

Essential Readings in Canadian Government and Politics: Textbook Summary

Cairns

- Judicial Council opposed by French Canadians on the groups of nationalism and bias towards English Canadians

Russell

- Prediction that the Charter will increase the role of the judiciary in determining Canadian rights and freedoms
- Charter will go beyond the goals of national unity and guaranteed fundamental freedoms

Smiley and Watts

- Federal apparatus must change the structure and operation of executive power to more more responsive to regional interests
- Advocacy for regions in secrecy in the caucuses and cabinet make the federal appear less responsive to regional concerns

Simeon and Robinson

- Federalism as a process not a steady state
- Changes in governments and institutions as a response to various circumstances and pressures

Andrew

- Concerns and responsibilities of Canada's big cities should be higher on the national agenda
- Concentration of immigration in cities poses unique challenges
- Increase capacity of local governments

Cairns

- Single member constituency electoral system has contributed to the evolution of Canadian parties
- Favours parties with sectional strongholds and not diffused support
- Sectionalism
 - Antithetical - geography
 - Stratification

Bittner

- Greater political information minimizes the impact of social groups
- Informed Catholics tend to vote less Liberal
- Informed women tend to vote less Reform/Alliance/Conservative

Brodie and Jenson

- It is important to go beyond brokerage parties to understand their dominance
- Social class is not a factor in the party system
 - Important factors are religion, language, and religion
- CCF/NDP is a party that challenges class originally but refined its goals with less alienation beginning in WWII

Carty and Cross

- Canadian political parties are weak in that the organization of the party system has changed but the parties have not
- Catholic support Liberals disproportionately
- Canada parties do not mobilize communities, they actually work to obscure differences
- Electoral pragmatism - consumed with winning, policy flexibility

- Reason for survival

Gidengil, et al.

- Gender gap with women leaning more left
- Gap likely to increase overtime
- Women are more likely to be employed in the public sector, pay inequalities, having children
- Younger women are becoming more to the left than older women, reason for gap increase

Blais

- Liberals are one of the four most successful parties in contemporary democracies
- Catholics are essential to help Liberal domination
 - Possible ethnic link to Catholics, more French and less British
 - Liberal leaders tend to be Catholic

Barney

- Cautiously optimistic that internet and communication technologies can enhance democracy
 - Increase political engagement and participation
- Policy connection to communication
- Decrease voter turnout since the internet election of 2000
- Improved technology goes beyond enhanced communication, it reoriented human experience

Small

- Twitter engagement: partisan, political, non-political