

5 functions of political parties

5 Functions of Political Parties: A Comprehensive Analysis

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Introduction:

Understanding the functions of political parties is crucial to comprehending how democratic systems operate. While the specific manifestations of these functions can vary across countries and political contexts, five key roles consistently emerge. This article will delve into the 5 functions of political parties, exploring their significance in shaping public policy, influencing elections, and fostering political participation. We will analyze each function in detail, examining its relevance to the stability and effectiveness of democratic governance. A thorough understanding of the 5 functions of political parties empowers citizens to engage more effectively with the political process and hold their elected representatives accountable.

1. Recruitment and Nomination of Candidates:

One of the most visible 5 functions of political parties is the recruitment and nomination of candidates for public office. Parties act as crucial gatekeepers, identifying and vetting potential candidates who align with their ideology and platform. This process often involves internal primaries, conventions, or other selection mechanisms. This function is essential because it helps streamline the electoral process, offering voters a manageable slate of candidates, rather than a chaotic free-for-all. The selection process, however, can also be a source of internal conflict within parties, particularly when diverse factions compete for influence. Furthermore, the criteria used for candidate selection can be criticized for potentially excluding certain groups or favoring those with particular resources or connections. The effectiveness of this function, in ensuring representative and capable candidates, is

therefore a key measure of a party's success and its contribution to a healthy democracy. Analyzing the various methods employed by different parties across diverse political systems allows for a comparative understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different candidate recruitment strategies. The influence of money and special interests on candidate selection is also a critical aspect of this function of political parties.

1. Policy Formulation and Promotion:

Parties play a vital role in formulating and promoting specific policy positions. They develop detailed platforms that address a range of issues, providing voters with clear choices during elections. This function differentiates parties from one another, enabling voters to choose the party that best represents their own views. Party manifestos, policy papers, and public statements articulate the party's stance on various policy issues, such as healthcare, education, taxation, and foreign policy. The process of policy formulation within a party often involves internal debates, negotiations, and compromises among different factions. The effectiveness of a party in translating its policy promises into action once in power is a crucial indicator of its legitimacy and its ability to fulfill its mandate. The 5 functions of political parties, particularly this one, contribute to a structured and accountable policy-making process, helping to ensure that the government addresses the concerns and priorities of its citizens.

1. Organization and Mobilization of Voters:

Political parties are indispensable in organizing and mobilizing voters. They conduct voter registration drives, organize campaign rallies and events, and engage in grassroots outreach to encourage participation in the electoral process. This function is particularly crucial in ensuring broader political participation, especially among marginalized communities. Parties develop sophisticated strategies to reach out to specific voter demographics, using various communication channels such as social media, door-to-door campaigning, and targeted advertising. The success of a party in mobilizing its base often determines its electoral success. This function of political parties is intrinsically linked to the health of a democracy, ensuring that citizens have the information and opportunity to participate effectively in the decision-making process. The level of participation, however, can be influenced by factors beyond the parties' control, such as socioeconomic inequalities and voter apathy.

1. Government Formation and Accountability:

The formation of governments, particularly in parliamentary systems, is largely determined by the performance of political parties in elections. The party or coalition of parties that wins a majority of seats typically forms the government. This function underscores the centrality of parties in the exercise of power. Once in power, parties are responsible for implementing their policy platforms and managing the affairs of state. However, their role extends beyond governance; they also play a

crucial role in holding the government accountable. Opposition parties scrutinize the government's actions, propose alternative policies, and serve as a vital check on executive power. This accountability function is central to preventing abuse of power and maintaining democratic norms. The effectiveness of this accountability mechanism is dependent upon the strength and organization of opposition parties, as well as the existence of a free and independent press.

1. Aggregation and Articulation of Interests:

Political parties serve as vital channels for aggregating and articulating diverse interests within society. They bring together individuals and groups with shared political views, creating platforms for collective action and influencing public policy. This function helps to manage societal conflict by providing mechanisms for expressing competing interests in a structured manner. Parties often represent a wide range of societal interests, from economic sectors to social movements. They act as intermediaries between the people and the state, translating public demands into concrete political action. The ability of parties to effectively aggregate and articulate diverse interests is a sign of a healthy and inclusive political system. However, challenges arise when parties struggle to accommodate diverse viewpoints within their own ranks or when the interests of specific groups are systematically marginalized.

