

STALEMATE

Causes and Consequences of Legislative Gridlock

SARAH A. BINDER



Stalemate Causes And Consequences Of Legislative Gridlock

Camilla Rothe



Stalemate Causes And Consequences Of Legislative Gridlock:

Stalemate Sarah A. Binder, 2004-05-13 Gridlock is not a modern legislative condition Although the term is said to have entered the American political lexicon after the 1980 elections Alexander Hamilton complained about it more than two hundred years ago In many ways stalemate seems endemic to American politics Constitutional skeptics even suggest that the framers intentionally designed the Constitution to guarantee gridlock In Stalemate Sarah Binder examines the causes and consequences of gridlock focusing on the ability of Congress to broach and secure policy compromise on significant national issues Reviewing more than fifty years of legislative history Binder measures the frequency of deadlock during that time and offers concrete advice for policymakers interested in improving the institutional capacity of Congress Binder begins by revisiting the notion of framers intent investigating whether gridlock was the preferred outcome of those who designed the American system of separated powers Her research suggests that frequent policy gridlock might instead be an unintended consequence of constitutional design Next she explores the ways in which elections and institutions together shape the capacity of Congress and the president to make public law She examines two facets of its institutional evolution the emergence of the Senate as a coequal legislative partner of the House and the insertion of political parties into a legislative arena originally devoid of parties Finally she offers a new empirical approach for testing accounts of policy stalemate during the decades since World War II These measurements reveal patterns in legislative performance during the second half of the twentieth century showing the frequency of policy deadlock and the legislative stages at which it has most often emerged in the postwar period Binder uses the new measure of stalemate to explain empirical patterns in the frequency of gridlock The results weave together the effects of institu

Watchdogs on the Hill Linda L. Fowler, 2015-03-22 An essential responsibility of the U S Congress is holding the president accountable for the conduct of foreign policy In this in depth look at formal oversight hearings by the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees Linda Fowler evaluates how the legislature s most visible and important watchdogs performed from the mid twentieth century to the present She finds a noticeable reduction in public and secret hearings since the mid 1990s and establishes that American foreign policy frequently violated basic conditions for democratic accountability Committee scrutiny of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan she notes fell below levels of oversight in prior major conflicts Fowler attributes the drop in watchdog activity to growing disinterest among senators in committee work biases among members who join the Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees and motives that shield presidents particularly Republicans from public inquiry Her detailed case studies of the Truman Doctrine Vietnam War Panama Canal Treaty humanitarian mission in Somalia and Iraq War illustrate the importance of oversight in generating the information citizens need to judge the president s national security policies She argues for a reassessment of congressional war powers and proposes reforms to encourage Senate watchdogs to improve public deliberation about decisions of war and peace Watchdogs on the Hill investigates America s national security oversight and

its critical place in the review of congressional and presidential powers in foreign policy **New Directions in American Political Parties** Jeffrey M. Stonecash, 2010-06-10 Our portraits of voters their relationship to parties and the behavior of elected party members have changed significantly within the last 10 to 15 years Characterizations of dealignment and decreased importance of parties have been fairly rapidly replaced by a focus on party polarization Voters are becoming more ideological and the debate is now about the relative role of ideology religious attachment views on immigration and class in affecting party identification and voting In a short period of time we have gone from concern that parties are not responsive or sufficiently different to whether polarization has become too great This volume with contributions from some of the most noted scholars of political parties brings together assessments of these changes to provide a comprehensive overview of current trends in the field It serves as an excellent companion to courses on parties and elections and a useful overview for scholars and students of American politics generally *Congress and Policy Making in the 21st Century* Jeffery A. Jenkins, Eric M. Patashnik, 2016-02-15 Leading political scientists analyze how Congress tackles and fails to tackle national challenges from health care to immigration *Environmental Policy* Norman J. Vig, Michael E. Kraft, Barry G. Rabe, 2020-12-25 Authoritative and trusted *Environmental Policy* once again brings together top scholars to evaluate the changes and continuities in American environmental policy since the late 1960s and their implications for the twenty first century Students will learn to decipher the underlying trends institutional constraints and policy dilemmas that shape today's environmental politics The Eleventh Edition examines how policy has changed within federal institutions and state and local governments as well as how environmental governance affects private sector policies and practices There are five new chapters in this edition that examine the public's opinion on the environment courts energy policy natural resource agencies and policies and the political economy of green growth The book has been updated to reflect the Trump administration's four years of policy changes and students will walk away with a measured yet hopeful evaluation of the future challenges that policymakers will confront as the American environmental movement continues to affect the political process **The Context of Legislating** Shannon Jenkins, 2016-04-28 The Context of Legislating provides a much needed examination of how the rules resources and political conditions within and surrounding different institutions raise or lower the costs of legislating Using data tracking over 1 100 legislators 230 committees and 12 000 bills introduced in ten state lower chambers Shannon Jenkins examines how political conditions and institutional rules and resources shape the arc of the legislative process by raising the costs of some types of legislative activity and lowering the costs of others Jenkins traces these important contextual effects across the legislative process examining bill introduction committee processing and floor passage of bills in these legislatures The analysis reveals that institutional variables shape the legislative process on their own but they also have important interactive effects that shape the behavior of actors in these chambers After tracing these effects across the legislative process the book concludes by examining the practical implications of these analytical findings How can the rules

