



# Party Systems

Ing. Mansoor Maitah Ph.D. et Ph.D.



# Political Party

- **An organization of people with common interests who organize to win elections and run government.**
- **A political party is a political organization that subscribes to a certain ideology and seeks to attain political power within a government.**
- **Party system is a collection of and interaction between parties in a polity**
- **Primary goal – to win elections and enact their ideas.**
- **The United States has a two party system.**
- **Two political parties dominate government.**
- **Other parties may exist, but with no real ability to take control of government.**



# Roles of Political Parties

- Campaign for/support candidates
  - **Donate money, volunteer with the party, register voters, wear/display candidate information, write letters, canvass neighborhoods, etc.**
- Informing citizens
  - **information from a political party can, and probably is, biased.**





# Roles of Political Parties

- “Carrying the people’s message”
  - **Party members can communicate issues and information with their local party.**
- Operate government
  - **When parties win elections.**
- Link different levels of government
  - **Parties are organized similar to government (local, state and national levels).**
- Act as a Watchdog
  - **Party out of power points out mistakes or misuse of power.**



# Why do parties matter?

- Elite recruitment
- Link between citizenry and government
- They help
  - **politicians act collectively in government to produce legislation**
  - **mobilize people into politics, especially people who might otherwise not participate**
  - **voters resolve uncertainty about electoral options**
  - **voters hold politicians accountable for their behavior in government**
- They aggregate diverse interests and identities into a single, cohesive political front



# Political Parties

## – One-Party System

- Only party exists – others are normally illegal or suppressed.
- Most prevalent in authoritarian governments (dictatorships, monarchies, communists states and theocracies).
- Under one party systems, civil and political rights are suppressed and voters have no choice in government.



# Party Systems

- Systems of government may have different political party systems.
  - **Multi-Party System**
    - More than two parties compete for control of government.
    - Most prevalent in parliamentary systems of government.
    - With multiple parties, one party rarely wins a majority in the legislature, but one can win a plurality (more seats than any other party)...



# Party Systems

## – Multi-Party System

- The party with a plurality must form a coalition with another party and work together to run government.
- If the coalition collapses, then new elections are held
- Advantages to the multi-party system: more views are represented; voters have more choices.
- Disadvantages – governments can be unstable (Italy has had 61 different governments between 1945 and 2008)





## Classification of Party Systems: Sartori

- By No. of parties and relative sizes
- - **One party system**
  - **Predominant party system (e.g. Japan)**
    - Limited competition, same party wins elections
  - **-Two-party system (e.g. USA)**
    - Highly competitive
  - **‘Two-and-a-half parties’ (e.g. Germany till 1990s)**
  - **1 large + several smaller parties (e.g. Sweden till 1990s)**
  - **2 large + several smaller parties (e.g. Germany 1998-)**
  - **Even multi-party systems (e.g. Netherlands)**



## Sartori's "Modified Classification" (or Typology) of Party Systems

- 1. One-party;
- 2. Hegemonic party;
- 3. Predominant party;
- 4. Two-party
- 5. Limited Pluralism;
- 6. Extreme pluralism;
- 7. Atomised



## Classification of Party Systems: Sartori

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- 4. Two-party;
- 5. **Moderate Pluralism**;
- 6. **Polarised Pluralism**;
- 7. Atomised.



## Classification of Party Systems: Sartori

- We need to know whether fragmentation (i.e. a high number of parties, say more than 5) is due to **segmentation** or to **polarisation**.





## Classification of Party Systems: Sartori

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## Classification of Party Systems: Sartori

