

PSC 202

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

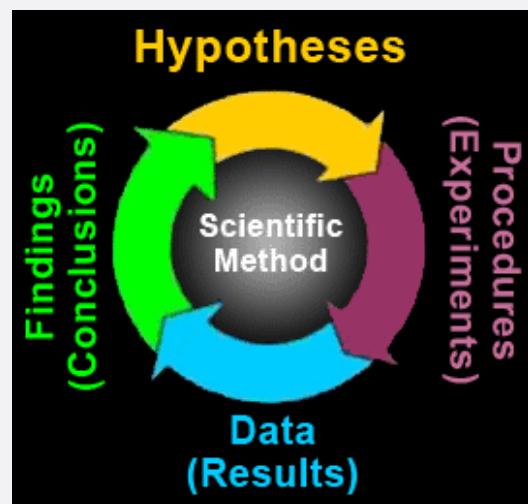
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ANALYSIS DEVELOPING THEORIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

HOUSEKEEPING

- First problem set due on Friday
- Another reading quiz due Wednesday

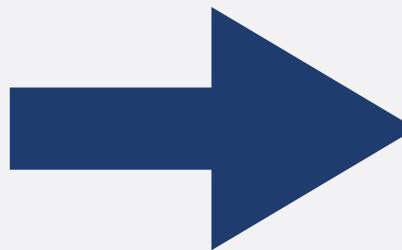
RECAP

- **Formulate research question**
- Propose explanation/theory, hypotheses
- Data collection process
- Use data to evaluate hypotheses
- Reassess explanation



CURRENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Extremist/moderate
nominee



Electoral punishment
by different voters

- Research question: Who punishes extremist nominees in general elections?

CURRENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Who Punishes Extremist Nominees? Candidate Ideology and Turning Out the Base in US Elections

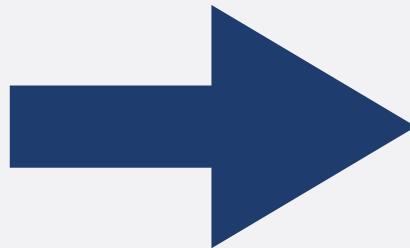
ANDREW B. HALL^(a1) and DANIEL M. THOMPSON^(a1) 

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055418000023> Published online: 07 March 2018

Political observers, campaign experts, and academics alike argue bitterly over whether it is more important for a party to capture ideologically moderate swing voters or to encourage turnout among hardcore partisans. The behavioral literature in American politics suggests that voters are not informed enough, and are too partisan, to be swing voters, while the institutional literature suggests that moderate candidates tend to perform better. We speak to this debate by examining the link between the ideology of congressional candidates and the turnout of their parties' bases in US House races, 2006–2014. Combining a regression discontinuity design in close primary races with survey and administrative data on individual voter turnout, we find that extremist nominees—as measured by the mix of campaign contributions they receive—suffer electorally, largely because they *decrease* their party's share of turnout in the general election, skewing the electorate towards their opponent's party. The results help show how the behavioral and institutional literatures can be connected. For our sample of elections, turnout appears to be the dominant force in determining election outcomes, but it advantages ideologically moderate candidates because extremists appear to activate the opposing party's base more than their own.

CURRENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Censorship



Access to
information

- Research question: What is the effect of censorship on access to information?

CURRENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How Sudden Censorship Can Increase Access to Information

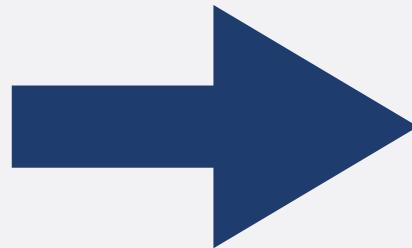
WILLIAM R. HOBBS^(a1) and MARGARET E. ROBERTS^(a2) 

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055418000084> Published online: 02 April 2018

Conventional wisdom assumes that increased censorship will strictly decrease access to information. We delineate circumstances when increases in censorship expand access to information for a substantial subset of the population. When governments suddenly impose censorship on previously uncensored information, citizens accustomed to acquiring this information will be incentivized to learn methods of censorship evasion. These evasion tools provide continued access to the newly blocked information—and also extend users' ability to access information that has long been censored. We illustrate this phenomenon using millions of individual-level actions of social media users in China before and after the block of Instagram. We show that the block inspired millions of Chinese users to acquire virtual private networks, and that these users subsequently joined censored websites like Twitter and Facebook. Despite initially being apolitical, these new users began browsing blocked political pages on Wikipedia, following Chinese political activists on Twitter, and discussing highly politicized topics such as opposition protests in Hong Kong.

EXERCISE

Social Contact



Discrimination

- Research question: Can social contact reduce prejudice and discrimination?

CURRENT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Can Social Contact Reduce Prejudice and Discrimination? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Nigeria

ALEXANDRA SCACCO ^(a1) and SHANA S. WARREN ^(a2) 

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055418000151> Published online: 04 April 2018

Can positive social contact between members of antagonistic groups reduce prejudice and discrimination? Despite extensive research on social contact, observational studies are difficult to interpret because prejudiced people may select out of contact with out-group members. We overcome this problem by conducting an education-based, randomized field experiment—the Urban Youth Vocational Training program (UYVT)—with 849 randomly sampled Christian and Muslim young men in riot-prone Kaduna, Nigeria. After sixteen weeks of positive intergroup social contact, we find no changes in prejudice, but heterogeneous-class subjects discriminate significantly less against out-group members than subjects in homogeneous classes. We trace this finding to increased discrimination by homogeneous-class subjects compared to non-UYVT study participants, and we highlight potentially negative consequences of in-group social contact. By focusing on skill-building instead of peace messaging, our intervention minimizes reporting bias and offers strong experimental evidence that intergroup social contact can alter behavior in constructive ways, even amid violent conflict.

