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Current theories on divided government posit that there is a fervent linkage between party division and legislative gridlock, which has mainly been established through research on the responsible parties theory. In an attempt to satisfy this prior claim, this paper will concentrate on trends that have occurred in periods of divided government in the nineteenth century versus the twentieth in order to distinguish differences present that may lead to reasoning behind division and policy outcomes; the former timeframe has attested to divided government resulting from mid-term loss of unified control that was realized in the prior presidential election; whereas the latter, has been witness to divided control accompanying presidential elections as midterms; thus, it can be generated to place focus on patterns of defection and turnout for nineteenth century divided government, and split ticket voting should be the main area of interest for the twentieth century timeframe in order to bridge the gap between the two periods. The hypotheses derived from this research is one that expects both incumbency and gerrymandering effects to have a large impact on the growth of divided government and that this in turn will lead to legislative unresponsiveness. The methods used focus on patterns of unified government versus divided government between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in order to account for the percentage of policy outcomes in both periods; this is of relevance and should increase the significance of the results because previous literature largely focuses on small n studies of divided government after World War II. The results are indicative that a larger n sample that distinguishes between two timeframes does in fact produce more significant results than its counterpart; both incumbency and gerrymandering effects were significant for a two-tailed test at the .001, .01, and .05 levels, in which periods of divided versus unified government were found to have decreased policy outcomes during both timeframes. These conclusions lead to further implications for studies on divided government and legislative gridlock in that perhaps our current focus on institutions should allude from focus on responsible party theories, and rather be re-formulized to place an emphasis on the role institutions play leading to this area which so significantly inhibits policy output.

365 Words

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This paper will explore the peace reconciliation process in Bosnia after the conflict that began with the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The Bosnian conflict began in 1991 when Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence from Yugoslavia and ceased in 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Accord. While the fighting occurred within the borders of the former Yugoslavia, the parties involved were very separate in their national and ethnic identities. The divisions between the Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks were accentuated during the conflict by nationalistic rhetoric.

By evaluating the extent of reconciliation that has occurred between the different ethnic groups involved in the conflict this paper seeks to explain how Bosnia has moved along the war-peace continuum and predict the likelihood of further conflict. According to Roland Paris in *At War's End* the post-Dayton elections exacerbated the tensions between the ethnic groups as each group supported extreme and nationalist representatives that further divided the citizenry. This paper will show the extreme positions taken by candidates coded based on speeches, positions on particular issues, and the funding provided by various groups to the campaigns. The initial elections as well as the framework of the Dayton Accord itself set the stage for further divisions within society, and as this paper will show limits the chances reconciliation and social cohesion increasing the probability of further conflict.

An in depth case analysis also provides insight of the reconciliation efforts of the Nansen Dialogue Centres, a dialogue institution that seeks to bring people together from two separate sides of violent conflict to inspire reconciliation and acceptance among people in conflict areas. Articles on dialogue and relationship building from the University of Oslo International Summer School booklet from 2007 are examined for details of the work on reconciliation as well as the framework to extend the progress from the institutes to the societal level. The work of the participants is then followed to see what effect the institutes have on a societal level. Other third party organizations that deal with reconciliation processes will be examined in frequency and intensity to determine if reconciliation efforts have fluctuated over time.

This paper shows that while there has been increased reconciliation on the societal level the stability of the gains of positive peace has not been established in Bosnia. Thus Bosnia remains in a state of transition and the potential for future conflicts is great. The efforts toward a unified national identity has not solidified in place of ethnic divisions, and the support of ethnic representatives has not led to systematic and entrenched efforts toward peace and stability and many underlying conditions of instability still remain.

438 Words

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It is undoubtedly the expectation of the public that the judiciary make informed, law-based decisions, far removed from their own personal opinions and emotions. However, the theory has been proposed by political scientists that instead justices are more swayed by their attitudes, as filtered through the details of specific cases. Known as the “attitudinal model”, speculation suggests that justices may do a poor job separating their own feelings and opinions from their jurisprudence. In this study, the attitudes of the court’s past Chief Justices were analyzed through specific “attitudinal markers”, deduced from court dictum, correspondence, personal notes, and previous opinions. Having determined the attitude leanings and predispositions through the use of these markers, Chief Justice-written majority opinions were then analyzed and compared to the suspected, attitudinal position of the Chief Justice. The study’s findings suggest that when the Chief Justice writes for a clear majority (or himself and at least five associates), the court’s reasoning tends to diverge from strict constitutional terminology and include discretionary, attitudinal vocabulary that directly corresponds with the Chief Justice’s expected attitude. However, where the Chief Justice writes for a less concise group, opinions are more likely to include stronger constitutional reasoning as opposed to more attitude-based interpretations. These findings suggest that the public would be best served by a diverse court in order to ensure the most constitutionally derived decision-making. Highly divided courts may then be beneficial for the constitutionality of the judicial branch as a whole.

