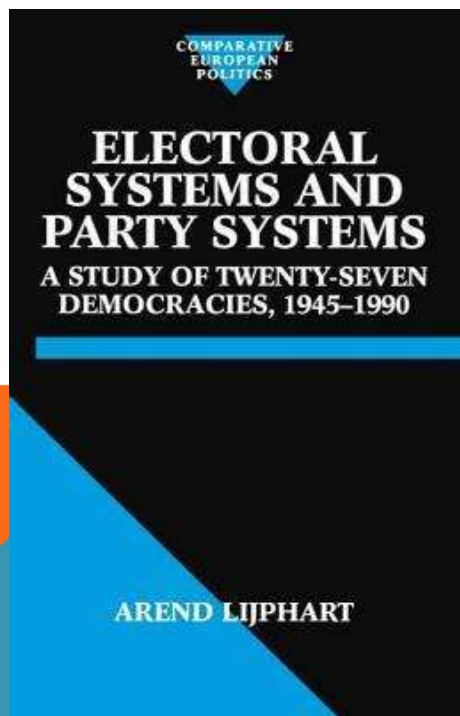
— *Albert Einstein* —

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The Electoral System

Electoral Systems – Formal, legal mechanisms that translate votes into control over political offices and shares of political power.

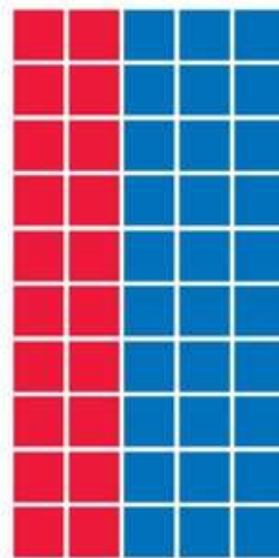


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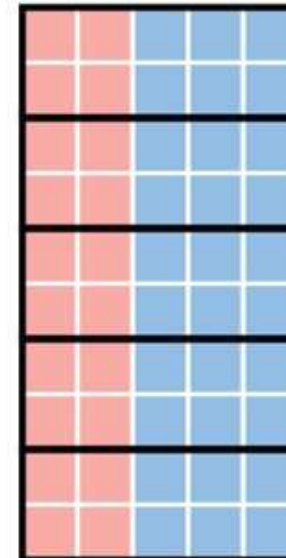
Single-Member District (SMD)

Electoral system in which each geographic district elects a single representative to a legislature.

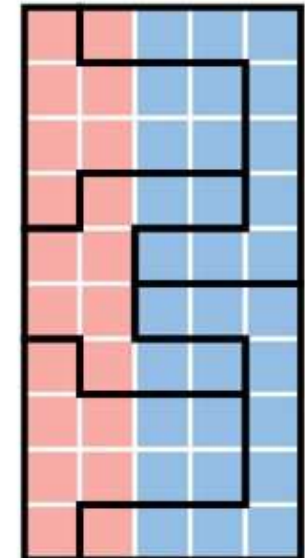
HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