### Patterns, Classes and Types of Multipartyism

Pattern

Class

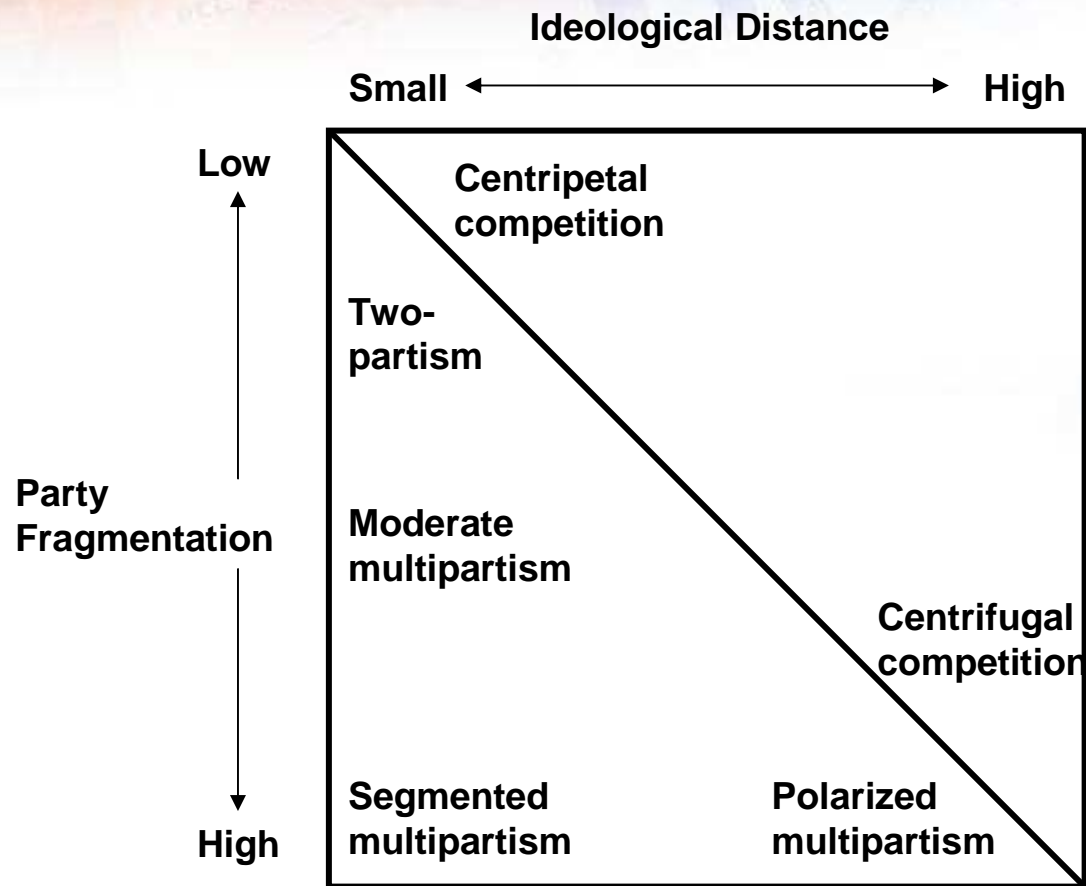
Type

Low fragmentation (up to 5 parties) → Limited pluralism → Moderate pluralism

Segmentation → ..... → Extreme pluralism → Polarised pluralism

High fragmentation → Extreme pluralism → Polarised pluralism

# Classification of Party Systems : Sartori





# The Direction of Competition

- Sartori distinguishes between:
- 1. **Centrifugal competition** (where parties look to the extremes to build majorities), and
- 2. **Centripetal competition** (when they look towards the center to build majorities)



