

Punctuated Equilibrium Theory

- The balance of political power between groups is relatively stable over long periods of time.
- Sudden shifts **punctuate** this balance of power due to changes in
 - public understanding of policy problems or
 - the balance of power between groups seeking to fight for or against policy change.

Punctuated Equilibrium Theory

- Based on policy monopolies:
 - Policy monopolies are groups that dominate the policy process
 - they form a subsystem
 - they are able to control the policy agenda with a relatively few number of policy actors
 - this leads to policy stability but
 - an inability to respond to external events