CURRENT RESEARCH, EXPLAINED

Monkey Cage

What's the Monkey Cage?

Analysis

State legislators make big decisions. So why do they get tiny paychecks?

New research uncovered one surprising reason.



Christopher Cooper

Analysis

On Labor Day, we remember the Black women who helped win labor rights

100 years ago, Nannie Helen Burroughs launched the National Association of Wage Earners — part of her effort to integrate comprehensive labor reform into the movement for voting rights.



Danielle Phillips-Cunningham

Analysis

In Texas abortion law, conservatives adopted the progressive playbook — and used it against them

Conservatives have built up an army of lawyers and organizations that can use “private rights of action” to enforce their goals — much as civil rights lawyers and groups do.



Joshua C. Wilson

- www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage

CURRENT RESEARCH, EXPLAINED

THE DUCK OF MINERVA

THE WEEK BEFORE 9/11: A DIFFERENT ANNIVERSARY

by Peter Henne | Sep 8, 2021 | Security



What was I thinking before I realized the world outside my campus was real? The foreign policy world is gearing up for the twentieth anniversary of 9/11 next week. There will be think pieces,...

NEOLIBERALISTS, ANTI-IMPERIALISTS, AND THE CHINA QUESTION

by Van Jackson | Sep 7, 2021 | Political Economy, US Foreign Policy



Does China's more ambitious foreign policy and bid for "national rejuvenation" come at America's expense? It's a question where some neoliberals and some on the anti-imperialist left converge — in...

REPARATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE US WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

by Adam B. Lerner | Sep 5, 2021 | Featured, Human Rights, Security, States & Regions, US Foreign Policy



Though unlikely to happen any time soon, recent calls for the US to pay reparations to the Afghan people provide an opportunity to reflect on the complexities of reparations and global justice.

CURRENT RESEARCH, EXPLAINED



 Seth Masket 
Aug 26 • 3 min

The Recall We Were Warned About

In 2003, recall opponents warned that a new governor could win with just 15% of the vote. This year, that could actually happen.

2 



 Seth Masket 
Aug 24 • 3 min

What Future Presidents are Learning from Afghanistan

A future president would likely conclude that indefinite occupation will get you better press than withdrawal, even from an unpopular war.



- www.mischiefsoffaction.com

CURRENT RESEARCH, EXPLAINED

 **John B. Holbein** @JohnHolbein1 · Sep 5 · ...
"Replacing private campaign donations with public financing can actually damage substantive representation"
onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12345

 **AJPS** AMERICAN JOURNAL
of POLITICAL SCIENCE

Public Money Talks Too: How Public Campaign Financing Degrades Representation

Mitchell Kilborn and Arjun Vishwanath Harvard University

Abstract: Does public campaign financing improve representation by reducing politicians' reliance on wealthy donors as advocates claim, or does it worsen representation by expanding the candidate marketplace to give extreme and nonrepresentative candidates an electoral boost? We conduct a novel analysis of public financing programs in Arizona, Connecticut, and Maine to causally identify the effect of a legislator's funding status on how closely she represents constituent preferences. Using multiple identification strategies, we show that candidates who exclusively use public campaign financing are more extreme and less representative of their districts than nonpublicly financed candidates. Our findings add new evidence to the electoral reform debate by demonstrating how replacing private campaign donations with public financing can actually damage substantive representation. We also advance the scholarship on how institutions affect substantive representation and candidate positioning as they respond to new campaign financing structures.

 **John B. Holbein** @JohnHolbein1 · Sep 1

Many voters in are actually nostalgic for authoritarianism in post-authoritarian democracies. This shapes their political attitudes/behaviors.

Fascinating job market paper by [@SanghoonKim87](#): "Voting for Nostalgia?"

dropbox.com/s/rb16ffdjhjk9c...

Voting for Nostalgia?: Authoritarian Nostalgia, Social Identity, and Political Behavior

Sanghoon Kim-Leffingwell, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

August 17, 2021

Abstract

Legacies of an authoritarian past still leave enduring effects on voters' political

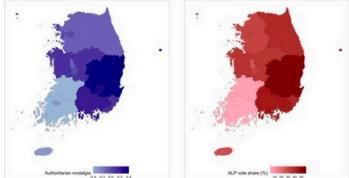


Figure 2: Geographic distribution of authoritarian nostalgia and vote share for the People Power Party: the panels show distributions of averages of authoritarian nostalgia and vote share for an authoritarian legacy party from the 2020 legislative election at the provincial level in South Korea.