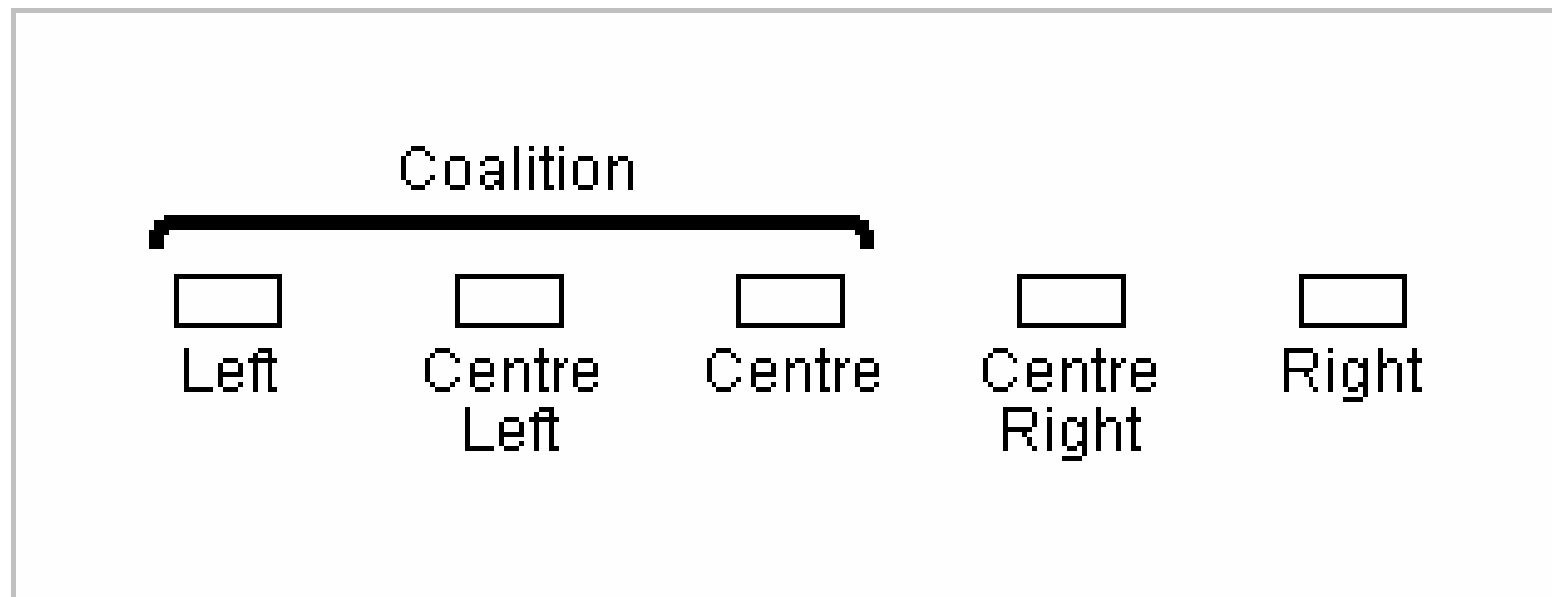


## Sartori's Rules for Counting

- In other words, count only those parties which have
- either
- **coalition potential**
- or
- **blackmail potential**

