

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [When Rural and Urban Become “Us” versus “Them”: How a Growing Divide is Reshaping American Politics](#)

Article Link: <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/for-2021-2029/html?lang=en>

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Publication	The Forum
Publication Date	April 20, 2023

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Summary: Throughout the mid-twentieth century and as recently as the 1970s and 1980s, presidential candidates received fairly equivalent support from rural and urban dwellers, nationwide. Since the 1990s, however, the rural-urban political cleavage has grown steadily as shown in Figure 1. Although the rural-urban political divide in presidential voting has increased the most in the South, by 27 points between 1976 and 2020, it has widened in all regions over the same period, by seven points in the Northeast, 18 points in the West, and a striking 20 points in the Midwest. Urban areas captured a full 97% of all employment growth between 2001 and 2016. As the economic conditions in rural and urban areas diverged, the rural-urban political divide emerged.

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