50 PRECINCTS
60% BLUE
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS
5 BLUE
0 RED
BLUE WINS



5 DISTRICTS
3 RED
2 BLUE
RED WINS



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Plurality Voting, Explained



There is a better way...
electionscience.org

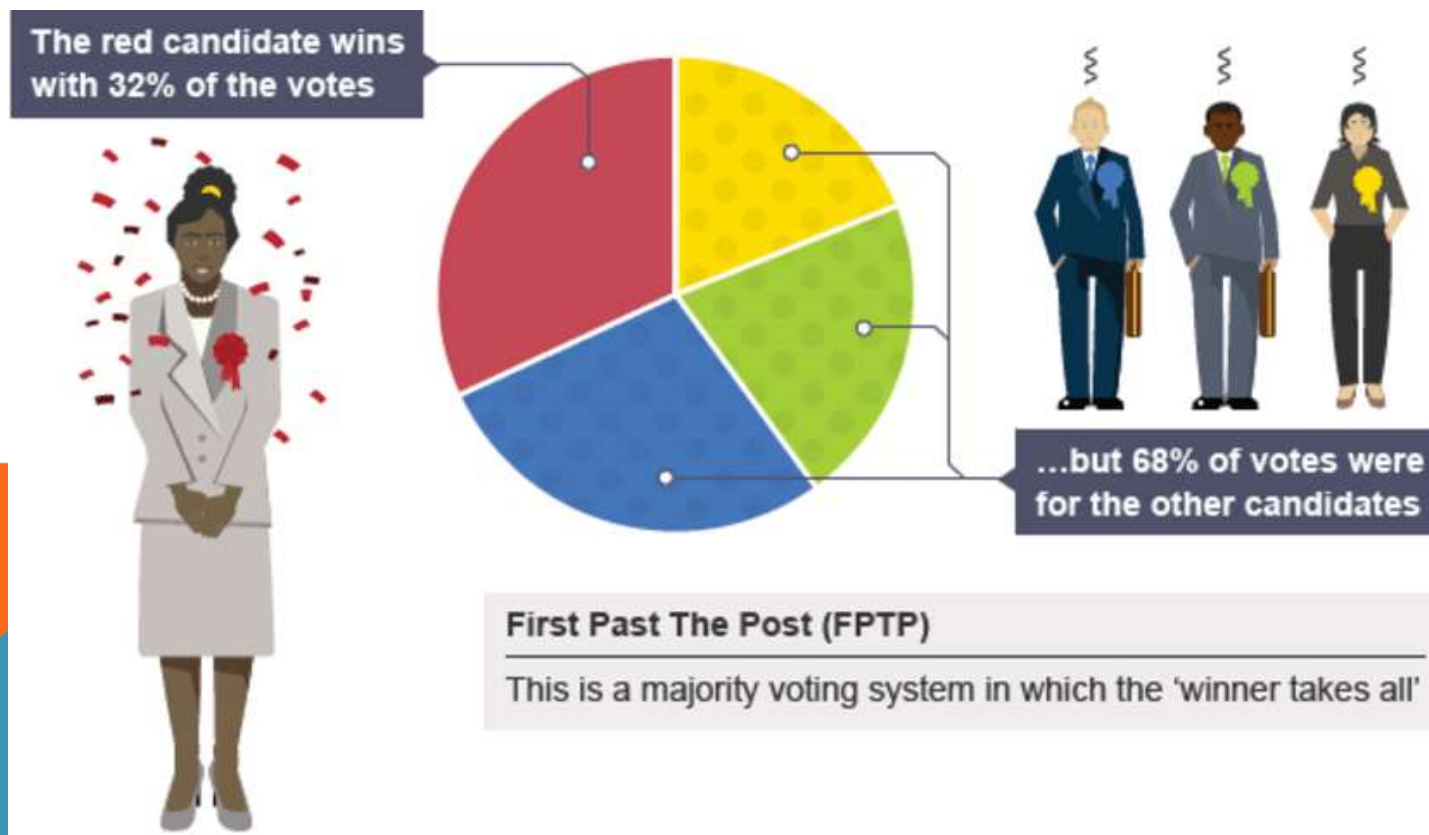
Plurality

The receipt of the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

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“First Past the Post” (FPTP)

An SMD system in which the candidate with a plurality of votes wins.



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Virtual Representation

When voters' views are represented indirectly in the legislature by their chosen party's candidates who have been elected in districts other than their own.



In England the practice of "virtual" representation provided reasonably well for the actual representation of the major interests of the society, and it raised no widespread objection.