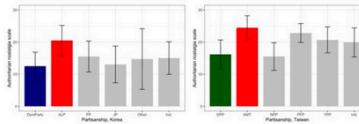
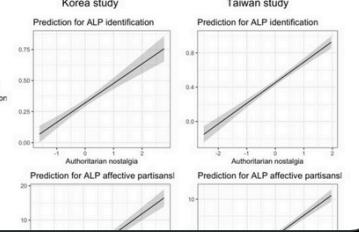


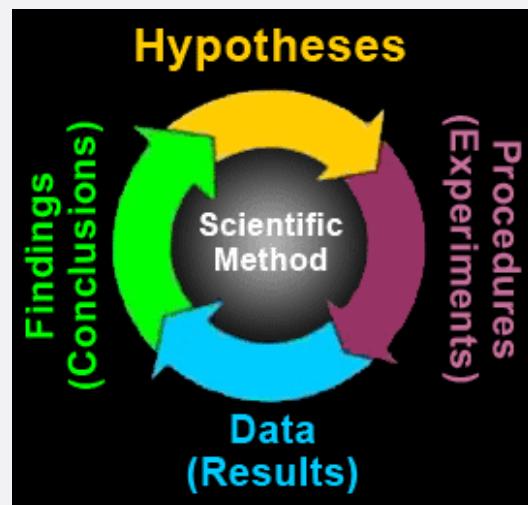
Figure 1: Authoritarian nostalgia by partisan identification: the figures show the mean authoritarian nostalgia with error bars across respondents' partisanship. Authoritarian legacies are highlighted in red, and the main Democratic parties are highlighted in blue (Ko in green (Taiwan)) (DemParty: Democratic Party; ALP: People Power Party; PP: People's Justice Party; DPP: Democratic Progressive Party; KMT: Kuomintang; NPP: New Power People First Party; TPP: Taiwan People's Party; Ind: Independents)



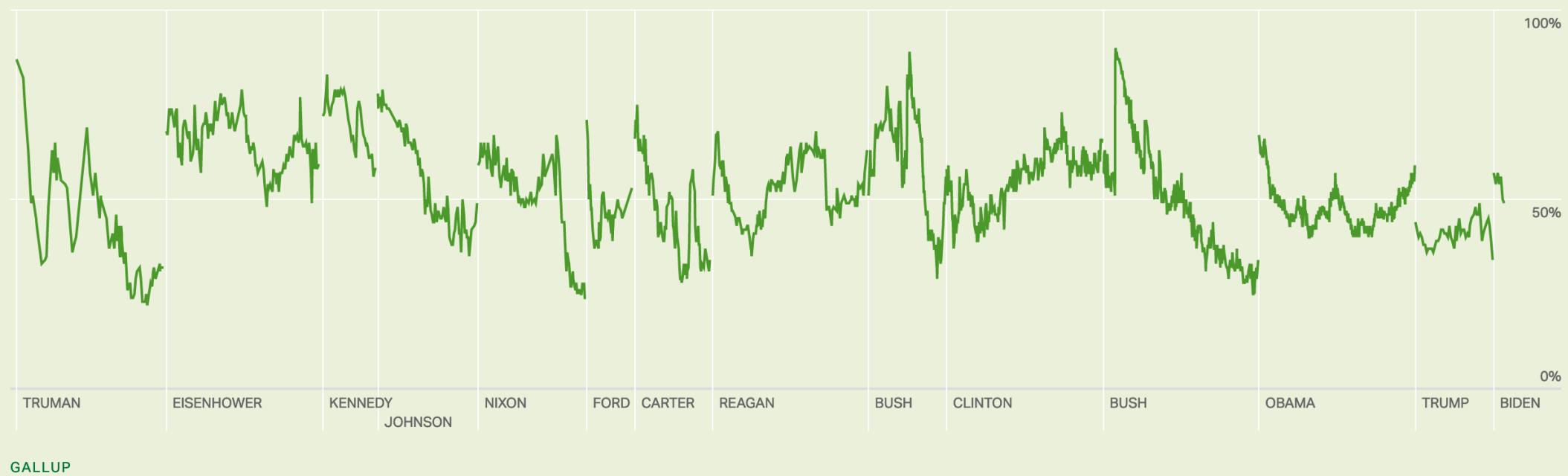
- twitter.com/JohnHolbein1

TODAY

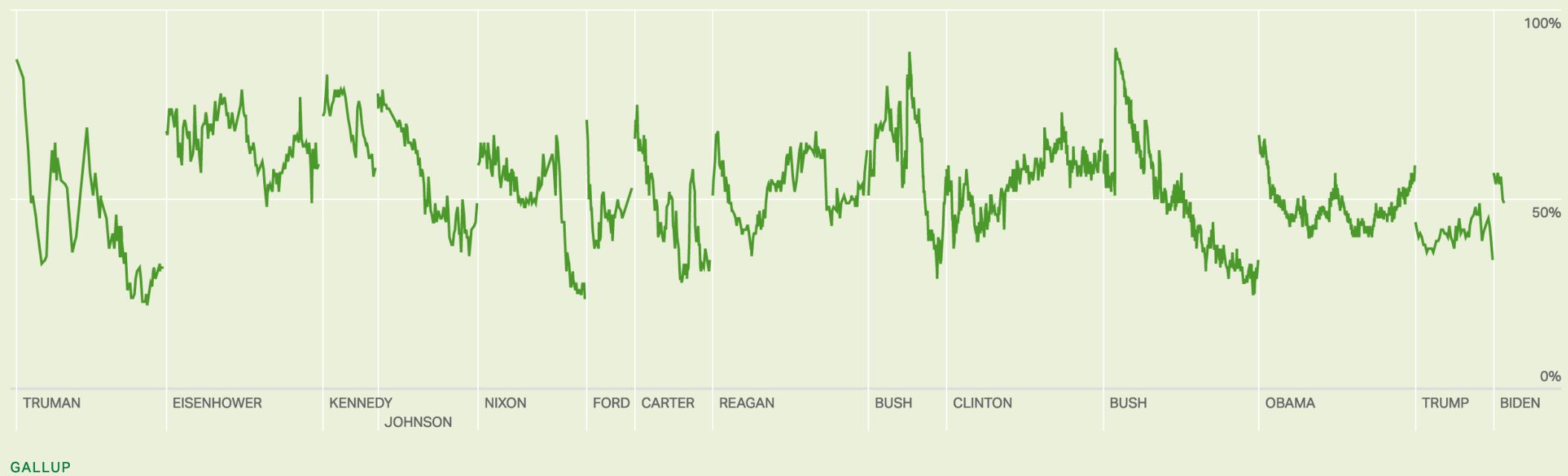
- Formulate research question
- Propose explanation/theory, hypotheses
- Data collection process
- Use data to evaluate hypotheses
- Reassess explanation