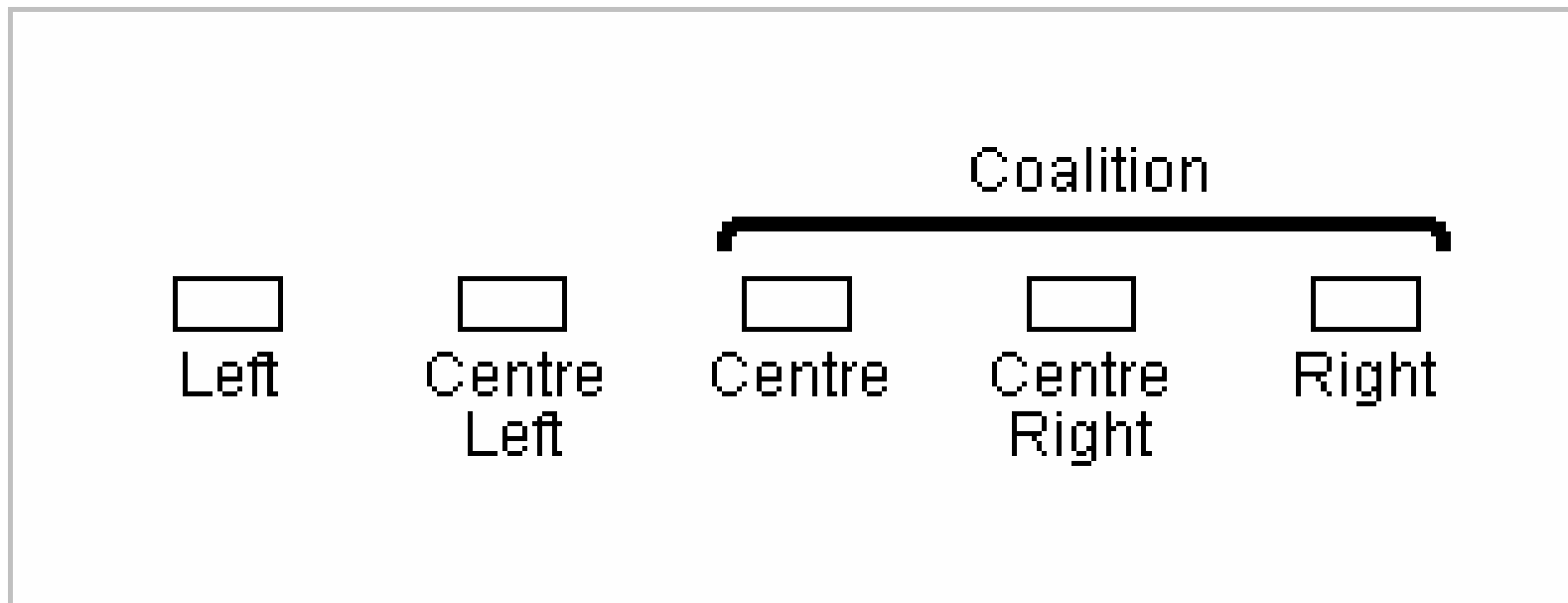
# The Direction of Competition

- **Centrifugal** Competition



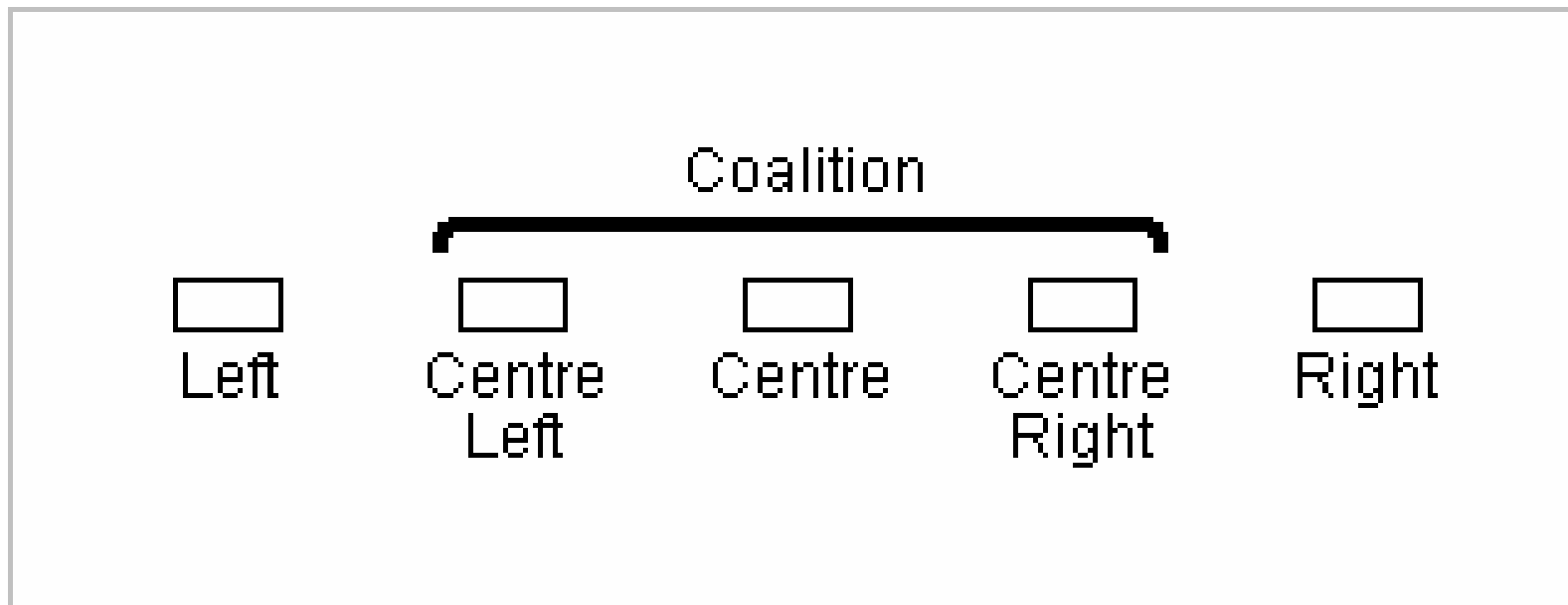
# The Direction of Competition

- **Centrifugal** Competition



# The Direction of Competition

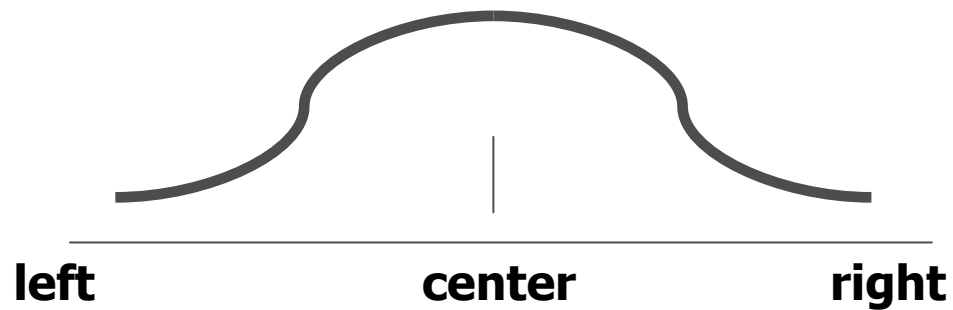
- **Centripetal** Competition





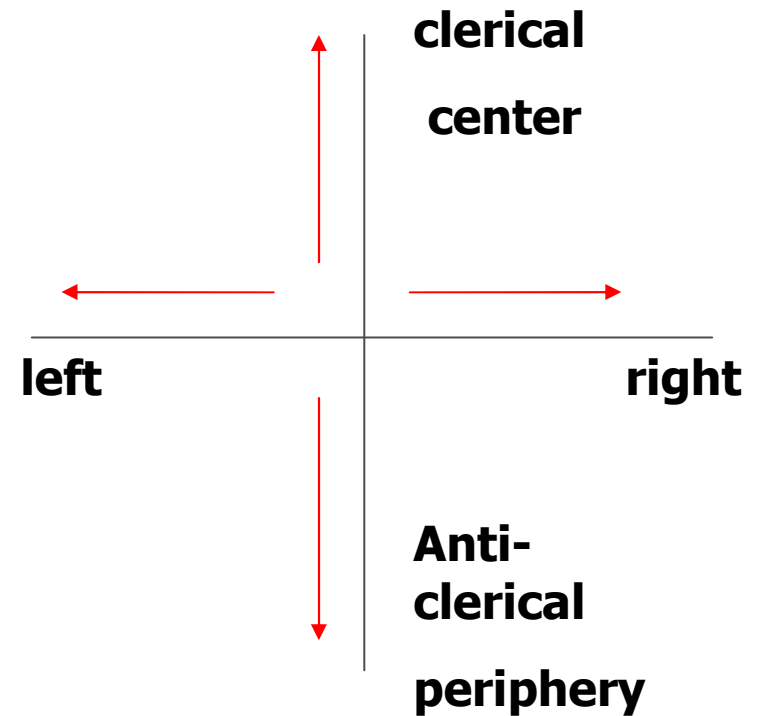
# Party System Dynamics

**Uni-dimensional/  
Bipolar competition**



***Centripetal = moderate, centrist parties***

**multipolar  
competition**



***Centrifugal = extremist parties***

# Party system classification by fragmentation and polarization (Sartori)

*Fragmentation (number of parties)*

High

**Polarized multipartyism: France, Netherlands, Italy**

**Moderate multipartyism: Germany, Spain, Sweden**

**Moderate two-partyism: UK**

Low

High

*Polarization (ideological spread)*



## Sartori's "Two-Dimensional" Classification of Party Systems

- Sartori's scheme is still the most popular and widely-accepted among political scientists today.

[Giovanni Sartori, *Parties and Party Systems: A framework for analysis*. Volume 1. (Cambridge University Press, 1975)]



# Party Typologies

Duverger's organizational typology:

- Notables party: established parties, personal leadership
- Branch party: central organization with local association, e.g. Scandinavian Social Democrats





## Party Typologies (Duverger)

- Cadre party: organized as tight cells with strong center, e.g. communist parties
