

Political Parties

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What do parties do?

- 1) Recruitment and socialization of leaders
- 2) Aggregating interests of social groups
- 3) Controlling and shaping interests of social groups
- 4) Stimulating excitement/support/legitimacy for regime and/or opposition groups

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In addition, in systems where elections matter, they:

- 1) raise funds for election campaigns
- 2) coordinate campaigns of groups of candidates
- 3) allow individual candidates to place their policy positions in the context of a wider platform
- 4) shape the policy-making behavior of individual candidates
- 5) control candidate access to office
- 6) structure patronage behavior within government bureaucracies

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Where do parties come from?

1. they are natural representatives of people with common interests (primordial view)
2. they are teams of office seekers (instrumental view)

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Michel's "Iron Law of Oligarchy"

Parties, to be effective, need to develop an experienced, full time leadership. This leadership will necessarily come to define its interests in a manner that is independent from the rank file of party supporters, it will therefore, not stay true to the policy preferences or ideological concerns that, in part, gave birth to the party in the first place.

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More succinctly....

- The leadership of an organization will develop goals that distinct from the goals of the members of the organization. And the, since they *are* the leaders, their goals will become dominant.

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Duverger's Law(s)

H₁: "The simple-majority single-ballot system favors the two-party system." (Duverger 1963, p. 217).

H₂: "The simple-majority system with second ballot and proportional representation favors multi-partyism" (Duverger 1963, p.239)

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Why does the electoral system effect the party system?

1. Mechanical Effect
2. Strategic Voting
3. Strategic Entry

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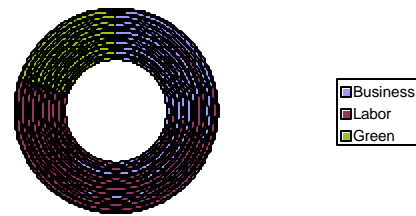
The Mechanical Effect

- In SMDP systems, the way votes get translated into seats rewards large parties and punishes small parties.

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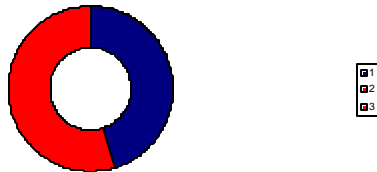
Duvergerland: A hypothetical polity under SMDP

Percentage of Votes by Party in 20 Electoral Districts



Since the Green party did not win a plurality of votes in any district, it gets no seats in legislature

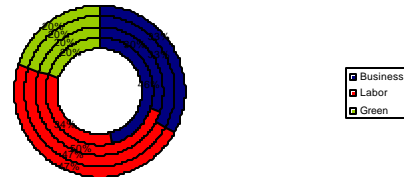
Distribution of Legislative Seats under Single-Member District Plurality Rule



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Under PR, each districts delegation "looks like" the district that elected it

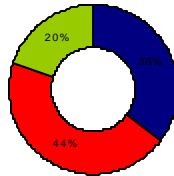
Distribution of Legislative Seats under Proportional Representation with 4 Electoral districts



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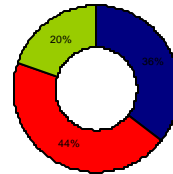
And the legislature as a whole looks like the electorate

Distribution of Seats Under Proportional Representation with No Threshold and "Fractional" legislators



In a Proportional Representation System

Distribution of Seats Under Proportional Representation with No Threshold and "Fractional" legislators



St. Ives Constituency, United Kingdom General Election Of 1992

The mechanical effect in the real world....

	Votes	% of vote
David Harris (Conservative)	24,528	42.9
Andrew George (Liberal Democrat)	22,883	40.1
Stephen Warr (Labour)	9,144	16
Graham Stevens (Liberal)	577	1
Harris, was elected		

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Votes and seats in the UK general election of 1992

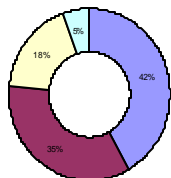
The Mechanical Effect in the Real World

	% of Votes	% of Seats
Conservative	41.9	51.6
Labour	34.9	41.6
Liberal Democrats	17.8	3.1
Others	5.4	3.7
Total	100	100

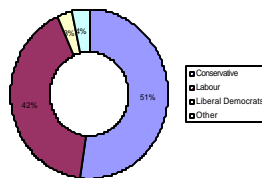
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The mechanical effect in the UK

Distribution of Votes in 1992 British Election



Distribution of Seats in Parliament



Legend:
 ■ Conservative
 ■ Labour
 ■ Liberal Democrat
 ■ Other

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Strategic Voting

What would you do if you

- 1) Lived in St. Ives in 1992 and you had had a reasonably accurate forecast of the 1992 elections, and an a district with the following expected vote:
- 2) You had the following partisan preferences:

Labour P Liberal Dem P Conservative

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Recall...

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Graham Stevens (Liberal)	577	1

Harris, was elected

And Labour P Liberal Dem P

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Strategic Entry

- If you lived in Duvergerland under SMDP and wanted to serve in the legislature, which party label would you run under?

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Test implications:

		<i>Electoral System</i>		
		<i>Single Member District Plurality</i>	<i>Run-off Majority Voting</i>	<i>Proportional Representation</i>
<i>Number of Effective Parties</i>	<i>> 2 parties</i>	Disconfirming	Confirming	Confirming
	<i>2 parties</i>	Confirming	Disconfirming	Disconfirming

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Conclusion

- SMDP discourages the creation of new parties
 - Mechanical Effect
 - Strategic Voting
 - Strategic Entry

Next time..... Considering the evidence.....

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