

Political Parties And Elections Legislating For Re

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AQA A-level Politics Student Guide 4: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics Simon Lemieux 2018-02-26 Written by experienced teacher Simon Lemieux, this Student Guide for Politics: -Identifies the key content you need to know with a concise summary of topics examined in the A-level specifications -Enables you to measure your understanding with exam tips and knowledge check questions, with answers at the end of the guide -Helps you to improve your exam technique with sample answers to exam-style questions -Develops your independent learning skills with content you can use for further study and research

Encyclopedia of American Parties, Campaigns, and Elections William C. Binning 1999 Focusing on United States politics, covers political figures, parties, organizations, legislation, historical events, and terminology.

The Logic of Japanese Politics Gerald L. Curtis 1999 Curtis surveys the current state of Japanese politics and predicts what events are likely to transpire in Japan in the coming years. This book offers a unique perspective into Japanese political identity through the lens of its relation to worldwide political systems.

Financing Politics Herbert E. Alexander 1980

Why Bother With Elections? Adam Przeworski 2018-03-16 With the collapse of traditional parties around the world and with many pundits predicting a "crisis of democracy", the value of elections as a method for selecting by whom and how we are governed is being questioned. What are the virtues and weaknesses of elections? Are there limitations to what they can realistically achieve? In this deeply informed book world-renowned democratic theorist Adam Przeworski offers a warts-and-all analysis of elections and the ways in which they affect our lives. Elections, he argues, are inherently imperfect but they remain the least bad way of choosing our rulers. According to Przeworski, the greatest value of elections, by itself sufficient to cherish them, is that they process whatever conflicts may arise in society in a way that maintains relative liberty and peace. Whether they succeed in doing so in today's turbulent political climate remains to be seen.

British Politics For Dummies Julian Knight 2014-11-13 Your guide to British politics Packed with

accessible information on the origins, history, and structure of the UK parliamentary system, *British Politics For Dummies* offers a fascinating insight into the rollercoaster world of politics. Explaining everything from key political ideologies and the spread of democracy to the current election process and the differences between political parties, this guide is the ultimate companion to British politics and elections. In the book, you'll discover the origins of democracy, political ideologies and the British political state, how elections and British political parties really work, the lowdown on parliament, insight into local politics and devolution, examination of British politics on the world stage, and so much more. Includes expanded coverage of coalition governments and how they work Features information on the key political parties, including the Tories, Labour, the Lib Dems, and UKIP and Britain's place in Europe Focuses on the history of devolved governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales Gives you plain-English access to the PM, the Cabinet, ministers, and civil servants, along with the role of the courts If you're a lifelong learner interested in learning more about politics, a university or sixth-form student studying the topic, or anyone interested in boosting their knowledge of politics, *British Politics For Dummies* has you covered.

International Electoral Standards International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance 2002 "Exploring the basic legal philosophies that govern elections, this text incorporates internationally accepted electoral standards and presents guidelines to aid in reviewing, drafting, and amending electoral legislation. These guidelines distill electoral standards and offer strategies for maintaining uniformity, reliability, consistency, accuracy, and professionalism in elections. A range of areas is covered, including boundary delimitation, electoral management, voter registration, campaign finance and expenditure, balloting, vote counting, and party participation."

Politics For Dummies Ann DeLaney 2020-01-09 Get up to speed on the U.S. political system Confused by caucuses, primaries, and pollsters? Puzzled by the various parties and special interest groups? *Politics For Dummies* has everything you need to understand local, state, and national politics; how to communicate with your elected officials; and what your representatives can do for you. You'll find out all about lobbying groups, sub-committees, the government branches, and how elections work. Also included is new information on how to use online tools and social media to find out what legislation is on the floor, what issues are before the Supreme Court, and when congress and the Supreme Court are in session. Understand the United States political system Learn more about the three branches of U.S. government Discover the differences in federal, state, and local operations Get need-to-know information for involvement This book cuts through the political jargon and provides clear, up-to-date details about everything from legislation to polls to presidential elections in the United States—and explains how you can become a political player yourself.