- Mass party: formed outside parliament, central organization but with elaborate arrangement to incorporate members, e.g. early Socialist/Social-democratic parties



## Party Typologies (Duverger)

- Catch-all party: mass parties which broaden their ideological scope in order to attract indecisive voters, e.g. social democrats and Christian democrats
- Cartel party: have become part of the state system because of reliance on subsidies; have lost touch with voters



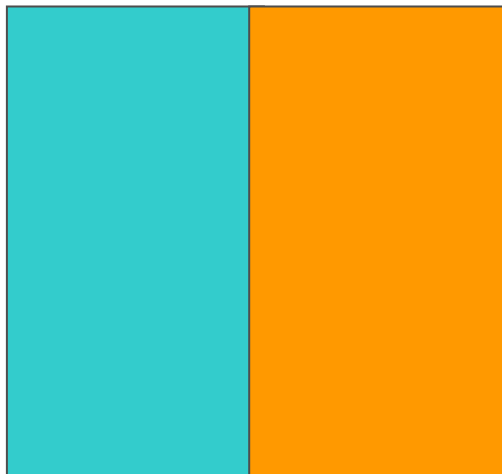
## Link: cleavages and parties

- the number of cleavages and the ways they intersect can vary considerably
- in every country there are a number of parties in contention
- Societies that are more diverse and have more cleavages are likely to have more parties
- BUT: In most countries, there are *far more* divisions in society than there are parties
- Explanation:
  - **Cross-cutting / reinforcing cleavages**
  - **Institutions. The rules of the electoral system profoundly shape party systems.**

# Cleavage structures

Polarizing cleavages

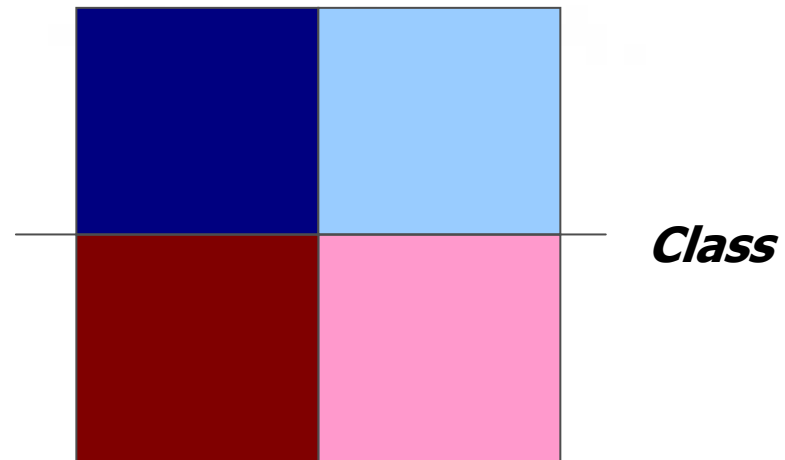
*Class, religion, ethnicity*



**Deeply divided**

Cross-cutting cleavages

*Religion*



**Moderate division**

# Cleavage structures

- **Cleavages find expression in:**
  - Composition in governments
  - Government outputs (policies)
  - Stability of governments