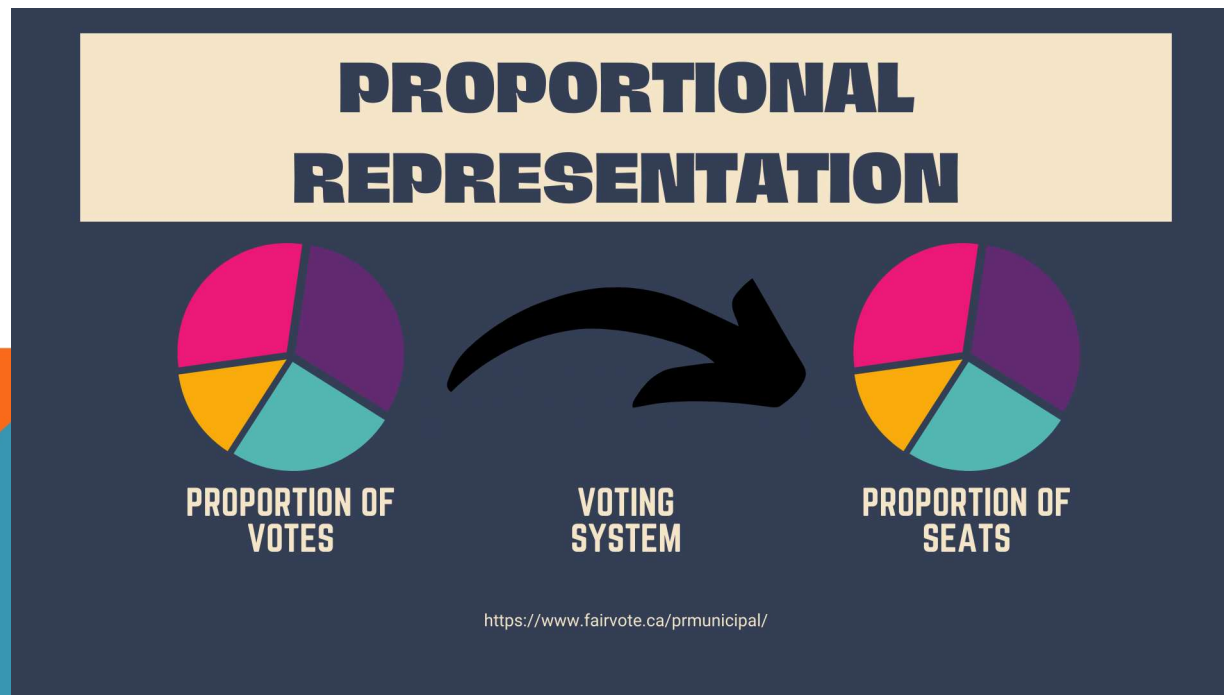
— *Bernard Bailyn* —

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Proportional Representation

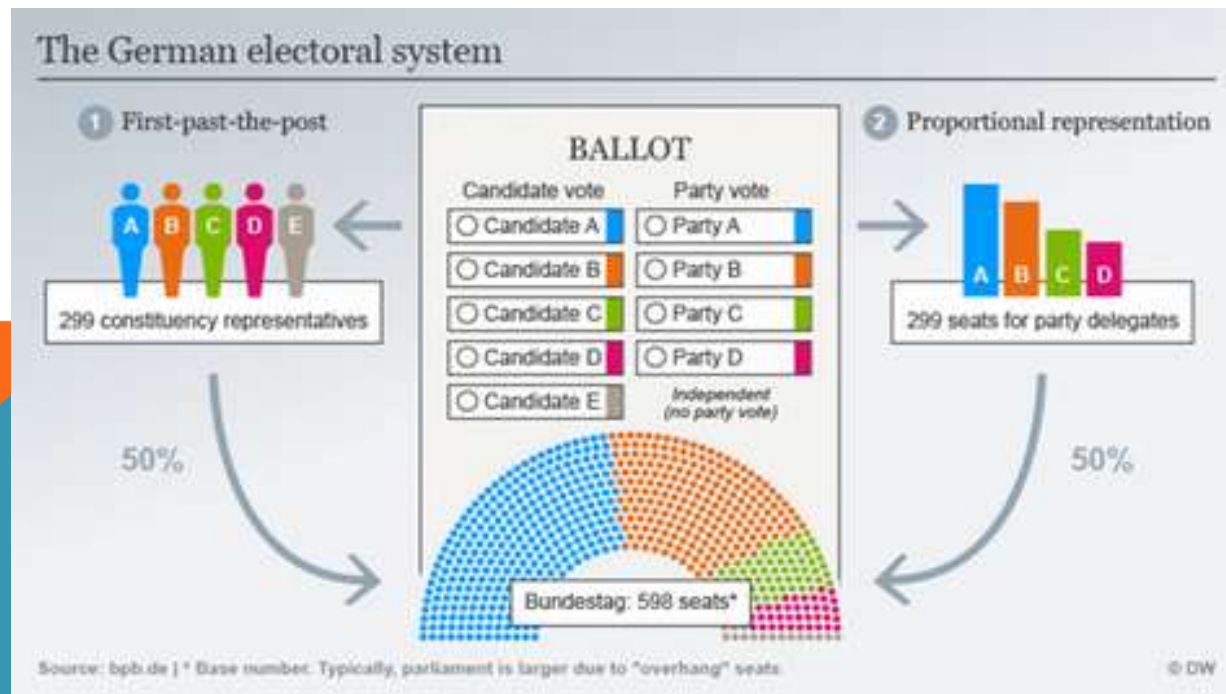
Electoral system in which seats in a legislature are apportioned on a purely proportional basis, giving each party the share of seats that matches its share of the total vote.



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Mixed, or Semiproportional

An electoral system that combines single-member district representation with overall proportionality in allocation of legislative seats to parties; Germany is a key example.



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Formal Institutions:

Political Parties and Party Systems

Party Systems – the number of parties and their relative institutional strength

PARTY SYSTEMS

- One Party System – A system in which there is only one major political party. The party runs the government. (Example – Communism; China, North Korea, Cuba)
- Two Party System – A system in which two major political parties battle for control of the government. (Example – United States; Democrats & Republicans)
- Multi-Party System – A system in which three or more political parties impact elections, and battle for control of the government. (Example – France, Germany, England)

POLITICAL PARTIES
PARTY SYSTEMS



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Clientelism

The exchange of material resources for political support.

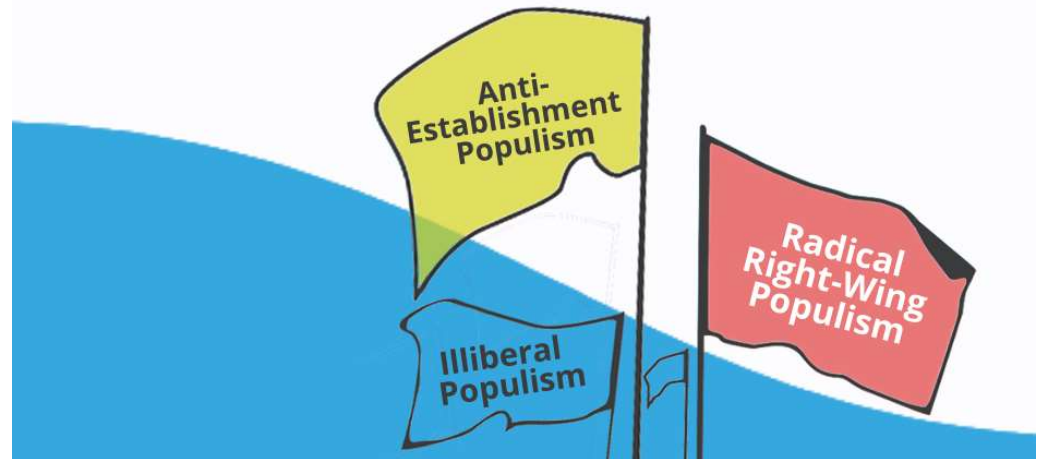
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Populism

