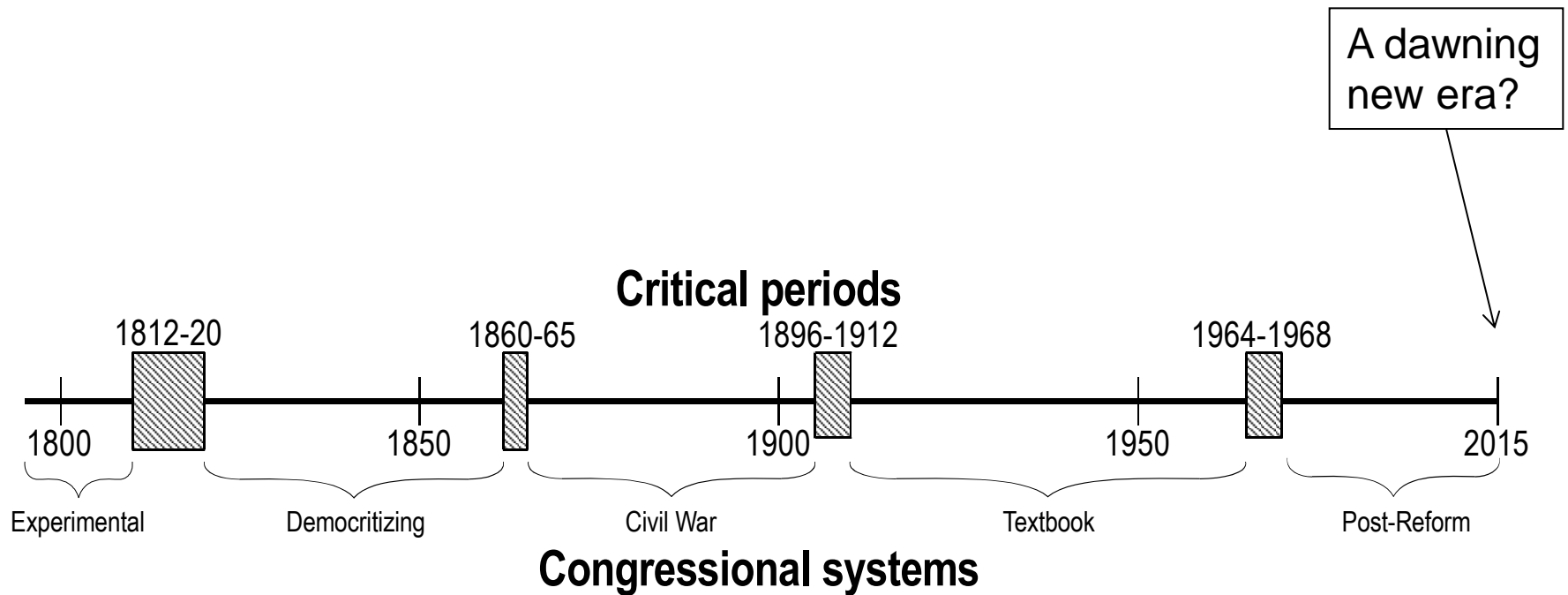


Origins and Development of Congress

17.251/252

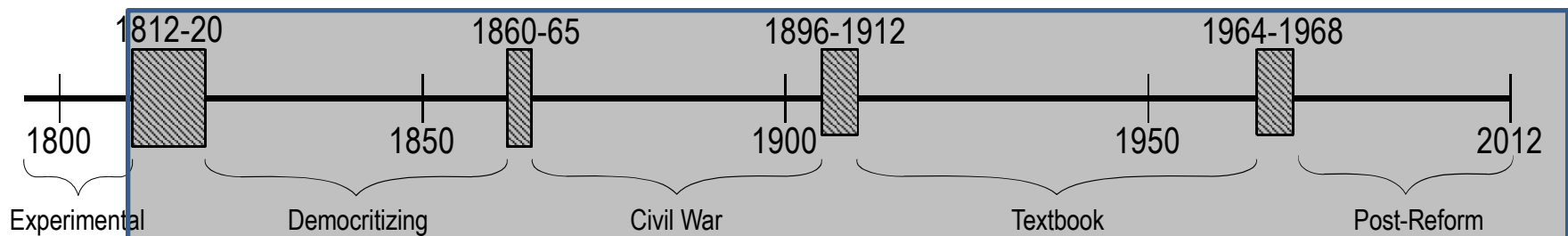
Spring 2015

Congressional Historical Eras and Electoral Discontinuities



1789-1812 (Experimental system)

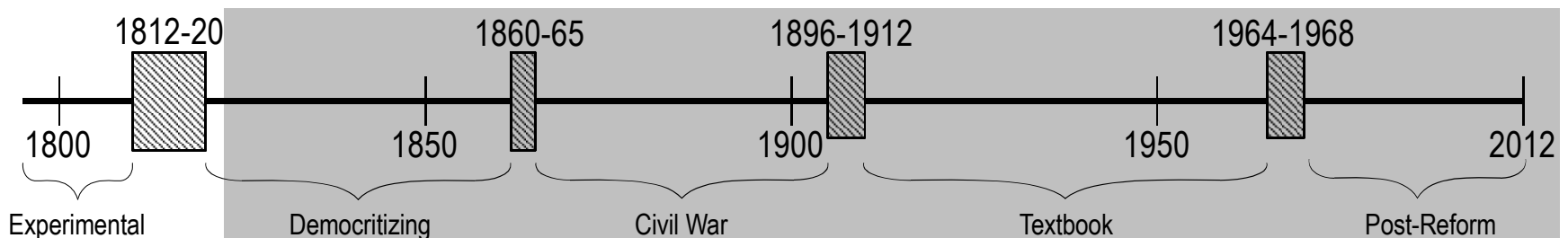
Electoral dynamics		Organizational dynamics		
During critical period	During cong'l system	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
	-Elite electorate (Table 3.2) -Feds vs. Reps.	-Floor supreme -"previous q" developed in the House	- <i>Ad hoc</i> select comms. dominate	-Loose formal organization



1812-20

(Transition from Experimental to Antebellum systems)

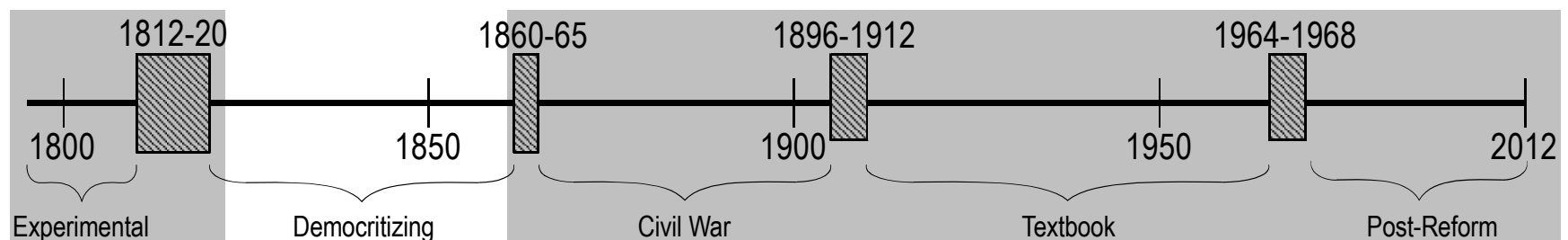
- -Electorate expands
- -Federalists discredited
- -Slavery now an issue
- -Napoleonic Wars end



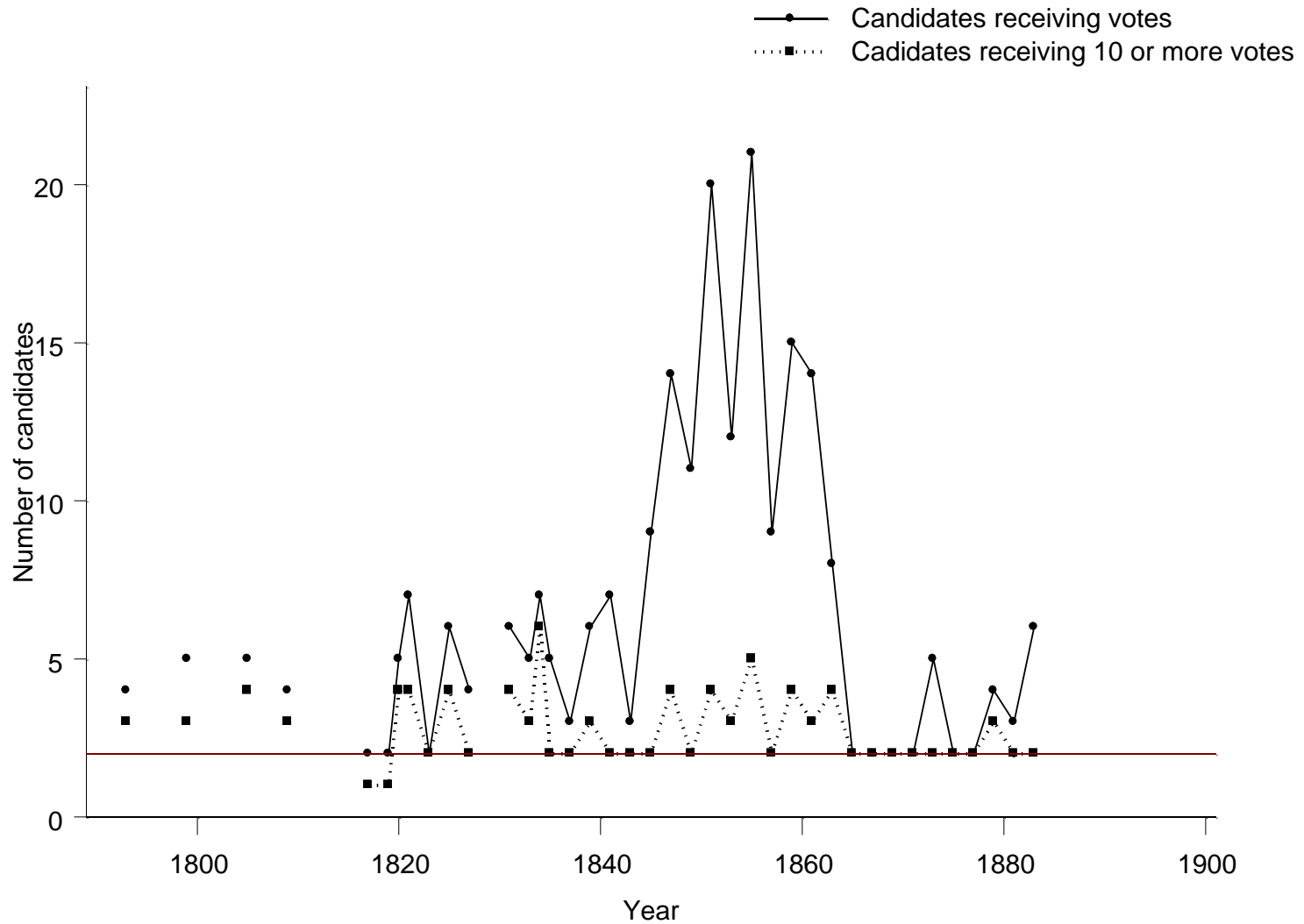
1820-60

(Antebellum system)