of institutions be designed to create effective legislatures And what do these findings mean for those who seek to shape the policies produced by these institutions Understanding of how the context of legislating shapes the outputs of legislatures is a critical element of understanding legislatures that has been sorely missing An original and timely resource for scholars and students researching state legislatures and state politics **Comparative Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Omnibus Legislation** Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov, 2021-05-27 This book is the first in the world to provide a cross national comparative exploration of omnibus legislation It contributes to the global debate over omnibus legislation and offers comprehensive thorough and multifaceted coverage that concerns the fields of legislation and jurisprudence comparative law political science public policy and economics Beyond its relevance for these fields the book will support practitioners in parliaments governments and courts thereby impacting the actual use of omnibus legislation A new major and controversial reform is enacted in the middle of the night It is buried in a massive omnibus bill hundreds of pages in length which is rammed through the legislative process at breakneck speed The legislators receive the final version of the bill in the very last minute and protest that they ve had no opportunity to read it in detail and know what they re voting upon The majority party s legislative leaders however are unimpressed and the law is eventually passed on the basis of strict party discipline Though it may sound far fetched this scenario is all too familiar in many legislatures around the world The legislative practice of combining numerous unrelated measures in one long bill which is often passed via a highly expedited process has become a matter of intense debate and criticism in many countries **Polarization** Nolan McCarty, 2019-06-07 Nolan McCarty s Polarization What Everyone Needs to Know is an accessible introduction to polarization in America McCarty takes readers through what scholars know and don t know about the origins development and implications of our rising political conflicts delving into social economic and geographic determinants of polarization in the United States **AARP** Christine L. Day, 2017-10-19 This examination of the history development activities successes and limitations of the largest membership organization in the country will be of interest to anyone who belongs to or is curious about this sometimes controversial group AARP is one of Washington s most influential interest groups but just who does it represent To some it represents the narrow special interests of older Americans who already consume more than their share of government benefits To others its advocacy encompasses everyone including those with elderly parents and grandparents and those who will comprise the older generations of the future The most comprehensive volume ever written about AARP the book begins with a chapter on the organization s history going back to its founding in 1958 and its roots in the National Retired Teachers Association established in 1947 Readers will learn about AARP s membership and chapter activities including how it grew to be the largest membership organization in the country Perhaps even more engrossing is the book s investigation of the nature and extent of AARP s political influence and its positions and priorities as it struggles to represent a large and diverse constituency Finally the study discusses AARP s organizational model which combines political advocacy business and charity

