

Overview

MAURO CALISE & THEODORE J. LOWI



HYPERPOLITICS

AN | INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY
OF | POLITICAL SCIENCE
CONCEPTS

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- **Vision**
- **Contents**
- **Method**
- **Web Companion**
- **Authors**

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 provides challenges and opportunities for improvements in our matrices and for entirely new definitions.

Contents

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

PARTY

the monarchy and to maintain balances between bureaucracy and civil society (Friedrich 1968 [1950]). In order for representation to be transformed into a vehicle for the modern process of genuine law-making, the parties proved to be essential.

Yet at the same time, the relationship between representation, individuals, and legislature does here convey the fact that parties of this kind were and still remain basically oriented to satisfying the needs of citizens seen as individual actors. While this constituted a very narrow and limited constituency at the early stage of party development, it has now in many cases moved on to encompass what, in terms of its scale, can only be called a mass constituency. Nevertheless, parties of this type remain individualistic in their ideology and in their organization structure. The early type of notables' parties fits into this category just as do those modern parties which have maintained a low level of organizational centralism. In most respects, contemporary American parties still offer the best example of this type of relationship between the parties, the electorate, and the legislature, with an emphasis on the representative process (Bogdanor 1984).

Note now that election appears in the property space defined by the four concepts of this quadrant. Party is so often virtually defined by elections because so many parties in the Western-type democracies have utilized elections as their official avenue to power and influence. Yet, when compared with the other types of party emerging from the matrix, it becomes clear that elections, while still important on formal grounds, can be overshadowed by other factors—and logics.

Lower Left Quadrant

This is clearly the case if we look at the lower left quadrant. Here the social aggregates best understood as class act as the main catalyst for the development of the corporate party. One may wish to substitute the more specific concept of class with the more general

idea of cleavage, which would more readily incorporate such other social aggregates as ethnicity, religion, territoriality—in which case, "class" can be understood as "classification" (Lipset and Rokkan 1967). Additional understanding of this can be drawn by considering the role of oligarchy, which catches best the texture of political relationships in this quadrant. The idea of oligarchy as a driving force, if not the driving force, for the corporate party dates back at least to the work of Robert Michels (1911) and is probably best represented by the Leninist and social democratic parties all through the interwar and postwar era. But in our definition, oligarchy includes a wider logic of party behavior well beyond the original ideological boundaries of social democracy and communism. Oligarchy stresses the continuity which mainstream parties of a corporate type tend to present both in their organizational and in their ideological reality, especially once a class (or classification) basis is established.

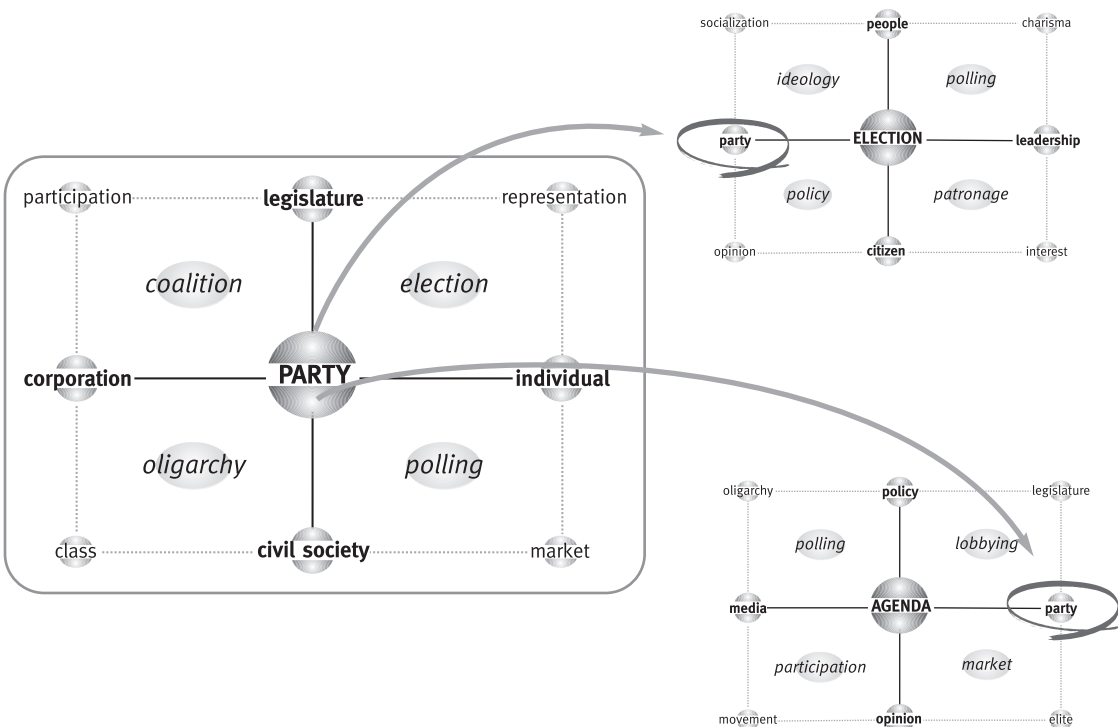
Yet, oligarchic parties need consent like all parties, but it must come in a different way. Political scientists often refer to the "engineering of consent." But it is not a universal generalization; in fact, it applies best in this lower left quadrant. That is, lacking the broad base in a mass or a representative system, the oligarchy party must create an appearance of consent, usually by forms of internal procedure and organizational representation that are ultimately co-optative rather than genuinely representational. We call it engineered consent; we could also call it virtual representation (Truman 1951; Selznick 1949).