A political “style” or ideology emphasizing a united “people” pitted against corrupt elites, denying divisions among the people, and often led by a charismatic leader.

Populist Parties

DEMOS research finds four types of populism in European political parties



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Dominant Party System

- The same party consistently gains a sufficient number of seats in the parliament to stay in power for long periods of time.
- Other parties are allowed to exist and participate in elections but have limited influence.
- In some cases a dominant party loses support and becomes a competitor in a multi party system.
- Examples: Peoples Action Party in Singapore, Congress Party in India

Dominant-Party System

Party system in which multiple parties exist but the same one wins every election and governs continuously.



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Two-Party System

Party system in which only two parties are able to garner enough votes to win an election, though more may compete; the United Kingdom and United States are key examples.



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Multiparty Systems

Advantages

- Provides broader representation of the people.
- More responsive to the will of the people.
- Give voters more choices at the polls.

Disadvantages

- Cause parties to form coalitions, which can dissolve easily.
- Failure of coalitions can cause instability in government.

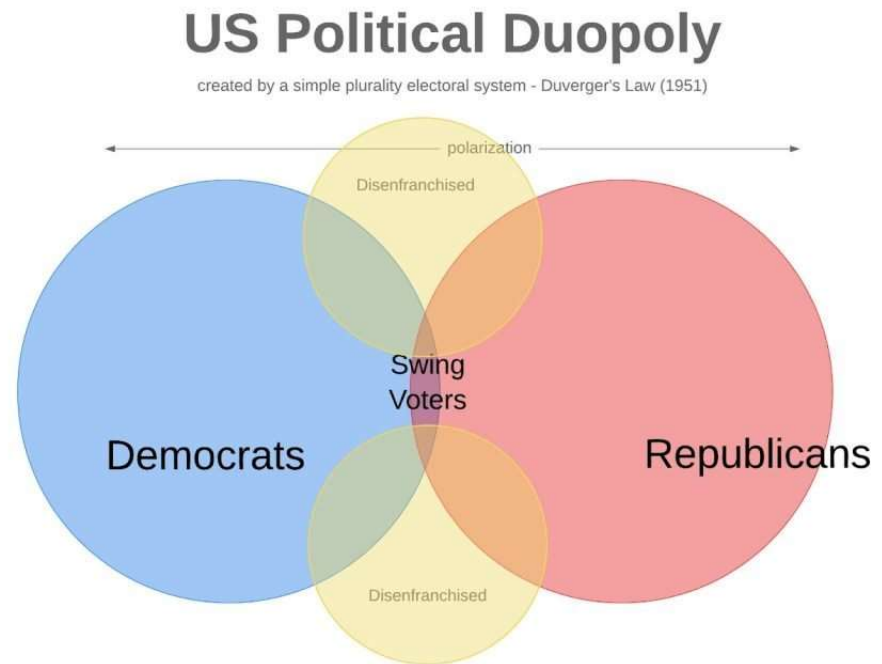
Multiparty System

Party systems in which more than two parties could potentially win a national election and govern.

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Duverger's Law

Institutionalist argument by French political scientist Maurice Duverger that SMD electoral systems will produce two major parties, eliminating smaller parties.



