Poli 363 Notes

**Effects of Jim Crow Laws**

Jim Crow Laws: statutes and ordinances established between 1874 and 1975 to separate the white and black races in the American South.

1. Create "separate but equal" treatment, but in practice Jim Crow Laws condemned black citizens to inferior treatment and facilities
2. Education was segregated as were public facilities ie. hotels and restaurants under Jim Crow Laws
3. U.S. military was segregated until integrated by Harry S. Truman after World War II.

"Jim Crow" originally referred to a black character in an old song, and was the name of a popular dance in the 1820s.

1880s: "Jim Crow" saw wide usage as a reference to practices, laws or institutions that arise from or sanction, the physical separation of black people from white people.

"separate but equal" standard established by the Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) lent high judicial support to segregation.

Lasted until Voting Rights Act of 1965: resulted in Millions of African Americans began voting as a result.

-generally considered end of Jim Crow Era

**Are We in a New Party System?**

-Clearly there have been changes to the two parties’ coalition since the beginning of the fifth party system.

a.White Southerners are much less Democratic than they were in 1933

b. African Americans are more Democratic than they were in 1933

But there has not been a clear change in the majority party. Instead, there has been something of a dealignment, with citizens less likely to identify initially with either party. As a consequence, the jury is still out on whether we remain in the Fifth Party System.

**Realignments**

New party systems have often been initiated by realignments.

In one of the most comprehensive studies of realignment, Nardilli (1995) finds that we need to look at the subnational level to understand realignments.

-only one realignment in which more than half of the nation’s population lived in locations where there was a realignment: The New Deal Realignment

In addition to this New Deal Realignment, Nardulli finds evidence of five other regional realignments

1. Whig Realignments of 1836 and 1840 in the South and Midwest
2. Republican Realignments of 1856 and 1860 in Northeast and Midwest
3. Jim Crow Democratic realignments of 1876 to 1904 in the South
4. Republican Industrial Realignments of 1896 and 1904 in the Northeast and Northern Midwest
5. Post WW2 Republican Realignments of 1948 to 1952 in the South

Why do realignments occur?

Occur when an emergent political issue or crisis cuts across the existing line of partisan cleavage. When this issue emerges, it can produce realignment through any of 3 alignments:

1. Mobilization of previous non-voters
   1. The mobilization thesis argues that active voters do not switch their partisan loyalties from one party to the other. Instead, party systems change occurs b/c previous non-voters become activated.
2. Conversion of active voters from one party to the other
   1. Argues that active voters are able to switch their loyalties from one party to another in response to new issues or crisis. It also argues that previous non-voters are unable to become activated by these new issues or crisis.
3. Demobilization of previous voters
   1. Argues that active voters are unable to switch their loyalties and that previous non-voters are unable to become activated by new issues or crisis. Instead, citizens are only able to hold elites accountable by stopping voting.

Identifying the dynamics responsible for realignments is important for understanding how citizens hold elites accountable and influence government.

Andersen (1979) argues that the New Deal Realignment was produced by mobilization,

She argues that it was Democratic mobilization of politically “non-immunized” citizens:

-immigrants, women, and young citizens who had never voted before.

Such non-immunized citizens were more amenable to Democratic arguments because they did not have previous Republican identifications to overcome.