Upper Left Quadrant

This leads us to the upper left quadrant, where we can say that consent is organized through a coalitional—or consociational—logic (Lijphart 1977 and 1994). As parties take on a more corporate form, they remain oligarchic, and they may very well remain strongly attached to a class or ethnic group or religion or other social classification in a society, but they exist in a gov-

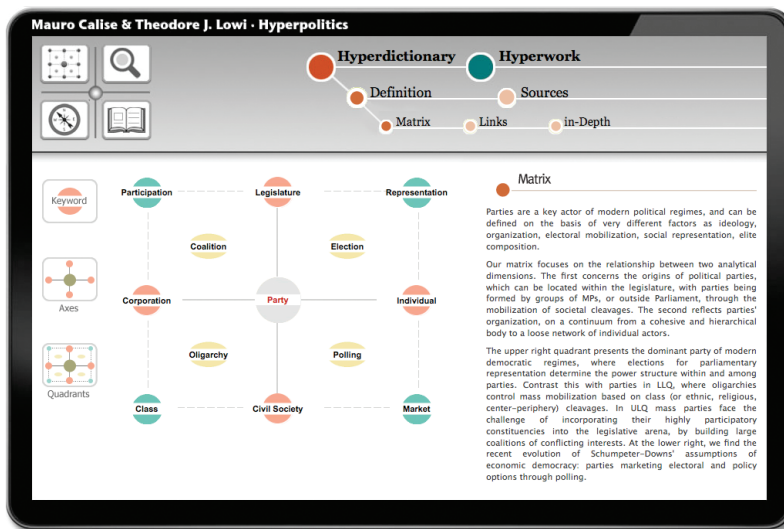
Cross-References

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.

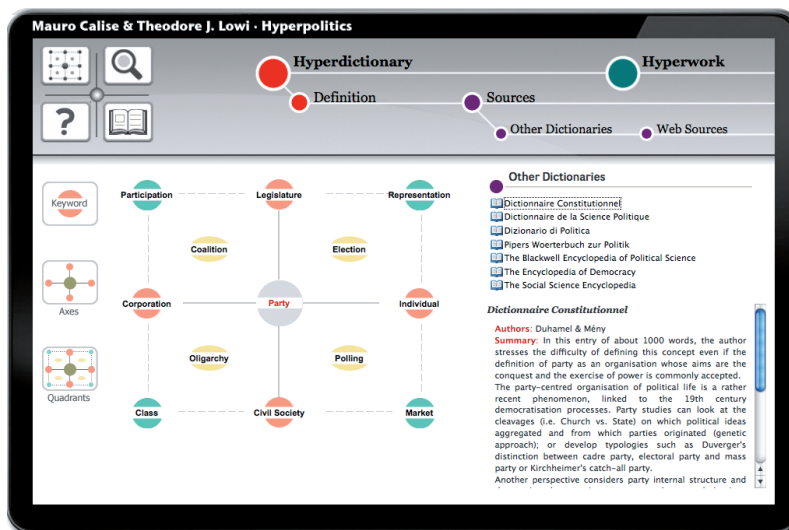


The online version can in fact be accessed in two modes: *read* or *write*.

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.



Authors

"All of this is wonderful, exciting, imaginative, and generous. Hyperpolitics is a great service to many disciplines, not just political science. As an intellectual history of political science, this book is unequalled. This is a pioneering reinvention of the dictionary."

Richard M. Velely, Swarthmore College

"Calise and Lowi make a stunning contribution by addressing the pervasive failure to teach innovative work with concepts. They broaden our horizon by creating a new map of conceptual structure, and they challenge scholars and students to work with this map and creatively extend it."

David Collier, University of California, Berkeley

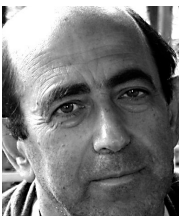
"When it takes two 'first class' authors fifteen years to produce a book, the book must be taken seriously. Hyperpolitics is a highly innovative and formidable instrument for handling and understanding concepts. I miss having had to miss it in my time."

Giovanni Sartori, Albert Schweitzer Professor Emeritus, Columbia University

"In Hyperpolitics, two esteemed political scientists combine a broad knowledge of the field and commitment to transparent, cumulative conceptual development with an elegant interface. The result is a work that is both simple to use for the novice and rich and sophisticated for the established scholar."

Innovative and smart, Hyperpolitics will make a splendid contribution to conceptual development in comparative politics and to the training of students, as well."

Edward Schatz, University of Toronto



MAURO CALISE is professor of political science at the University of Naples Federico II. The author of several books (www.maurocalise.it), he is also the president of the Italian Political Science Association and director of the IPSA Web Portal for Electronic Sources.

THEODORE J. LOWI is the John L. Senior Professor of American Institutions at Cornell University. A former president of the American Political Science Association and of the International Political Science Association, he is the author of *The End of Liberalism*.

