A model of ideology to address where ideology comes from

Ideologies as long coalitions

APPLICATION: IDEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION ON RACE

The present paper does not explicitly explore a two-dimensional model, but preliminary work suggests that the two-dimensional model does capture much of what is important here.

In the 20th century, race has changed in association with ideology. In the early 1900s, liberals were not “liberal” on race. The otherwise conservative Republican Party was often pro-black, but the issue was largely ignored in the middle part of the century. Today, race is a fundamental feature of ideology. The standard binary response model and the multinomial model tell different stories about the transformation. The multinomial story is consistent with the coalitional theory, in which ideologies face internal conflicts.

In 1910, all the action on race is driven by the left. The right is not anti-black or pro-segregation, but the left is pro-black and anti-segregation. The right is avoiding the issue.

By 1930, all the action on race is driven by the left. The right is more anti-black or pro-segregation, but the left is more pro-black and anti-segregation. The left is avoiding the issue.

By 1950, attitudes toward segregation are well associated with the ideological dimension, and both models tell the same story.

Thus, the model predicts ideologies can be defined by abstention and other forms of inter-party conflicts as well as by issue positions.

THEORETICAL MODEL

EMPIRICAL MODEL

VS. BINARY MODEL

APPLICATION: IDEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION ON RACE

1910: A conversation on the left about race

1930: The left becomes “liberal” on race

1950: The left and the right are polarized on race

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1910: A conversation on the left about race

From the binary model, it appears that in 1910, attitudes toward blacks as a group are unrelated to ideology, while those on the “right” (pro-busing, favor segregation) and the “left” (against busing, opposed to segregation) are clearly divided.

The multinomial model tells a different story. Those on the “left” are split over race; the issue is off the agenda on the “right.” On segregation, the association with ideology is driven by liberal opposition to segregation. This is consistent with the view that Republicans sometimes used race to pit the Democrats, but otherwise avoided the issue.

1930: The left becomes “liberal” on race

By 1930, all the action on race is driven by the left. The right is not anti-black or pro-segregation, but the left is pro-black and anti-segregation. The right is avoiding the issue.

This is not due to agenda control, as in Congress. But ideologies define coalitions, and ideology is defined by race.

By 1950, attitudes toward segregation are well associated with the ideological dimension, and both models tell the same story.

1950: The left and the right are polarized on race

By 1950, attitudes toward segregation are well associated with the ideological dimension, and both models tell the same story.

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When the Decision to Speak is as Important as What You Say