Conclusion:

The 5 functions of political parties outlined above are essential for the effective functioning of democratic systems. While they may face criticisms and exhibit imperfections in practice, their role in recruiting candidates, formulating policy, mobilizing voters, forming governments, and aggregating interests remains indispensable. Understanding these functions is key to appreciating the dynamics of political competition, the intricacies of policy-making, and the overall health of democratic governance. A critical assessment of how parties perform these functions, including their transparency and accountability, is essential for responsible civic engagement.

FAQs:

1. What are the downsides of a two-party system? Two-party systems can limit voter choice, stifle political innovation, and lead to political polarization.
1. How do political parties adapt to changing social norms? Parties adapt through internal reforms, adjusting their platforms to reflect evolving public opinion and shifting demographics.
1. What is the role of political parties in times of crisis? Parties play a crucial role in uniting the nation, providing leadership, and coordinating responses to crises.

1. How do political parties influence media coverage? Parties influence media through press releases, interviews, advertising, and cultivating relationships with journalists.
1. What is the impact of campaign finance on political parties? Campaign finance can significantly affect party competitiveness, potentially giving an advantage to wealthier parties or candidates.
1. How do political parties affect voter turnout? Effective party mobilization strategies can significantly increase voter turnout, while ineffective strategies can lead to apathy.
1. What is the role of minor parties in a political system? Minor parties can influence public discourse, offer alternative perspectives, and act as pressure groups.
1. How do political parties build and maintain coalitions? Coalitions are built on shared policy goals, strategic alliances, and mutual political benefits.
1. What is the future of political parties in the digital age? Parties must adapt to the digital age through effective online engagement, digital campaigning, and managing online disinformation.

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5 functions of political parties: *Political Parties and Democracy* Larry Diamond, Richard Gunther, 2001-12-21 Political parties are one of the core institutions of democracy. But in democracies around the world—rich and poor, Western and non-Western—there is growing evidence of low or declining public confidence in parties. In membership, organization, and popular involvement and commitment, political parties are not what they used to be. But are they in decline, or are they simply changing their forms and functions? In contrast to authors of most previous works on political parties, which tend to focus exclusively on long-established Western democracies, the contributors to this volume cover many regions of the world. Theoretically, they consider the essential functions that political parties perform in democracy and the different types of parties. Historically, they trace the emergence of parties in Western democracies and the transformation of party cleavage in recent decades. Empirically, they analyze the changing character of parties and party systems in postcommunist Europe, Latin America, and five individual countries that have

witnessed significant change: Italy, Japan, Taiwan, India, and Turkey. As the authors show, political parties are now only one of many vehicles for the representation of interests, but they remain essential for recruiting leaders, structuring electoral choice, and organizing government. To the extent that parties are weak and discredited, the health of democracy will be seriously impaired. Contributors: Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther • Hans Daalder • Philippe Schmitter • Seymour Martin Lipset • Giovanni Sartori • Bradley Richardson • Herbert Kitschelt • Michael Coppedge • Ergun Ozbudun • Yun-han Chu • Leonardo Morlino • Ashutosh Varshney and E. Sridharan • Stefano Bartolini and Peter Mair.

5 functions of political parties: *The Federalist Papers* Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison, 2018-08-20 Classic Books Library presents this brand new edition of "The Federalist Papers", a collection of separate essays and articles compiled in 1788 by Alexander Hamilton. Following the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, the governing doctrines and policies of the States lacked cohesion. "The Federalist", as it was previously known, was constructed by American statesman Alexander Hamilton, and was intended to catalyze the ratification of the United States Constitution. Hamilton recruited fellow statesmen James Madison Jr., and John Jay to write papers for the compendium, and the three are known as some of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Alexander Hamilton (c. 1755-1804) was an American lawyer, journalist and highly influential government official. He also served as a Senior Officer in the Army between 1799-1800 and founded the Federalist Party, the system that governed the nation's finances. His contributions to the Constitution and leadership made a significant and lasting impact on the early development of the nation of the United States.