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Civil Society

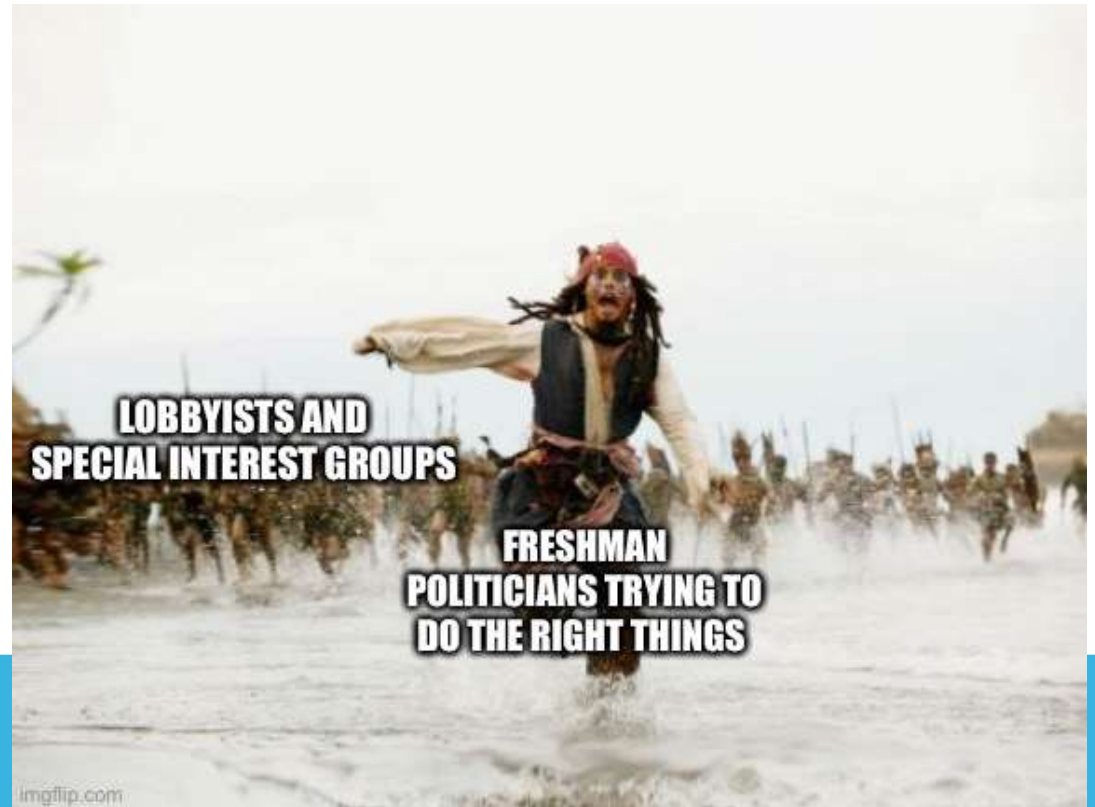
Social Capital – Social networks and norms of reciprocity that are important for a strong civil society.



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Interest Group Pluralism

Interest group system in which many groups exist to represent particular interests and the government remains officially neutral among them; the United States is a key example.



[Huh?].....[what?]....
You must be kidding....

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Neocorporatism

Also called societal corporatism; corporatism that evolves historically and voluntarily rather than being mandated by the state; Germany is a key example.



Fascism should rightly be called Corporatism,
as it is the merger of corporate and
government power.

(Benito Mussolini)

izquotes.com

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Peak Associations

Organizations that bring together all interest groups

in a particular sector to influence and negotiate agreements with the state;

in the United States, an example is the AFL-CIO.



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State Corporations

Corporatism mandated by the state; common in fascist regimes.



The corporate State considers that private enterprise in the sphere of production is the most effective and useful instrument in the interest of the nation. In view of the fact that private organisation of production is a function of national concern, the organiser of the enterprise is responsible to the State for the direction given to production.

— *Benito Mussolini* —

AZ QUOTES

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Concluding Thoughts and Questions...

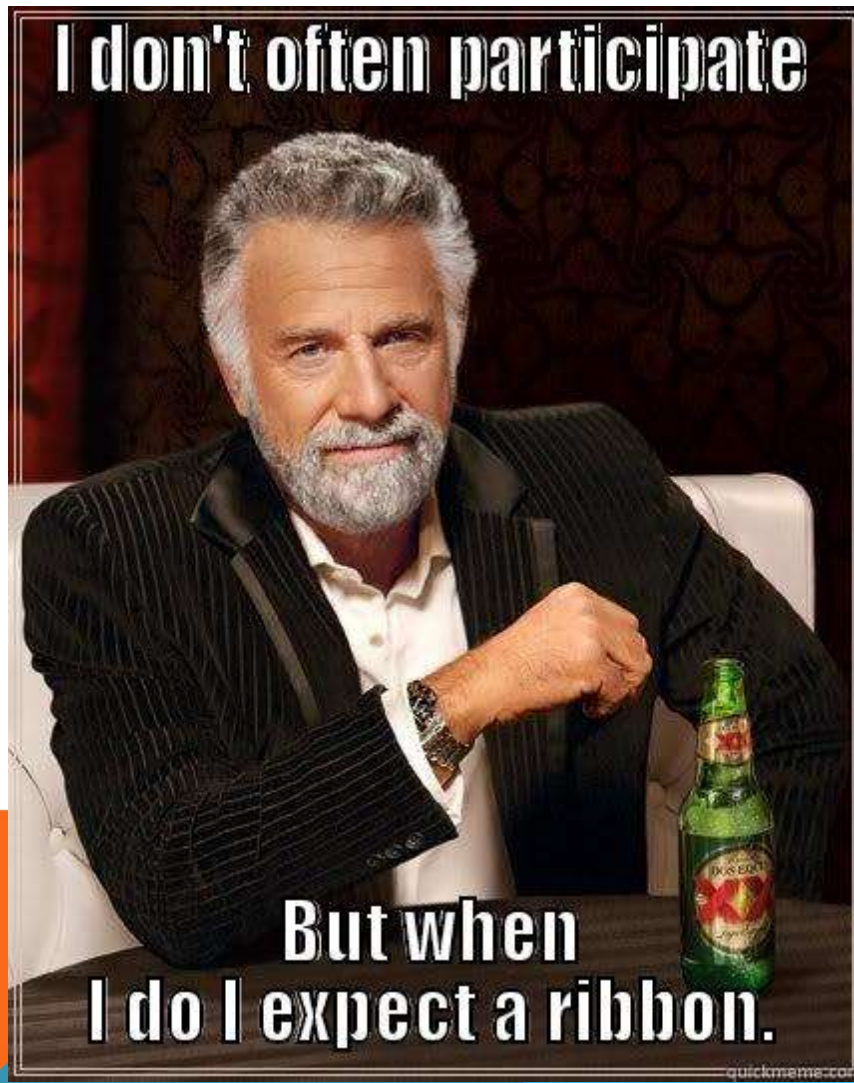
Citizen participation and representation are at the heart of democracy, which ideally gives each citizen equal voice and power.