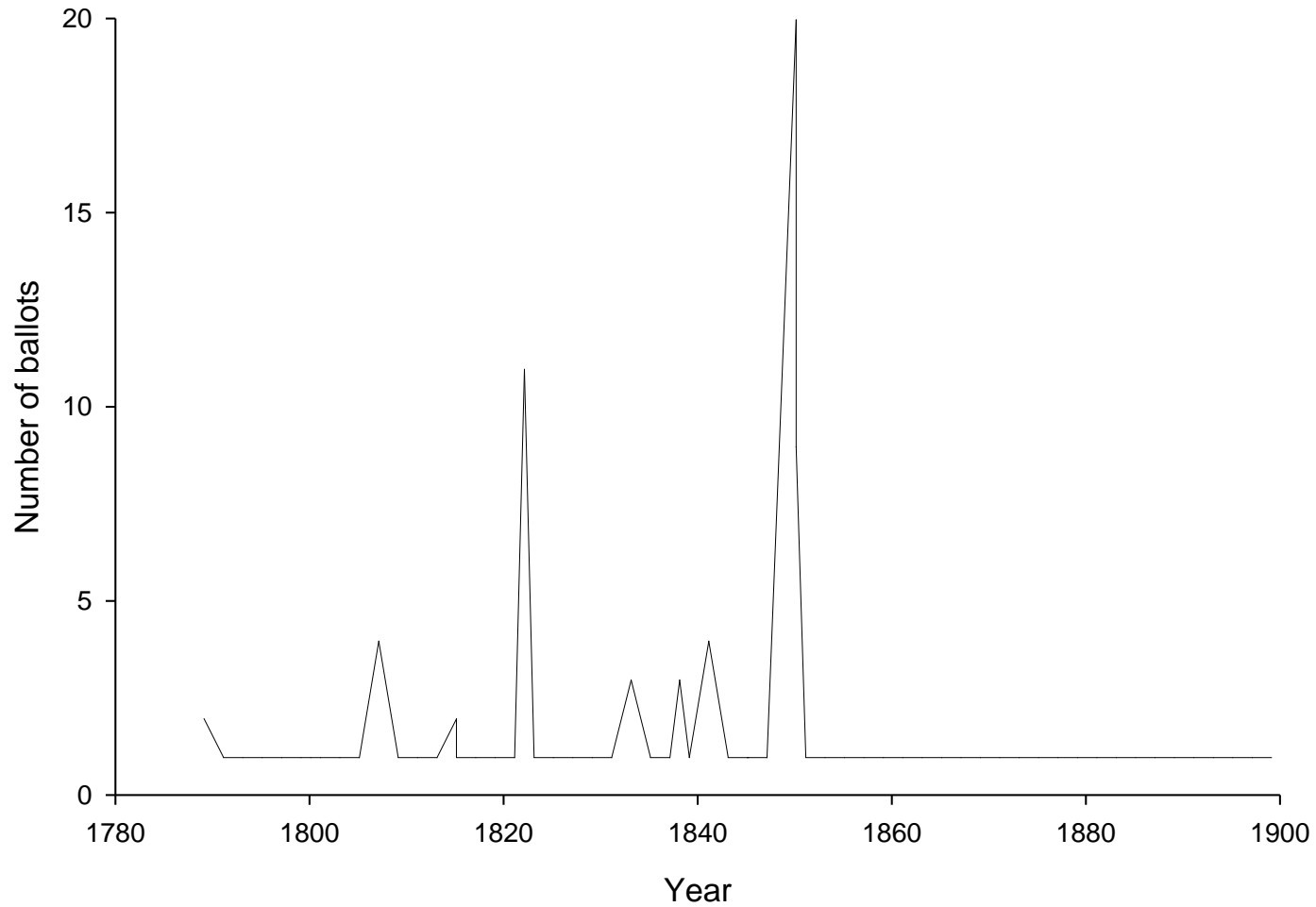
	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mass electorate -Whigs vs. Dems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees take agenda control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Standings dominate selects -comm chairs compete w/ Speaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Van Buren tries to make Congress a partisan organ, but... -Regional divisions complicate Speakership selection (next slide) -Senate leadership remains weak



Balloting for Speaker



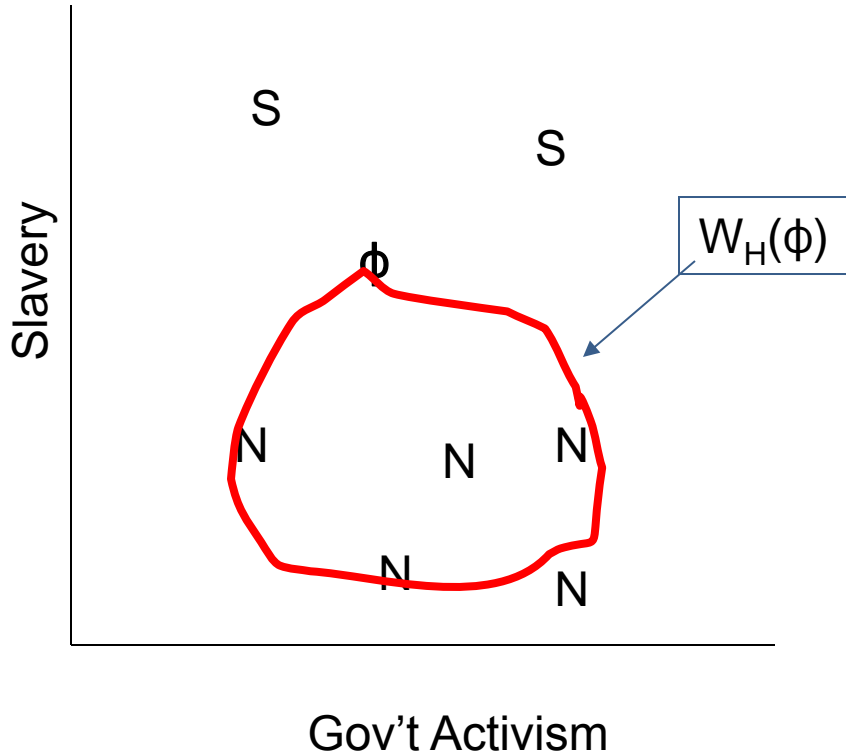
Balloting for Clerk



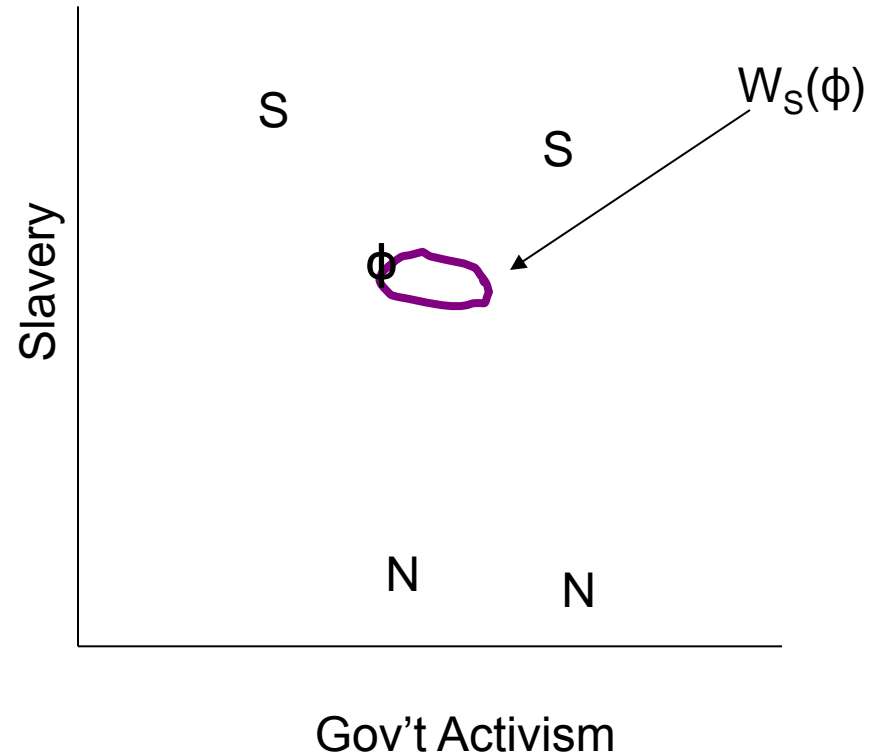
Year	Cong.	Ballots	Winning Speaker		Largest party	
			Name, State	Party	Name	Pct.
1825	19	2	John W. Taylor, N.Y.	Adams	Adams	51.2
1827	20	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	53.1
1829	21	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	63.8
1831	22	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	59.2
1833	23	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	59.6
1834	23	10	John Bell, Tenn.	Jackson	“	“
1835	24	1	James K. Polk, Tenn.	Jackson	Jackson	59.1
1837	25	1	James K. Polk, Tenn.	Dem.	Democrat	52.9
1839	26	11	Robert M.T. Hunter, Va.	Whig	Democrat	51.7
1841	27	1	John White, Ky.	Whig	Whig	58.7
1843	28	1	John W. Jones, Va.	Dem.	Democrat	65.9
1845	29	1	John W. Davis, Ind.	Dem.	Democrat	62.3
1847	30	3	Robert C. Winthrop, Mass.	Whig.	Whig	50.4
1849	31	63	Howell Cobb, Ga.	Dem.	Democrat	48.5
1851	32	1	Linn Boyd, Ky.	Dem.	Democrat	54.5
1853	33	1	Linn Boyd, Ky.	Dem.	Democrat	67.1
1855	34	133	Nathaniel Banks, Mass.	Amer.	Opposition	42.7

The Effect of the Balance Rule

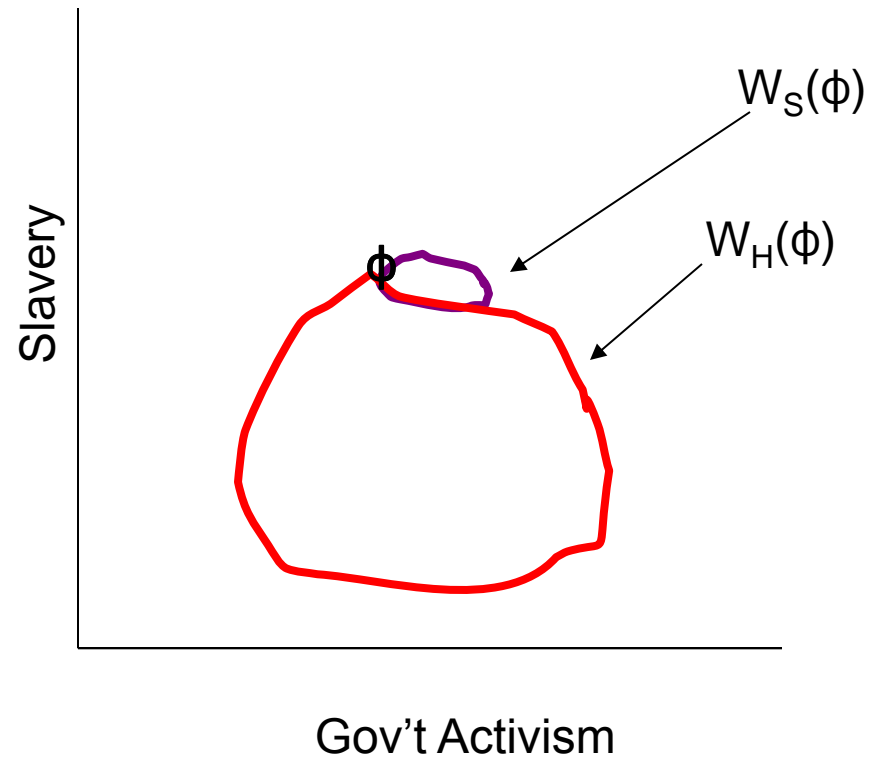
Stylized House



Stylized Senate



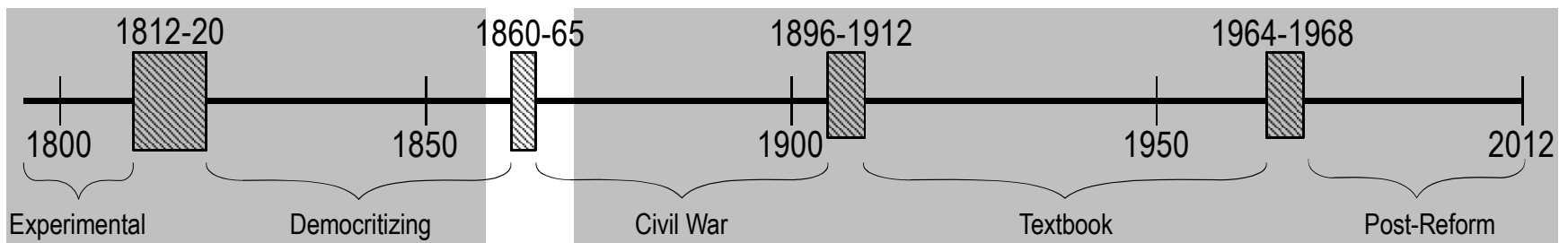
The Effect of the Balance Rule



1860-1865

(Transition from Antebellum to Civil War System)

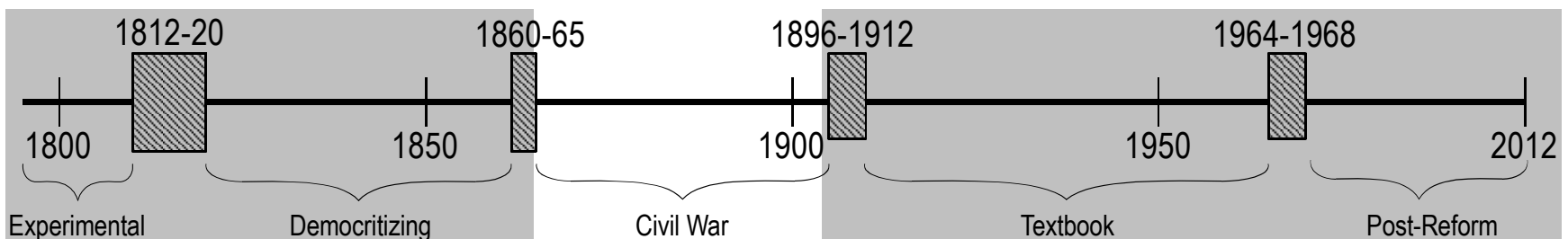
- South excluded from national elections
- Party support highly regionalized