5 functions of political parties: *To Make Men Free* Heather Cox Richardson, 2014-09-23 From the New York Times bestselling author of *Democracy Awakening*, "the most comprehensive account of the GOP and its competing impulses" (Los Angeles Times) When Abraham Lincoln helped create the Republican Party on the eve of the Civil War, his goal was to promote economic opportunity for all Americans, not just the slaveholding Southern planters who steered national politics. Yet, despite the egalitarian dream at the heart of its founding, the Republican Party quickly became mired in a fundamental identity crisis. Would it be the party of democratic ideals? Or would it be the party of moneyed interests? In the century and a half since, Republicans have vacillated between these two poles, with dire economic, political, and moral repercussions for the entire nation. In *To Make Men Free*, celebrated historian Heather Cox Richardson traces the shifting ideology of the Grand Old Party from the antebellum era to the Great Recession, revealing the insidious cycle of boom and bust that has characterized the Party since its inception. While in office, progressive Republicans like Teddy Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower revived Lincoln's vision of economic freedom and expanded the government, attacking the concentration of wealth and nurturing upward mobility. But they and others like them have been continually thwarted by powerful business interests in the Party. Their opponents appealed to Americans' latent racism and xenophobia to regain political power, linking taxation and regulation to redistribution and socialism. The results of the Party's wholesale embrace of big business are all too familiar: financial collapses like the Panic of 1893, the Great Depression in 1929, and the Great Recession in 2008. With each passing decade, with each missed opportunity and political misstep, the schism within the Republican Party has grown wider, pulling the GOP ever further from its founding principles. Expansive and authoritative, *To Make Men Free* is a sweeping history of the Party that was once America's greatest political hope -- and, time and time again, has proved its greatest disappointment.

5 functions of political parties: American Political Parties and Elections Louis Sandy Maisel, 2016 Few Americans and even fewer citizens of other nations understand the electoral process in the United States. Still fewer understand the role played by political parties in the electoral process or the ironies within the system. Participation in elections in the United States is much lower than in the vast majority of mature democracies. Perhaps this is because of the lack of competition in a country where only two parties have a true chance of winning, despite the fact that a large number of citizens claim allegiance to neither and think badly of both. Or perhaps it is because in the U.S.

campaign contributions disproportionately favor incumbents in most legislative elections, or that largely unregulated groups such as the now notorious 527s have as much impact on the outcome of a campaign as do the parties or the candidates' campaign organizations. These factors offer a very clear picture of the problems that underlay our much trumpeted electoral system. The second edition of this Very Short Introduction introduces the reader to these issues and more. Drawing on updated data and new examples from the 2016 presidential nominations, L. Sandy Maisel provides an insider's view of how the system actually works while shining a light on some of its flaws. He also illustrates the growing impact of campaigning through social media, the changes in campaign financing wrought by the Supreme Court recent decisions, and the Tea Party's influence on the sub-presidential nominating process. As the United States enter what is sure to be yet another highly contested election year, it is more important than ever that Americans take the time to learn the system that puts so many in power.

5 functions of political parties: Policy, Office, Or Votes? Wolfgang C. Müller, Kaare Strøm, 1999-08-28 This book examines the behaviour of political parties in situations where they experience conflict between two or more important objectives.

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5 functions of political parties: Super PACs Louise I. Gerdes, 2014-05-20 The passage of Citizens United by the Supreme Court in 2010 sparked a renewed debate about campaign spending by large political action committees, or Super PACs. Its ruling said that it is okay for corporations and labor unions to spend as much as they want in advertising and other methods to convince people to vote for or against a candidate. This book provides a wide range of opinions on the issue. Includes primary and secondary sources from a variety of perspectives; eyewitnesses, scientific journals, government officials, and many others.

