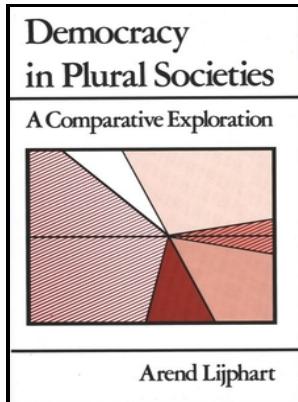


Democracies - patterns of majoritarian and consensus government in twenty-one countries

Yale University Press - Democracies: Patterns of Majoritarian and Consensus Government in Twenty



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. In order to maintain majority rule, the majority must control not only the central government apparatus but also all noncentral, potentially competing, governments. The majoritarian model is one of executive dominance, whereas the consensus model is characterized by a more balanced executive-legislative relationship.

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Are majoritarian or proportional electoral systems better?

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There are consequences of proportional systems that might be less desirable however. We shall find that the socioeconomic dimension tends to predominate but that strictly unidimensional party systems are rare. When 80% of the electorate were against an increase in higher education tuition fees, why did the coalition, which should more accurately represent the median voter, vote to increase fees, and who, of the Liberal Democrats or the Conservatives, are voters to blame at the ballot box? With the exception of some dissident terrorist attacks, the peace accord in Northern

Ireland is strong, arguably because of the choice of proportional electoral system that means citizens on both sides of the religious divide have representation within the Assembly.

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. This book is the broadest and most thorough comparative study of democratic regimes available and will be especially suitable for course use. None-the-less, countries continue to adopt different types of electoral system in the hope of achieving the best political outcomes — but what are these outcomes, and are they a benefit to the citizens within those countries? Of course the crux of the issue with electoral systems is not the system itself, but the types of parliament and government that form because of the electoral system.

Democracies

The final section of the chapter will discuss the. This essay will assess the consequences of each type of system, with relation to the formation of parliaments arising from each, leading to a conclusion that neither is more beneficial and in fact a third way is possible and preferable. The pure majoritarian model calls for the concentration of legislative power in a single chamber; the pure consensus model is characterized by a bicameral legislature in which power is divided equally between two differently constituted chambers.

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