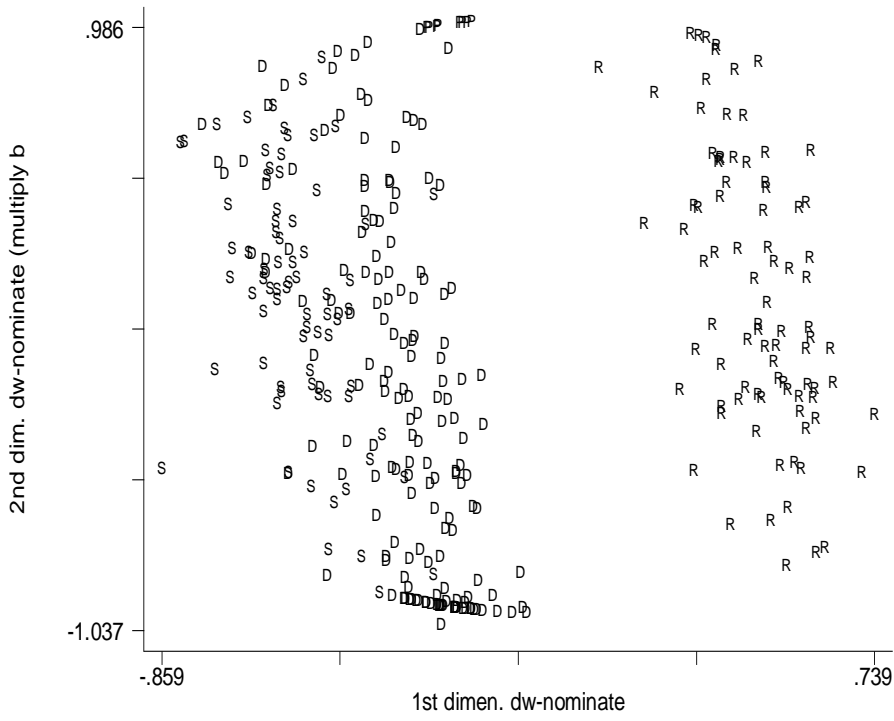
1865-1896

(Civil War System)

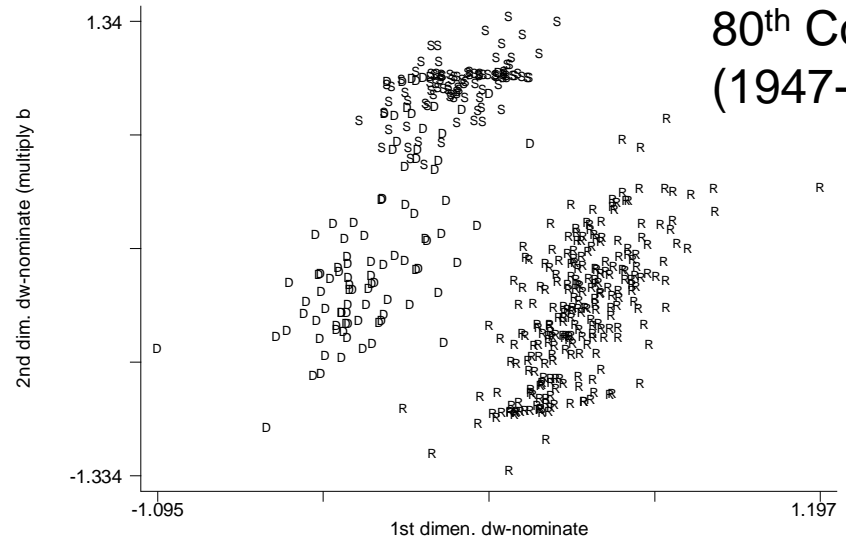
	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dems. v. Reps. -Dem. Strength in the South -Rep. strength in the North -Knife-edged partisan margins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“Reed Rules” in the House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parties take control of committee rosters -Appr. devolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Party polarization -Party “strong” -Caucus organization in House -Steering committee in the Senate



Ideological divisions

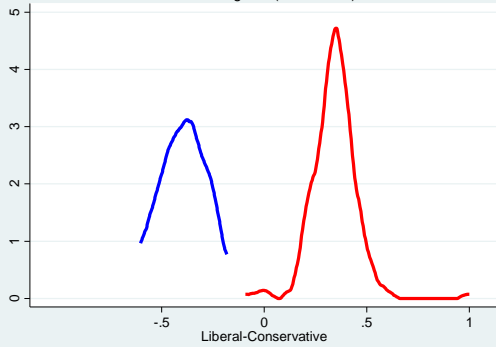


52nd Cong.
(1891-1893)

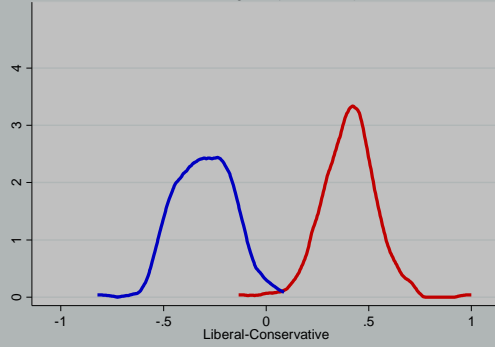


80th Cong.
(1947-48)

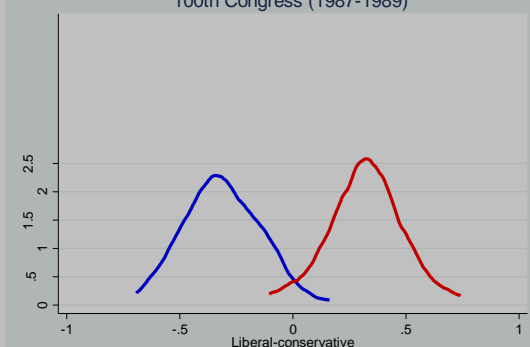
40th Congress (1867-1869)



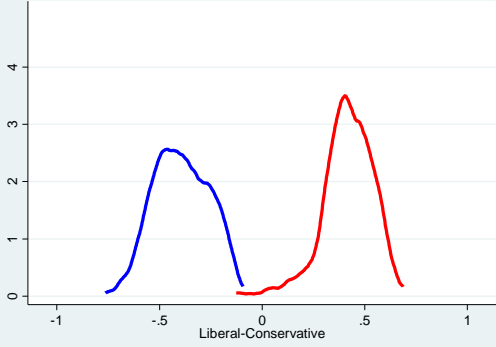
70th Congress (1927-1929)



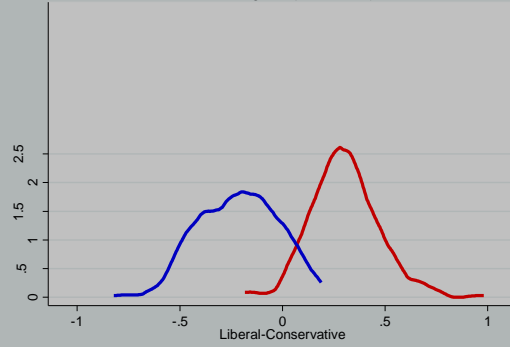
100th Congress (1987-1989)



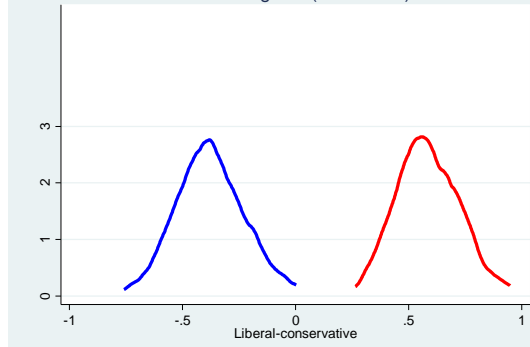
50th Congress (1887-1889)



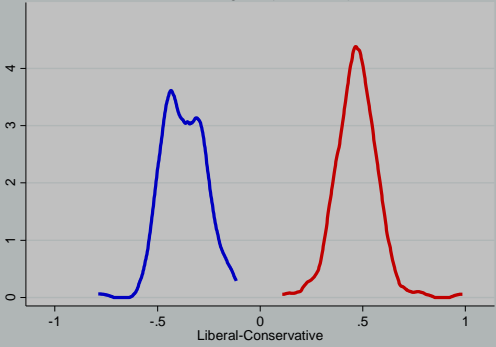
80th Congress (1947-1949)



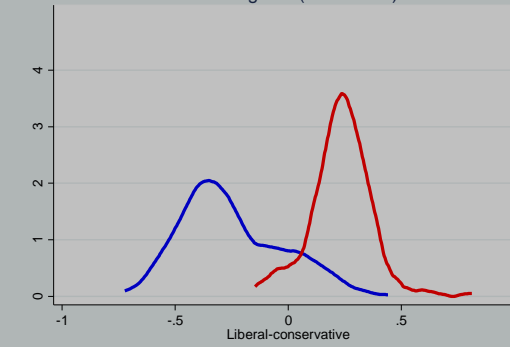
110th Congress (2007-2009)



60th Congress (1907-1909)



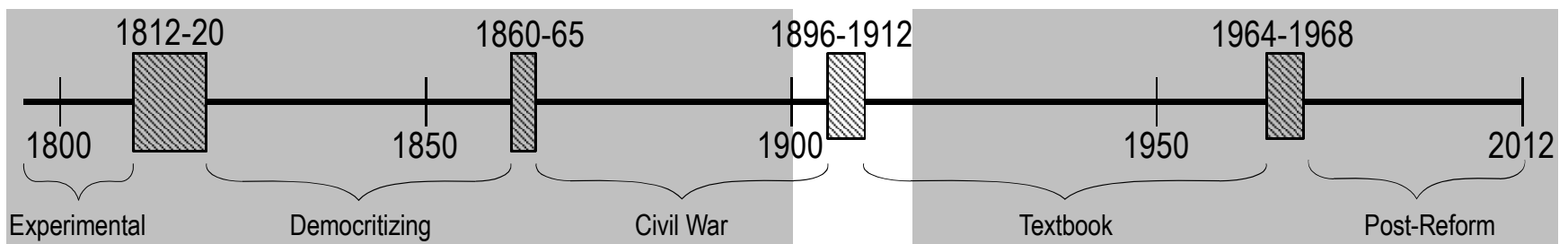
90th Congress (1967-1969)



1896-1912

(Transition from Civil War to Textbook systems)

