American Parties in Context Comparative and Historical Analysis 1st edition Harmel Solutions Manual

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Chapter Two: Ideology

Project 2.1

For the items where students are asked to provide their own codes, the codes provided by our trained coders are as follows: UK Labour 1974 (-5), UK Conservative 1992 (+4).

Note: The statement for Labour 1974 lacks mention of regulation, but that omission does not reduce the strength of the code since so much emphasis is placed on government ownership. The Conservative party in 1992 clearly opposes public ownership as a general principle, taking credit for earlier privatization of publicly held companies and planning to privatize in additional areas in the future. In addition, it clearly has a generally negative orientation toward regulation of the private sector.

Project 2.3

We note in the second paragraph how citizens responded to Dennis's two questions. For class discussion, ask the following: If you were a leader of one of the two parties, how would you have interpreted those "messages" from the public? [The messages would appear to be "mixed" at best. The leaders could certainly have been excused for being confused by the seemingly inconsistent responses.]

With regard to the "survey" project, the object here is to give the student experience with some of the steps involved in producing survey data. You will certainly want to explain at the end of the project the difference between a "convenience sample" such as this and a truly "random sample" like those used in public opinion polls and most academic studies.

Exercise 2.1

The purpose of this exercise is to show the student how the inconsistency scores of Table 2.1 were arrived at. They already know the "answers" from that table; hence it is critically important that they show all of the steps that they followed to arrive at those answers.

Exercise 2.2

For the items where the students are asked to provide the designations for three parties, our own designations are: US Democrats (slightly left and inconsistent), US Republicans (slightly right and consistent), and UK Conservatives (center and inconsistent). While there are certainly parties that are even less consistent than those labelled as inconsistent here, such that "somewhat inconsistent" might actually be more appropriate, the important point is to see the difference between the clearly consistent Republicans and the less consistent Democrats and Conservatives.

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