TODAY



TODAY



- What determines Presidential Approval Rating?

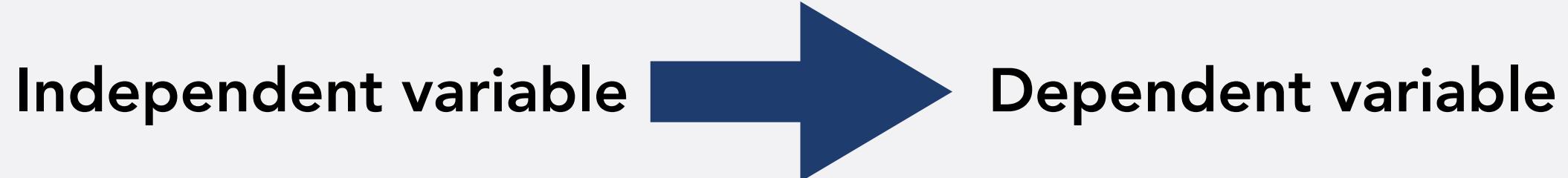
TODAY

- **What is a theory and how does it look?**
- **What are hallmarks of good social science theories?**

THEORY

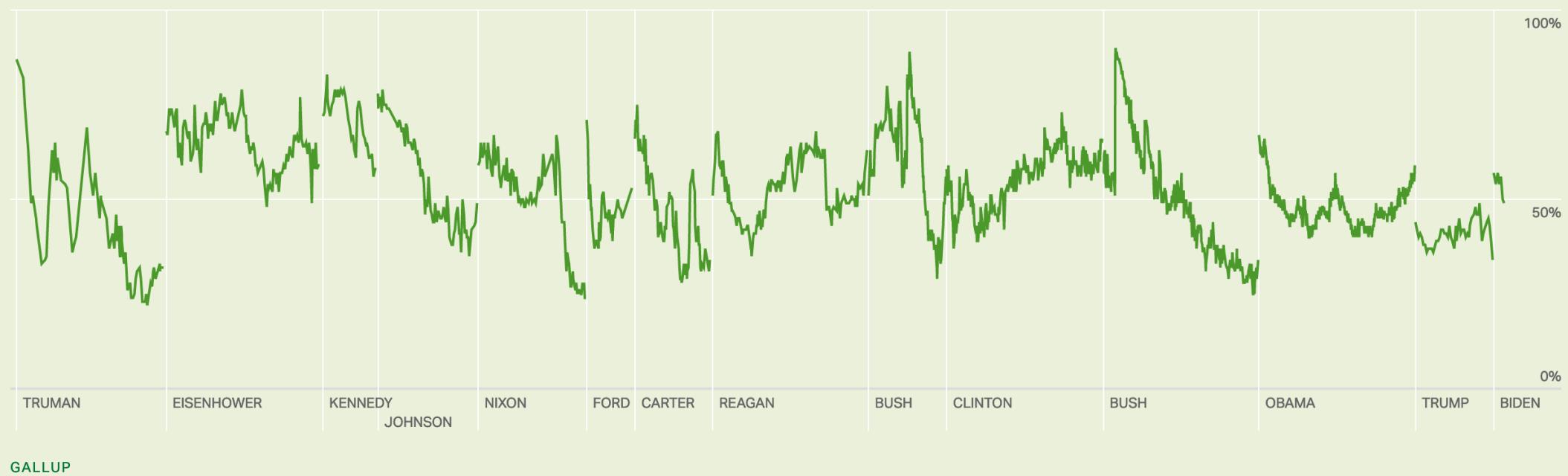
- Theory: Description of how we think the world works
 - with respect to our research question

THEORY

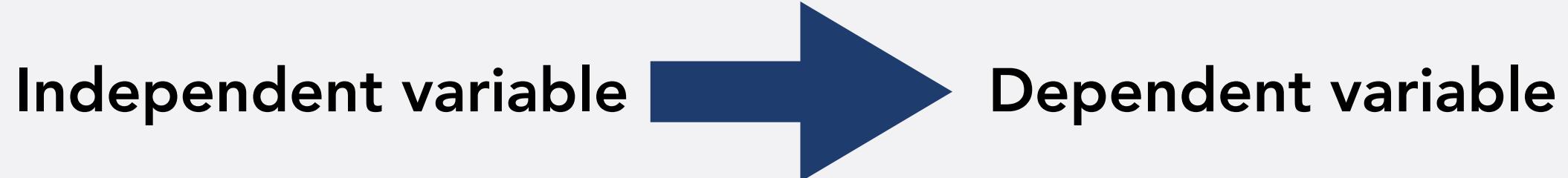


- Goal: Want to provide causal explanation for (variation in) dependent variable
 - Higher _____ causes higher _____
 - Or: Higher _____ causes lower _____

