The Framers intended the government to be slow moving. They did not want to see an American government being too fast and too forward in its actions. This is evident in the cooperative or compromising nature of the government. The hyper partisanship is needed, it usually does not happen because elected officials are rewarded for following the party line, rather than cooperating and risk being labeled moderate. This is more common than the problem in Issue X. The federal budget. Or really almost anything: I argue the time has come to take the next step in political evolution.

I will be exploring the following areas:

1. The Framers intended the government to be slow moving. They did not intend universal suffrage or political parties, because they knew it would lead to polarization. The hyper-democracy exacerbates the already slow moving process to the point of Dallas traffic at 5 p.m.

2. Hyper-democracy affects elected officials directly by the democratic incentive system. Issue X is not solved, because the solution may cause the elected officials to lose their jobs. An example is Social Security.

3. Hyper-democracy affects elected officials indirectly by encouraging polarization and consequently dis-cooperation. There are also bits of the democratic incentive program mixed in.

   • Political parties (including regular voters) do not have enough information to make accurate decisions.
   a. They will not do research, so they just put on party-tinted glasses.
   b. Even informed voters are not privy to classified intelligence reports.
   c. The top priority of political parties (including regular voters) is to win the Game
   d. Elected officials get elected to re-elected. They are always in campaign mode. This takes time away from actually working, and negatively affects decisions.
   e. Governments need ability to make un-popular decisions.
   f. This leads to more and more polarization.
      a. Elected officials are becoming more and more right or left. This makes it even more difficult to compromise, especially in primary elections.
      b. When bi-partisanship is needed, it usually does not happen because elected officials are rewarded for following the party line, rather than cooperation. This is Issue Y, the budget.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Faced Zakaria (2008)
   There is no wide-spread disagreement among policy experts as to solutions that could be enacted tomorrow. Zakaria suggests that if it were not for polarization, tomorrow we could:
   a. "limit wasteful spending and subsidies, increase savings, expand training in science and technology, secure pensions, create a workable immigration process, and achieve significant efficiencies in the use of energy."
   b. Polarization has made our already inactive system immobile. It is too designed for partisan battles.

   Despite popular appearance, the American public is not as polarized as it seems. The average American is actually much more toward the center than is reflected in Congress. Fiorina argues that it is only the more politically educated that are more polarized. This begs the question, by what is the current Congress the most polarized in history?

3. William Galston (2010) adds his own research to Alan Abramowitz’s National Election data to come to quite different conclusion.
   a. “In 1984, 41 percent of voters were located at or near the ideological center, versus only 10 percent at or near the left and right extremes. By 2004, only 26 percent remained at or near the center, while the left and right extremes had more than doubled to 23 percent.”
   b. Abramowitz finds that in the past thirty years polarization has skyrocketed faster than any other time in history.
   c. “In the past generation the percentages of Democratic identifiers voting for Republicans and Republican identifiers voting for Democrats have fallen by about half.”
   d. This disparity in findings between Fiorina and Abramowitz is perhaps due to Fiorina measuring the American voter himself shows that it is the more politically active that are the most polarized. (The very act of voting is indicative of some sort of political involvement and political education.)
   e. This means that while Fiorina’s statistics show that the average American is not polarized, the average American voter is.
   f. Over the past generation (when polarization began dramatically rising) voters say that Congress has voted according with their preferences quite well.

METHODS

I will be exploring the following areas:

1. The Framers intended the government to be slow moving. They did not intend universal suffrage or political parties, because they knew it would lead to polarization. The hyper-democracy exacerbates the already slow moving process to the point of Dallas traffic at 5 p.m.

2. Hyper-democracy affects elected officials directly by the democratic incentive system. Issue X is not solved, because the solution may cause the elected officials to lose their jobs. An example is Social Security.

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      a. Elected officials are becoming more and more right or left. This makes it even more difficult to compromise, especially in primary elections.
      b. When bi-partisanship is needed, it usually does not happen because elected officials are rewarded for following the party line, rather than cooperation. This is Issue Y, the budget.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


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