242 Words

4.

Citizens' attitudes are impacted by government and its institutions. I test major events of political corruption over a thirty-year span from 1970-2000, and using various time-series cross sectional models, I analyze how the type of event will predict its consequences. My hypothesis is that the average uninformed citizen does not care about the state of their nation politically, but if an issue comes forth that questions a political leader's character, the leader will be in danger and will have to leave office to save face. I study the fallout of scandals versus policy blunders, and measure the significance of each based on the internal and international reaction and their respective backlashes. Contrary to previous findings, I find that personal-level scandals are more destructive to an official's political career than ones with global consequences. It is more probable that an official will leave office due to a misstep in his or her personal life than if they lead their country down a wrong path, policy-wise. This illustrates how citizens of their respective nations are more concerned about their leader's personal affairs than how their nation is faring, which leads to a conclusion that if it is not entertaining in some fashion, it will get passed over. The results are stifling because they provide a grim outlook on the world and its tragic regression towards idiocy.

224 Words

5.

Some regions in the world will be impacted by global warming and global climate destabilization more severely than others, especially the micro-nations of the South Pacific Island region. Environmental concerns have a heavy impact on this region including rising sea levels, depletion of natural resources, destruction of natural habitats due to tourism and population growth, and an increase in pollution as a subsequent result. In order to combat these negative environmental effects, the island nations included in the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, the organization of government and economic policy for regional issues, all advocate environmental reform through sustainable development. This study analyzes the relationship between ideology and government spending, as well as determinants of environmental spending. With irreparable threats facing the island nations' existence, it would be expectant that these international promises would be implemented on a domestic level, regardless of ideology, although perhaps more left-oriented parties would favor environmental legislation more due to neoclassical assumptions of left-oriented ideology. However, this study uses data from the United Nations and the World Bank and finds through a regression model statistically significant support for the correlation between ideology and government spending, and that promises on the international level may just be cheap talk, whereas implementing these policies on a domestic level requires tough decisions in favor of other areas of development, specifically, economic development.

222 Words

6.

While scarcity of natural resources has frequently been cited as the source of conflict in poor countries, empirical studies of some major conflicts show that the reverse is true. This paper examines how natural resources like natural gas, oil, and diamond cause onset or escalation of conflict in resource-rich but poorly managed countries. From the examination of a dozen conflicts in Asia and Africa, it has been found that the resource-rich countries that have multi-ethnic setting are more likely to fall prey to internal conflict. It has also been found that abundance or scarcity of natural resources in neighboring countries is also responsible for escalation or de-escalation of civil conflicts. The findings have a number of implications. First, existence of natural resources in areas with multi-ethnic setting increases the likelihood of separatist war. Second, commodities like diamond and other precious stones are more likely to prolong a low level conflict than trigger a major one. Third, the conflict is likely to get worse if the neighboring countries are poor in natural resources.

172 Words

7.

Reporters and news agencies are constantly making decisions on what will become “news.” Celebrity scandals have been highly prevalent in the American news, and I question the importance of such stories. I am concerned with possible consequences associated with the relentless reporting of these scandalous events. I believe that the media has given, and continues to give considerable attention to flashy, highly dramatic, and scandalous stories. In my study, I expected to find evidence showing that when celebrity scandals take place, these stories are covered more extensively than governmental news. I also expected an inverse correlation in which the number of governmental stories decreased as celebrity scandal stories increase

This study focused on two specific celebrity scandals, the O.J. Simpson murder trial of 1994 and 1995, and the Bill Clinton sex scandal of 1997 and 1998. I compared this coverage to the coverage of events of more political and governmental relevance. In conducting this study, I searched stories from CBS News transcripts using the Lexis Nexis Data Base. To find the “amount of coverage” I focused on the number of stories in which my search terms were present in the headlines, lead paragraphs, or terms of the CBS news transcripts. I also found stories that were of political relevance during the time of each scandal by selecting four newsworthy political events that occurred concurrently with each scandal. I then created search terms for each event and searched these individually in the same way I did for the scandal.