VARIATION



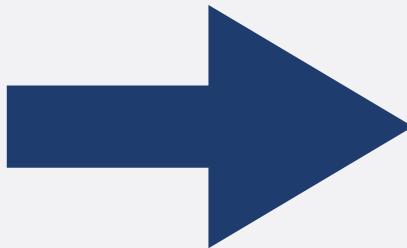
THEORY



- Goal: Want to provide causal explanation for (variation in) dependent variable
 - Higher _____ causes higher _____
 - Or: Higher _____ causes lower _____

THEORY EXAMPLE

Independent variable



Presidential
Approval Rating

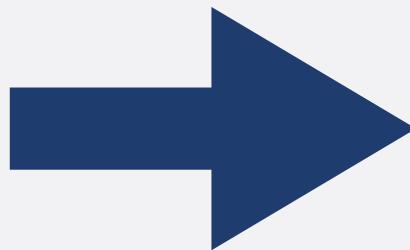
- Higher _____ causes higher Presidential Approval Ratings
- Or: Higher _____ causes lower Presidential Approval Ratings

THEORY EXAMPLE



EXAMPLE

Performance of
economy



Presidential
Approval Rating

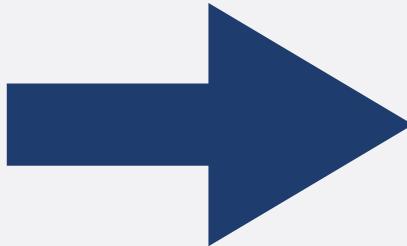
- Better economic performance causes higher Presidential approval rating

ITERATIVE APPROACH

- First: “What determines Presidential approval rating?”
- Now: “What is the effect of economic performance on Presidential approval rating?”
- Back and forth between question and theory
 - Potential refinement: “What is the effect of the unemployment rate on Presidential approval rating?”

CAUSAL THEORY

Independent variable

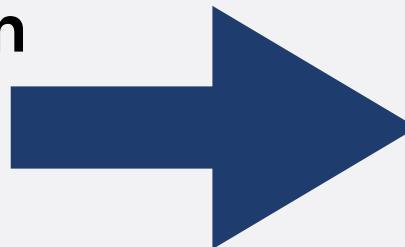


Presidential
Approval Rating

- Cannot just propose any independent variable
- Need to answer: Why do you think that this independent variable is *causally* related to the dependent variable?

A BAD THEORY

NFL: Whether Washington
wins last home game
before election

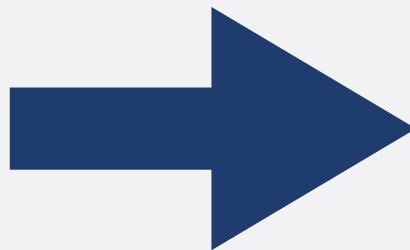


Presidential election:
Whether incumbent
party wins again

Year	Redskins Result	Election Result	Incumbent Party's White House Status	Rule Confirmed
1940	WIN vs. Steelers 37-10	Roosevelt (D) beats Willkie (R)	Keeps	Yes
1944	WIN vs. Rams 14-10	Roosevelt (D) def. Dewey (R)	Keeps	Yes
1948	WIN vs. Yanks 59-21	Truman (D) def. Dewey (R)	Keeps	Yes
1952	LOSE vs. Steelers 24-23	Eisenhower (R) def. Stevenson (D)	Loses	Yes
1956	WIN vs. Browns 20-9	Eisenhower (R) def. Stevenson (D)	Keeps	Yes
1960	LOSE vs. Brown 31-10	Kennedy (D) def. Nixon (R)	Loses	Yes
1964	WIN vs. Bears 27-20	Johnson (D) def. Goldwater (R)	Keeps	Yes
1968	LOSE vs. Giants 13-10	Nixon (R) def. Humphrey (D)	Loses	Yes
1972	WIN vs. Dallas 24-20	Nixon (R) def. McGovern (D)	Keeps	Yes
1976	LOSE vs. Cowboys 20-7	Carter (D) def. Ford (R)	Loses	Yes
1980	LOSE vs. Vikings 39-14	Reagan (R) def. Carter (D)	Loses	Yes
1984	WIN vs. Falcons 27-14	Reagan (R) def. Mondale (D)	Keeps	Yes
1988	WIN vs. Saints 27-24	Bush (R) def. Dukakis (D)	Keeps	Yes
1992	LOSE vs. Giants 24-7	Clinton (D) def. Bush (R)	Loses	Yes
1996	WIN vs. Colts 31-16	Clinton (D) def. Dole (R)	Keeps	Yes
2000	LOSE vs. Titans 27-21	Bush (R) def. Gore (D)	Loses	Yes
2004	LOSE vs. Packers 28-14	Bush (R) def. Kerry (D)	Keeps	No
2008	LOSE vs. Steelers 23-6	Obama (D) defeats McCain (R)	Loses	Yes
2012	LOSE vs. Panthers 21-13	Obama (D) defeats Romney (R)	Keeps	No
2016	WIN vs. Eagles 27-20	Clinton (D) v. Trump (R)	??	??