The Man in the White House Wilfred Ellsworth Binkley 1970

The B.S. of A. Brian Sack 2011-08-02 WE'RE KNEE DEEP— ARE YOU SHOVEL READY? Politicians who say anything and do nothing . . . People lamenting Constitutional rights they don't have . . . Protesters equating everyone to Hitler . . . Teeth-gritting partisans! Tax-evading congressmen! Fact-evading Americans! If you're incredibly disenchanted, if you feel that this great country of ours is suffering from chronic bullsh*t at the federal, state, and local levels, good news: Not only are you in good company, but here's a book to make you feel a little bit better— THE B. S. OF A.! Whether you voted for "hope" in 2008, or "change" in 2010, odds are you're feeling a tad despondent. Here at last is a straight-talking, partisan-busting look at politics from humorist Brian Sack, who mercilessly pokes fun at The B.S. of A. with a double helping of objectivity and wit, pulling no punches and giving partisans, politicians, and their politics a well-deserved shellacking. The B.S. of A. takes full advantage of our poorly understood

First Amendment to fearlessly cut through the bull on both sides of the aisle and ask serious questions: Why does this enormous country have only two real parties? How does a bad idea become a terrible law with a misleading name? How can you identify the Seven Habits of Highly Partisan People? What's the deal with this Constitution thing people keep citing? Can we stop comparing people we don't like to Hitler? You'll find a handy glossary to thoroughly expand your political vocabulary. And, perhaps most important, you're guaranteed to finish this book with a complete understanding of how to solve America's biggest issues—including gun control and abortion!* The B.S. of A.: You're in it, so get to know it. *Actually, these issues can't be solved. Their complexity was underestimated.

Taking Stock of Global Democratic Trends Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance 2021-02-04 This GSoD In Focus provides a brief overview of the global state of democracy at the end of 2019, prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, and assesses some of the preliminary impacts that the pandemic has had on democracy globally in 2020. Key findings include: · To address the COVID-19 pandemic, starting in March 2020, more than half the countries in the world (59 per cent) had declared a national state of emergency (SoE), enabling them to take drastic temporary (and in most cases necessary) measures to fight the pandemic. These measures have included in most cases temporarily curbing basic civil liberties, such as freedom of assembly and movement, and in some cases postponing elections. · International IDEA's Global Monitor of COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights finds that more than half the countries in the world (61 per cent) had, by the end of November 2020, implemented measures to curb COVID-19 that were concerning from a democracy and human rights perspective. These violated democratic standards because they were either disproportionate, illegal, indefinite or unnecessary in relation to the health threat. · Concerning developments have been more common in countries that were already non-democratic prior to the pandemic (90 per cent) and less common, although still quite widespread, in democracies (43 per cent). · The democracies that have implemented democratically concerning measures are those that were already ailing before the pandemic. More than two-thirds were democracies that were either backsliding, eroding or weak prior to the pandemic. · Almost a year since the first outbreak of COVID-19, the pandemic seems to have deepened autocratization in most of the countries that were already non-democratic. However, in at least 3 of those countries (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand), the pandemic has also tapped into existing simmering citizen discontent and may have been the tipping point in unleashing massive protest waves demanding democratic reform. The pandemic has also seemingly deepened democratic backsliding processes and exposed the democratic weakness and fragility of new or re-transitioned democracies (Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Sri Lanka). In a few cases, the pandemic has also exposed countries that showed no apparent sign of democratically ailing prior to the pandemic, but where concerning democratic developments have occurred during the pandemic and which risk seeing a significant deterioration in their democratic quality as a result (i.e. Argentina, El Salvador). · The aspects of democracy that have seen the most concerning developments during the pandemic are freedom of expression, media integrity, and personal integrity and security. However, the freedoms that have been restricted across most countries are freedom of movement and assembly. Another core democratic process that has been heavily affected by the pandemic is the electoral, with half the elections scheduled between February and December 2020 postponed due to the pandemic. · The pandemic has also shown democracy's resilience and capacity for renovation. Innovation through accelerated digitalization has occurred across most regions of the world. And democratic institutions, such as parliaments, courts, electoral commissions, political parties, media and civil society actors, have fought back against attempts at executive overreach and democratic trampling or collaborated to ensure effective responses to the pandemic. The review of the state of democracy during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 uses qualitative analysis and data of events and trends collected through International IDEA's Global Monitor of COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights,

an initiative co-funded by the European Union.