**Sartori:**  
**'Parties are the central intermediaries between society and government'**





Author	Principle for Classification	Principle Types of Party systems identified
<b>Duverger (1954)</b>	Numbers of parties	Two-party systems Multi-party system
<b>Dahl (1966)</b>	Competitiveness of opposition	Strictly competitive Cooperative-competitive Coalescent-competitive Strictly coalescent
<b>Blondel (1968)</b>	Numbers of parties Relative size of parties	Two-party systems Two-and-a-half-party systems Multi-party systems with one dominant party Multi-party systems without dominant party
<b>Sartori (1976)</b>	Numbers of parties Ideological distance	Two-party systems Moderate pluralism Polarized pluralism Predominant-party system



## Party system evaluation

***A party system is the more or less stable configuration of political parties which normally compete in national elections.***

**(Bale 2008)**

**Party competition based upon:**

- **1. Number of relevant parties**
- **2. Fragmentation**
- **3. Relative strength of parties**
- **4. Party system dynamics**

# Party System Criteria

- 1. number of relevant parties -

- Austria
- Ireland
- Germany (until 1990)

**Usually 3-4 parties in Parliament**

- Netherlands
- Italy
- Switzerland

**At least 10 parties in Parliament**



**increasing Openness  
=  
Greater opportunity structures,  
outcome unpredictable**

# Party System Criteria

## - 2. Fragmentation -

**Germany (3/4/5)**  
**Austria (3)**  
**Ireland (3)**  
**Greece (2/3)**

Low level of fragmentation (2-4)  
Simple pattern of party competition

**Norway (5/7)**  
**Finland (5)**  
**Sweden (5/6)**  
**Spain (4/5)**

Moderate level of fragmentation (4-6)  
Limited pluralism

**Denmark (9/11)**  
**Italy (10/13)**  
**Netherlands (9/12)**  
**Switzerland (10)**

High level of fragmentation (10+)  
Extreme pluralism



**increasing  
complexity of  
domestic politics**

# Party System Criteria

## - 3. Relative strength of parties -

<b>Dominant party</b>	<b>2-party</b>	<b>2-block</b>	<b>Party parity</b>
<b>SWEDEN - SAP NORWAY - Labour IRELAND - FF ITALY - DC (pre-1990)</b>	<b>AUSTRIA GREECE SPAIN PORTUGAL</b>	<b>FRANCE ITALY (post 1990) GERMANY</b>	<b>BELGIUM DENMARK FINLAND ICELAND NETHERLANDS SWITZERLAND</b>



**Likelihood of  
coalition  
governments**



# 'Effective Number of Parties'

$$\text{ENP} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^M v_i^2}$$

- M is the absolute number of parties
- $v_i$  is the vote share for party 1,2, ... M

# 'Effective Number of Parties'

- If all parties are of equal size, effective number = absolute number
- $1/(0.5^2+0.5^2)=1/(0.25+0.25)=2$
- If sizes of parties differ, effective number is lower than absolute number
- $1/(0.5^2+0.3^2+0.1^2+0.1^2)=1/(0.25+0.09+0.01+0.01)=2.78$