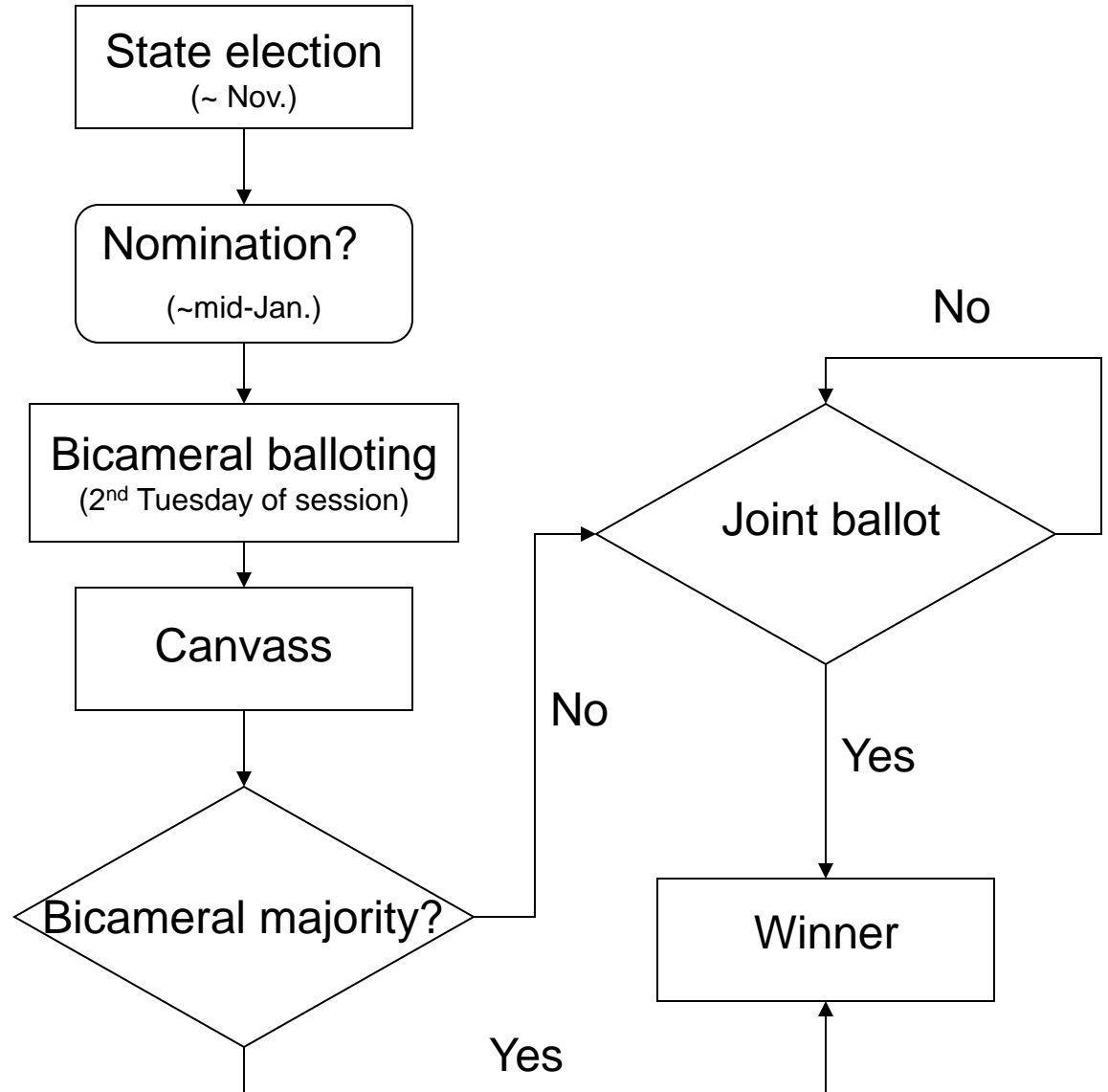
- Economic dislocations create Progressive/Populist movements



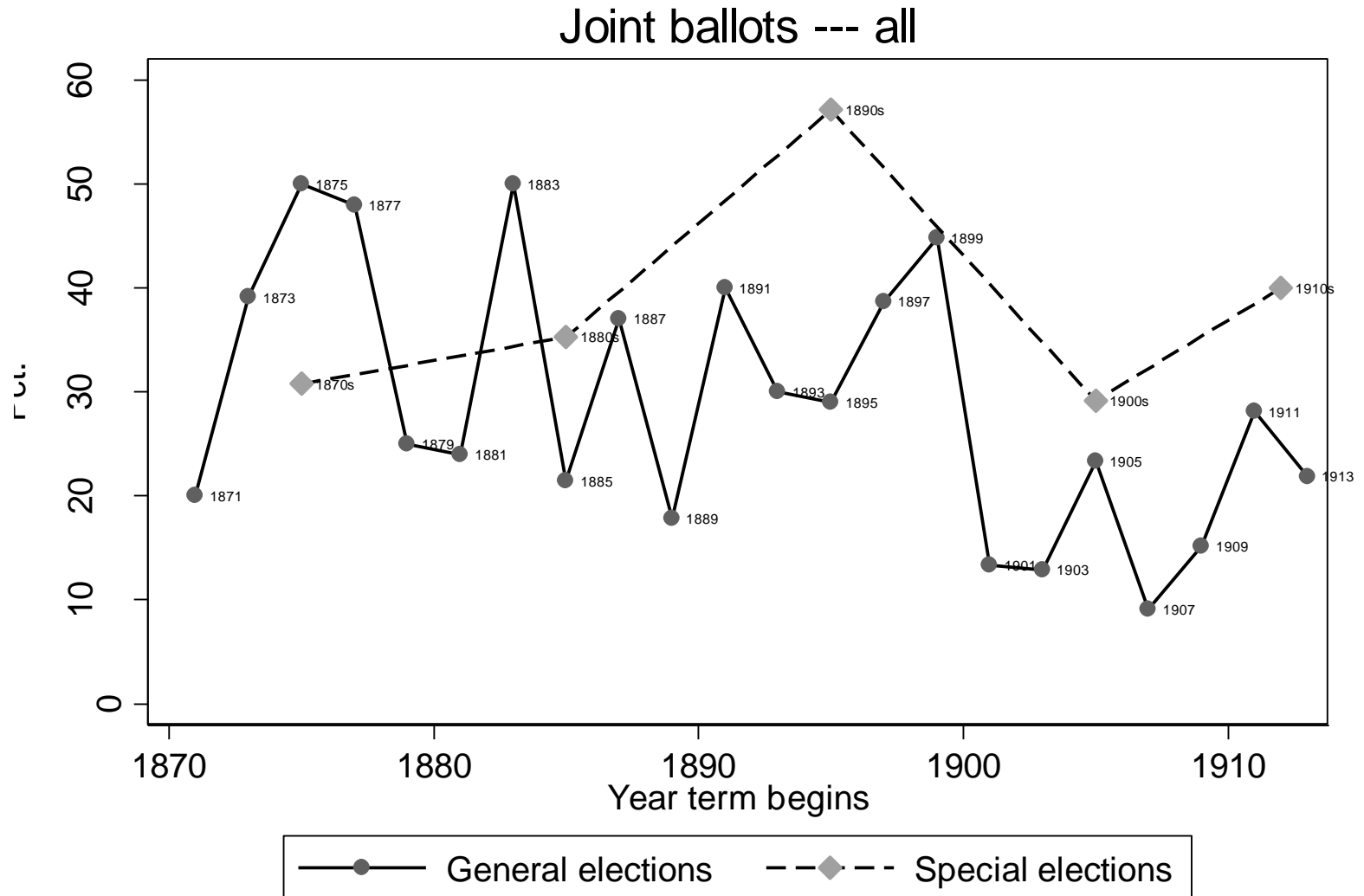
A Word about Senate Elections

- State legislative elections often brought about chaotic balloting
- Stories of corruption in Senate elections led to Progressive calls for reform
- Rise of third parties gave major parties an incentive to create a duopoly of power
- 17th amendment: popular election of senators (1914)
- Still parties become more prominent

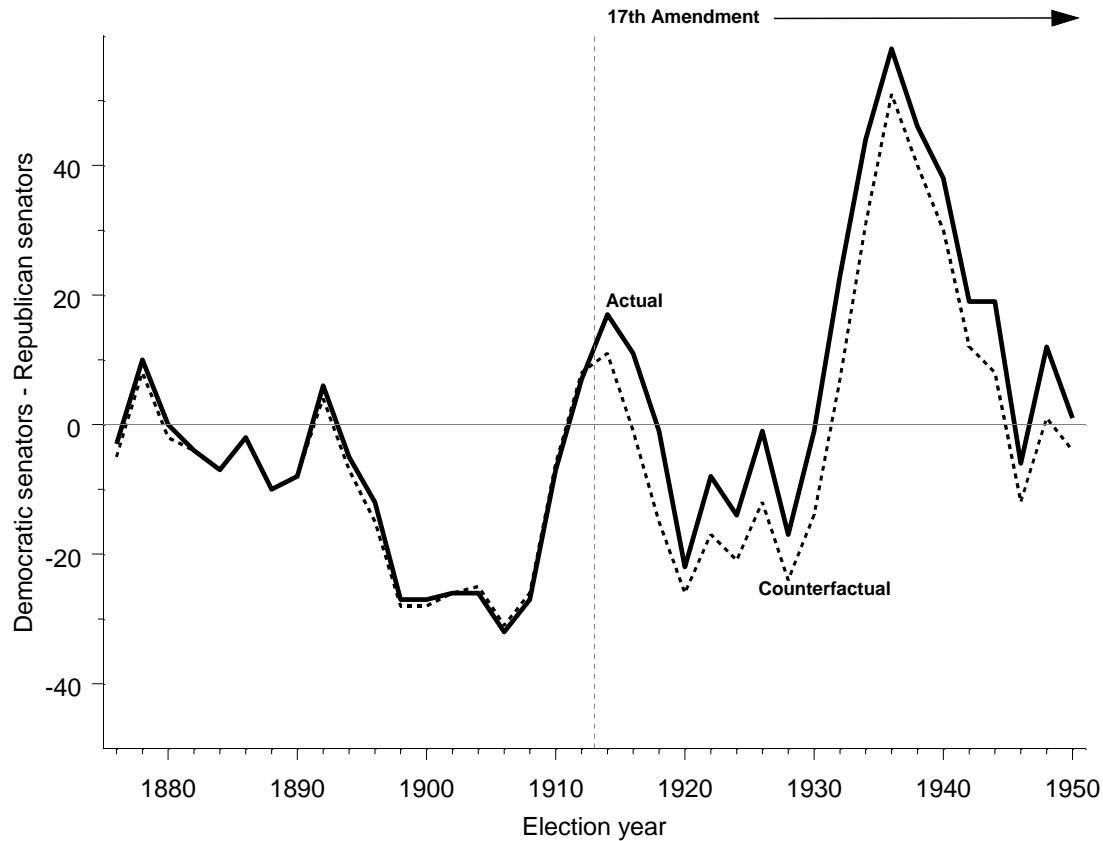
The Process



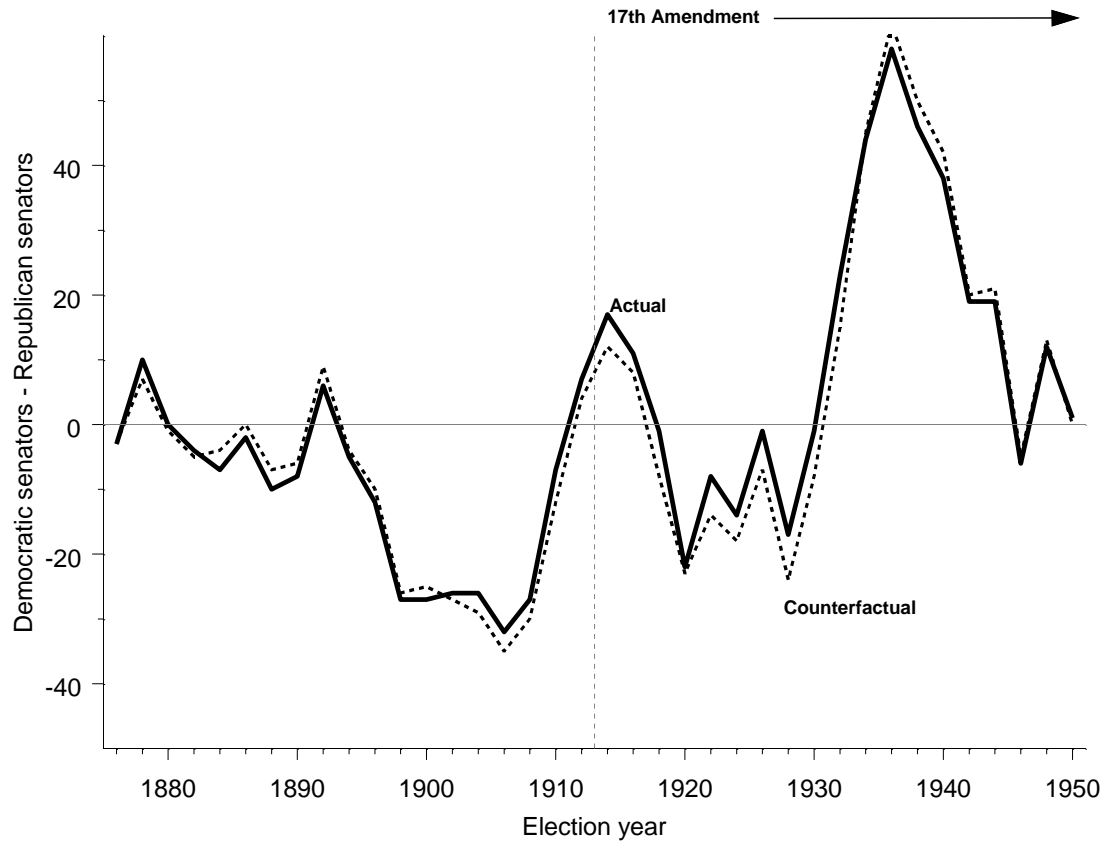
% joint ballot elections for Senate



Counterfactual: What If No Popular Elections?