and probes the controversies arising from what AARP's critics charge are conflicts of interest Laboratories Against Democracy Jacob Grumbach, 2022-07-19 As national political fights are waged at the state level democracy itself pays the price Over the past generation the Democratic and Republican parties have each become nationally coordinated political teams American political institutions on the other hand remain highly decentralized Laboratories against Democracy shows how national political conflicts are increasingly flowing through the subnational institutions of state politics with profound consequences for public policy and American democracy Jacob Grumbach argues that as Congress has become more gridlocked national partisan and activist groups have shifted their sights to the state level nationalizing state politics in the process and transforming state governments into the engines of American policymaking He shows how this has had the ironic consequence of making policy more varied across the states as red and blue party coalitions implement increasingly distinct agendas in areas like health care reproductive rights and climate change The consequences don't stop there however Drawing on a wealth of new data on state policy public opinion money in politics and democratic performance Grumbach traces how national groups are using state governmental authority to suppress the vote gerrymander districts and erode the very foundations of democracy itself Required reading for this precarious moment in our politics Laboratories against Democracy reveals how the pursuit of national partisan agendas at the state level has intensified the challenges facing American democracy and asks whether today's state governments are mitigating the political crises of our time or accelerating them **The American Presidency** Irwin L. Morris, 2010-08-15 Presidential scholars increasingly turn to science to address the fundamental issues in the field but undergraduates are rarely taught the skills to do the same The American Presidency introduces students to new insights produced by the scientific study of the presidency and the scientific endeavor itself After chapters on the scientific study of the presidency and background information on the presidency the text discusses prominent theories of presidential power Chapters on presidential elections the president's relationship with other political actors such as Congress and the Supreme Court the president's role in foreign and economic policy and presidential greatness include guided research exercises that provide students with the opportunity to apply the scientific method to empirical questions with significant theoretical content The American Presidency provides students with the opportunity to learn about the presidency and enables them to draw their own reasoned conclusions about the nature of presidential power *Why Democracies Flounder and Fail* Michael Haas, 2018-06-26 Democracy is in crisis because voices of the people are ignored due to a politics of mass society After demonstrating how the French Fourth Republic failed wherein Singapore's totalitarianism is a dangerous model Washington is enmeshed in gridlock and there is a global democracy deficit solutions are offered to revitalize democracy as the best form of government The book demonstrates how mass society politics operates with intermediate institutions of civil society media pressure groups political parties no longer transmitting the will of the people to government but instead are concerned with corporate interests and have developed

oligarchical mindsets Rather than micro remedy bandaids the author focuses on the need to transform governing philosophies from pragmatic to humanistic solutions *Abortion Politics in Congress* Scott H. Ainsworth, Thad E. Hall, 2010-12-13 This book examines how legislators have juggled their passions over abortion with standard congressional procedures looking at how both external factors such as public opinion and internal factors such as the ideological composition of committees and party systems shape the development of abortion policy Driven by both theoretical and empirical concerns Scott H Ainsworth and Thad E Hall present a simple formal model of strategic incrementalism illustrating that legislators often have incentives to alter policy incrementally They then examine the sponsorship of abortion related proposals as well as their committee referral and find that a wide range of Democratic and Republican legislators repeatedly offer abortion related proposals designed to alter abortion policy incrementally *Abortion Politics in Congress* reveals that abortion debates have permeated a wide range of issues and that a wide range of legislators and a large number of committees address abortion *Congress Reconsidered* Lawrence C. Dodd, Bruce I. Oppenheimer, C. Lawrence Evans, 2020-12-03 Since its first edition *Congress Reconsidered* was designed to make available the best contemporary work from leading congressional scholars in a form that is both challenging and accessible to undergraduates With their Twelfth Edition Lawrence C Dodd Bruce I Oppenheimer and C Lawrence Evans continue this tradition as their contributors focus on how various aspects of Congress have changed over time C Lawrence Evans partners with Wendy Schiller to discuss the U S Senate and the meaning of dysfunction Molly E Reynolds analyzes the politics of the budget and appropriations process in a polarized Congress and Danielle M Thomsen looks at the role of women and voter preferences in the 2018 elections With a strong new focus on political polarization this bestselling volume remains on the cutting edge with key insights into the workings of Congress *The Macropolitics of Congress* E. Scott Adler, John S. Lapinski, 2011-10-16 How do public laws treaties Senate confirmations and other legislative achievements help us to gain insight into how our governmental system performs This well argued book edited by Scott Adler and John Lapinski is the first to assess our political institutions by looking at what the authors refer to as legislative accomplishment The book moves beyond current research on Congress that focuses primarily on rules internal structure and the microbehavior of individual lawmakers to look at the mechanisms that govern how policy is enacted and implemented in the United States It includes essays on topics ranging from those dealing with the microfoundations of congressional output to large N empirical analyses that assess current theories of lawmaking to policy centered case studies All of the chapters take a Congress centered perspective on macropolicy while still appreciating the importance of other branches of government in explaining policy accomplishment *The Macropolitics of Congress* shines light on promising pathways for the exploration of such key issues as the nature of political representation It will make a significant contribution to the study of Congress and more generally to our understanding of American politics Contributors include E Scott Adler David Brady Charles M Cameron Brandice Canes Wrone Robert S Erikson Grace R Freedman Valerie