5 functions of political parties: Why Parties? John H. Aldrich, 2012-07-24 Since its first appearance fifteen years ago, *Why Parties?* has become essential reading for anyone wishing to understand the nature of American political parties. In the interim, the party system has undergone some radical changes. In this landmark book, now rewritten for the new millennium, John H. Aldrich goes beyond the clamor of arguments over whether American political parties are in resurgence or decline and undertakes a wholesale reexamination of the foundations of the American party system. Surveying critical episodes in the development of American political parties—from their formation in the 1790s to the Civil War—Aldrich shows how they serve to combat three fundamental problems of democracy: how to regulate the number of people seeking public office, how to mobilize voters, and how to achieve and maintain the majorities needed to accomplish goals once in office. Aldrich brings this innovative account up to the present by looking at the profound changes in the character of political parties since World War II, especially in light of ongoing contemporary transformations, including the rise of the Republican Party in the South, and what those changes accomplish, such as the Obama Health Care plan. Finally, *Why Parties? A Second Look* offers a fuller consideration of party systems in general, especially the two-party system in the United States, and explains why this

system is necessary for effective democracy.

5 functions of political parties: Political Parties and Democratic Linkage Russell J. Dalton, David M. Farrell, Ian McAllister, 2011-09-29 Political Parties and Democratic Linkage examines how political parties ensure the functioning of the democratic process in contemporary societies. Based on unprecedented cross-national data, the authors find that the process of party government is still alive and well in most contemporary democracies.

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5 functions of political parties: American Government 3e Glen Krutz, Sylvie Waskiewicz, 2023-05-12 Black & white print. American Government 3e aligns with the topics and objectives of many government courses. Faculty involved in the project have endeavored to make government workings, issues, debates, and impacts meaningful and memorable to students while maintaining the conceptual coverage and rigor inherent in the subject. With this objective in mind, the content of this textbook has been developed and arranged to provide a logical progression from the fundamental principles of institutional design at the founding, to avenues of political participation, to thorough coverage of the political structures that constitute American government. The book builds upon what students have already learned and emphasizes connections between topics as well as between theory and applications. The goal of each section is to enable students not just to recognize concepts, but to work with them in ways that will be useful in later courses, future careers, and as engaged citizens. In order to help students understand the ways that government, society, and individuals interconnect, the revision includes more examples and details regarding the lived experiences of diverse groups and communities within the United States. The authors and reviewers sought to strike a balance between confronting the negative and harmful elements of American government, history, and current events, while demonstrating progress in overcoming them. In doing so, the approach seeks to provide instructors with ample opportunities to open discussions, extend and update concepts, and drive deeper engagement.

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parties in the pressing contemporary problems of institutional design and democratic governance today.

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5 functions of political parties: *Model Rules of Professional Conduct* American Bar Association. House of Delegates, Center for Professional Responsibility (American Bar Association), 2007 The Model Rules of Professional Conduct provides an up-to-date resource for information on legal ethics. Federal, state and local courts in all jurisdictions look to the Rules for guidance in solving lawyer malpractice cases, disciplinary actions, disqualification issues, sanctions questions and much more. In this volume, black-letter Rules of Professional Conduct are followed by numbered Comments that explain each Rule's purpose and provide suggestions for its practical application. The Rules will help you identify proper conduct in a variety of given situations, review those instances where discretionary action is possible, and define the nature of the relationship between you and your clients, colleagues and the courts.

5 functions of political parties: *Campaign Guide for Political Party Committees* , 1984

5 functions of political parties: *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Parties and Interest Groups* L. Sandy Maisel, Jeffrey M. Berry, 2010-01-28 The Oxford Handbook of American Political Parties and Interest Groups is a major new volume that will help scholars assess the current state of scholarship on parties and interest groups and the directions in which it needs to move. Never before has the academic literature on political parties received such an extended treatment. Twenty nine chapters critically assess both the major contributions to the literature and the ways in which it has developed. With contributions from most of the leading scholars in the field, the volume

provides a definitive point of reference for all those working in and around the area. Equally important, the authors also identify areas of new and interesting research. These chapters offer a distinctive point of view, an argument about the successes and failures of past scholarship, and a set of recommendations about how future work ought to develop. This volume will help set the agenda for research on political parties and interest groups for the next decade. The Oxford Handbooks of American Politics are a set of reference books offering authoritative and engaging critical overviews of the state of scholarship on American politics. Each volume focuses on a particular aspect of the field. The project is under the General Editorship of George C. Edwards III, and distinguished specialists in their respective fields edit each volume. The Handbooks aim not just to report on the discipline, but also to shape it as scholars critically assess the scholarship on a topic and propose directions in which it needs to move. The series is an indispensable reference for anyone working in American politics. General Editor for The Oxford Handbooks of American Politics: George C. Edwards III