Politics For Dummies Ann DeLaney 2011-03-16 Whether you understand politics or not, it still affects your life in very real ways. But American politics can be confusing. What's a caucus? How do primaries work? How can you sift through all the babble to get to the truth? *Politics For Dummies* offers all these answers and more. And it's not just for political novices; even those with a firm understanding of politics can use this book to fill out their knowledge of the little complexities - from how the Electoral College works to campaign contribution limits. If you have little or no knowledge of politics, don't worry. Most people need answers just like you do, that's why this book helps you: Pick the candidate who best represents your views Donate time or money to a campaign Let your representatives know how you feel Run for office yourself This simple, friendly guide offers the kind of straight talk on politics you won't get from a politician. It covers the nuts and bolts of the political process so you'll have a working knowledge of the system. It shows you how to get involved at the grass-roots level and explains the rationale behind the two-party system. It helps you parse the propaganda to get at the truth and offers a complete explanation of presidential politics. *Politics For Dummies* covers these topics and many more: How public opinion polls work How money influences policy Why your opinion really does count How to donate to political campaigns and causes Contacting your representatives Politics on the Internet Choosing parties and candidates Lobbyists and special interest groups How candidates sell themselves How negative campaigning works What happened in the 2000 presidential election You'll also find fun and helpful extras like famous political quotes, the ten things you should teach your children about politics, and voting requirements for every state. Democracy won't work for if you don't participate in it. So pick up *Politics For Dummies*, get informed, and get involved. Your country will thank you!

Governing in a Polarized Age Alan S. Gerber 2016-10-31 Many political observers have expressed doubts as to whether America's leaders are up to the task of addressing major policy challenges. Yet much of the critical commentary lacks grounding in the systematic analysis of the core institutions of the American political system including elections, representation, and the law-making process. *Governing in a Polarized Age* brings together more than a dozen leading scholars to provide an in-depth examination of representation and legislative performance. Drawing upon the seminal work of David Mayhew as a point of departure, these essays explore the dynamics of incumbency advantage in today's polarized Congress, asking whether the focus on individual re-election that was the hallmark of Mayhew's ground-breaking book, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*, remains useful for understanding today's Congress. The essays link the study of elections with close analysis of changes in party organization and with a series of systematic assessments of the quality of legislative performance.

The Formation of Political Parties and the First National Elections in Russia Terence Emmons 1983 This is the most comprehensive analysis of the first national elections in Russia ever written.

The American Political Process Alan R. Grant 1986 An introduction for students and general readers to the formal and informal institutions of the US government and their interaction to produce public policy. Looks at the framework, Congress, the President and administration, the Supreme Court and the judiciary, pressure group politics, party politics, elections and voting, and federalism and regional diversity. First published in 1979 and updated here from the 1994 edition to place the Republican electoral victories of 1994 and 1996 into the context of constitutional structure and political culture. Includes a glossary without pronunciation. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Presidents with Prime Ministers Margit Tavits 2009 This book is about presidents in parliamentary

systems. One commonly recurring political debate within parliamentary systems is over whether or not the public should directly elect the head of state. Despite the importance of this topic in practical politics, political scientists have offered little empirical evidence, yet made bold assumptions about the consequences of popular elections for heads of state. A common argument is that direct elections enhance presidents' legitimacy thereby increasing their activism and encouraging authoritarian tendencies. Another popular assumption is that direct presidential elections are more heavily contested and partisan, polarizing and dividing political elites and the electorate. Proponents of direct elections argue that such elections will help decrease voter alienation and apathy. This book challenges the conventional wisdom. Using both quantitative and qualitative empirical evidence from democratic systems across the world, this book demonstrates that compared to indirect selection methods, direct elections do not yield more active and contentious presidents, do not polarize political elites or society, and do not remedy political apathy. Rather, presidential activism in both "semi-presidential" and "pure parliamentary" systems is shaped by political opportunity framework - the institutional strength and partisan composition of both parliament and government. Further, because holding the presidency provides parties with an electoral asset, direct and indirect presidential elections can be equally contentious and polarizing. Last, but not least, rather than decreasing apathy, direct election is associated with increased voter fatigue and decreased turnout in parliamentary elections by about seven percentage points.