Heitshusen John D Huber Ira Katznelson Keith Krehbiel John S Lapinski David Leblang Michael B MacKuen David R Mayhew Nolan McCarty Charles R Shipan James A Stimson and Garry Young **While Dangers Gather** William G. Howell, Jon Pevehouse, 2011-06-27 Nearly five hundred times in the past century American presidents have deployed the nation's military abroad on missions ranging from embassy evacuations to full scale wars The question of whether Congress has effectively limited the president's power to do so has generally met with a resounding no In **While Dangers Gather** William Howell and Jon Pevehouse reach a very different conclusion The authors one an American politics scholar the other an international relations scholar provide the most comprehensive and compelling evidence to date on Congress's influence on presidential war powers Their findings have profound implications for contemporary debates about war presidential power and Congress's constitutional obligations While devoting special attention to the 2003 invasion of Iraq this book systematically analyzes the last half century of U S military policy Among its conclusions Presidents are systematically less likely to exercise military force when their partisan opponents retain control of Congress The partisan composition of Congress however matters most for proposed deployments that are larger in size and directed at less strategically important locales Moreover congressional influence is often achieved not through bold legislative action but through public posturing engaging the media raising public concerns and stirring domestic and international doubt about the United States resolve to see a fight through to the end

Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy David M. Konisky, 2020-04-24 A comprehensive analysis of diverse areas of scholarly research on U S environmental policy and politics this Handbook looks at the key ideas theoretical frameworks empirical findings and methodological approaches to the topic Leading environmental policy scholars emphasize areas of emerging research and opportunities for future enquiry **New Directions for International Relations** Bruce Russett, Alex Mintz, 2005-02-11 Why does the academic study of international relations have limited impact on the policy community When research results are inconsistent inconclusive and contradictory a lack of scholarly consensus discourages policy makers the business community and other citizens from trusting findings and conclusions from IR research In **New Directions for International Relations** Alex Mintz and Bruce Russett identify differences in methods of analysis as one cause of these problematic results They discuss the problem and set the stage for nine chapters by diverse scholars to demonstrate innovative new developments in IR theory and creative new methods that can lay the basis for greater consensus Looking at areas of concern such as the relationship between lawmaking and the use of military force the challenge of suppressing extremists without losing moderates and the public health effects of civil conflict contributors show how international relations research can generate reliable results that can be and in fact are used in the real world **Dynamics of American Democracy** Wendy J. Schiller, 2020-12-14 Democracy is in crisis Washington is failing Government is broken On these counts many politicians policy experts and citizens agree What is less clear is why and what to do about it These questions are at the heart of **Dynamics of American Democracy** which goes beneath the surface of current events to explore

the forces reshaping democratic politics in the United States and around the world Bringing together leading scholars and practitioners of politics and governance this volume charts a twenty first century landscape beset by ideological polarization and political tribalism rapid demographic economic and technological change the influence of online news and social media and the increasing importance of public attitudes about gender and race Against this fraught background the authors consider the performance of the two party system the operations of Congress and the presidency and the ways in which ordinary citizens form their beliefs and make their voting decisions The contributors work represents a wide range of perspectives and methodological approaches and provides insight into what ails American governance from the practice of politics as tribal warfare to the electoral rules that produce a two party hegemony and from the impact of social media including how differently conservatives and liberals use Twitter to the significance of President Trump in historical and institutional perspective Finally Dynamics of American Democracy goes beyond diagnosis to present and evaluate the value and viability of proposals for reforming politics

Congress Andrew J. Taylor, 2018-04-24 With record low approval ratings the lowest poll results since 1974 Congress is a failing institution in the eyes of many Americans Is public opinion correct in judging the inefficacy of the legislative branch or is the public mistaken in these harsh criticisms Congress A Performance Appraisal teaches students about this critical institution of American democracy by examining how successful the body is in carrying out its key functions particularly representation lawmaking and checking the other branches of government Rather than focusing on the institutional and procedural questions of how Congress is set up what rules guide its actions and how its members carry out their daily duties Andrew J Taylor asks do these structures procedures behaviors and outcomes serve the American people as they were meant to Using a set of aspirations a good legislature should strive for and benchmarks to rate how close it comes to those aspirations Taylor offers a unique approach to the discussion of Congress its actions and its efficacy as a legislature Sure to prompt provocative classroom discussions Congress is the perfect text for courses on American government and politics

Stalemate Causes And Consequences Of Legislative Gridlock Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become more apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is actually remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Stalemate Causes And Consequences Of Legislative Gridlock**," written by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound effect on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve into the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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