Overview

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HYPERPOLITICS

AN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE CONCEPTS

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Vision

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Hyperpolitics is a Dictionary of Political Science with a number of innovative features which make for a radical departure from existing reference tools in the social science domain.

Almost twenty years in the making, Hyperpolitics develops a new type of dictionary language which addresses the growing complexity of political science disciplinary domains.

Hyperpolitics also represents an innovative teaching aid, fostering analytical skills and interactive discourse among students.
Hyperpolitics has multiple uses and markets:

- It is a **dictionary** because it provides extensive definitions of the most important political science concepts.
- It is a **handbook** because it provides step-by-step guidance for analytical and logical extension of each concept's theoretical scope.
- It is an **on line companion** because it provides guided access to electronic sources.
- It is an **open book** because it provides challenges and opportunities for improvements in our matrices and for entirely new definitions.
Hyperpolitics is composed of:

• An Introduction outlining the scope and methodology of the Hyperpolitics platform, along with an investigation of the present state of political science lexicon

• The Dictionary, with entries subdivided into three categories:
  1. Main Entries
  2. Short Entries
  3. Cross-Entries
The eighteen *main entries* plus the seventeen *short entries*, for a total of thirtyfive matrices, present a comprehensive insight of the discipline’s core vocabulary.

Moreover, the relational structure of the hyperdictionary offers an overview of the remaining entries through their links to the ones with a definition. In each *cross-entry* page the reader finds a list of its linked matrices and, thanks to the user-friendly graphical interface, can quickly locate that entry within the text of main or short definitions.
Method

Thanks to Hyperpolitics’ innovative methodology for concepts definition, the argument can be easily followed step by step, as the various parts are explained and illustrated in the text.

Each entry-chapter is divided in 7 paragraphs:

- an Introduction
- a presentation of the two axes
- 4 paragraphs, one for each quadrant
- a Conclusion
Cross-References

By showing all the matrixes where each keyword is used, Hyperpolitics offers a comprehensive overview of a keyword’s conceptual domain, making the reader aware of the complex interactions in the discipline’s vocabulary.
Web Companion

The interactive features of Hyperpolitics are enhanced by its Web Companion, a fully developed Web site allowing users to quickly—and powerfully—browse through the various matrices, as well as offering the opportunity for compiling their own definitions after reading those in the book.

The online version can in fact be accessed in two modes: read or write.

The read mode gives access to the matrices with their outlines, thus serving as a concise illustration of what is to be found in the book.
The write mode is an e-learning environment where students, as well as mature scholars, can work out their own definitions, taking full advantage of two key features: hypertextual links and selected electronic sources.

One first ancillary source is represented by hundreds of concise abstracts summarizing the content and methodology of each entry’s definition in the dictionaries used for compiling Hyperpolitics’ basic list of keywords.
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