EXAMPLE

Performance of
economy

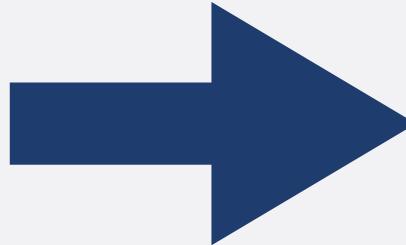


Presidential
Approval Rating

- Better economic performance causes higher Presidential approval rating
 - Why?

EXAMPLE

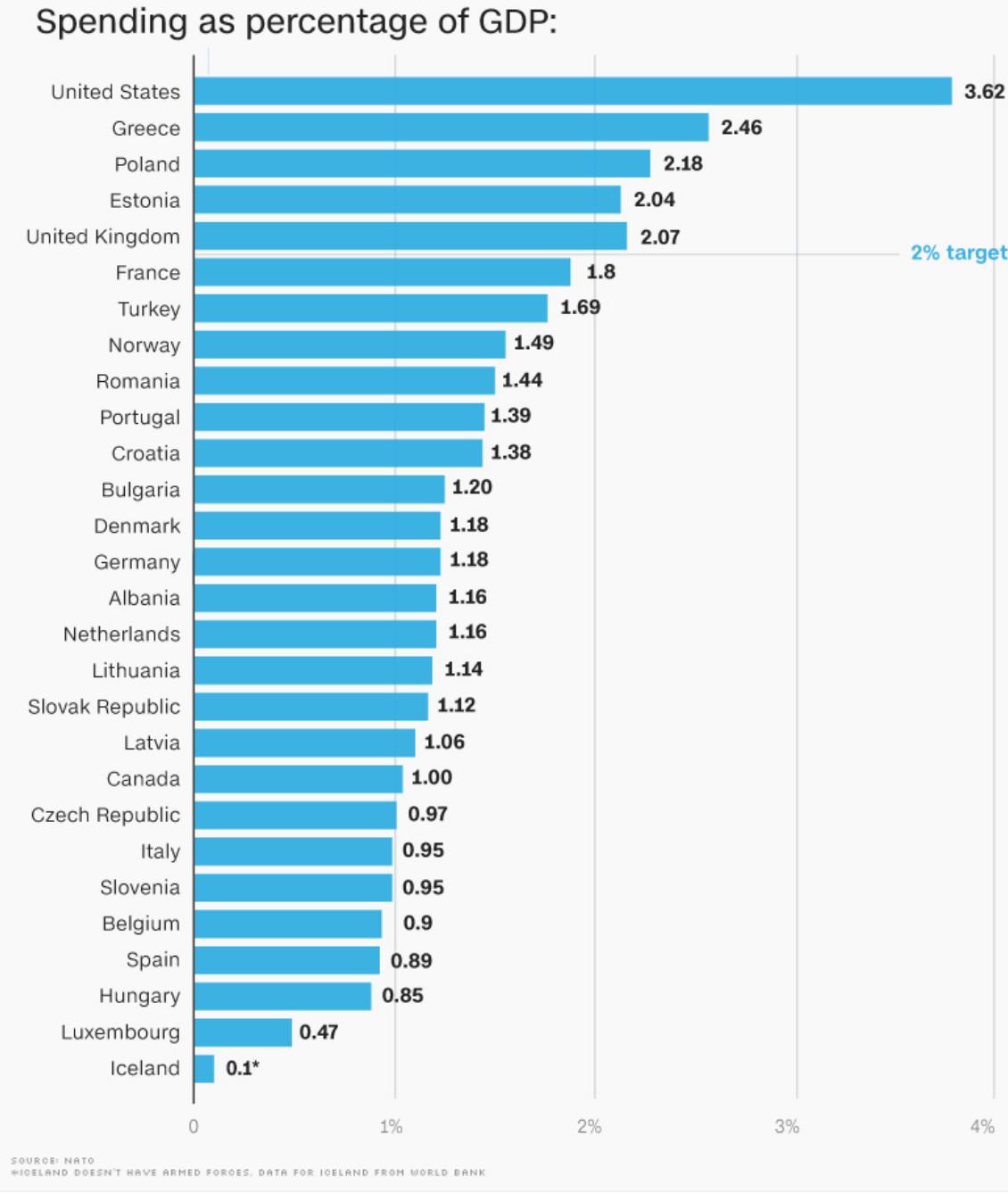
Performance of
economy



Presidential
Approval Rating

- Better economic performance causes higher Presidential approval rating
 - Causal explanation: Because state of economy allows voters to make inference about how competent President is

