

# Prominent Works

## 1) Theoretical Works

- Meer (2017) has a good discussion of the conceptualization of “political trust”, such as the subjects of political trust, and its distinction with related concepts, such as “political support”, skepticism, etc.
- Almond and Verba (1963) argue that the sense of trust in the political elite makes citizens willing to turn power over to them, and, the maintenance of elite power is essential in a democracy.
- Marc J. Hetherington (1998) provides a comprehensive overview of the debates surrounding the political relevance of political trust. One classic approach views political trust as stemming from the assessment of incumbents and institutions, akin to specific support, and posits limited political relevance toward the regime. In contrast, the other classic approach regards political trust as akin to diffuse support. Therefore, while political trust may be influenced by the evaluation of regime performance, it can also significantly contribute to negative evaluations of the regime. Two mechanisms were discussed in this context: 1) Diminishing trust in political institutions calls into question the legitimacy of democracy, which is founded on these institutions. 2) Distrust leads to disapproval, which in turn hinders leaders’ ability to mobilize resources to address issues, resulting in fewer problems being solved. Consequently, distrust creates conditions conducive to further distrust.
- Martin (2010) provides a good summary of old debate over the political relevance of political trust. Arthur Miller (1974), Stokes (1962) and Almond and Verba (1963) suggested that the public’s feelings toward government, such as political trust, are of immense significance the stability of the regime as a whole. But, Citrin (1974) argues low political trust is mainly produced by dissatisfaction with incumbents, but not affecting diffuse support for democracy.

## 2) Empirical Works

- Marien and Hooghe (2011) examine the relation between trust in the institutions of the political system and law-abiding attitudes using the 1999–2001 European Values Study. In this study, “political trust” is operationalized as an index summing up trust in parliament, in the justice system, in the armed forces, and in the police. They find citizens with low levels of trust feel it more acceptable to break the law, such as commit tax fraud.
- Dalton (2004) reports that there is a rising trend of political distrust in advanced industrial democracies, which may erode the vitality of democracy and bring political change. Citizens who do not trust government and institutions appear to be less willing to comply with the law and the directives of government. Distrustful citizens also appear to be less involved in the traditional channels of representative democracy, such as voting and campaign activity, but are more likely to seek influence through protest and other direct forms of action.
- Marc J. Hetherington (2005) explores the consequences political trust on policy level, using the case of public support for redistributive programs in the U.S. He finds that, as political trust declines, citizens tend to prefer smaller government, even though their values do not become less liberal. In a later study, Marc J. Hetherington and Husser (2012) show the effect of political trusts dependent on political issue’s salience and media coverage.
- (hetherington1998?) used Structural Equation Modeling with 1988 and 1996 NES, and political trust is measured by asking four questions about one’s trust in the government in Washington. The result demonstrates that political trust is related to the diffuse and specific support. Specifically, trust’s effect on feelings about the incumbent president, a measure of specific support, is even stronger than the reverse. However, it is not the case for feelings about Congress
- Martin (2010) uses 2007 Australian Election Study (AES) and political trust is measured by asking a question of trust in government. It uses the OLS and the results demonstrates that higher trust in government increases positive attitudes to democracy, but not affect anti-democratic attitudes. Also, higher trust increases the probability of voting.

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