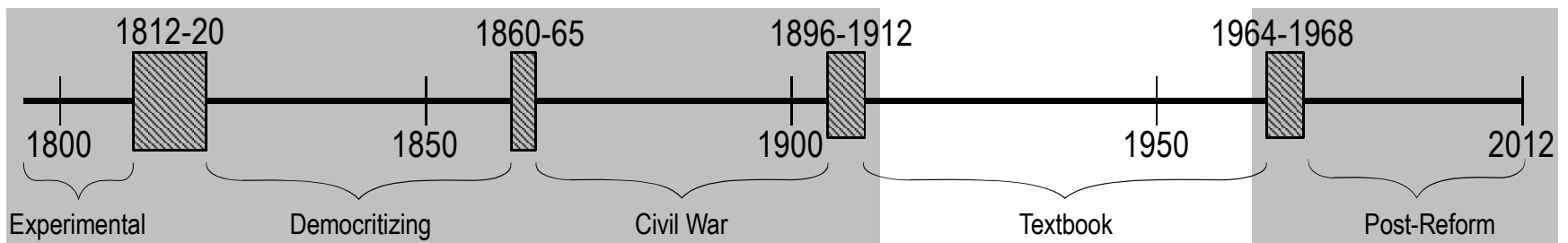


Counterfactual: What If Popular Election before 1917?

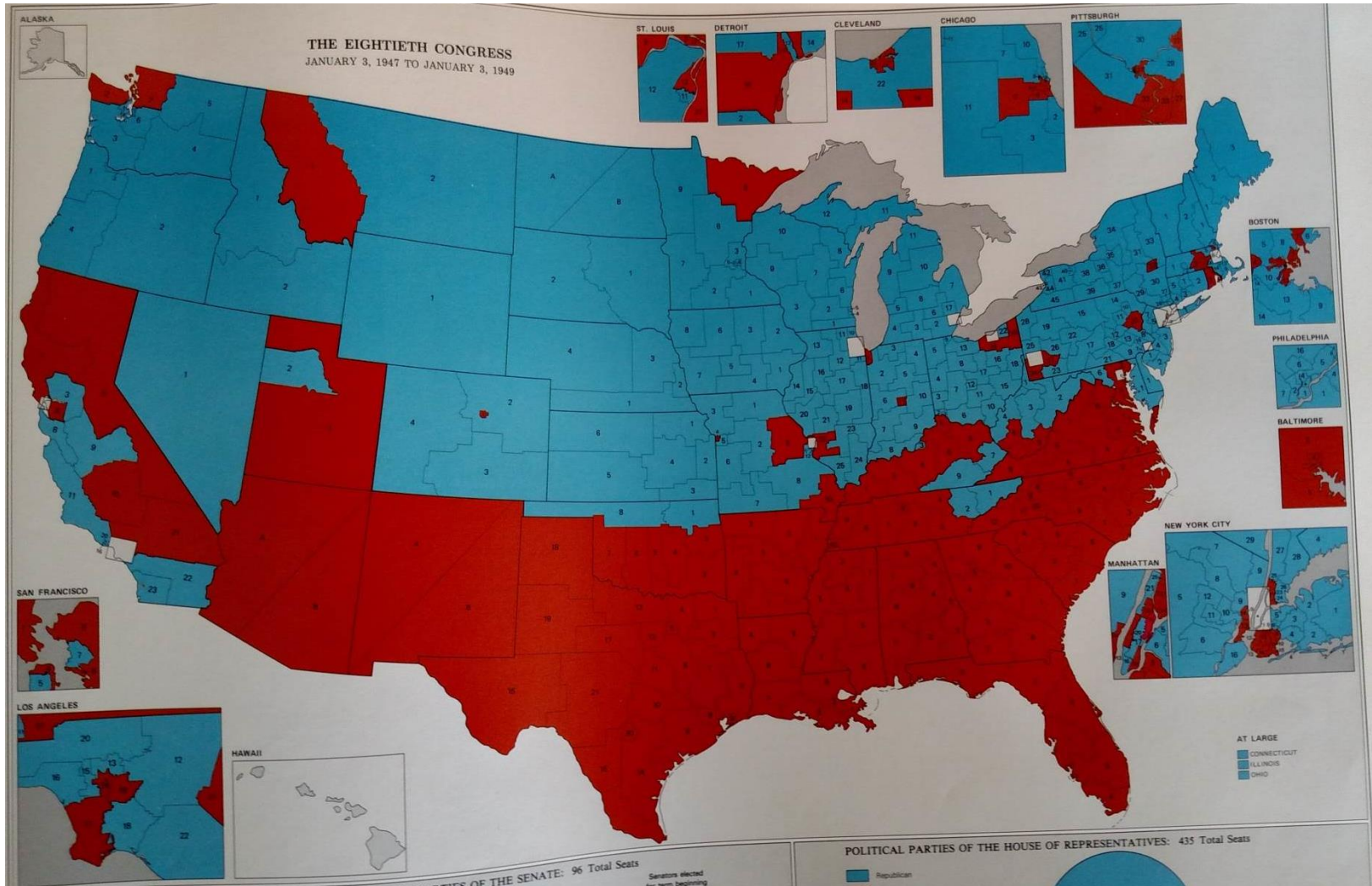


1912-1968 (Textbook system)

	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional support for parties -Dems pick up progressives and cities 	Battles over filibuster prominent in the Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Comms. dominate legislating & careers -consol. in 1946 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Party cohesion diminishes -party leaders brokers

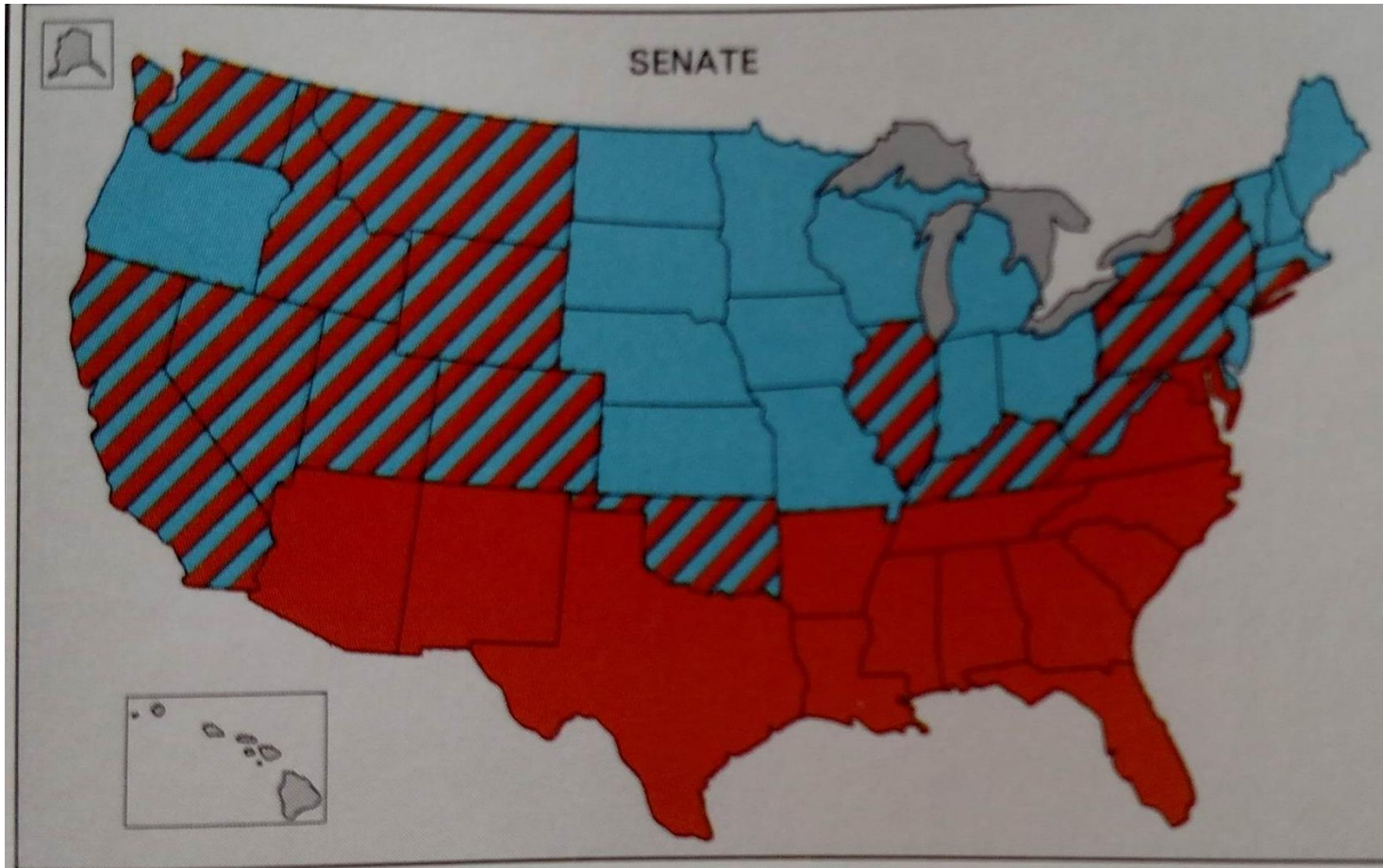


Regional parties

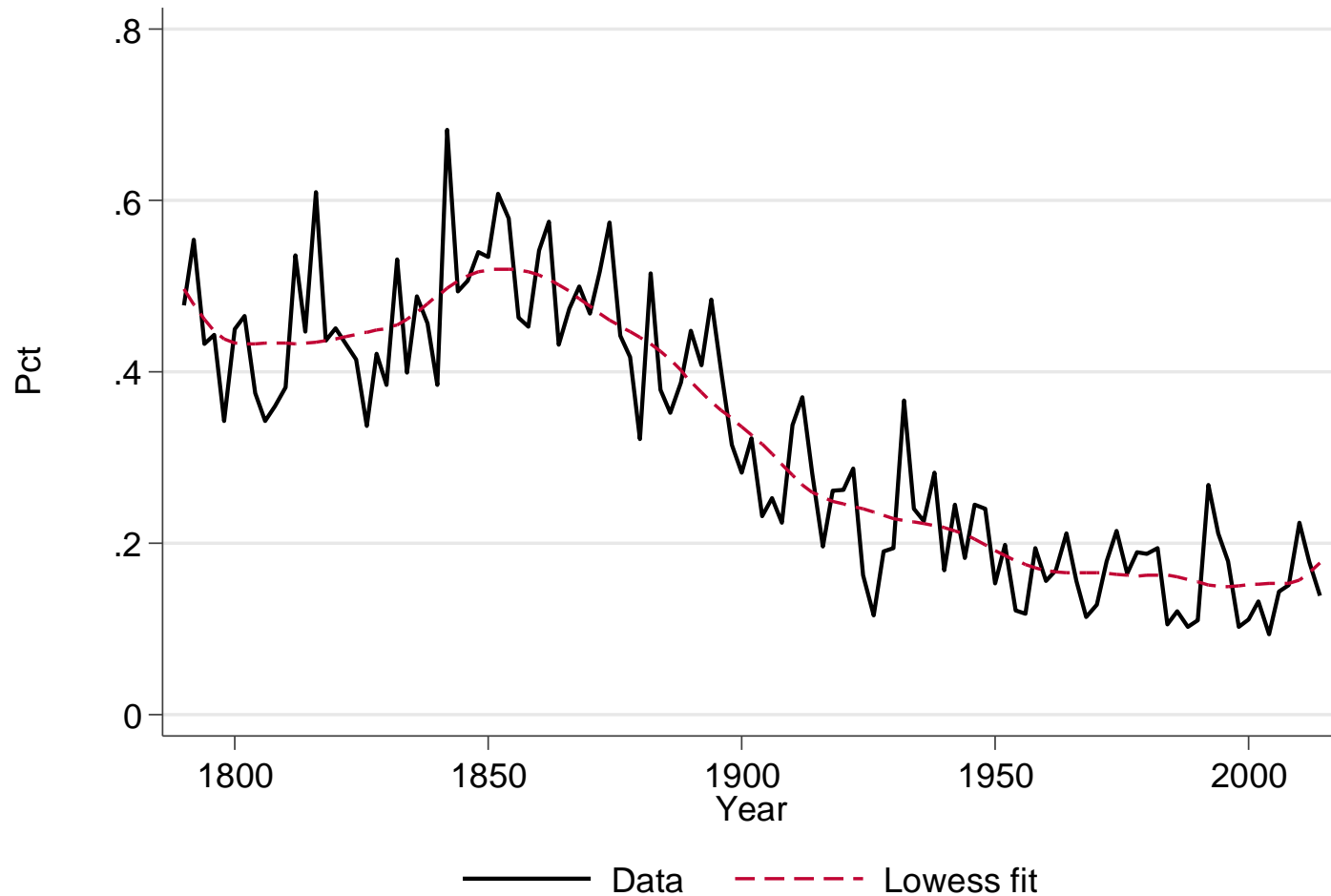


Source: Kenneth Martis, *Historical Atlas of Congressional Parties in the United States Congress*