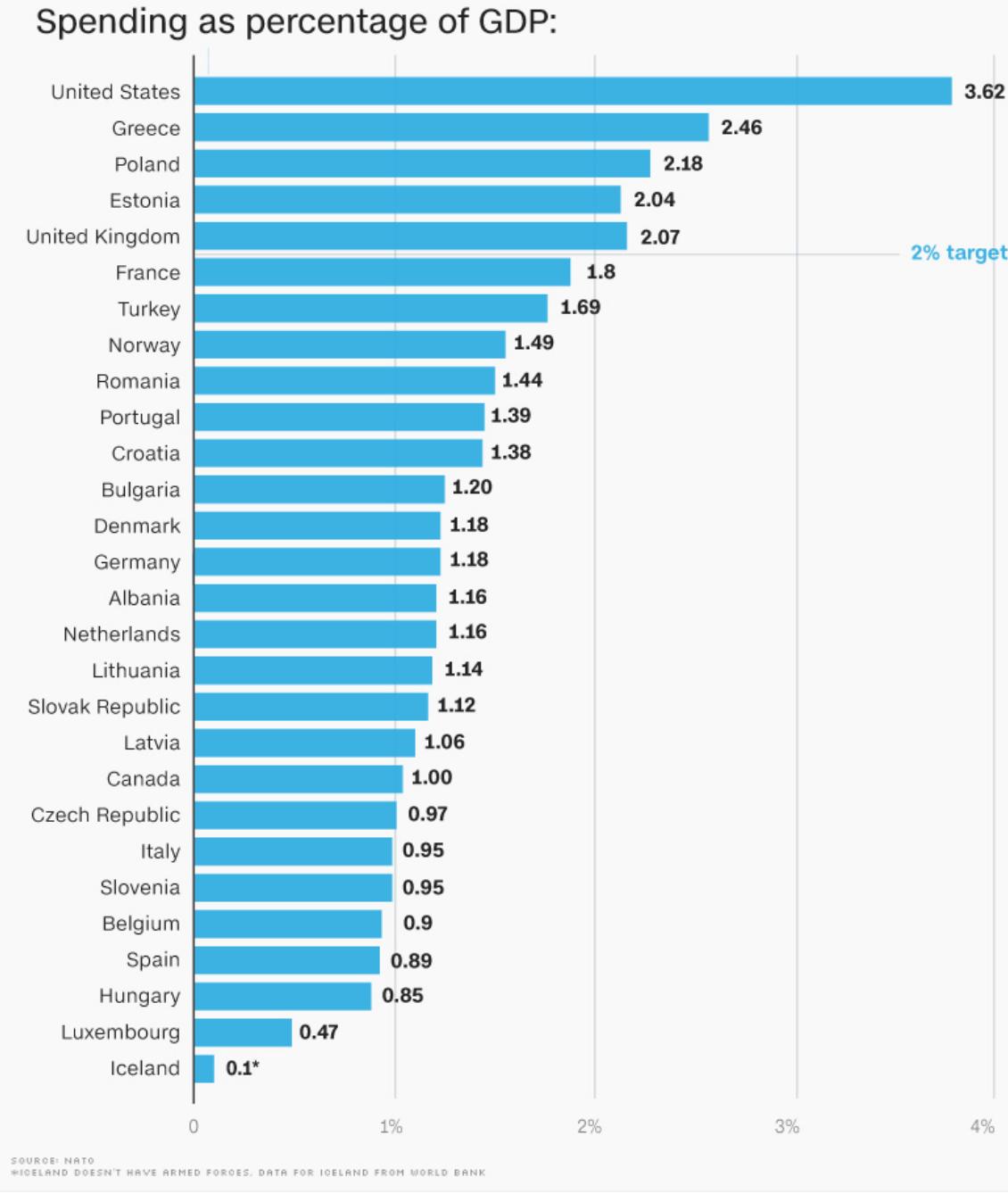
ANOTHER EXAMPLE



AN ASIDE

- Two types of variation to explain
 - cross-sectional variation
 - variation between *different observations at same point in time*
 - e.g. military spending of different countries in a certain year
 - time-series variation
 - variation within the *same observation over time*
 - e.g. Presidential approval rating

ANOTHER EXAMPLE



ANOTHER EXAMPLE

Independent variable → Military spending

- Higher _____ causes higher military spending
- or: Higher _____ causes lower military spending

TODAY

- What is a theory and how does it look?
- What are hallmarks of good social science theories?

GOOD THEORIES

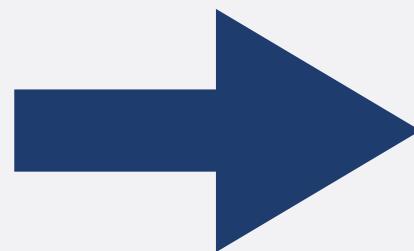
- *Good theory clarifies causal relationship between what does the explaining and what it to be explained*
 - Variable we want to explain: Dependent variable
 - Variable we use to explain the dependent variable: Independent variable
 - Theory must make clear *why* the independent variable explains the dependent variable (causal mechanism)

GOOD THEORIES

- **How to think about a causal mechanism**
 - We examine human decision-making:
 - Who are the actors that make the relevant decisions?
 - What are they trying to achieve?
 - What options do they have?
 - How does the independent variable affect the relevant actors' decisions?