# Party System Criteria

## - 4. Dynamics of party competition -

**Bipolar  
competition**

**multipolar  
competition**



dynamics



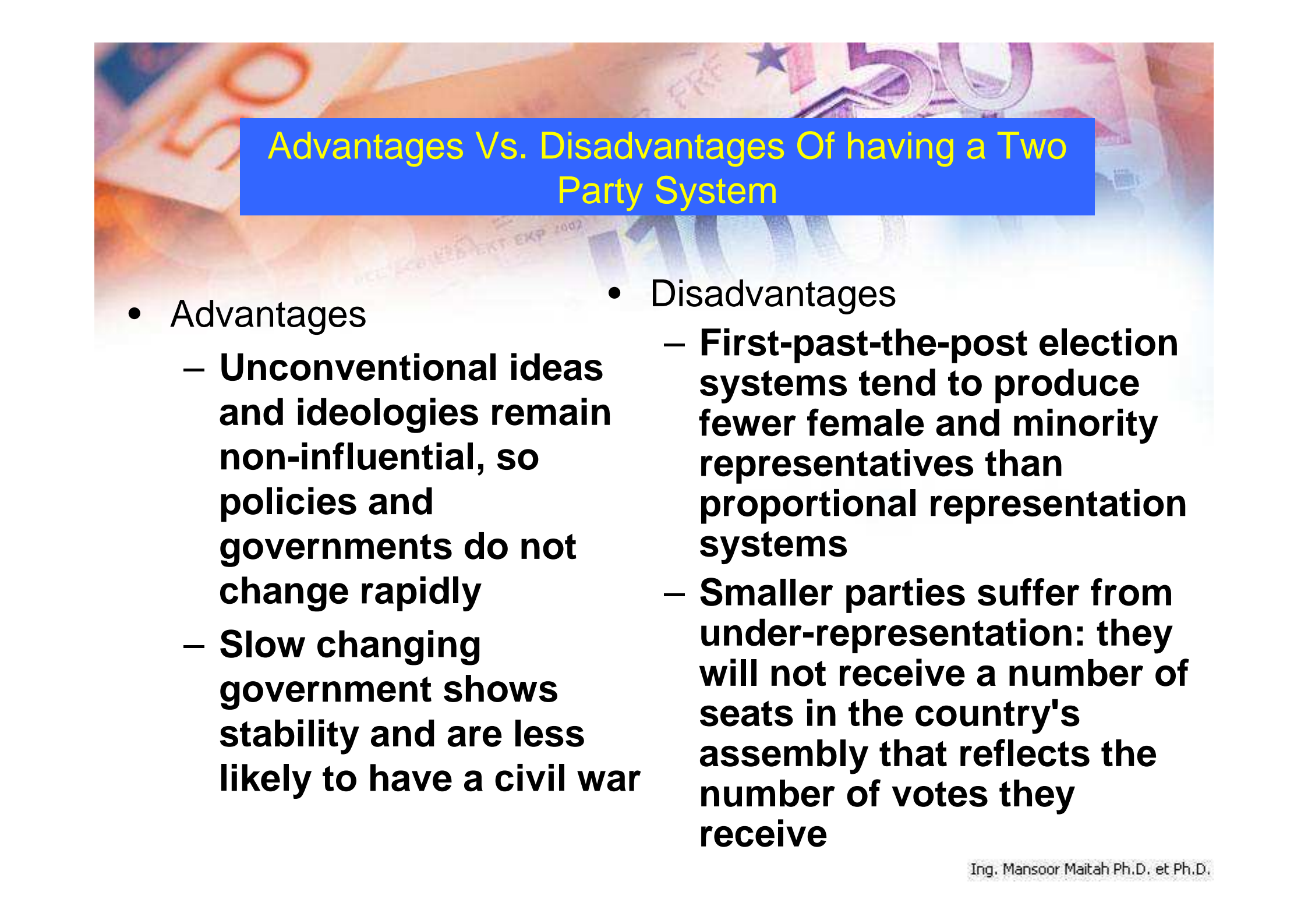
GREECE  
GERMANY  
IRELAND  
PORTUGAL

DENMARK  
FINLAND  
NETHERLANDS  
SWITZERLAND



## What is a Two Party System of Government?

- A type of system where only two parties have a realistic chance of winning an election
- Countries with a two party system are
  - **United Kingdom**
  - **USA**
  - **Jamaica**
  - **New Zealand**



## Advantages Vs. Disadvantages Of having a Two Party System

- Advantages
  - Unconventional ideas and ideologies remain non-influential, so policies and governments do not change rapidly
  - Slow changing government shows stability and are less likely to have a civil war
- Disadvantages
  - First-past-the-post election systems tend to produce fewer female and minority representatives than proportional representation systems
  - Smaller parties suffer from under-representation: they will not receive a number of seats in the country's assembly that reflects the number of votes they receive





## What do Republicans Support/Believe?

- They are generally conservative
- believe in:
  - the reduction of government
  - the status quo (keeping things the same)



## What do Republicans Support/Believe?

- **They fall on the right side of the political ideology spectrum**
- Favor keeping things the way they are.
  - **usually hesitant or cautious about adopting new policies, especially if they involve government activism.**
  - **Constitution should remain constant through the years**
  - **Favors tradition over change**
- They feel that the less government there is, the better.
- They especially want **less** government concerning economic matters.
- They actually support **more** government involvement in social matters.



## What do Democrats Support/Believe?

- They are generally liberal
- believe in:
  - **government regulation of the economy and greater support of social programs**
  - **gradual change**
- They fall on the left side of the political spectrum.