Financing Political Parties and Election Campaigns Ingrid van Biezen 2003 On cover & title page: Integrated project "Making democratic institutions work"

Indonesian Reformasi as Reflected in Law Petra Stockmann 2004 In May 1998, when General Suharto resigned, hopes were high that Indonesia would move towards a more democratic future. Have these hopes materialized in any way? This book provides an analysis of change and continuity as manifest in key legislation on the political system and human rights. Constitutional amendments and new laws--on political parties, elections, the press, labor unions, human rights, and human rights courts--are assessed against legislation of the Suharto era, as well as against international standards as laid down in international human rights instruments. Petra Stockmann is a graduate of the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Presidential Activism and Veto Power in Central and Eastern Europe Philipp Köker 2017-06-20 This book examines the use of presidential powers in Central and East Europe between 1990 and 2010. Focussing on presidential vetoes and the formation of governments, it maps patterns of presidential activism and its determinants across nine democracies. Thereby, it combines the analysis of original quantitative data on the use of presidential powers with in-depth case studies in an innovative mixed-methods framework. Based on regression analyses and unique insights from numerous elite interviews, the study shows strong support for the hitherto insufficiently tested assumption that popularly elected presidents are more active than their indirectly elected counterparts. As one of the first comprehensive comparative studies of presidential activism and veto power in Europe, this book will be a key resource not only for area specialists but also for scholars of presidential studies, comparative government, and executives.

Super PACs Louise I. Gerdes 2014-05-20 The passage of Citizens United by the Supreme Court in 2010 sparked a renewed debate about campaign spending by large political action committees, or Super PACs. Its ruling said that it is okay for corporations and labor unions to spend as much as they want in advertising and other methods to convince people to vote for or against a candidate. This book provides a wide range of opinions on the issue. Includes primary and secondary sources from a variety of

perspectives; eyewitnesses, scientific journals, government officials, and many others.

The Nationalization of American Politics William M Lurch 1987-01-01 Compares modern U.S. politics with the postwar system and discusses presidential elections, special interest groups, the bureaucracy, and political parties

Deadlock and Disillusionment Gary W. Reichard 2016-02-22 Deadlock and Disillusionment: American Politics Since 1968 is an insightful consideration of the events people, and policy debates that have shaped and continue to influence, even control, the current political era. Rejects conventional wisdom that the dominant force shaping recent American politics in the last half century has been the "rise of the Right" Considers the achievements and frustrations of each administration, from Nixon to Obama, in its assessment of contemporary U.S. politics Features authorship by an expert scholar in the field who takes a thematic rather than a partisan approach to recent American politics Offers a concise, comprehensive, and thoroughly up-to-date synthesis of the literature in the field and concludes with a comprehensive bibliographical essay, an aid to student research

Cozy Politics Peter Kobrak 2002 Cozy politics, Peter Kobrak contends, is shredding the already fragile fabric of political rapport between citizens and their government. Exploring the insidious system that encourages elected officials to cooperate with their supposed opponents - rather than with their own constituents - he reveals the enormous power that wealthy donors and interest-group supporters wield over politicians, congressional decisionmakers, and agency agendas.

Political Parties and Democracy in Theoretical and Practical Perspectives Sefakor Ashiagbor 2013-09-29 This latest addition to the Institute's Political Parties and Democracy in Theoretical and Practical Perspectives series describes some of the approaches that political parties around the world have used to fulfill their policy formulation role. The first section describes comparative approaches in developing party ideologies, rules, structures, and processes that can improve policy processes. In the second section, 12 case studies provide overviews of practical experiences in party policy development around the world.

The Fight to Vote Michael Waldman 2022-01-18 On cover, the word "right" has an x drawn over the letter "r" with the letter "f" above it.

Federal Election Campaign Laws United States 2008-04

Virginia Election Laws Virginia 1920

The Limits of Electoral Reform Shaun Bowler 2013-03-28 Institutions 'matter' to electoral reform advocates and political scientists - both argue that variation in electoral institutions affect how elected officials and citizens behave. Change the rules, and citizen engagement with politics can be renewed. Yet a look at the record of electoral reform reveals a string of disappointments. This book examines a variety of reforms, including campaign finance, direct democracy, legislative term limits, and changes to the electoral system itself. This study finds electoral reforms have limited, and in many cases, no effects. Despite reform advocates' claims, and contrary to the 'institutions matter' literature, findings here suggest there are hard limits to effects of electoral reform. The explanations for this are threefold. The first is political. Reformers exaggerate claims about transformative effects of new electoral rules, yet their goal may simply be to maximize their partisan advantage. The second is empirical. Cross-sectional comparative research demonstrates that variation in electoral institutions corresponds with

