POLITICAL PARTIES, IDEOLOGY AND THE U.S. ECONOMY

I. U.S. Party System
   Ideological Alignment: “Polarization”

II. The Economy and the Party System
PARTY SYSTEMS

United States Congress

House of Representatives

Senate

Japanese Diet

House of Representatives

House of Councillors

D

R

DPJ

LDP
Duverger’s Law: “The simple-majority single-ballot system favors the two-party system”
THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Top Two Candidate’s Performance in U.S. Presidential Elections

WINNERS

LOSERS
Parties are like a bundle of sticks. A bundle is stronger than an individual stick.

What holds that bundle together?

Who is in the bundle, and who is excluded (or in the other bundle)?
PARTY POLARIZATION

House 81
1949-1950

Senate 81
1949-1950

D = N. Democrat
S = S. Democrat
R = Republican
PARTY POLARIZATION

House Party Medians by Congress

Republicans

Democrats
IDEOLOGICAL SORTING

Correlation of Ideology and Party ID among Voters

American National Election Study
My talk will be based on the following chapter from a forthcoming book. The chapter refers to a previous finding, Figure 2.1, which is reproduced here.

**Figure 2.1**
Income Growth by Income Level under Democratic and Republican Presidents, 1948-2005

![Graph showing income growth by income level under Democratic and Republican Presidents, 1948-2005](image)
Negative Agenda Power: A good party leader who controls the agenda will never let a bill come to a vote if their party disagrees on it.
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EASIER WITH POLARIZATION
DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

United States Congress

House of Representatives

Senate

President
ECONOMY AS CAUSE

Presidential Vote vs. Economy, 1948-2008

- Incumbent's Share of Two-Party Vote
- % Change in RDI
IDEOLOGY AS CAUSE

Presidential Vote vs. Ideology, 1948-2008

Incumbent Party’s Share of Two-Party Vote

Incumbent’s Relative Moderation