5 functions of political parties: Pakistan's Political Parties Mariam Mufti, Sahar Shafqat, Niloufer Siddiqui, 2020-05-01 Pakistan's 2018 general elections marked the second successful transfer of power from one elected civilian government to another—a remarkable achievement considering the country's history of dictatorial rule. *Pakistan's Political Parties* examines how the civilian side of the state's current regime has survived the transition to democracy, providing critical insight into the evolution of political parties in Pakistan and their role in developing democracies in general. Pakistan's numerous political parties span the ideological spectrum, as well as represent diverse regional, ethnic, and religious constituencies. The essays in this volume explore the way in which these parties both contend and work with Pakistan's military-bureaucratic establishment to assert and expand their power. Researchers use interviews, surveys, data, and ethnography to illuminate the internal dynamics and motivations of these groups and the mechanisms through which they create policy and influence state and society. *Pakistan's Political Parties* is a one-of-a-kind resource for diplomats, policymakers, journalists, and scholars searching for a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's party system and its unlikely survival against an interventionist military, with insights that extend far beyond the region.

5 functions of political parties: Electoral Politics in Africa since 1990 Jaimie Bleck, Nicolas van de Walle, 2018-11-29 Democratic transitions in the early 1990s introduced a sea change in Sub-Saharan African politics. Between 1990 and 2015, several hundred competitive legislative and presidential elections were held in all but a handful of the region's countries. This book is the first comprehensive comparative analysis of the key issues, actors, and trends in these elections over the last quarter century. The book asks: what motivates African citizens to vote? What issues do candidates campaign on? How has the turn to regular elections promoted greater democracy? Has regular electoral competition made a difference for the welfare of citizens? The authors argue that regular elections have both caused significant changes in African politics and been influenced in turn by a rapidly changing continent - even if few of the political systems that now convene elections can be considered democratic, and even if many old features of African politics persist.

5 functions of political parties: *The Life of the Parties* James Reichley, 2000 Election year 2000 is an appropriate season to reprise the first major history of American political parties in nearly forty years. In this classic work, James Reichley traces the decline of political parties resulting in divided government and an ineffectual political process but he also shows us what it will take to restore the party system and how it could work to revitalize our democracy. For the first time in paperback, *The Life of the Parties* includes updates on third party movements, political cycles and realignments, campaign finance reform, and other recent electoral trends. Citizens disillusioned by years of political disarray will find much to reflect upon in Reichley's monumental analysis of the lessons of party history and our contemporary political predicament.

5 functions of political parties: *On the Constitutionality of a National Bank* Alexander Hamilton, 2016-12-10 In 1791, The First Bank of the United States was a financial innovation proposed and supported by Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury. Establishment

of the bank was part of a three-part expansion of federal fiscal and monetary power, along with a federal mint and excise taxes. Hamilton believed that a national bank was necessary to stabilize and improve the nation's credit, and to improve financial order, clarity, and precedence of the United States government under the newly enacted Constitution. Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804) was a founding father of the United States, one of the most influential interpreters and promoters of the Constitution, the founder of the American financial system, and the founder of the Federalist Party. As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton was the primary author of the economic policies for George Washington's administration. Hamilton took the lead in the funding of the states' debts by the federal government, the establishment of a national bank, and forming friendly trade relations with Britain. He led the Federalist Party, created largely in support of his views; he was opposed by the Democratic Republican Party, led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, which despised Britain and feared that Hamilton's policies of a strong central government would weaken the American commitment to Republicanism.