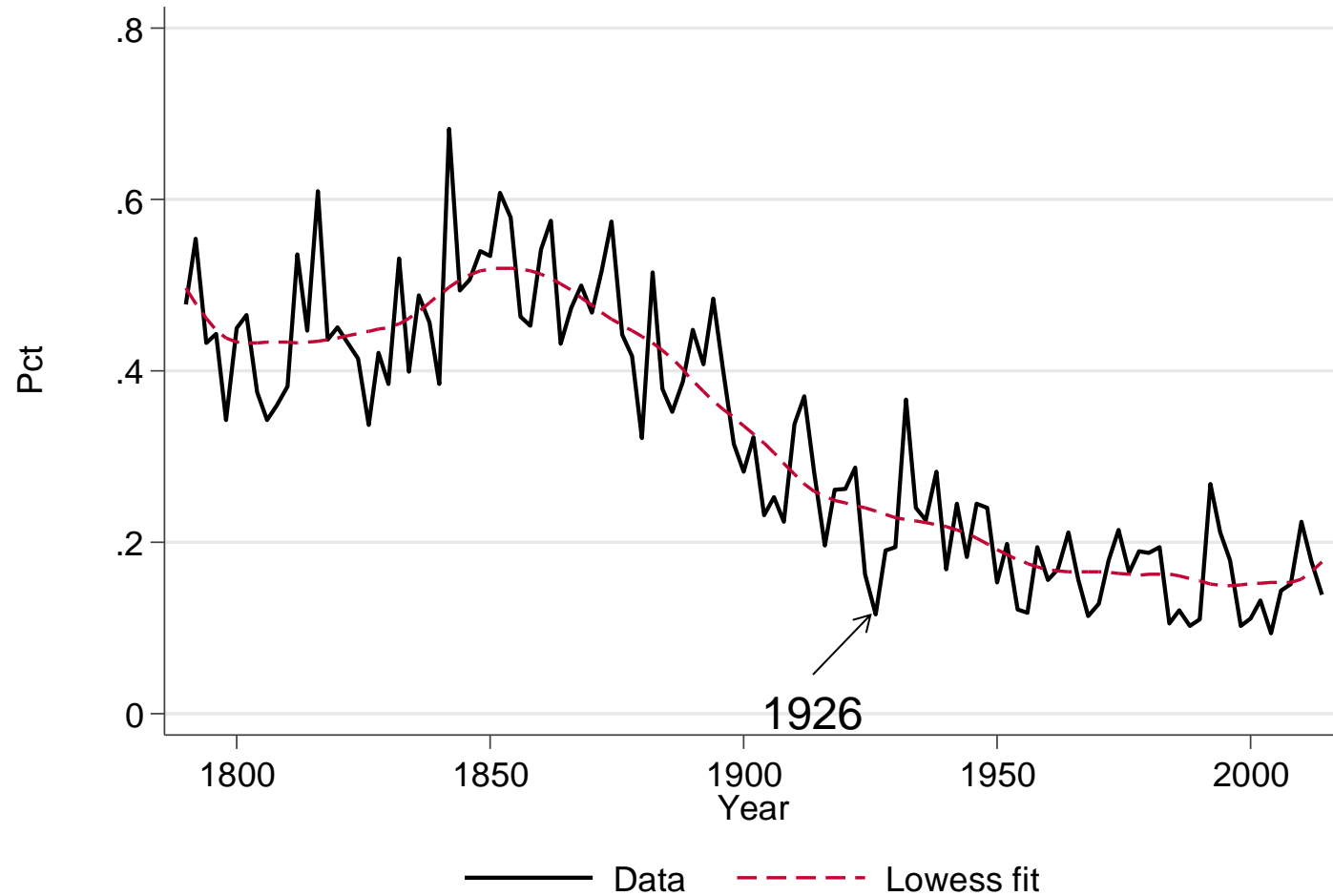
Regional parties



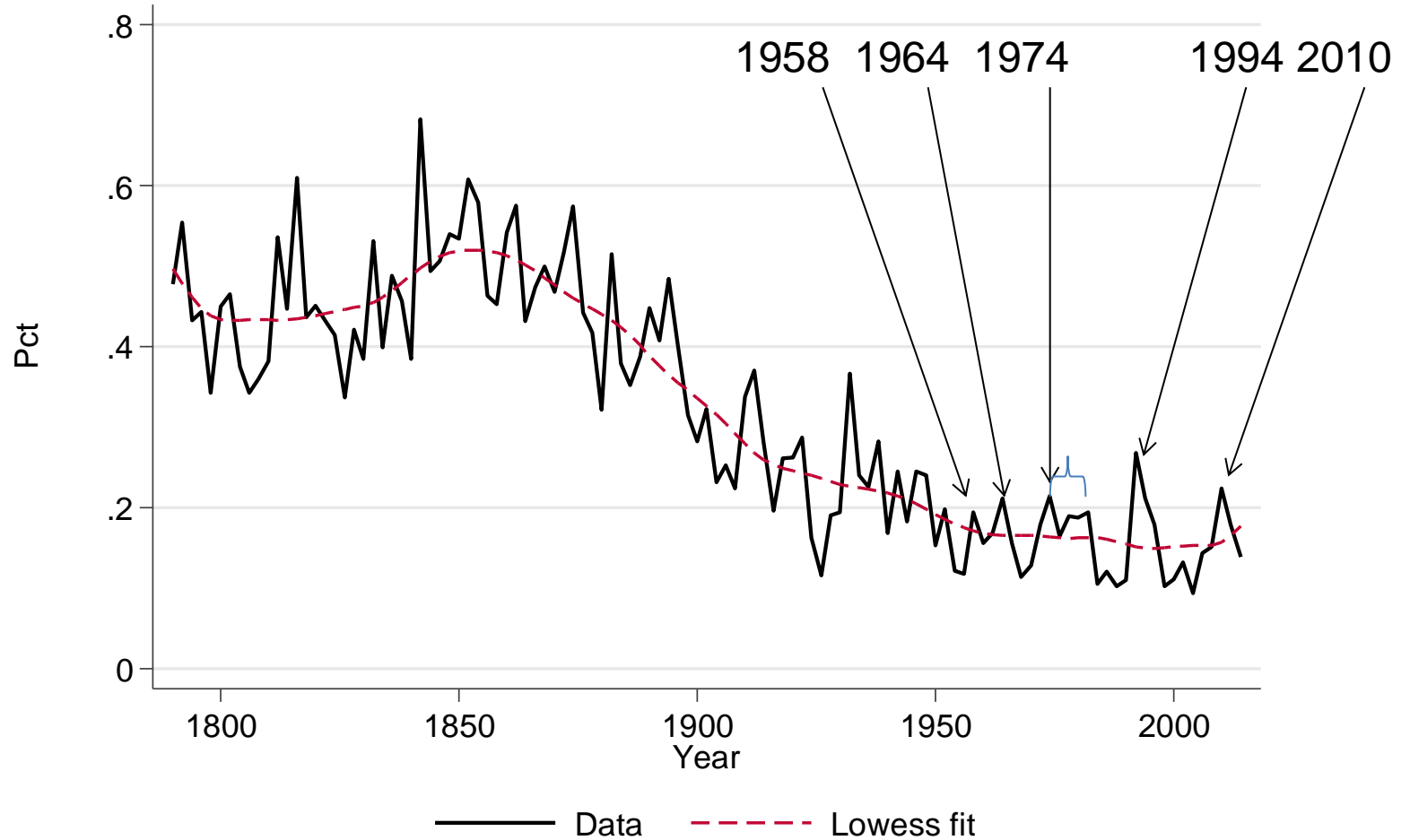
Rise of careerism: The House



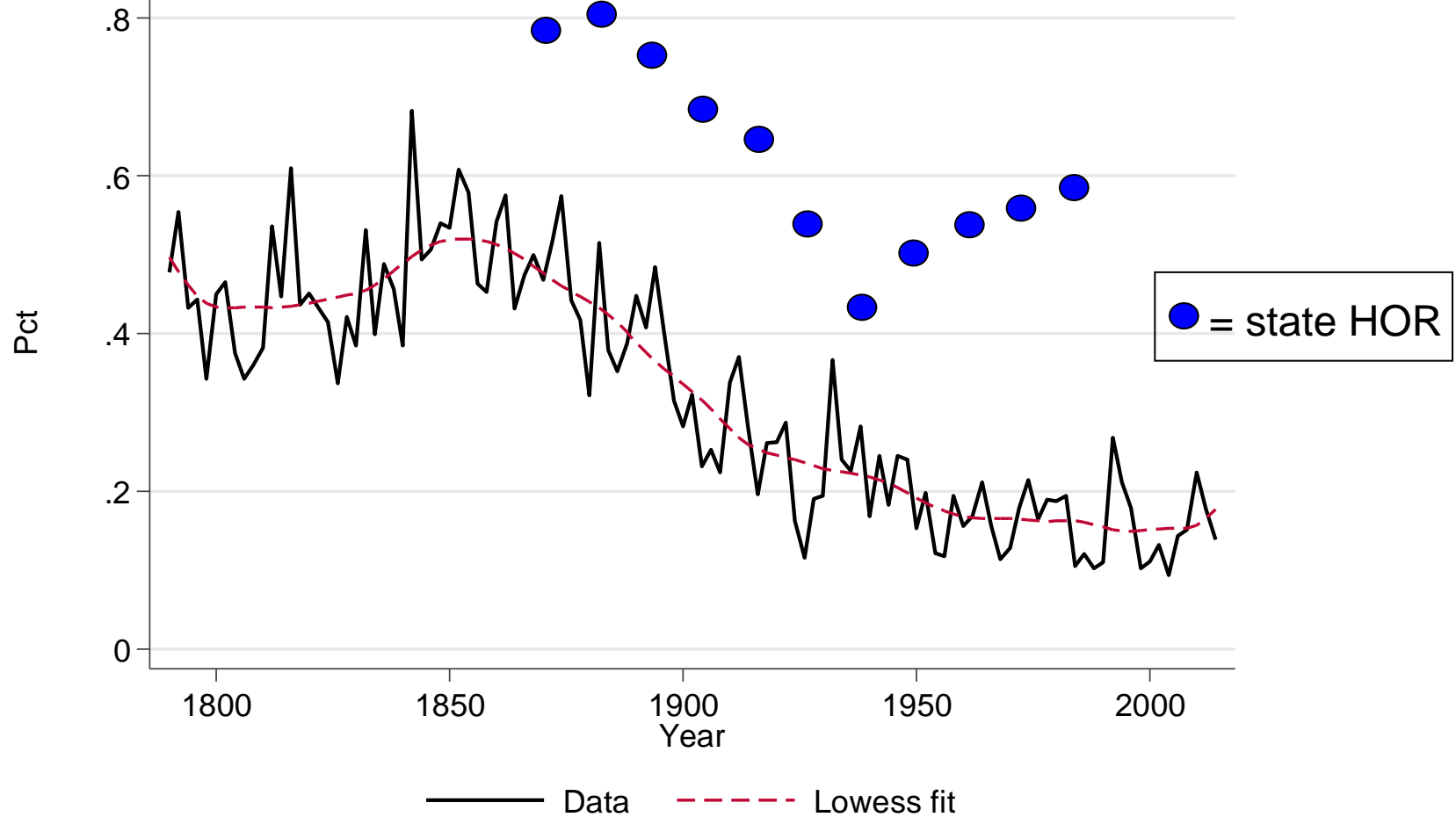
Rise of careerism



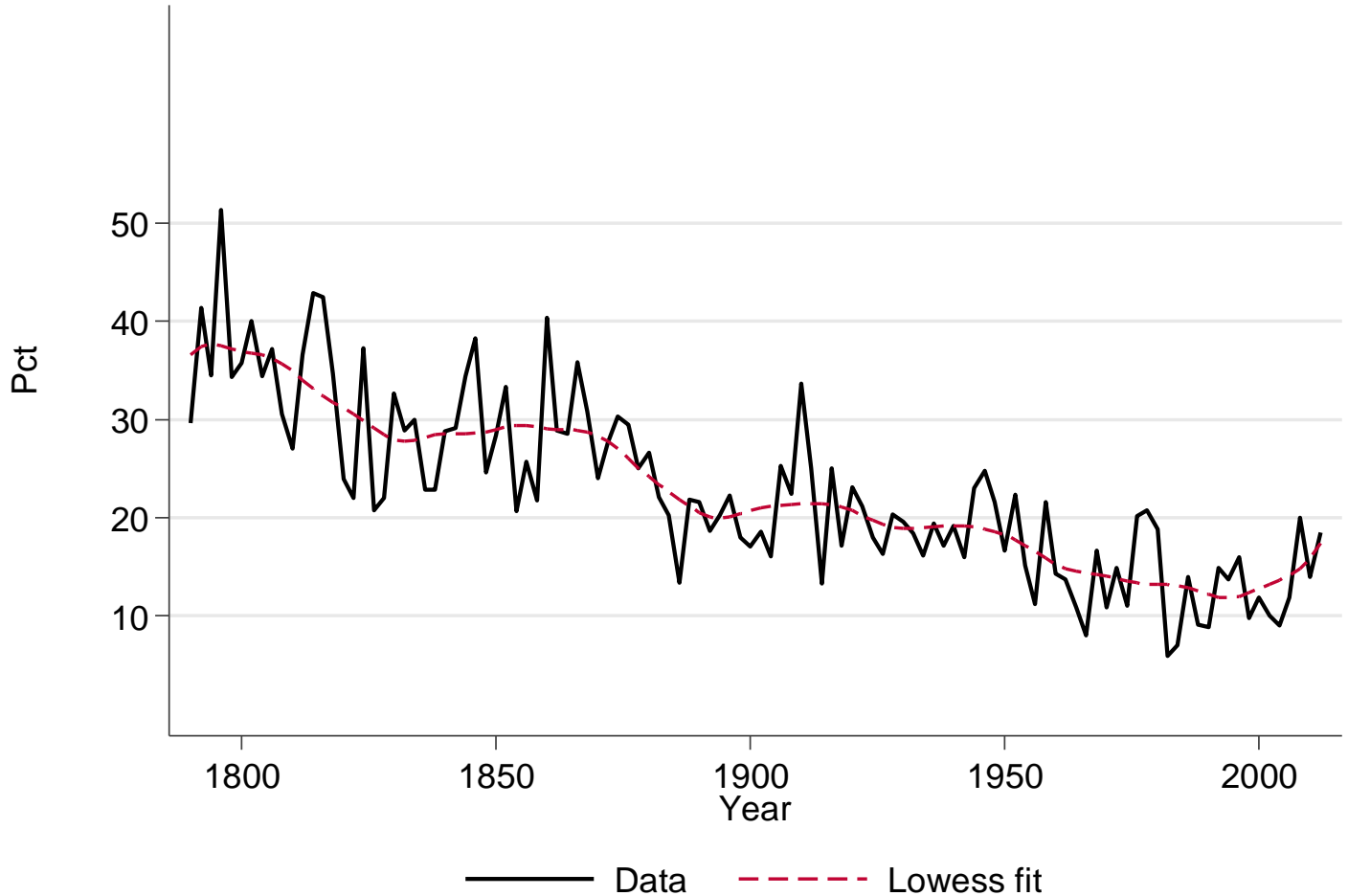
Rise of careerism



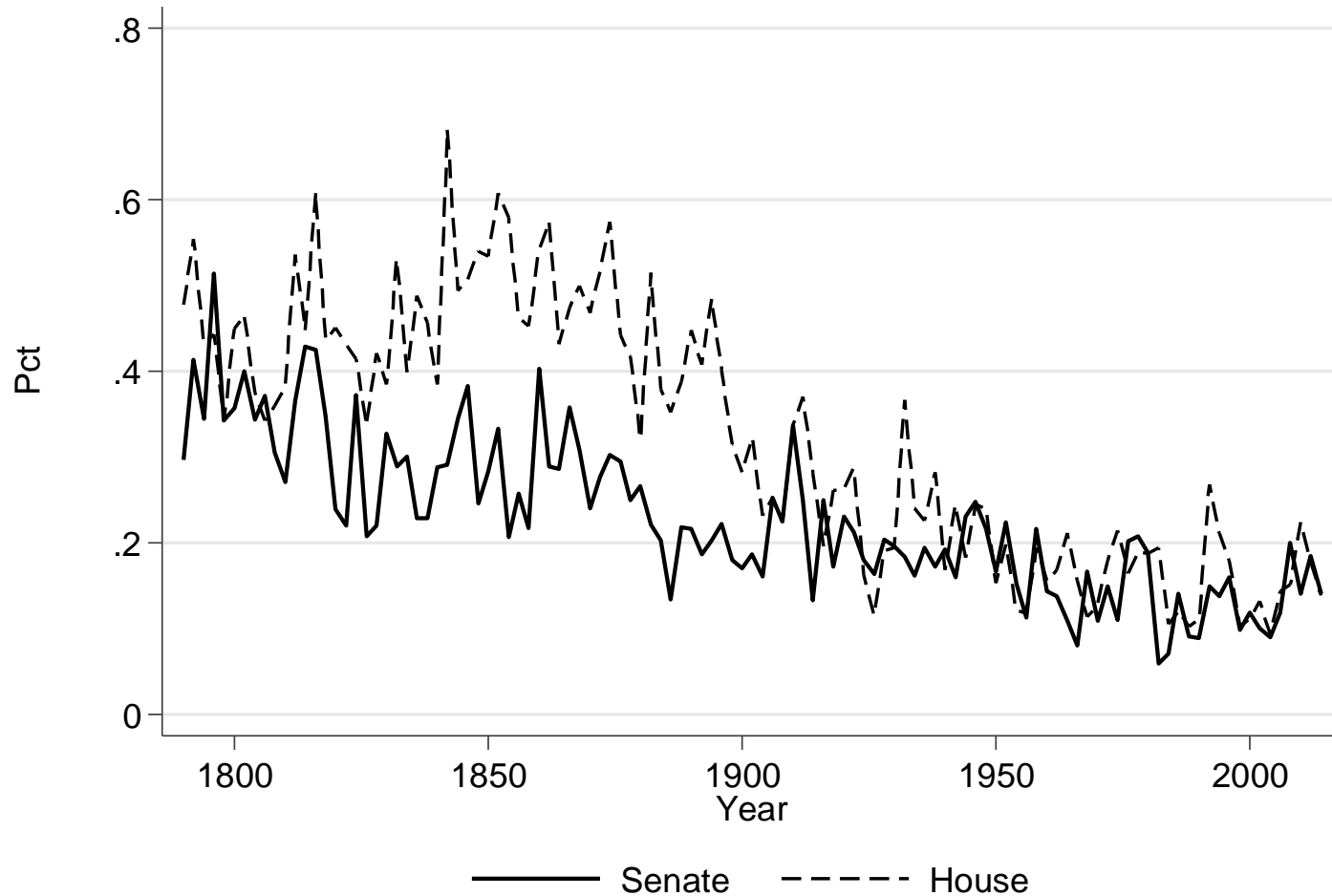
Rise of careerism



Rise of careerism: The Senate



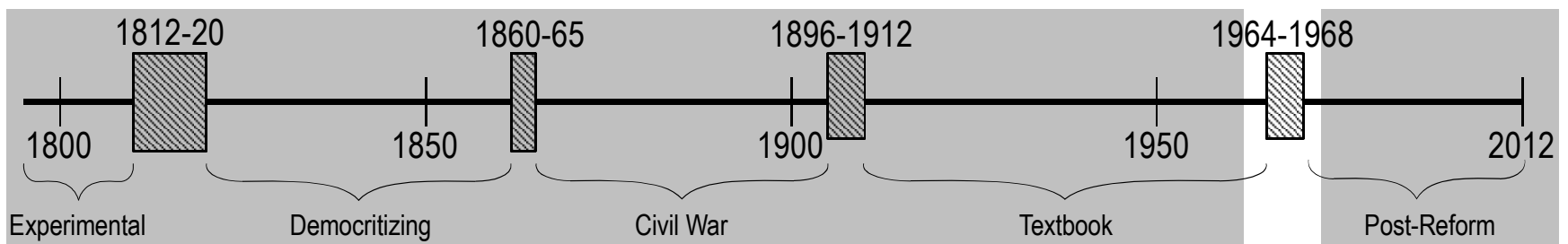
Senate & House Careerism Compared



1968-1974

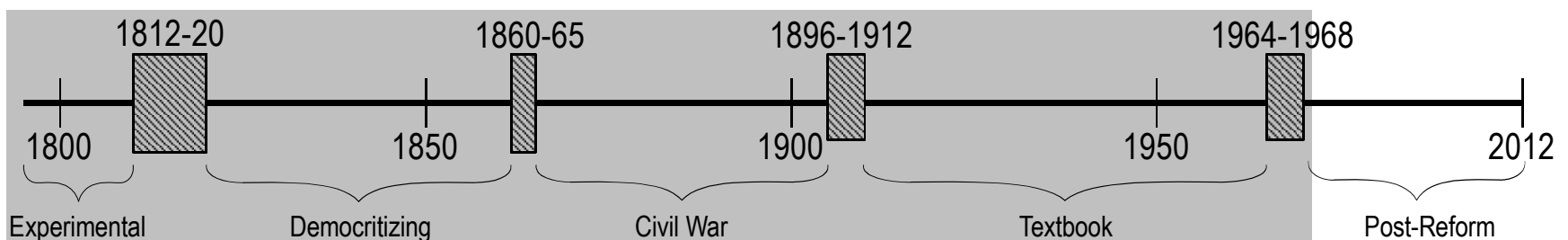
(Transition from Textbook to Post-Reform system)