Different types of Citizen Participation



This is a basic question that we must look at when understanding a country's government.

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The reality is that no set of institutions can translate participation into representation and power in a way that treats everyone perfectly equally.

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The most fundamental question about institutions of participation and representation is which system, if any, facilitates greater participation and better representation.

P.T.A. MEETING



ELECTION DAY



iPHONE RELEASE DAY



BLACK FRIDAY



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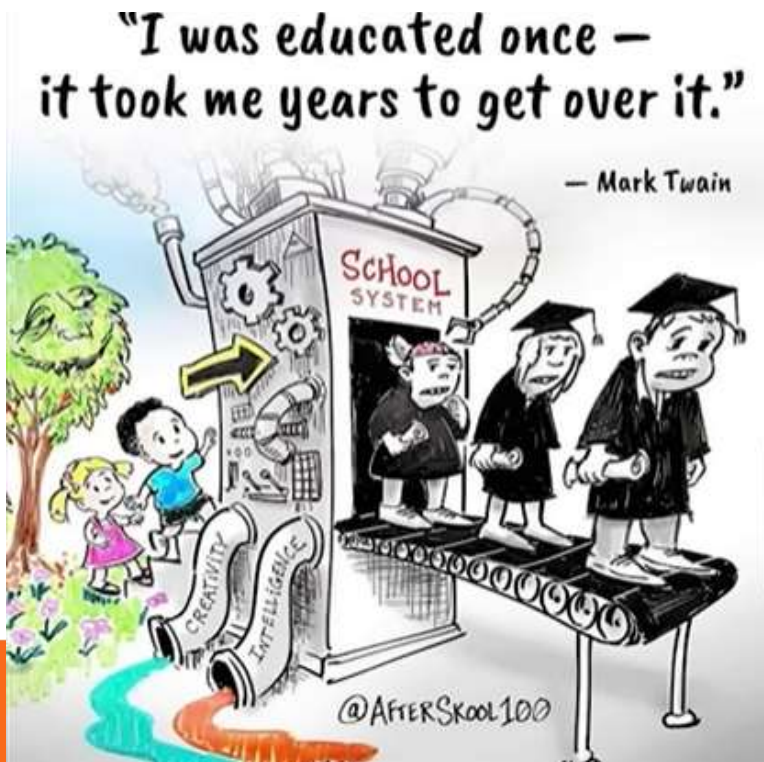
Those systems that are more open to diverse organizations and viewpoints seem to create greater participation:

1. Multiparty Systems
2. PR Electoral Systems
3. Pluralist Interest-Group Systems

We created a platform to submit petitions, why aren't you participating ???