different patterns of political attitudes and behaviour. But this method cannot assess what happens when rules are changed. Using examples from the US, UK, New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere this book examines attitudes and behaviour across time where rules were changed. Results do not match expectations from the institutional literature. Third is a point of logic. There is an inflated sense of the effects of institutions generally, and of electoral institutions in particular. Given the larger social and economic forces at play, it is unrealistic to expect that changes in electoral arrangements will have substantial effects on political engagement or on how people view politics and politicians. Institutional reform is an almost constant part of the political agenda in democratic societies. Someone, somewhere, always has a proposal not just to change the workings of the system but to reform it. The book is about how and why such reforms disappoint. Comparative Politics is a series for students, teachers, and researchers of political science that deals with contemporary government and politics. Global in scope, books in the series are characterised by a stress on comparative analysis and strong methodological rigour. The series is published in association with the European Consortium for Political Research. For more information visit: www.ecprnet.eu. The Comparative Politics series is edited by Professor David M. Farrell, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin, and Kenneth Carty, Professor of Political Science, University of British Columbia.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 United States Commission on Civil Rights 1965

The Election Archives 1972

American Politics For Dummies - UK Matthew Alan Hill 2014-09-05 The simplest way to get to grips with the American political system American Politics For Dummies is an engaging and accessible guide to the inner workings of the U.S. government, cutting through the political jargon, to give you the facts. The book begins with the basics, including government structure and processes, and later covers current events that make the news. The world of American politics can be bewildering to anyone not born and bred in the U.S.A. This plain-English guide is perfect whether you are a student or simply fascinated by the world's most powerful democracy. From the electoral process to 'special relationships', you discover all you need to know with American Politics For Dummies. • The birth of America – find out about the emergence of the US, from the ideas upon which America was founded to the creation of the US Constitution • Go government – understand the powers of the President, how Congress operates, the function of the Supreme Court and how US laws are created and passed • Party on – discover the ins and outs of elections and political parties, from the electoral process and the two-party system to the voting behaviour amongst Americans • One nation, many identities – get to understand the workings of a truly multicultural society • All the world's a stage – grasp the grand strategy of the US to understand why the nation acts as it does in international politics 2014 kicks off the latest round of U.S. Congressional election and marks the beginning the 2016 Presidential election cycle. There will be headlines, there will be debate and there will be news. If you're looking to keep up and understand it all, American Politics For Dummies is a great place to start.

Why Parties? John H. Aldrich 1995-06 Why did the United States develop political parties? How and why do party alignments change? Are the party-centered elections of the past better for democratic politics than the candidate-centered elections of the present? In this landmark book, John Aldrich goes beyond the clamor of arguments over whether American political parties are in resurgence or decline and undertakes a wholesale reexamination of the foundations of the American party system. Surveying three critical episodes in the development of American political parties—from their formation in the 1790s to the Civil War—Aldrich shows how parties serve to combat three fundamental problems of democracy: how to regulate the number of people seeking public office; how to mobilize voters; and how to achieve

and maintain the majorities needed to accomplish goals once in office. Overcoming these obstacles, argues Aldrich, is possible only with political parties. Aldrich brings this innovative account up to date by looking at the profound changes in the character of political parties since World War II. In the 1960s, he shows, parties started to become candidate-centered organizations that are servants to their office seekers and officeholders. Aldrich argues that this development has revitalized parties, making them stronger, and more vital, with well-defined cleavages and highly effective governing ability.

Political Parties and Elections Anika Gauja 2016-04-22 *Political Parties and Elections* presents a comparative analysis of the ways in which advanced industrial democracies seek to regulate the activities of political parties in electoral contests. Actual political practice suggests that parties are crucial actors in democratic elections, yet the nature and extent to which parties are regulated, or even recognized, as participants in the electoral process varies greatly among nations. Author Anika Gauja analyzes the electoral laws of five key common law democracies with similar parliamentary and representative traditions, similar levels of economic and political development, yet with significantly different electoral provisions: the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Using the relationship between law and politics as a lens, the book focuses specifically on the ways in which these jurisdictions seek to regulate the behavior of their political parties as the product of a broader normative vision of how representative democracy ought to function. In its subject matter, comparative scope, and interdisciplinary theoretical framework, this book examines not only electoral law but also ancillary legislation such as funding regulations, associations and corporations law, and constitutional provisions. It also analyzes the case law that guides the interpretation of this legislation. *Political Parties and Elections* represents an innovative body of research, comparing for the first time the electoral-legal regimes of a significant number of common law nations.