- Anti-war sentiment divorces supporters of strong defense from Dems.
- Civil Rights movement divorces southern Whites from Dems, but reinforces Black affiliation with Dems.



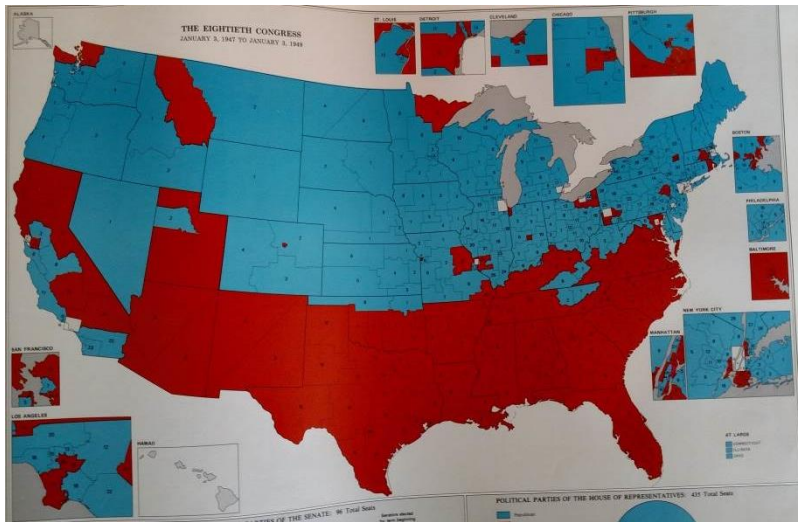
1974-now (Post-Reform System)

	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reps conservative, Dems. Liberal -Regionalism <i>per se</i> deemphasized 	Floor proceedings open up	-Comms important, but....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parties resurgent -Leaders more assertive (Republicans esp.)