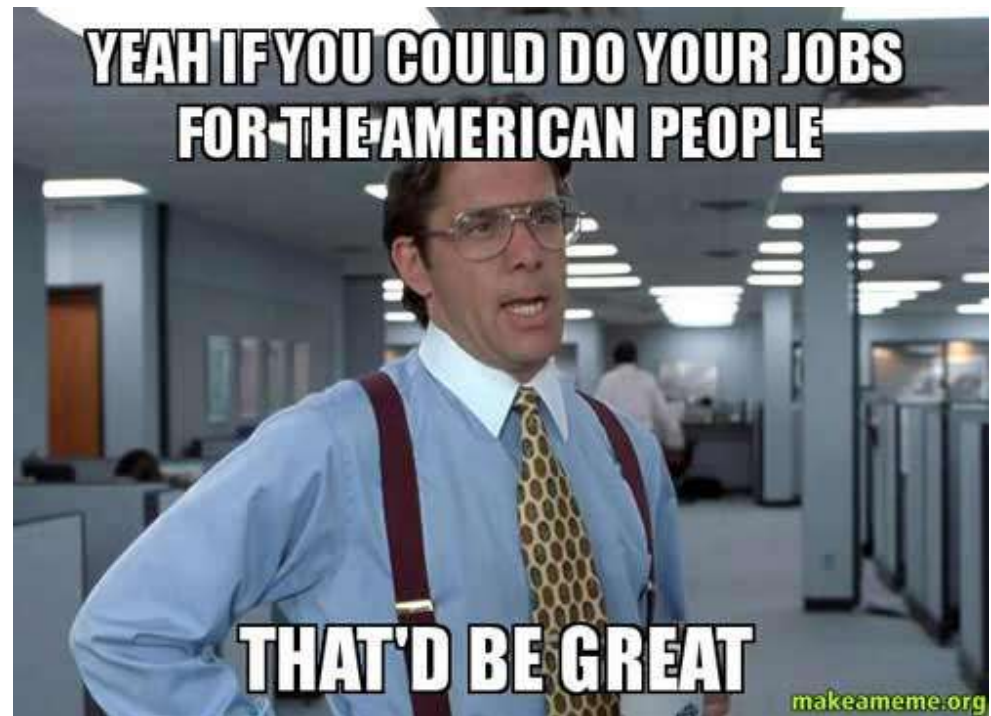
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Institutions that allow much representation of diverse interests often make it more difficult for citizens to know exactly whom to hold accountable for government action.

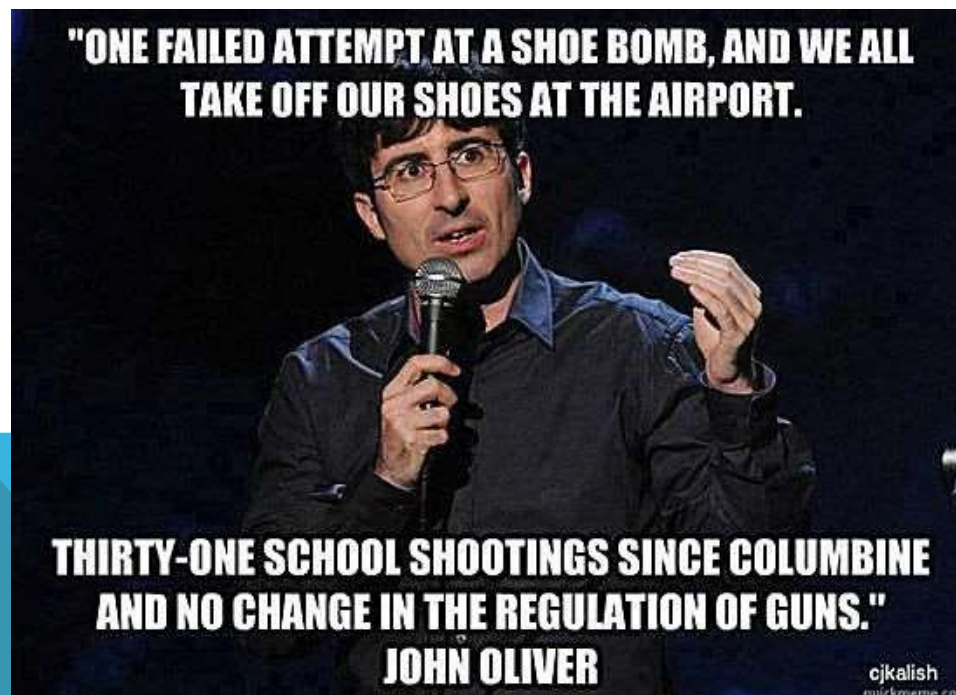
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Institutions affect representation and participation of marginalized groups even more than they do average citizens.



