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Political Polarization In American Politics



Synopsis

Political Polarization in American Politics provides short, accessible chapters about the nature and extent of political polarization within the American public and in American political institutions. These chapters capture the central ideas and debates in political science research on polarization, and are written by leading scholars in this subfield. Each chapter is accompanied by discussion questions and a guide to further reading, making this a great addition to any course looking at issues of polarization.

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Customer Reviews

“This is a superb volume of thoughtful and wide-ranging essays on polarization by some of the best scholars in the political science field. If you want to learn about the causes, effects, and consequences of polarization in American politics and society, this should be your go-to source.”
—Jeffery A. Jenkins, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics, University of Virginia, USA
“This collection of short essays is easily the broadest and most accessible treatment of polarization available. Drawing on the work of dozens of distinguished scholars, this collection covers whether we are polarized at mass and elite levels, why we are polarized, and what might be done about it. Dispensing with technical jargon, the authors make their cases briefly and succinctly without sacrificing the complexity of the issue. This would be an excellent volume to use for stimulating discussion in an undergraduate class on public opinion and American politics.”
—Diana C. Mutz, Samuel A. Stouffer Professor of

Political Science and Communication, University of Pennsylvania, USA

“Hopkins and Sides have assembled an outstanding collection of concise and accessible essays that lay out the latest research on the facts, origins, and potential solutions regarding polarization in American politics. This book is an excellent resource for students, teachers, and anyone interested in understanding polarization from the country’s leading experts.”

Eleanor Neff Powell, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

“Fans of the Monkey Cage will be indebted to Daniel Hopkins and John Sides for this timely volume of essays about the extent, origins and causes of polarization between Democrats and Republicans in contemporary American politics. The short, accessible pieces by some of the nation’s most distinguished scholars will prove invaluable to journalists and professors looking for concise, trenchant materials about America’s troubled party system. Students, especially, will benefit from seeing how skillful empirical analysis illuminates or contradicts widely held beliefs about partisan politics.”

Linda Fowler, Professor of Government, Dartmouth College, USA

Daniel J. Hopkins is Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, USA. He contributes to The Monkey Cage and FiveThirtyEight. John Sides is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at George Washington University, USA. He is the co-author of The Gamble: Choice and Chance in the 2012 Presidential Election (2013). He contributes to The Monkey Cage.

This booklet essentially includes all one needs to know about polarization: its root causes, the extent of it, differing approaches to the topic and suggestions for what can be done about it. The authors are all well known scholars that have dealt with the subject for decades and therefore offer insights that are far more pronounced than those usually given by media pundits or journalists who not infrequently use "polarization" as a substitute for political incivility. All of the essays are reasonably short - after all they're blog posts from the Monkey Cage (and can therefore be accessed for free as well). Ultimately, if someone wants an introduction into the vast world of polarization, this is the book to purchase before moving on to the more in-depth writings of Abramowitz, Fiorina, Levendusky and their colleagues.

I must confess that I find today’s politics, and the anger and emotion associated, very confusing. This book helped me understand a wee bit better why our politics and government are so dysfunctional. The book is a collection of short essays, easy to read. For political junkies, or those

like me who are merely befuddled by it all, go for it.

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