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# Political Parties and Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy (Comparative Study Of Electoral Systems)

By Russell J. Dalton, David M. Farrell, Ian McAllister



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Is the party over? Parties are the central institutions of representative democracy, but critics increasingly claim that parties are failing to perform their democratic functions. *Political Parties and Democratic Linkage* assembles unprecedented cross-national evidence to assess how parties link the individual citizen to the formation of governments and then to government policies. Using the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems and other recent cross-national data, the authors examine the workings of this party linkage process across established and new democracies. Political parties still dominate the electoral process in shaping the discourse of campaigns, the selection of candidates, and mobilizing citizens to vote. Equally striking, parties link citizen preferences to the choice of representatives, with strong congruence between voter and party Left/Right positions. These preferences are then translated in the formation of coalition governments and their policies.

The authors argue that the critics of parties have overlooked the ability of political parties to adapt to changing conditions in order to perform their crucial linkage functions. As the context of politics and societies have changed, so too have political parties. *Political Parties and Democratic Linkage* argues that the process of party government is alive and well in most contemporary democracies.



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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

*Political Parties and Democratic Linkage* is the 2012 winners of the **GESIS Klingemann Prize for the Best CSES Scholarship**. The prize is awarded for the best CSES scholarship published in the prior year, and named in honor of Hans-Dieter Klingemann, an internationally renowned political scientist and co-founder of the CSES project.

*Political Parties and Democratic Linkage* is the 2012 winner of the **Brian Farrell Best Book Prize** awarded by the Political Studies Association of Ireland .

"*Political Parties and Democratic Linkage* offers a valiant defence of the often lamented role of parties in contemporary democratic processes. Dalton, Farrell and McAllister argue that despite their poor public image, parties still dominate elections, that newly incumbent governments are more closely connected to citizen preferences than their predecessors in office, and that voter opinion, operating through parties, matters for policy outputs. This is an important book for students of parties as well as for students of democracy."--Peter Mair, Professor of Comparative Politics, European University Institute, Florence

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From the Back Cover

### **Features**

- Third volume from the world renowned Comparative Study of Electoral Systems program
- Demonstrates the impact of parties from organizing campaigns to directing government policy
- The authors are three of the leading experts on parties and electoral politics
- Examines more than three dozen contemporary democracies with a common database that produces comparability and coherence in the analyses

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Pedro Dillon:**

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##### **June Slater:**

Political Parties and Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy (Comparative Study Of Electoral Systems) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing Political Parties and Democratic Linkage: How Parties Organize Democracy (Comparative Study Of Electoral Systems) however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

**Ann Ginsberg:**

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