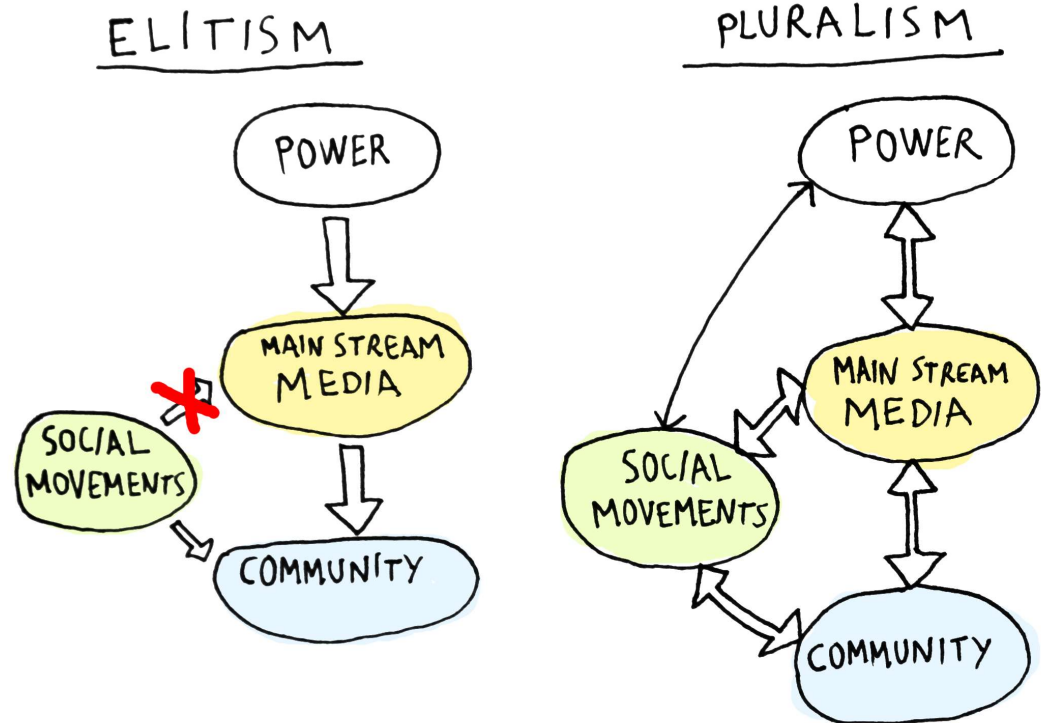
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Ethnic or racial minorities and women are often unrepresented in large, catch-all parties or interest groups controlled primarily by the dominant groups in a society.



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The ultimate “Who rules?” question goes back to the classic debate between pluralists and elite theorists:



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Do modern democracies really provide government in which average citizens have effective power, or do elites' abilities to gain direct access to decision-makers, shape the political agenda, and influence (or control) key institutions mean that they really rule?

< **Second Thought**



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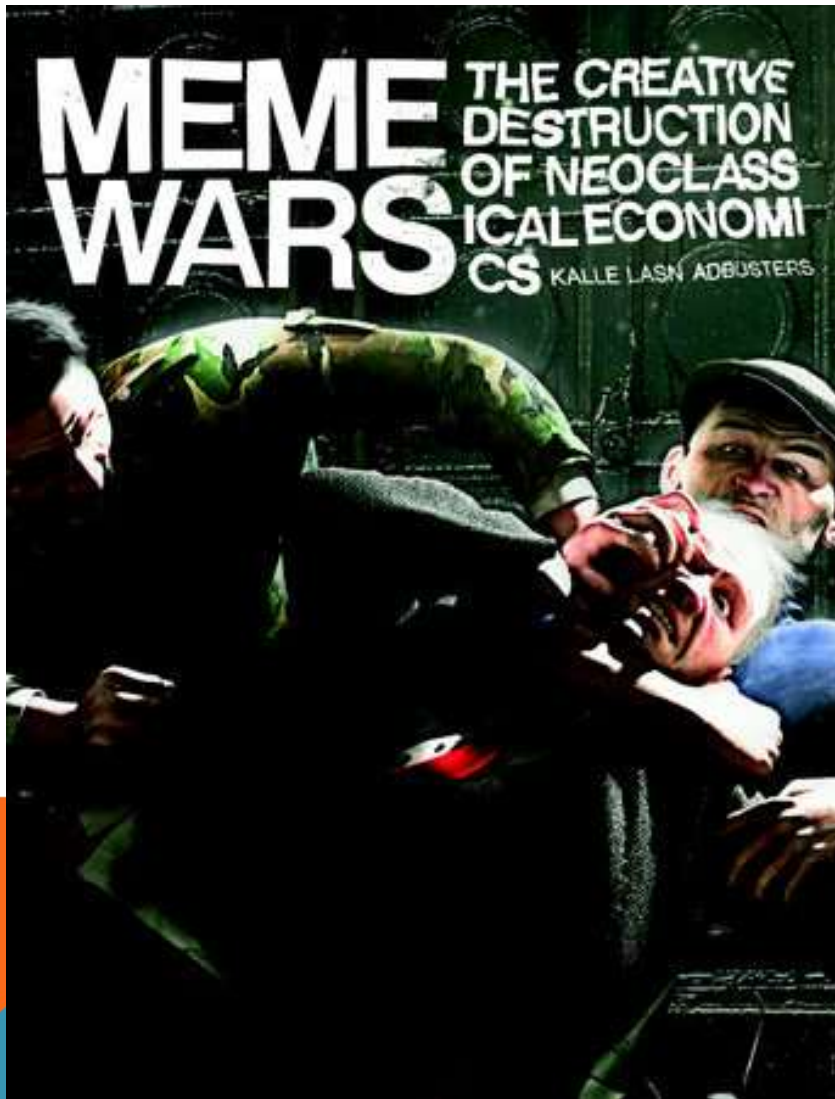


Why The US Is Not A Democracy

306K views · 1 month ago



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So, what do citizens do when they find that available parties, interest groups, and other institutions fail to represent them adequately?

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Well, then they may choose to make demands outside institutions' bounds, the realm of what comparativists refer to as "contentious politics."



That's our next lecture /
discussion!