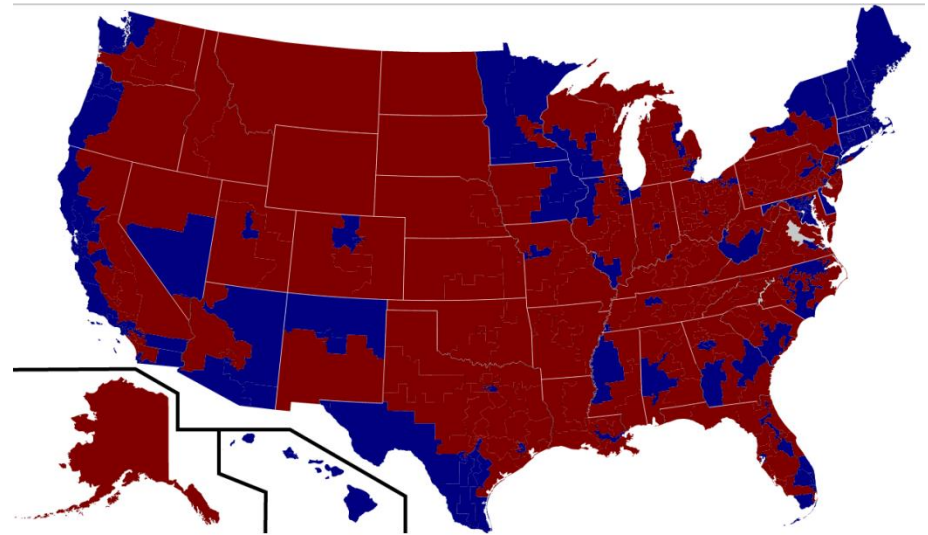
Loss of regionalism in parties

80th Congress
(1947-1948)



(Note the color reverse)

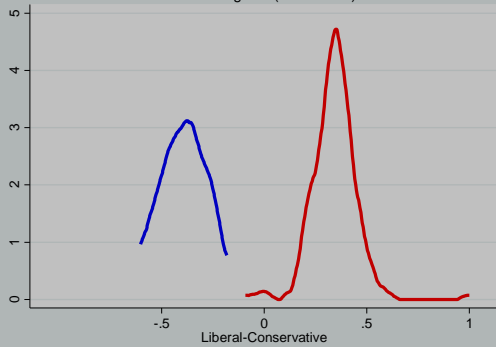
113th Congress
(2013-2014)



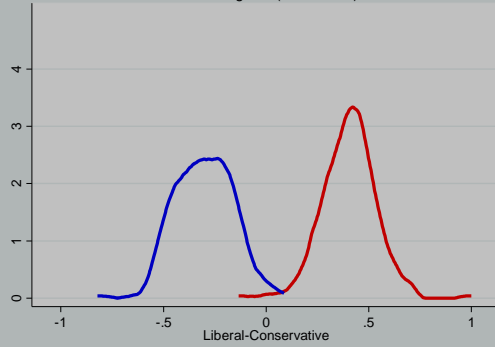
Source: Martis atlas

"113th US House" by Kurykh - Own work. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via
Wikimedia Commons -
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:113th_US_House.svg#mediaviewer/File:113th_US_House.svg

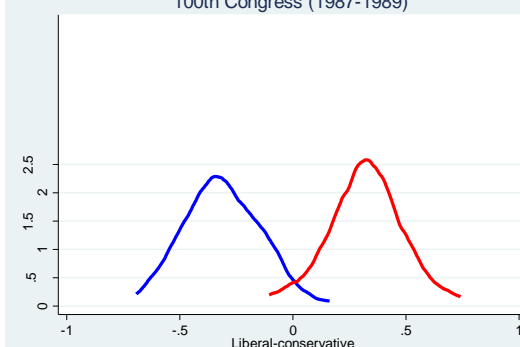
40th Congress (1867-1869)



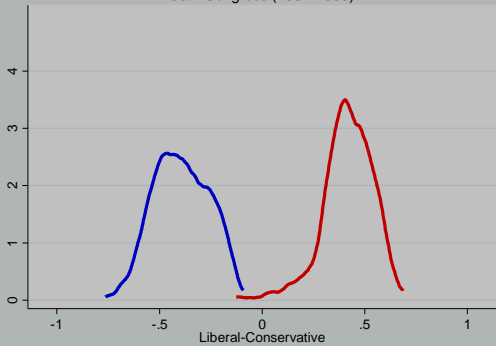
70th Congress (1927-1929)



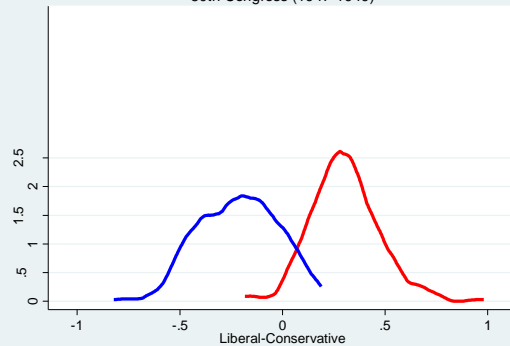
100th Congress (1987-1989)



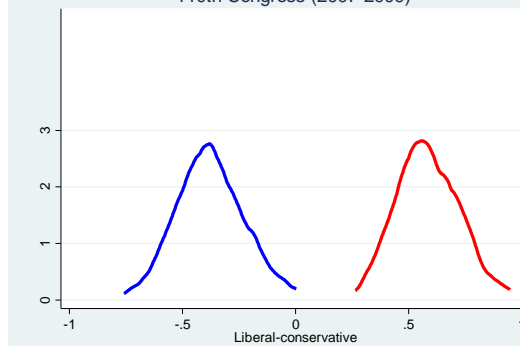
50th Congress (1887-1889)



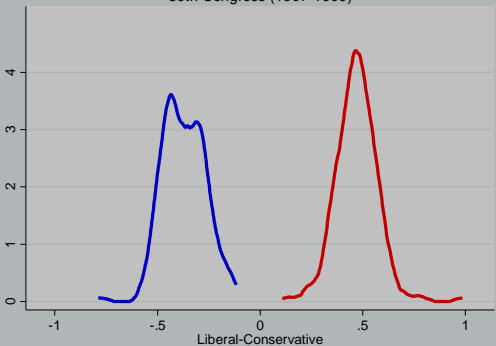
80th Congress (1947-1949)



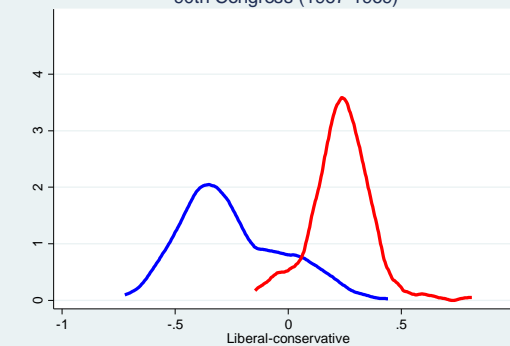
110th Congress (2007-2009)



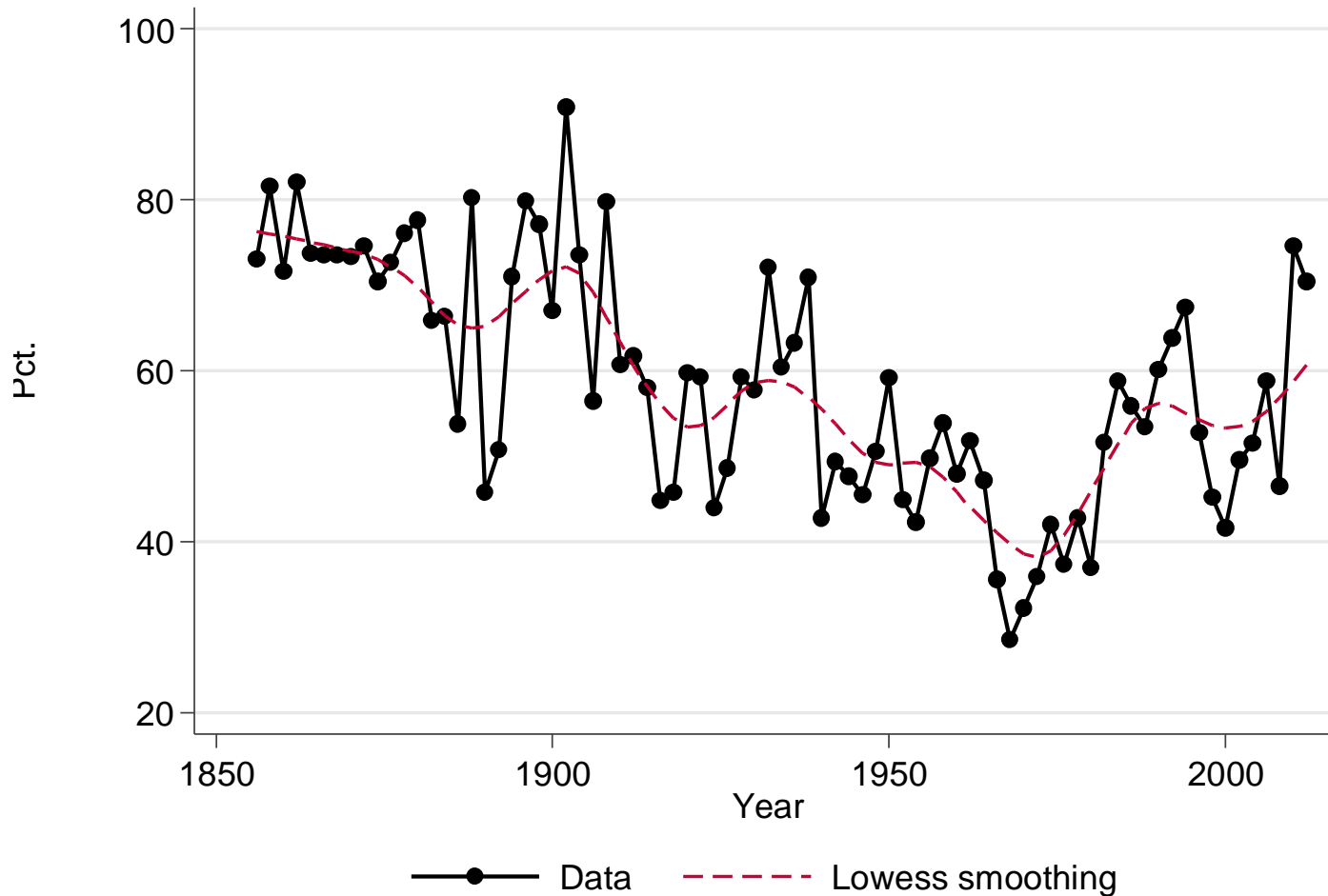
60th Congress (1907-1909)



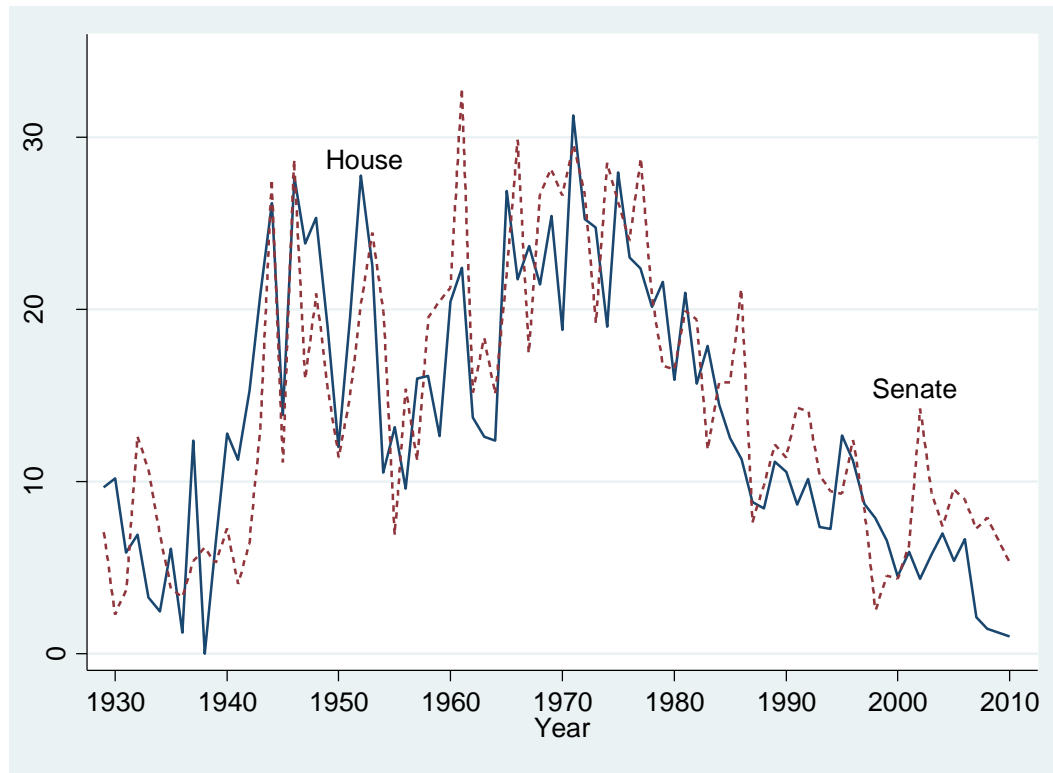
90th Congress (1967-1969)



Rise of Party Unity Voting (Update of Figure 3.4)



Decline of Conservative Coalition (Update of Figure 3.7)



New Electoral Environment?

New Organizational Environment?

- Election
 - Voters more partisan
 - Districts more partisan
 - Party committees play greater role
- Organization
 - Party leaders more prominent & partisan
 - Committee membership more partisan
 - Chairs
 - Seats
 - Link to finance

Congressional Historical Eras and Electoral Discontinuities