EXAMPLE

Performance of
economy



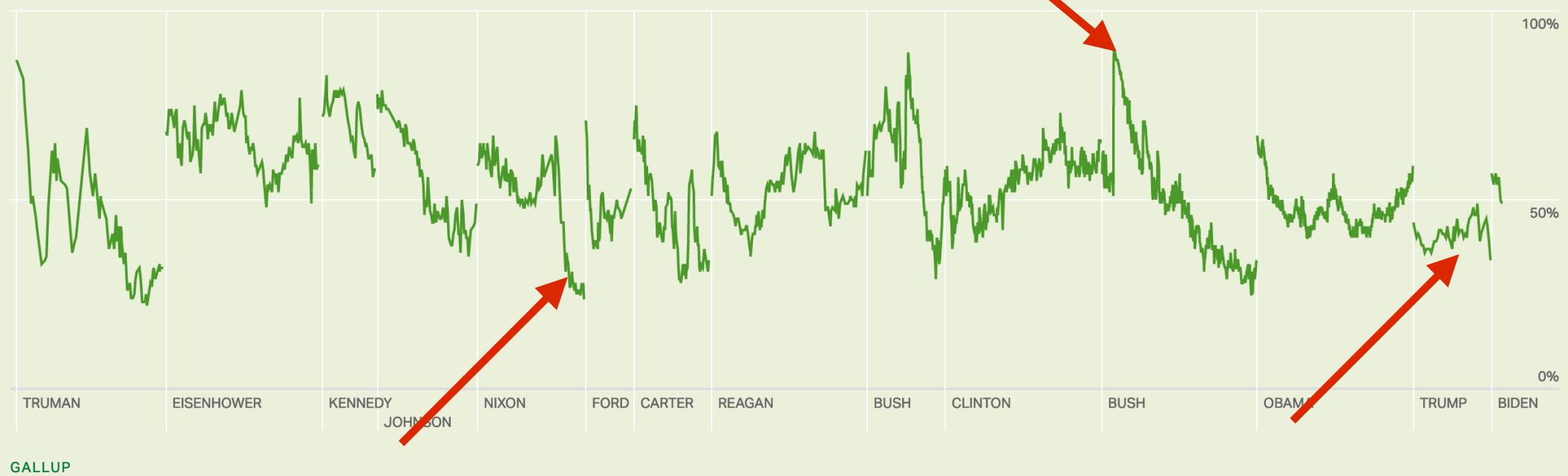
Presidential
Approval Rating

- Who are the actors that make the relevant decisions?
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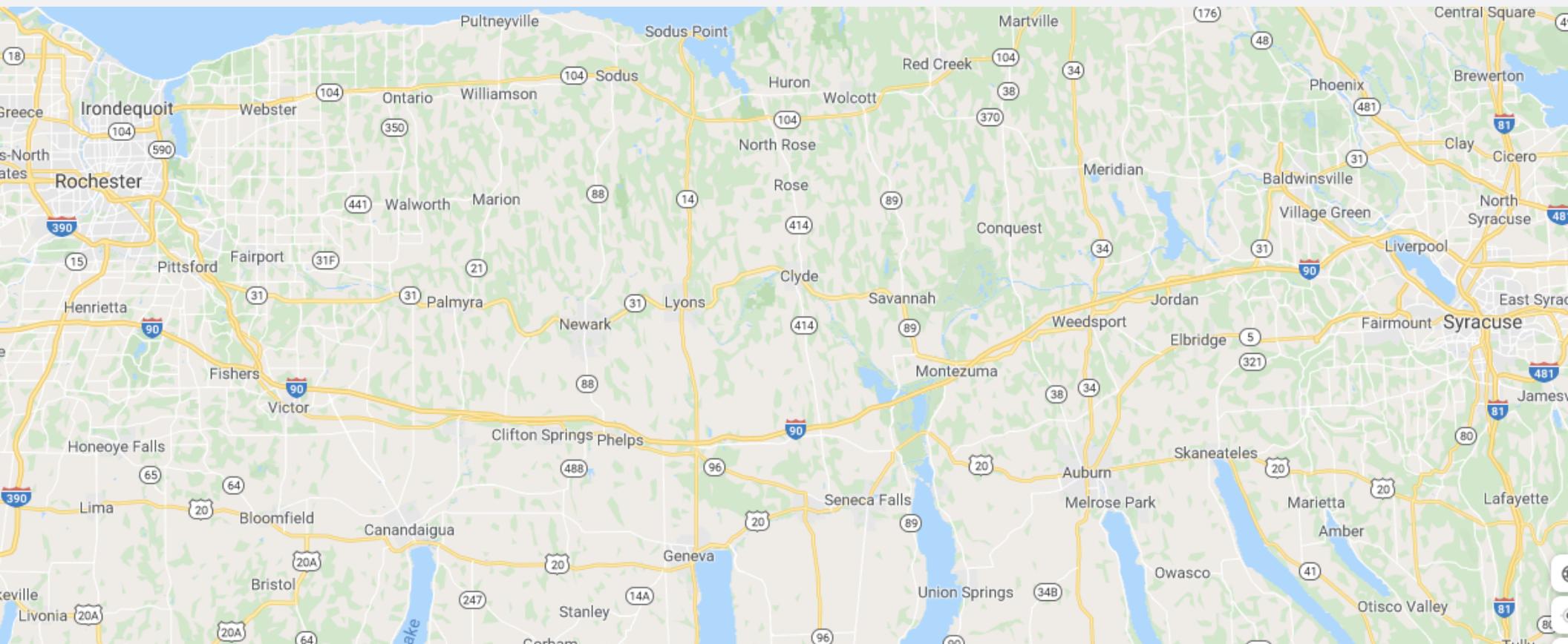
BUT...

- Isn't such a simple theory unrealistic?

YES...



YES, BUT...



THEORIES AS MAPS

- A theory is a map of how the world works
- Theory=simplification
- Simplification makes the theory useful
- Theory: Incomplete and simplified, but useful, description of social reality