5 functions of political parties: *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development* Richard M. Valelly, Suzanne Mettler, Robert C. Lieberman, 2016-09-15 Scholars working in or sympathetic to American political development (APD) share a commitment to accurately understanding the history of American politics - and thus they question stylized facts about America's political evolution. Like other approaches to American politics, APD prizes analytical rigor, data collection, the development and testing of theory, and the generation of provocative hypotheses. Much APD scholarship indeed overlaps with the American politics subfield and its many well developed literatures on specific institutions or processes (for example Congress, judicial politics, or party competition), specific policy domains (welfare policy, immigration), the foundations of (in)equality in American politics (the distribution of wealth and income, race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexual and gender orientation), public law, and governance and representation. What distinguishes APD is careful, systematic thought about the ways that political processes, civic ideals, the political construction of social divisions, patterns of identity formation, the making and implementation of public policies, contestation over (and via) the Constitution, and other formal and informal institutions and processes evolve over time - and whether (and how) they alter, compromise, or sustain the American liberal democratic regime. APD scholars identify, in short, the histories that constitute American politics. They ask: what familiar or unfamiliar elements of the American past illuminate the present? Are contemporary phenomena that appear new or surprising prefigured in ways that an APD approach can bring to the fore? If a contemporary phenomenon is unprecedented then how might an accurate understanding of the evolution of American politics unlock its significance? Featuring contributions from leading academics in the field, *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development* provides an authoritative and accessible analysis of the study of American political development.

5 functions of political parties: **Ask a Manager** Alison Green, 2018-05-01 From the creator of the popular website Ask a Manager and New York's work-advice columnist comes a witty, practical guide to 200 difficult professional conversations—featuring all-new advice! There's a reason Alison Green has been called "the Dear Abby of the work world." Ten years as a workplace-advice columnist have taught her that people avoid awkward conversations in the office because they simply don't know what to say. Thankfully, Green does—and in this incredibly helpful book, she tackles the tough discussions you may need to have during your career. You'll learn what to say when • coworkers push their work on you—then take credit for it • you accidentally trash-talk someone in an email then hit "reply all" • you're being micromanaged—or not being managed at all • you catch a colleague in a lie • your boss seems unhappy with your work • your cubemate's loud speakerphone is making you homicidal • you got drunk at the holiday party Praise for Ask a Manager "A must-read for anyone who works . . . [Alison Green's] advice boils down to the idea that you should be professional (even when others are not) and that communicating in a straightforward manner with candor and kindness will get you far, no matter where you work."—Booklist (starred review) "The author's friendly, warm, no-nonsense writing is a pleasure to read, and her advice can

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5 functions of political parties: Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House David W. Rohde, 1991-08-13 Since the Second World War, congressional parties have been characterized as declining in strength and influence. Research has generally attributed this decline to policy conflicts within parties, to growing electoral independence of members, and to the impact of the congressional reforms of the 1970s. Yet the 1980s witnessed a strong resurgence of parties and party leadership—especially in the House of Representatives. Offering a concise and compelling explanation of the causes of this resurgence, David W. Rohde argues that a realignment of electoral forces led to a reduction of sectional divisions within the parties—particularly between the northern and southern Democrats—and to increased divergence between the parties on many important issues. He challenges previous findings by asserting that congressional reform contributed to, rather than restrained, the increase of partisanship. Among the Democrats, reforms siphoned power away from conservative and autocratic committee chairs and put control of those committees in the hands of Democratic committee caucuses, strengthening party leaders and making both party and committee leaders responsible to rank-and-file Democrats. Electoral changes increased the homogeneity of House Democrats while institutional reforms reduced the influence of dissident members on a consensus in the majority party. Rohde's accessible analysis provides a detailed discussion of the goals of the congressional reformers, the increased consensus among Democrats and its reinforcement by their caucus, the Democratic leadership's use of expanded powers to shape the legislative agenda, and the responses of House Republicans. He also addresses the changes in the relationship between the House majority and the president during the Carter and Reagan administrations and analyzes the legislative consequences of the partisan resurgence. A readable, systematic synthesis of the many complex factors that fueled the recent resurgence of partisanship, *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House* is ideal for course use.

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the various forms of democracy.

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