Chilean parties have shown a remarkable capacity for survival after years of turbulent ideological polarization followed by a prolonged period of clandestine activity during the Pinochet dictatorship 1973-1990. This chapter argues that this is due to the deep historical and social roots of the parties; their capacity to represent most major social groups; and their efficiency as agents of government. A remarkable characteristic since the return to democracy in 1990 is the electoral success of the same coalition in every Presidential, Congressional, and Municipal election. This is explained because the centre-left coalition encompasses the majority of the electorate, because it is seen as the agent of democracy in the long struggle against dictatorship, and because of its sustained and impressive economic performance.

This chapter chronicles the efforts to re-create the Delta District, a geographically defined U.S. House district that was dissolved by the state government to prevent the election of a black representative. When the Voting Rights Act of 1982 helped re-create the district, efforts to elect a black congressman followed. Yet the efforts of Robert Clark, the state's first modern black state legislator, to become the congressman were stymied by his own background and history. It was not until 1986 that
Mike Espy, a young post-civil rights black attorney who lacked Clark's political baggage, won election in the district and integrated the state's house delegation.

Mapping the Cultural and Partisan Divide in Representation Preferences
David C. Barker and Christopher Jan Carman

in Representing Red and Blue: How the Culture Wars Change the Way Citizens Speak and Politicians Listen

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: September 2012
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199796564.003.0004
Item type: chapter

This chapter uses data from the 2006–2009 Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) to test our expectation that cultural traditionalists (and especially evangelical Christians) tend to prefer trustee-style representation more instinctively than do other types of Americans. The chapter describes the results from a series of multiple regression analyses, each one predicting preferences for either instructed delegates or trustees from, in turn, measures of the value orientations which were described in Chapter 3, measures of traditionalistic Christian religiosity, which we have argued bring these value priorities together, and party identification. This chapter finds that the values of liberal popular democracy predict citizen preferences for instructed delegate-style representation, whereas Christian traditionalism predicts preferences for trustee-style representation. All of this ultimately translates into Democrats preferring the instructed delegate style more consistently than Republicans do.

Congressional Independence
David Brian Robertson

in The Original Compromise: What the Constitution’s Framers Were Really Thinking

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: May 2013
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199796298.003.0009
Item type: chapter

Once the delegates agreed to the Connecticut Compromise, supporters of proportional representation fought to strengthen the powers of the House, and opponents fought to strengthen the Senate's powers. This conflict shaped the prolonged battle over House control of the national
budget and surfaced again when the Convention debated whether to prohibit national legislators from holding multiple national offices. The delegates also disagreed about voter eligibility, who could serve in the House, how long they would serve, and who would pay them. The delegates' compromises ensured the independent, coequal power of the House and Senate; they allowed each house to make its own rules, and members of Congress to serve for as long as they could be reelected. These compromises also increased the isolation, defensive powers, and complexity of Congress.

How Do We Want to Be Represented? How Do We Differ?
David C. Barker and Christopher Jan Carman

in Representing Red and Blue: How the Culture Wars Change the Way Citizens Speak and Politicians Listen
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: September 2012
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199796564.003.0002
Item type: chapter

This chapter begins with a discussion of the existing literature as it pertains to the instructed delegate versus trustee question. Then this chapter introduces our survey data and consider how, generally speaking, citizens tend to think about this question. The chapter shows that citizens tend to prefer instructed delegates, but not overwhelmingly so. The chapter then examines how the distribution of opinion changes according to (a) the types of issues being considered (e.g., foreign vs. domestic, and “hard” vs. “easy”) and (b) the institution doing the representing (the president vs. Congress). The chapter observes that citizens expect more trustee-style representation out of the president than they do of Congress, and slightly more trustee-style representation when the issues in question are cultural rather than economic.

Congress
Benjamin Ginsberg and Kathryn Wagner Hill

Published in print: 2019 Published Online: January 2020
DOI: 10.12987/yale/9780300220537.001.0001
Item type: book

This accessible overview of the US Congress's past and present, introduces students to the country's most democratic institution. The book surveys Congressional elections, the internal structure of Congress, the legislative process, Congress and the president, and Congress and the courts. It offers a fresh approach to the First
Branch grounded in a historical, positive frame. The book argues that many of the characteristics of Congress with which Americans are so impatient stem directly from the institution's democratic nature. It is slow to act, cumbersome in its procedures, and contentious in its discussions precisely because it is a democratic decision-making body. But complaints are also that it is seen as polarized and corrupt, serving lobbyists, special interests, and campaign contributors rather than the American people. The book concludes by considering whether these charges amount to a serious indictment of Congress, its members, and its procedures.

Jefferson Triumphant
Julien Vernet

in Strangers on Their Native Soil: Opposition to United States' Governance in Louisiana's Orleans Territory, 1803-1809

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: March 2014
Item type: chapter

DOI: 10.14325/mississippi/9781617037535.003.0008

This chapter describes several events including the trial of Burr on charges of treason; the loss of Claiborne’s opponents in the elections for the territorial delegate to Congress in 1809; increased American immigration to Louisiana; Louisiana’s statehood on April 2, 1812; and Claiborne’s election as governor.