

Party-system formation in Europe and the ‘freezing hypothesis’

Session 01

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University of Lucerne

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01. Introduction to the course

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03. The origins of party-systems in Europe

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- Presentations

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 4. The 'freezing hypothesis' revisited: Mair & Bartolini in the 90s

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- What is a party-system?
- The interaction of parties competing in the given electoral market. It is characterised by the number, size, and ideological preferences of the parties, among other aspects

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- In the end, party politics is a crucial aspect of political science: 'the science of (public) power'
- In this seminar, we will try to understand why European party-systems looks like they are today, considering how they were born and evolve, which will surely help us to assess the future that awaits us (but never predict it!)

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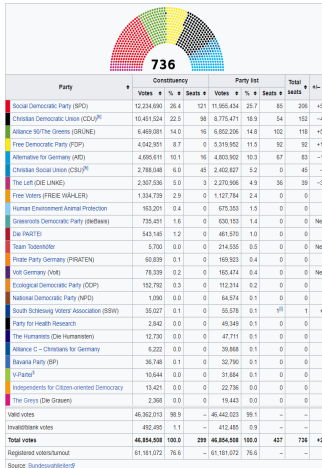


Figure 1: German Federal electoral results, images from Wikipedia

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