I was able to conclude that much more attention was given to the dramatic scandals than was given to political stories during the time span of the scandal. I also found evidence showing that the number of O.J. Simpson stories inversely correlated to the number of governmental stories. Although this was less apparent with my study of the Clinton scandal, there was still substantial evidence to show that the media covered the scandal much more than other political events.

327 Words

8.

Polarization of the electorate, starting in the mid-1970s, closely mimicked that of the elite. Researchers have developed the causal link between polarization and split-ticket voting at the national level however there has been minimal exploration of these phenomena at the state level. The first goal of this research is to address the knowledge gap by determining the prevalence of split-ticket voting at the state level. Once the degree is assessed, the state level relationship between polarization and split-ticketing will be investigated. National level analyses have explored split-ticketing through presidential/congressional races. These analyses pose two problems that confound the findings. The offices hold vastly different roles and consequently, electoral expectations between the offices may vary. This research rectifies these issues by examining the relationship between polarization and split-ticket through the five main state elected offices (governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer). Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) 2006 survey data and regression techniques are employed. Given the unification of purpose in the statewide elected offices, citizen polarization is expected to correlate negatively to split-ticket voting. Findings demonstrate the pervasiveness of split-ticketing at the state level and provide evidence of the relationship between polarization and split-ticket voting in the expected direction. This research lays the foundation for future state-level analyses by specifying levels of split-ticketing and adds to the literature by developing the causal link between polarization and split-ticketing at a previously unexamined level of analysis.

237 Words

9.

Can a right for one individual or group be universal across all borders? For some, human rights cannot be attained under all forms of government. The article will explain the influence democracy has on the development and realization of universal human rights. The discussion illustrates the “universally” accepted definition for human rights. This requires an assessment of the history of human rights. The United Nations and its 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the western influences involved. The history is the necessary point of reference for analyses of the growth, development and influences in human rights.

A focus of this article will be cultural relativism and universalism and their fundamental affects. The conclusion that follows is the inherent belief that democracy influenced human rights development. The key is the similarities between natural rights and the fundamental beliefs of democracy. The methodology centers on a case study of the evaluation of nations’ human rights or lack thereof and the determining variable of democracy. The basis of human rights violations and the documentation of these events have clearly marked the institutionalized morals and values of particular government structures and nations.

The recent progression of human rights has developed the need for clear criteria. The critique of universal versus cultural relativism will define the present debate involving the global determination to accept practices relative to human rights. Further, it will suggest the limitations of universal human rights.

235 Words

10.

The theory of human rights contends that the growth and decline of national powers holds the key to understanding the severity of human rights abuses. Certain critical points in a state's power can make for dangerous occasions for abuses that the nation's government and international community have no awareness of and are hopeless to help. There are ten case studies examining the degree of human rights abuses from 1950 to 2008 examining countries from the U.S.A to Cambodia to Saudi Arabia. The case studies are tested using multiple regression techniques and a dataset spanning most countries of the world from 1945-2006. A prospect theory is used to derive expectations about the risk propensity of states during different periods. These expectations are in turn applied to an analysis of the affect globalization has had on the simplicity of trafficking humans across borders or within one nation and to show if globalization has increased the severity of abuses or declined. Results show that the critical points; on a scale from zero to one, zero being the most severe, tend to incline the severity of abuses in countries that formed after the Cold War and less democratic (ranking close to zero). Democratic states, however, are less susceptible to these tendencies than authoritarian ones. Results also show that shifts in power and power vacuums do affect the severity and outcome of human right abuses among the less democratic states.

235 Words

11.

Political parties in the 20th century have been in conflict with federal, state, and local laws affecting their first amendment associational rights. The Supreme Court decided several cases in this matter, most notably *Cousins v. Wigoda*, *Democratic Party v. Wisconsin ex rel La Follete*, *Tashjian v. Republican Party*, and *California Democratic Party v. Jones*. Through an analysis of these cases, and theories of political parties proposed by Cain (2001), the paper attempts to predict the direction of future decisions of the associational rights of political parties. California provides an appropriate state to use as a case study. California has a long progressive tradition which disfavors political parties influence in politics. Along with the case study of California's attempts to limit the influence of political parties and the case law analysis I found that if states can find a way to regulate political parties without any constitutional violations (by adopting non-partisan primaries) then the Supreme Court will be forced to adopt a view of political parties as essentially non-actors in deciding which candidates appear on the ballot.

176 Words