# Differences In Major Parties

- **Republican Party**
  - Founded in 1854
  - Is considered to be the more conservative party
- **Major Policies they Support**
  - 2003 invasion of Iraq
  - Traditional Values and Stances: Abortion, and Gay Marriage



# Differences in Major Parties

- **Democratic Party**
  - Founded in 1792
  - The party started out as the conservative party in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Later moved to the Left of Center during the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- **Major Policies they Support**
  - Against racial profiling in the war on terror
  - Major issues that affects civil liberties





## Great Britain's Political Parties in a Two-Party System

- Labour Party:
  - ➔ Left: militant trade unionist,  
intellectual radicalism,  
want industry nationalized,  
higher taxes on rich,  
leave the European Union  
no nuclear weapons



## Great Britain's Political Parties in a Two-Party System

### **Conservative Party**

→ **Right: Is moderate and centrist**  
wants no government  
takeovers of industry,  
is pro NATO, pro Europe,  
pro American foreign policy.



## Germany's Political Parties: Mixed-Member Proportional System

- Christian Democratic Union (CDU) with Christian Social Union (CSU): old Catholic based center party, after WWII, became more inclusive to protestant religion membership. It follows a Social Market economy philosophy, later expanded the “Welfare State Modell Deutschland”: concerns for all social groups. Workers/unions participate in company policymaking.
- Social Democratic Party (SPD): originally Marxist, in 1959 dropped Marxism. Represents traditional working class, but also attracts middle class, especially intellectuals.  
Now, a center-left party (Schroeder’s “Third Way”): less government, more shared responsibility, open markets.



## Germany's Political Parties: Mixed-Member Proportional System

- Greens Party: ecology-pacifist party. Once radical in '60s - '80s, now pragmatic and are in Bundestag and Bundesrat since 1990s. By 2002, won 8.6% of national vote.wants to phase out nuclear plants. wants high taxes on gasoline.
- This is the last slide of the lecture
- Slides 50 to 58 are not included in the exam!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



*Thank You for your Attention*





# History of Political Parties

- **First parties developed over the Constitution.**
- **George Washington not a member of any party (warned against “factions”)**
- **Federalists (Hamilton) and Democratic-Republican (Jefferson)**
- **Federalists gradually faded out and Democratic-Republican party dominated.**
- **Democrats and Whigs were two major parties until the 1850’s.**





# History of Political Parties

- **Democratic and Republican Parties**
  - Republican party formed from Whigs and anti-slavery democrats.
  - 1860 – Lincoln first Republican president.
  - Democratic and Republican parties are two dominant parties today.



# History of Political Parties

- **Third Parties**
  - **While two parties dominate in the U.S., other parties can and do exist.**
  - **Third Parties – minor parties that have competed with the major parties.**
  - **Types of Third Parties**
    - Single Issue (Prohibitionist Party)
    - Ideological Parties (Communist Party USA)
    - Independent Candidates



# Political Parties

- **Third Parties from History and Today**
  - Populist (called for 8 hour work day and election of senators)
  - Progressive (supported more direct government by the people – initiatives and primaries)
  - Green
  - Libertarian
  - Reform
- **Roles of Third Parties**
  - To bring attention to certain issues (the two parties sometimes adopt ideas of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties).
  - To challenge the two major parties.



# Organization of Parties

- The two parties are organized in three levels
  - **Local**
  - **State**
  - **National**
- National Level
  - **Each party has a National Committee with a National Chairperson.**
  - **National convention meets once every four years to nominate presidential candidates and write the Party Platform.**
    - Party Platform is the party's statement of beliefs.
    - Consists of Planks.



# Organization of Parties

- State and Local Levels
  - **State Level focuses on state elections (Governor, State Legislators, Cabinet Members, etc.)**
  - **Local Level**
    - Most of the work of parties is carried out by local levels and local volunteers.
    - Campaign for and support candidates at all three levels in elections.
    - County Committees are largest local organization.
    - Local level is further divided into precincts that align with voting precincts.
    - Political Machines – local levels that become so strong as to always have their candidates elected.





## How the Parties Differ

- Democrats and Republicans
  - **Have similar goals, but have different ideas on how to accomplish them.**
    - Issues include the economy, education, national security, etc.
  - **Democrats**
    - Traditionally supported by working class, minorities, unions, Catholics.
    - Tend to favor greater, direct government involvement in the economy to accomplish social goals.
      - Higher taxes and greater government spending on social assistance programs to help the poor.





## How the Parties Differ

- Democrats and Republicans (cont.)
  - **Republicans**
    - Traditionally supported by businesspersons, Protestants, and people who believe in smaller government.
    - Republicans generally oppose greater, direct government involvement in the economy.
      - Believe that government involvement inhibits the economy, making self-sufficiency more difficult.



# Roles of Political Parties

- Nominate candidates for Political Office
  - **Primary Elections – elections within a party to select a candidate for a political office.**
    - ONLY ONE CANDIDATE FROM A PARTY MAY RUN FOR ONE OFFICE!
    - Closed Primary – only party members may vote.
    - Open Primary – non-party members may vote.
  - **Caucus – Party leaders select a candidate.**



*Thank You for your Attention*



## Literature

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