

LITERATURE REVIEW OUTLINE

Introduction

- I. History of 1994 (Bader 1996; Balz & Brownstein 1996)
 - A. 1992 Presidential Election
 - i. Democrat president
 - ii. Full Republican Minority/Democrat Majority
 - B. Newt Gingrich & GOP Leadership
 - C. Contract with America
 - i. How it was conceived
 - ii. Who the main players were
 - iii. Who/what decided what was on it (Lathrop 2003)
 - a. Standard Republican issues
 - b. Populist issues
 - iv. How was it marketed
 - v. Who it helped (Abramowitz 1995)
 - vi. Why it worked
 - a. Funneled money to needy campaigns (Abramowitz 1995)
 - b. Stalled Democratic legislative initiatives → ineffective (Jacobson 1996)
 - c. Forced Democrats in competitive districts to retire (Jacobson 1996)
 - D. Results of election
- II. Why was the 1994 Election a surprise?
 - A. Conventional signals suggested nothing was out of the ordinary (Balz & Brownstein 1996; Campbell 1997)
 - B. Inadequate models (Busch 1995)
 - i. Not precise enough
 - a. No measure for levels of animosity towards Clinton
 - b. No measure of apathy towards Democrats
 - ii. Too precise
 - a. No attention to actual concerns
 - b. Changing morals
 - iii. Difficulty in accounting for Perot supporters in 1992 (Campbell 1997; Connelly & Pitney 1994)
 - C. Convention of all politics being “local” (Jacobson 1996)
 - D. Suppression of realignment (Campbell 1997)
 - i. Suppressed by the strangle hold of Democrats in the South
 - ii. The gains Republicans should’ve made there but didn’t because of weak challengers obscured academic understanding of electoral behavior
- III. Explanations
 - A. Disaffection with Government (Balz & Brownstein 1996; Jacobson 1996)

- i. Lowered trust (Klinkner 1996)
 - a. Lowered steadily since LBJ in 1964
 - b. Contributed to by Vietnam, Watergate, and various other scandals
 - ii. Mobilized conservatives/apathetic liberals
 - a. Court vs. Country: against the status quo (Klinkner 1996)
 - Big government
 - Civil rights
 - Questioned central gov't legitimacy
 - b. Angry white male? (Reeher & Cammarano 1996)
 - Mobilized/energized white conservative males
 - Apathetic unmobilized liberal females
 - c. Dem missteps (Klinkner 1996)
 - iii. Economic stagnation (Connelly & Pitney 1994; Klinkner 1996)
 - a. Slow growth since WWII
 - b. Declining real income, job security, poverty (Reeher & Cammarano 1996)
 - iv. Talk radio (Bolce et al. 1996)
 - a. Growing influence
 - b. Appeal to populist anti-government sentiment
 - c. More engaged & mobilized
- B. Dealignment vs. Realignment
- i. Dealignment
 - a. Popular way of explaining the disconnect between President and Congressional behavior
 - b. Undercut by 1994 as a realignment (Campbell 1997; Frymer 1996)
 - ii. Realignment
 - a. Long-term Ideological shift since the 1980s (Abramowitz & Saunders 1998)
 - Greater issue awareness
 - Greater polarization
 - Conservative gains in the South
 - Intergenerational shift
 - b. Realignment suppressed by civil rights (Brooks 2000)
 - If Democrats were not civil rights party, Republican realignment would've happened sooner.
 - c. Realignment assisted by Christian Right (Moen 1996; Soper 1996)
 - More pragmatic approach
 - Key financial/organizational resources for GOP
 - Downplay on divisive moral issues
 - d. 1994 → Brought Southern realignment up to speed (Frymer 1996)
 - Financed Republican challengers

- Nationalized elections – Dem candidates no longer able to distance themselves from Clinton

IV. Research Design

Still to read:

Little, Thomas H. “On the Coattails of a Contract: RNC Activities and Gains in the 1994 Legislative Elections.” *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 51, No.1 (Mar., 1998), pp. 173-190 [JSTOR]

Sinclair, Barbara “Transformational Leader or Faithful Agent? Principal-Agent Theory and House Majority Party Leadership.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 3 (Aug., 1999), pp. 421-449 [JSTOR]

Stonecash, Jeffrey M.; Mariani, Mack D. “Republican Gains in the House in the 1994 Elections: Class Polarization in American Politics.” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 115, No. 1, (Spring, 2000), pp. 93-113 [JSTOR]

Hacker, Jacob S. Off Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005 [Reed Catalog, ‘Republican Revolution’; Demise of Liberalism class]