Electoral Systems and Conflict in Divided Societies National Research Council 1999-05-20 This paper is one of a series being prepared for the National Research Council's Committee on International Conflict Resolution. The committee was organized in late 1995 to respond to a growing need for prevention, management, and resolution of violent conflict in the international arena, a concern about the changing nature and context of such conflict in the post-Cold War era, and a recent expansion of knowledge in the field. The committee's main goal is to advance the practice of conflict resolution by using the methods and critical attitude of science to examine the effectiveness of various techniques and concepts that have been advanced for preventing, managing, and resolving international conflicts. The committee's research agenda has been designed to supplement the work of other groups, particularly the Carnegie Corporation of New York's Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, which issued its final report in December 1997. The committee has identified a number of specific techniques and concepts of current interest to policy practitioners and has asked leading specialists on each one to carefully review and analyze available knowledge and to summarize what is known about the conditions under which each is or is not effective. These papers present the results of their work.

Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters European Commission for Democracy through Law 2003-01-01 This publication contains a set of guidelines for good practice in the conduct of elections, based on Europe's electoral heritage, as well as an explanatory report which explains the key principles on which they are based. The guidelines and report were adopted in 2002 by the Council for Democratic Elections and by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (also known as the Venice Commission); and approved in 2003 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council Europe and by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe.

The Politics of Legislation David M. Olson 1976

UK Election Law Bob Watt 2006-01 This book contains a critical analysis of the law and politics governing the conduct of statutory elections in the United Kingdom. The author argues that elections have now become a marketplace for 'buying' the most seemingly attractive political party on offer into power, rather than an expression of democratic self-government. Thematically arranged, he considers a number of issues dating from before the Civil War through nineteenth century reforms to the foundation of the Electoral Commission and up to their paper 'Securing the Vote' published in 2005. The book Framing the debate for the Electoral Administration Bill 2005, it contains, amongst other legal analysis, analyses leading cases, including: *Sanders v Chichester* *R v Jones* *R v Whicher*; *ex parte Mainwaring* *In re Fermanagh and South Tyrone*. The author presents an argument for a radical reappraisal of election law which involves, rather than excludes the self-governing citizenry, suggesting that election law, perhaps above all other kinds of law, should be the subject of vigorous and open public debate.

The Acceptance of Party Unity in Parliamentary Democracies David M. Willumsen 2017-08-25 Despite the central role of policy preferences in the subsequent behaviour of legislators, preferences at the level of the individual legislator have been almost entirely neglected in the study of parliaments and legislative behaviour. The main reason for this is the difficulty of obtaining measures of legislator preferences that are not based on their behaviour. This book explores direct measures of policy preferences through parliamentary surveys. Building on this, the book develops measures of policy incentives of legislators to dissent from their parliamentary parties, and demonstrates that preference similarity amongst legislators explains a very substantial proportion of party unity, yet cannot explain all of it. Through a quantitative analysis of the attitudes of legislators to the demands of party unity and what drives these attitudes, the book argues that the reason for the difference between observed unity and the levels of unity which can be explained by preference similarity among legislators, is the conscious acceptance by MPs that the long-term benefits of belonging to a united party (such as increased influence on legislation, lower transaction costs and better chances of gaining office) outweigh the short-term benefits of always voting for their ideal policy outcome. The volume reinforces this argument through the analysis of both open-ended survey questions as well as survey questions on the costs and benefits of belonging to a political party in a legislature.

Frustrated Aspirations for Change Mark Donovan 2009-02 Uncertainty about the future of the government and strong anti-political sentiment dominated Italian politics in 2007. Following a government crisis in February, rooted in the question of Italy's role in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Romano Prodi was able to re-establish his coalition, but in the spring it suffered a clear setback in local elections amidst a climate of growing unpopularity. Initial chapters in this volume analyse these events as well as some important initiatives aimed, in different ways, at containing public disaffection towards the political class: the establishment of the Democratic Party, the electoral referendum campaign, and Silvio Berlusconi's announcement of the birth of a new, center-right political party. As demonstrated in following chapters, the government did still manage to achieve a degree of success during the year in combating tax evasion and reducing the budget deficit as a result of increased tax revenue and more effective control of public expenditure. A number of redistributive goals were achieved in this way, as the volume's examination of government social policy makes clear. Final chapters complete the picture of the state of Italian society in a year characterized by a fragile government facing a number of challenging issues subject to veto: the liberalization program and the uncompleted introduction of fiscal federalism, the ever-challenging management of the national health system, the role of the Bank of Italy, the relationship with the Catholic Church and the legislation on *de facto* couples, crime and security.

